

THE EXCESS OF GOTHIC IN EDGAR ALLAN POE'S SHORT STORIES AND ABDULLAH HARAHAP'S *MANUSIA SERIGALA*

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ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Received: 19-01-2025 Revised: 28-02-2025 Accepted: 01-03-2025 Published: 04-03-2025 Volume: 9 Issue: 1 DOI: https://doi.org/10.33019/lire.v9i1.431	Gothic literature has been studied through various lens. However, the study about gothic literature through the lens of gothic excess has not explored. Therefore, this article will discuss about gothic excess comparatively. Gothic writing is considered as writing excess. This excess means a negativity or something that is constructed as a negative. In this context, criminal behavior depicted through the characterization is included to excess of gothic. This criminal behavior is appeared in Edgar Allan Poe's short stories titled "The Tell-Tale Heart" and "The Black Cat" and Abdullah Harahap's novel titled <i>Manusia Serigala</i> . These works have similarity in the characterization in order depicted the criminal behavior. It is depicted through the action of the characters murdering other character. The background of this action is depicted differently. In Poe's works, the action is based on how the characters seeing to other character, while in Harahap's novel, the Indonesian culture of believing in mystic creature and unnatural ability is involved in portraying the gothic excess. In this article, the researchers will focus on how the characterization portraying excess of gothic in "The Tell-Tale Heart", "The Black Cat", and <i>Manusia Serigala</i> using gothic excess theory by Fred Botting. The research is qualitative research. The data is collected from a formal document named short stories anthology and a novel by close-reading and will be analyzed comparatively. The result is the characterization depicted in "The Tell-Tale Heart", "The Black Cat", and <i>Manusia Serigala</i> is portraying the excess of gothic. The characterization in these works is considered as criminal behavior that is included as gothic excess.
KEYWORDS <i>Comparative, Excess, Gothic, Horror</i>	

1. INTRODUCTION

Gothic literature was considered as one of literature genre that arose in late of 18th century until 19th century (Heriyadi, 2018). This genre has unique characteristics, such as the setting that usually in a castle, graveyard, or church with gloomy and mysterious atmosphere, especially in classic gothic fiction (Emandi & Cel, 2016). However, in modern era, another place can be used as setting in gothic literature, such as an old house replacing the castle that usually represented the Middle Age. It is aligned with the aim to evoke the fear and terror to the reader (Monnet, 2010). Gothic



literature also shows the dark tone through the narration that emphasizing on the emotional intense such as fear and terror, and exploring about death (Gustama, 2021). The fear and terror in gothic literature commonly come from something unknown (Miranda, 2017).

Gothic genre was started by Horace Walpole with his works entitled *The Castle of Otranto: A Gothic Story* (1764) (Kajdiž, 2020). Besides Horace Walpole, Edgar Allan Poe is also considered as pioneer of gothic literature, especially in America. His works has unique characteristic with his style in writing (Imran & Ansar, 2021). He explored themes such as madness and murder that can be seen in his two short stories named “The Tell-Tale Heart” and “The Black Cat”. These works are monologue story with the point of view from the first person that is the Narrator (Yunhadi, 2014). The main character in these short stories struggling with themselves regarding of their behavior and their madness. In “The Tell-Tale Heart”, the main character is live with an old man. He usually having a small talk with the old man. However, he does not like the old man’s eyes so he decides to kill him while the old man is sleeping after giving terror for seven days in every midnight. While in “The Black Cat”, the main character is struggling with his temper and obsession towards black cat after his pet give him a wound with its teeth. The main character who has a bad temper then tortured the cat, and accidentally kill his wife because of his temper.

Besides the works from Edgar Allan Poe, the researcher would like to compare them with a horror novel from Indonesia. One of the well-known horror authors from Indonesia is Abdullah Harahap. His works is popular during 1970-1990 (Sis Nariswari & Yoesoef, 2018). One of his works is a novel titled *Manusia Serigala*. This novel presents a man and his daughter who turns into a werewolf. It caused by his ancestor who is cursed. In the form of werewolf, they tortured their enemy brutally. The character in “The Tell-Tale Heart”, “The Black Cat”, and *Manusia Serigala* is engaged in criminal behavior that is aligned with the concept of excess in gothic literature.

Excess in gothic literature refers to the exaggeration (Round, 2013). It included in the narration, the theme, character, and characterization that is depicted in the works. To analyze the criminal behavior in these works, the researcher used gothic excess theory by Fred Botting. Botting (1996) argued that criminal behavior depicted in gothic literature is worrying can engage the reader to the negativity. Criminal behavior in gothic literature refers to the characterization. This is aligned with Abrams’ theory about characterization. Characterization can be seen from the dialogue or the action by the characters. The character whose action in murder is aligned with the concept of excess by Botting.

Regarding comparative literature research Bassnett (1993) defines comparative literature as a study that involves literary texts in a cross-cultural, interdisciplinary manner related to the patterns associated with literature across time and space. Thus, comparative literature refers to a study that examines relationships in the form of similarities in a literary work by comparing it with



other literary works. Aligned with Bassnett, Reemak (in Bassnett, 1993) also defines comparative literature as the study of literature beyond the boundaries of a particular country, and the study of literature in comparison with other fields of knowledge. Baetens & Sánchez-Mesa Martínez (2015) also argued this study is not just limited to the intertextuality. Including the adaptation works with the original works since this study provide rich analysis across the culture and time (Karim et al., 2024). Based on the explanation above, comparative literature is not limited to literature in a particular region. In this study, the researcher will compare three works, two works are American gothic short story and an Indonesian horror novel.

Gothic literature has many studied from various lens. However, the research about gothic excess representation especially in comparative study has not explored. Through this research, the researcher would like to explore how is characterization in “The Tell-Tale Heart”, “The Black Cat”, and *Manusia Serigala* portraying the excess of gothic. Moreover, these works are from different region. By compare them, the researcher would like to highlight the cultural differences in order to portray the excess of gothic.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of excess in gothic was introduced by Fred Botting. Botting (1996) argues that the gothic itself is a writing of excess. It refers to exaggeration, especially in a negative context. According to him, certain gothic features that is frequently appeared are considered as excess, such as murder plot, demons, madmen, criminal and etc. The theme such as madness and revenge with negative emotion is considered as an excess. Also, the character with negative characterization whose criminal behavior is included. Botting (1996) also stated those excess that is appeared in gothic fiction is considered crossing the laws and seems like celebrating criminal behavior. Critics worried it can engage the reader into a negative thing.

In addition, criminal behavior that is depicted in gothic literature also associated to the setting take place. Byron (in Punter, 2012) argues the criminal behavior in gothic fiction is related to the setting of city. Gothic fiction used to take the setting in a forest or mountain as a primary landscape. However, gothic fiction is also developed. The setting in gothic fiction changes into a city. The threat is coming from criminality that is evoking the terror in the city. Therefore, the character with a criminal behavior is frequently depicted in gothic fiction. It is developed in modern of gothic (Sothcott, 2015). The crime in gothic fiction is also reflecting the societal problem (Fischer, 2019).

The study regarding the gothic literature has been many studied from various lens. In the context of works by Edgar Allan Poe especially “The Tell-Tale Heart” has been studied. There is a formula of plot in this works regarding the Narrator as the protagonist. It started with misinterpretation, prediction, planning, action of murder, and last is confession (Alajlani, 2020).



Another works titled “The Black Cat” is also has been studied. Through this works, Poe is trying to explore the meaning of the black cat itself as a myth or folklore (Muhandra et al., 2024) The research regarding literary works by Abdullah Harahap also has been studied. Based on the previous research, works by Abdullah Harahap is commonly consisting local myth of Indonesia (Nisa, 2019).

In this article, the researcher will focus on the criminal behavior of the character as a form of gothic excess that is appeared in “The Tell-Tale Heart”, “The Black Cat”, and *Manusia Serigala*. Regarding the criminal behavior, it cannot be separated from the characterization of the character. The character representation in literary works is crucial (Salsabilla et al., 2022). Abrams & Harpham (2005) defined characterization as how the author showing and telling the character through the dialog and action including the character’s inner thought, feelings, and their response to an event. The dialogue or the action of the character in these works that is depicting criminal behavior will be compared and analyzed in order to explore how it portrays the gothic excess.

3. METHODOLOGY

In this research, the researcher uses qualitative approach with comparative method to analyze the data. The main source of the data is from the formal document that are two short stories by Edgar Allan Poe and a novel by Abdullah Harahap. This research will focus on comparison in criminal behavior depicted in those works. According to Creswell (2007), qualitative research allowing the researcher to interpret the data as it is. Therefore, this approach is suitable in this research that is aligned with the aim of this research namely to explore the characterization in order to portray the gothic excess.

In order to collect the data, Creswell (2007) states the researcher need to gather the data rigorously. There are several steps to collect the data. The first step that the researcher do is close reading. Second, identifying the character that has the similar characterization among the short stories written by Edgar Allan Poe and in novel written by Abdullah Harahap titled *Manusia Serigala* by giving a mark. Third, the researcher chooses the works written by Edgar Allan Poe that has the similar characterization. Fourth, the researcher identified the narration or the dialog that portrayed the characterization in selected works by Edgar Allan Poe and *Manusia Serigala* by Abdullah Harahap. After this step, the researcher gathers the data from Edgar Allan Poe’s works and Abdullah Harahap. Next step is the researcher summarize and categorized the data in the table.

The technique of analysis data that used by the researcher is comparative technique. According to Bassnett (1993), the works is compared based on the similarity to expand the understanding beyond the western literary works. In this research, the similarity of the three works is characterization. Therefore, the analysis will be specifcely focused on the characterization depicting the criminal behavior. In order to compare the selected works written by Edgar Allan



Poe with novel titled *Manusia Serigala* written by Abdullah Harahap, the first step is the researcher identifying the characterization in “The Tell-Tale Heart”, “The Black Cat”, and *Manusia Serigala*. Second, the researcher categorizing the data which are characterization depicting the criminal behavior in “The Tell-Tale Heart”, “The Black Cat”, and *Manusia Serigala*. After being categorized, the researcher analyzes the data by side-by-side analysis in order to compare the data.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The analysis will be focused on comparing the criminal behavior of the characters depicted in “The Tell-Tale Heart”, “The Black Cat”, and *Manusia Serigala*. To analyze the data, the researcher uses gothic excess theory by Fred Botting as a guidance. Gothic excess, Botting (1996) argued the gothic itself is a writing of excess. The excess here is refer to negativity. Even if it is not totally negative, gothic writing still engaging to something that constructed negative, unethical, and aberrant. He also adds that murder plot in gothic fiction seems like celebrating criminal behavior. This can be a source of pleasure, that critics worried can influenced readers into depravity and corruption.

In this article, the gothic excess is portrayed through the characterization that is depicting criminal behavior. According to Abrams & Harpham (2005), characterization can be seen through the dialog or the action of the character. Therefore, the characterization will be interpreted first regarding the criminal behavior specifically the action of murdering other character, then, it will be compared to each other to see the similarity and the differences between them using the table. The table below is used as a tool of comparative technique namely side-by-side analysis to provide cross-textual comparison and to conclude specific aspect of characterization. The researcher found the similarity in the characterization of the character in these works in the form of murder action. The researcher found four types of data regarding the excess of gothic that is portrayed in “The Tell-Tale Heart”, “The Black Cat”, and *Manusia Serigala*. There is intention to murder, the action of murder, the dead body concealment, and the action and feeling after killing other. The further analysis of the data will be explained below.

4.1 Intention to Murder

Table 1

No	The Tell-Tale Heart	The Black Cat	<i>Manusia Serigala</i>
1.	“Whenever it fell upon me, my blood ran cold; and so by degrees—very gradually—I made up my mind to take the life the old	“The fury of a demon instantly possessed me. I knew myself no longer. My original soul seemed, at once, to take its flight from my body and a more than fiendish	“Nona mau apa?” tanya Eddi hati-hati. “Bicara.” “Tentang?”



	<i>man, and thus rid myself of the eye forever.” P.7</i>	<i>malevolence, ginnurtured, thriller every fibre of my frame.” P.18</i>	<i>“Yah, semacam perdamaian, begitu....” P.226</i>
2.	<i>“And every night, about midnight, I turned the latch of his door and opened it— oh, so gently!” P.8</i>		

The table above is showing the data from “The Tell-Tale Heart”, “The Black Cat”, and *Manusia Serigala*. The first quote from “The Tell-Tale Heart” is showing the Narrator’s feeling when he saw the old man’s eyes. He hates the eyes of the old man so the intention to kill the old man is getting bigger. This is the beginning of the Narrator’s attempt to kill the old man. In the second quote from “The Tell-Tale Heart” is showing the Narrator who tried to kill the old man by sneaking to his room in the midnight for seven days.

The quote from “The Black Cat” is similar to the quote from “The Tell-Tale Heart”. The quote from “The Black Cat” is showing the Narrator’s feeling when he just arrived to home in the influence of alcohol. He saw his cat was avoiding him so he tried to chase the cat, but the cat gave him a slight wound, and then the Narrator’s feeling is changed and turning into hatred. The Narrator’s feeling is getting intense until he realized that he is fully overpowered by his emotion. This is also the first attempt of the Narrator torturing the cat.

The next quote is from *Manusia Serigala*. The quote above is a dialog between characters named Eddi and Sumiyati. The dialog is happened on a telephone. After Eddi asking Sumiyati’s purpose, she said that she wants to meet him to talk about the reconciliation regarding what happened to Sumiyati in the past that caused by Eddi. This dialog is signing Sumiyati’s attempt to revenge to Eddi. By doing the call, Sumiyati already has a scenario to kill Eddi.

These quotes from three works are similar to each other in depicting criminal behavior. It shows that the characters have intention to kill or torture someone or another creature. Based on Botting’s theory about the excess of gothic, this intention that showed from action and dialog is including to the excess of gothic. Those quotes portrayed the criminal behavior in the form of intention to kill someone that is seems like gothic is glorifying it. This bad characterization of the protagonist is considered as excess which is aligned to the Botting’s theory of gothic excess.

In addition, the quotes from “The Black Cat” is mentioning about alcohol. Alcohol consumption in west culture may be a normal thing. It is even being a culture in some region, including America (Savic et al., 2016). Yet, in east culture, for some region such as Indonesia is not common. In this works, the culture of drinking is reflecting the cultural difference. It is also being one of the primary factors of the Narrator does something negative to the cat.



4.2 The Action of Murder

Table 2

No	The Tell-Tale Heart	The Black Cat	Manusia Serigala
1.	<i>"With a loud yell, I threw open the lantern and leaped into the room. He shrieked once—once only. In an instant I dragged him to the floor, and pulled the heavy bed over him" P.11</i>	<i>"I took from my waistcoat-pocket a pen-knife, opened it, grasped of its eyes from the socket! I blush, burn, I shudder, while I pen the damnable atrocity." P.18</i>	<i>"Satu menit berikutnya, putra majikannya itu telah meletakkan sepucuk senjata api di atas meja. Sedingin benda mengandung maut di atas meja, sedingin itu pulalah Eddi Bratamenggala berkata pada penjaga dan pelindung setia rumah ayahnya tersebut, "Uruslah seseorang untukku, Ronggur!" P.166</i>
2.		<i>"Uplifting an axe, and forgetting, in my wrath, the childish dread which had hitherto stayed my hand, I aimed a blow at the animal which, of course, would have proved instantly fatal had it descend as I wished. But this blow was arrested by the hand of my wife. Goaded, by the interference, into a rage more than demonical, I withdrew my arm from her grasp and buried the axe in her brin. She fell dead upon the spot, without groan." P.25</i>	<i>"Belum sempat ia bangkit untuk melarikan diri, sosok makhluk mengerikan itu telah menerkamnya. Lalu dengan kejam dan buas merengkah lambungnya, mengoyaknya sedemikian rupa lalu dengan sentakan keras mencopot ulu hatinya." P.242</i>

The quotes above also depicted the criminal behavior by the action murdering other character. The first quote from "The Tell-Tale Heart" is showing the Narrator's action when he killed the old man. He killed the old man after every midnight about seven days sneaked into the old man's room. In the 8th night, the Narrator finally saw the eyes of the old man, so he killed him immediately because the Narrator hate the eyes.

The next quote from "The Black Cat" also similar to the quote form "The Tell-Tale Heart". The quote above showing the Narrator's action when he tortured the cat by taking the eye's cat with a pen-knife. Also, it is showed the Narrator's feeling when he did it. He felt a sense of euphoria. The second quote from "The Black Cat" is also showing when the Narrator kill his wife. They went to the basement of their house with a cat. The cat was walking between the Narrator's



leg that is make the Narrator angry. So that the Narrator try to kill the cat with an axe, but his wife holds his hand. The Narrator who is still mad also angry to his wife and it end up with the Narrator kill his wife while the cat is gone.

The quote from *Manusia Serigala* is also similar to the previous quotes. It is showing the action of Eddi that decided to do something harmful towards Sumiyati. He gave an order to his people to do it. The quote also showing that Eddi also gave his people a gun to support the action. Before he gives the order to his people, Eddi was feel hesitate and considered his action. However, Eddi still do the action even though he does not do it by his hand. The next quote from *Manusia Serigala* also has similarity in portraying the action of killing other character. This quote is showing when Eddi tried to run from Sumiyati who already turns into a werewolf to get a revenge after she knows that Eddi is the one behind a chaos in her house and also few days before, and also the perpetrator of hit-and-run with the victim is Sumiyati's mother. In the form of werewolf, Sumiyati kills Eddi brutally.

Based on the explanation above, the quotes from three works are similar to each other in depicting the criminal behavior that is aligned to the concept of gothic excess in the form of murder. The characters from these works are killing other character after having intention to kill them. The three works are similar to each other in portraying the gothic excess, aligned with Botting's theory of gothic excess.

The cultural difference is also showed from the quotes above. The quote from *Manusia Serigala* is showing when Sumiyati is already transformed into a werewolf and kill her enemy brutally. This is begun from Sumiyati ancestor from the colonialization era of Indonesia. The ancestor was meet someone who can transform into a werewolf in a forest. The curse was started when the werewolf was having a grudge. Therefore, it is believed every descendant of him can transform into a werewolf. This belief of unnatural event or ability is reflecting the culture of Indonesia (Justine et al., 2021). The cultural difference is also showed in the quote from "The Black Cat". The setting of the quote is in a basement, where the Narrator keeps the wine. In Indonesian culture, the basement to keep wine or alcohol is not common. This is making difference in the culture.

4.3 THE DEAD BODY CONCEALMENT

Table 3

No	The Tell-Tale Heart	The Black Cat	Manusia Serigala
1.	"If still you think me mad, you will think so no longer when I describe the wise precautions I took for the	"Finally I hit upon what I considered a far better expedient than either of these. I determined to wall it up in	"Kemudian mayat korban diseret, hanya dengan sebelah tangan, seakan mayat bertubuh tinggi kekar



<p>concealment of the body. The night waned, and I worked hastily, but in silence. First of all, I dismembered the corpse. I 2. cut off the head and the arms and the legs." P.12</p>	<p>the cellar—as the monks of the middle ages are recorded to have walled up their victims." P.25</p>	<p>itu tak lebih dari sekarung kapas belaka." P.243</p> <p>"Ia geser mayat Eddi Bratamenggala supaya posisi duduknya tepat di belakang kemudi. Saluran bahan bakar ke tangki bensin dilonggarkan.</p> <p>Lalu dengan sebuah geraman lirik, makhluk itu mendorong bagian belakang mobil dengan kekuatan luar biasa." P.244</p>
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The quotes above are also depicting the criminal behavior. The first quote from "The Tell-Tale Heart" is showing how the Narrator's conceal the corpse of the old man after he killed him. The first step is he divided the corpse into fragment, then he put the dead body of the old man under the wood planks.

The next quote from "The Black Cat" also showing the similar action of the Narrator. The Narrator in "The Black Cat" also tried to conceal the body of his wife after he killed her by one hit on her head using an axe. In this part, the Narrator also realized that he cannot bring the dead body of his wife outside the house or his action will be known by their neighbor and police. So, the Narrator decides to bury his wife dead body in the wall of their cellar.

The next quote from *Manusia Serigala* also showing how the character conceal the dead body after she killed her victims. These quotes are showing a part when Sumiyati turns into a werewolf to get revenge to Eddi. After she killed him, she brings Eddi's dead body to the car and then make it seems like an accident. Then, she pushed the car into a ravine so the car will be burned because of the fuel tank is leaked.

Based on the explanation, it can be seen that the characters from these works have a similarity. They are depicting bad characterization and included as criminal behavior, trying to conceal the dead body after they killed their victims instead of taking responsibilities. This criminal behavior that is depicted in those works is aligned with Botting's theory of gothic excess.

4.4 The Reaction and Feeling After Killing Other

Table 4

No	The Tell-Tale Heart	The Black Cat	Manusia Serigala
1.	<i>"I then smiled gaily, to find the deed so far done."</i> P.11	<i>"When I had finished, I felt satisfied that all was right."</i> P.26	<i>"Eddi Bratamenggala cukup puas dengan informasi yang diperolehnya. Teman Ronggur mati seketika. Adapun Ronggur sendiri, masih bernapas ketika dilarikan ke rumah sakit, namun kemudian meninggal tanpa sempat berbicara apa-apa. Yang ia kuatirkan hanyalah pistol ayahnya yang ia pinjamkan pada Ronggur. Tetapi tidak sulit memecahkan persoalannya. Cukup mengkambinghitamkan Ronggur telah mencuri pistol itu dari laci meja kerja ayahnya, dan Alex mendukung pula dengan cerita isapan jempol bahwa penyakit lama Ronggur sebagai bekas rampok, memang masih kambuh sewaktu-waktu."</i> P.225
2.	<i>"I went down to open it with a light heart,—for what had I now to fear?"</i> P.12	<i>"I looked around triumphantly, and said to myself: 'here at least, then, my labor has not been in vain.'"</i> P.26	<i>"Pertanyaannya terbalik, Komandan," Sumiyati tertawa lunak. "Mestinya, di mana aku ditinggalkan? Jawabannya: di tengah jalan, Komandan. Ditinggalkan begitu saja, sehingga aku harus berjalan kaki cukup jauh sebelum dapat becak untuk sampai ke hotel ini. Dan karena daerah ini bebas becak, tak jauh dari sini terpaksa saya harus berjalan kaki sekali lagi!"</i> P.251
3.	<i>"I myself, in the wild audacity of my perfect triumph, placed my own seat upon the very spot beneath which reposed the corpse of the victim."</i> P.13		

The quotes above is also depicting criminal behavior as a form of gothic excess. The first quote from "The Tell-Tale Heart" is showing the Narrator's expression and feeling after concealing the dead body of the old man. He smiled which is signing a happiness, the opposite expression of the normal people after killing someone. The second quotes from "The Tell-Tale



Heart” is showing when the Narrator open the door when three polices comes to their house. On that quote, it is clearly showing that the Narrator is not feel any guilty after killing the old man, even when the polices comes. The third quote from “The Tell-Tale Heart” again showing the Narrator’s feeling. After he opened the door and let the polices came in, the Narrator told the polices that the sound the neighbors might heard is his sound because of a nightmare. Then, the Narrator, with the feeling of triumph, he sat down on a chair right upon the wood planks where the dead body of the old man concealed as he proud of what he had done.

The quotes from “The Black Cat” is also similar to the quotes from “The Tell-Tale Heart”. There are two quotes portraying the excess of gothic regarding the feeling or expression of the character after killing someone. The first quote is showing the Narrators feeling after he conceal the dead body of his wife. He feels happy can conceal the dead body perfectly. The second quote also showing the happiness of the Narrator. In this quote, the Narrator feels satisfied after killing his wife.

On the other hand, the quotes from *Manusia Serigala* also have similarity with the two works from Edgar Allan Poe. There are two quotes, the first quote is Eddi’s feeling when he knows about the death of his people, Ronggur and his friend after they are trying to rob and harming Sumiyati. So, Eddi can make an alibi that he was not involved in that activity. The second quote is showing when Sumiyati was interrogated by police named Rukmana. She twisted the question from Rukmana that is asking where she left the dead body of Eddi. From Sumiyati’s answer, it can be said that she is lying to hide her action. She even laughed before giving the explanation that can be a sign that she is not feel any guilty after killing Eddi brutally.

From the explanation above, the excess of gothic is portrayed by how the characters’ feeling and expression after killing other character as a criminal behavior. Even when the characters were interrogated by police, they don’t show any remorse at all. This is aligned to Botting’s theory of gothic excess that seems celebrating criminal behavior.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion will include the findings from the comparative analysis with the highlight on the similarity and cultural differences in portraying the gothic excess. Based on the analysis above, it can be concluded that gothic writing is considered as writing excess. This excess means exaggeration that is lead to the negativity or something that is constructed as a negative. This research is shows how the characterization in “The Tell-Tale Heart” and “The Black Cat” by Edgar Allan Poe and *Manusia Serigala* by Abdullah Harahap portrays the excess of gothic. The characterization in these works is considered as criminal behavior which can be included as a form of gothic excess. The similarity appears as intention to kill, the action of killing other character, the concealment of the dead body, and the characters’ feeling and expression after killing other



character. This criminal behavior is aligned with the concept of gothic excess by Fred Botting. The cultural difference in these works is also appeared and involved on how the criminal behavior is depicted. In Poe's works, the motif of murdering other character is madness and alcohol influence. Alcohol consuming can be seen as a culture of western since there is a difference of climate. While in Harahap's novel, the cultural aspect of east region is appeared in mystical thing such as the curse from ancestor and the body transforming into another creature. This finding is highlighted the similarity of how the gothic excess is portrayed in "The Tell-Tale Heart", "The Black Cat" by Edgar Allan Poe, and *Manusia Serigala* by Abdullah Harahap, and also showing the cultural differences that is reflected in these works. This research is still having limitation. It may not give a full representation in order to discuss the gothic literature. For the future research, it could expand the discussion from other works with different genre and cultural context in order to explore the gothic excess.

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