

Abstract

Much research has been undertaken on the theory and practice of hypertext, and more has been done on the processes of both writing and rewriting, but there has been little investigation of the cross-over between these two fields. Part of the survival of any new medium - be it the replacement of LPs with CDs or VHS tapes with DVDs - is the ability to provide adaptations of previous works. This must hold true for the medium of the literary hypertext if it is to become more than just a curiosity. The purpose of this thesis is to rework R. L. Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* as a narrative in hypertext form with all the implications of this in terms of the increased accessibility and navigability which the new technologies bring.

The thesis therefore has two elements. The first part is a rewriting of the paper-based novella by Stevenson into a hypertext novel, *The Multiple Perspectives of Jekyll and Hyde*, using the various characters' viewpoints to construct the interactive narrative. As well as the texts it also contains suitable ancillary pages and extra documentation pertaining to the creation of the hypertext.

The second part is a scholarly commentary on the process and its theoretical underpinnings. It consists of three chapters. Chapter One considers the concept of hypertext itself and some of the previous research in this area in order to create a framework for further discussion. Chapter Two then follows the process of rewriting itself and how the new medium affects this process. Finally, Chapter Three examines the technical problems associated with hypertext and their possible solutions.

The thesis as a whole seeks to find a way for the form of the hypertext to be both literary and popular and proposes ways in which it may, in the future, become a major literary form.