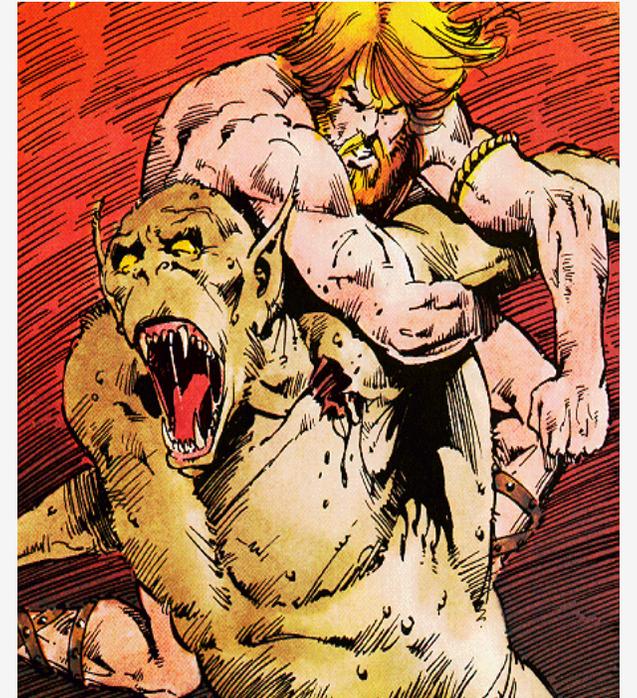
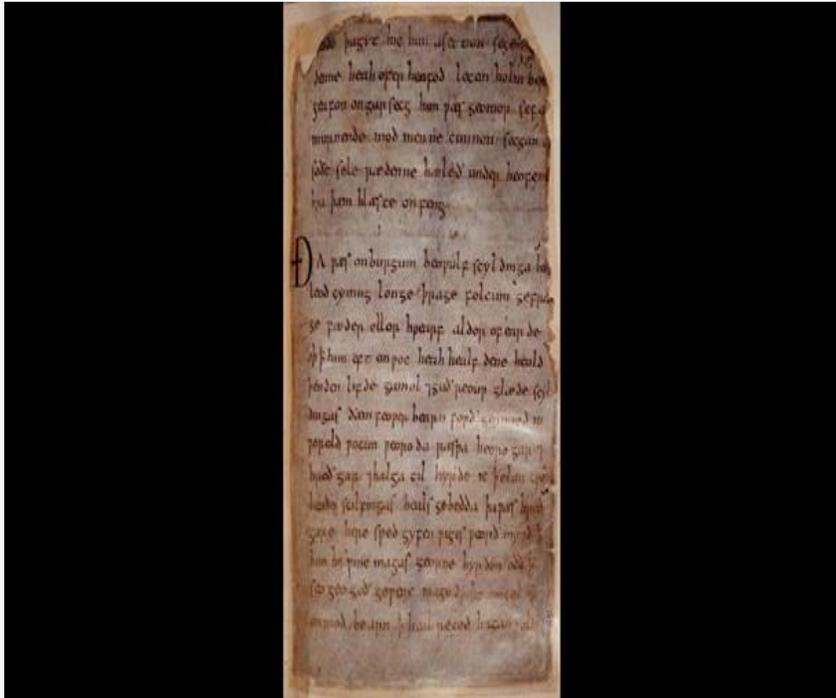


THE MONSTROUS
WOMAN:
GRENDEL'S
MOTHER IN
BEOWULF

By Dev Ramkissoon

What is *Beowulf*?

The first work of literature in English vernacular, recounts a popularized tale of Norse heroes and monsters.



Grendel's Mother

- Grendel's mother, exists as barely human, representing the gendered view of Anglo-Saxon Christian beliefs: *women inherently existed on the fringes of society and any nonconformist behavior would foster monstrosity beyond belief.*



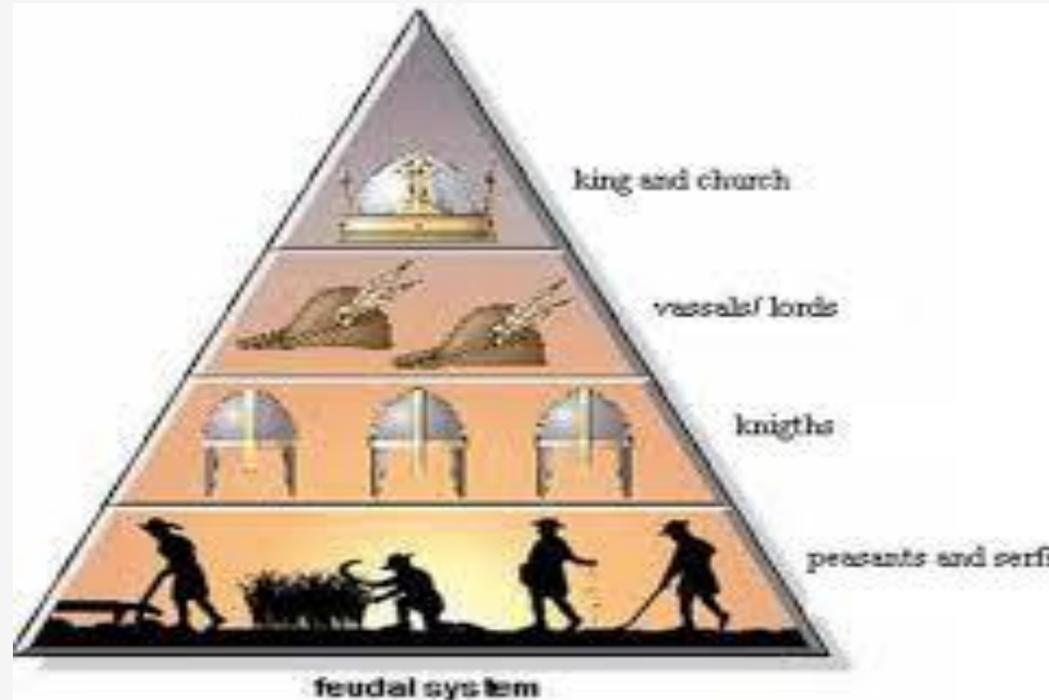
The Role of Sub-Altern Studies



- Referencing subaltern studies, Pandey is interested in how minorities are "identified by the notional mainstreams of our societies" (Pandey,1).
- The fragmentary point of view resists homogeneity and purports a more complicated social, cultural and political explanation for the composition and history of a nation.
- Subaltern studies, as a lens, allow readers to focus on the singularly perplexing paradoxes that encompass Grendel's mother feminine monstrosity.

Christian Society: Anglo-Saxon Anxieties

- Christian society contains a concrete sentiment that the norms and ways of society must be maintained; **order and hierarchy exist as priorities.**
- The poet exemplifies Christian hierarchy through Heorot, the hall in which the warriors live and feast.



Outcast Status



- The poem uses Christian themes to create Grendel's mother as a monster without redemption because she forsakes all her prescribed societal roles as a woman: passive, caring, and maternal.
- The poet uses phrases such as "hell-dam" and "amazon" to distort her into a monster, whilst maintaining her gender.

Grendel's Mother's Assertion

- Vengeance is a right of men in the society.
- She claims her place, albeit in wake of her demise, as part of society, not abject to it.



Grendel vs. Grendel's Mother



- In contrast to his mother, Grendel is described as “lonely” (*Beowulf*, 11), a pitiful and “desolate” creature in the image of a decrepit man.
- Grendel’s Mother is described as “an avenger” lurking in the dark and “grimly biding time” to cause carnage (*Beowulf*, 89).

CONCLUSION

Thank you very much 😊

Research Paper



DECEMBER 2015

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Reflection

Revising this research paper took more planning, thinking, and time than revising my other two essays. Because the research paper involves many more sources, I had to figure out a way to revisit my ideas on each scholarly article, without having to reread each article. To begin this first step in the revision process, I reviewed all my notes on the scholarly articles I used. Secondly, I reread the entire essay. Reading my notes on the articles I cite was helpful. It allowed me to fully understand my thought process in the first stage of writing. This was useful because I did not want to formally reverse outline this entire paper. Instead, I used Ms. Bledsoe's comments to guide my revisions. After reviewing my brainstorm and initial critiques in the research paper, I read through every comment and tried to resolve the issue. Most comments expressed the need for elaboration or an extra quote. This was helpful as it served as a roadmap for me.