

**Tribhuvan University**

**Hamlet's Haunts *The Castle of Otranto*: Shakespeare's Influence on Walpole**

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**By**

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## **Abstract**

Horace Walpole's "*The Castle of Otranto*" relies on Shakespeare for more than aesthetic freedom for it contains numerous allusions to and echoes of a range of characters and themes from his play *Hamlet*. Shakespeare represents something more than a patron saint for Walpole, indeed the playwright is the primary spirit haunting Otranto. *Hamlet's* encounter with the ghost becomes for Walpole a template of terror. *Hamlet's* experience with the ghost serves to make the reader invoke the feeling of watching the play in self in three separate occasions. This thesis examines how Hamlets haunts "*The Castle of Otranto*" and show Shakespeare's influence on Walpole for conveying terror to the reader in both psychological and physical dimensions.

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