



ENGLISH ROMANTICISM AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: Western culture was profoundly impacted by the literary movement known as English Romanticism, which took place during the late 18th and mid-19th centuries. Romanticism arose in response to social upheavals, accepting the various viewpoints of people and supporting the common man. It was rooted in a deep respect for nature, a celebration of individualism, and an investigation of strong emotions. This article examines the key elements of Romanticism, such as its emphasis on spirituality, nature, seclusion, and the idealization of women, in addition to its key proponents, including Byron, Shelley, Coleridge, Wordsworth, and others. By questioning established conventions and encouraging future generations to seek beauty, truth, and the sublime via their works, the Romantics left a lasting legacy that is still relevant in today's artistic discourse.

Key words: romanticism, respect, nature, writers, man, women, beauty, improve.

INTRODUCTION

Romanticism was a literary movement that began in the late 18th century, ending around the middle of the 19th century—although its influence continues to this day. Marked



by a focus on the individual (and the unique perspective of a person, often guided by irrational, emotional impulses), a respect for nature and the primitive, and a celebration of the common man, Romanticism can be seen as a reaction to the huge changes in society that occurred during this period, including the revolutions that burned through countries. English Romanticism, a cultural and artistic movement that emerged in the late 18th century, swept across Europe, leaving an indelible mark on literature, art, and philosophy. Characterized by a deep reverence for nature, a celebration of individualism, and an exploration of intense emotions, English Romanticism represented a significant departure from the rationalism of the Enlightenment era.

INSIDE OF ROMANTICISM

Definition

The term Romanticism does not stem directly from the concept of love, but rather from the French word *romant* (a romantic story told in verse). Unlike traditional literature of the time, romanticism focused a strong emphasis on emotions and the inner life of the writer. Autobiographical information was frequently used to enlighten or even serve as a template for the work and influenced by the writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, the poetry of William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and the philosophical ideas of Edmund Burke. At the time, romanticism was revolutionary in that it uplifted "regular people" and celebrated the lower class. In addition to fixating on nature as a primal force, romanticism promoted the idea that solitude is essential for the growth of the soul and the creative spirit.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ROMANTICISM

Romantic literature is marked by six primary characteristics:

Celebration of nature

Romantic writers saw nature as a teacher and a source of infinite beauty. One of the most famous works of Romanticism is John Keats' *To Autumn* (1820).

Focus on the individual and spirituality



Romantic authors were isolated and placed a premium on the unique experience. This in turn prompted the insertion of occult and supernatural aspects, as well as a heightened sense of spirituality in Romantic literature. Edgar Allan Poe's writings serve as prime examples of this movement's themes. In *The Raven*, for instance, the protagonist is mourning the death of his idealized woman of Romantic mythology when a seemingly sentient Raven appears and torments him. This can be taken literally or as a manifestation of the Poe's unstable mental state.

Celebration of isolation and melancholy

Ralph Waldo Emerson was a highly influential writer in Romanticism, with his books of essays delving into many of the movement's themes and codifying them. His 1841 essay "Self-Reliance" stands as a seminal work of Romantic writing, in which he extols the value of introspection, self-determination, and reliance solely on one's own resources. Melancholy emerges as a prominent feature in numerous works of Romanticism. Often regarded as a response to the perceived inevitability of failure, writers sought to articulate the profound beauty they perceived, and falling short in this endeavor often led to a sense of despair, as exemplified by... [here you could provide an example or elaborate further].

Interest in the common man

William Wordsworth was one of the first poets to embrace the concept of writing that could be read, enjoyed, and understood by anyone. He eschewed overly stylized language and references to classical works in favor of emotional imagery conveyed in simple, elegant language, as in his most famous poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*.

Idealization of women

Women were always portrayed as idealized love interests in works like Poe's *The Raven*, pure and beautiful but frequently lacking in other qualities. Ironically, owing of these sentiments, the most famous novels of the time—written by women, including Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, and Mary Shelley—had to be published at first under male pseudonyms.



The idea that women are ideal, innocent beings who should be loved, grieved, and revered but never touched or depended upon permeates a lot of romantic fiction.

Personification and pathetic fallacy

Romantic literature's fixation on nature is characterized by the heavy use of both personification and pathetic fallacy. Mary Shelley used these techniques to great effect in *Frankenstein*:

"Its fair lakes reflect a blue and gentle sky; and, when troubled by the winds, their tumult is but as the play of a lively infant, when compared to the roarings of the giant ocean."

PEOPLE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO ROMANTICISM

English Romanticism was marked by a diverse array of poets, novelists, painters, and musicians, each contributing to its rich tapestry of ideas and imagery. Some of the movement's most influential figures include:

1. William Wordsworth: Often hailed as the father of English Romanticism, Wordsworth's poetry celebrated the beauty of nature and the simplicity of rural life. His magnum opus, "Lyrical Ballads" (co-authored with Coleridge), helped define the principles of the Romantic literary aesthetic.
2. Samuel Taylor Coleridge: A close collaborator of Wordsworth, Coleridge was renowned for his vivid imagination and his exploration of supernatural themes. His poem "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" remains a seminal work of Romantic literature.
3. Lord Byron: A larger-than-life figure known for his flamboyant lifestyle and passionate verse, Byron embodied the Romantic ideal of the rebel poet. His epic poem "Don Juan" and his stirring tales of heroism and defiance captured the imagination of his contemporaries.
4. Percy Bysshe Shelley: A radical thinker and visionary poet, Shelley's works explored themes of social justice, revolution, and the power of the human spirit. His



5. masterpiece, "Prometheus Unbound," remains a testament to his unyielding belief in the triumph of the human imagination.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, the enduring capacity of the human spirit to pursue beauty, significance, and transcendence amidst a world rife with uncertainty and change is exemplified by English Romanticism. The Romantics forged a novel artistic vision that captivates and continues to inspire audiences by daring to challenge the prevailing orthodoxies of their era through their exaltation of nature, emotion, and individualism. The timeless quest for beauty, truth, and the sublime, intrinsic to the human condition, is evoked when we contemplate the legacy of English Romanticism.

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