

ENGLISH ROMANTICISM AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

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**ABSTRACT:** *The goal of this article is to provide a broad overview of the entire romantic era. This article goes into great length on the beginning of the romantic era, how it developed, the poets who contributed to its glory, the poets' backgrounds, and the specifics of the romantic poetry that dominated this time period.*

**Keywords:** *romanticism, classical, poetry, society, generation, revolution.*

INTRODUCTION

The close of the eighteenth century marked the beginning of the romantic age, which lasted until the 1830s in the nineteenth. The 20th century term "romanticism" refers to a literary movement that critics and historians came up with after the fact. Romanticism is a period of literature that generally corresponds to 1790–1850. The movement was defined by an idealization of women, an embracing of sadness and seclusion, a celebration of nature and the common man, and an emphasis on personal experience. The neoclassical era, which saw the rise in popularity of classical poetry among readers thanks to writers like Alexander Pope, was succeeded by the romantic era. Romantic poetry made intense use of elements like imagination, emotion, and nature[1]. The century also saw the emergence of travel and Orientalist writing, antislavery literature, political journalism with enduring influence, and an unprecedented convergence of literary

and scientific writing. Romanticism was in fact a response against the scientific rationality of nature as well as against the aristocratic social and political standards of the Age of Enlightenment. However, it may also be understood as a backlash against the Industrial Revolution. Many Romantic figures of this era also drew significant political inspiration from the French Revolution.

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

While scientific advancements in geology, chemistry, physics, and astronomy blossomed during the Romantic Era, the standard of living for the average working person did not improve[2]. Progressive individuals' faith in the superior qualities of the recently implemented system has now crumbled. Consequently, around the end of the 18th century, the Romantic Movement emerged.

The Romantic Age introduced a more adventurous, individualistic, and inventive approach to literature and life. In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, many of the most famous English writers rejected the principles and concepts associated with the Age of Reason[3]. The Romantic perspective centered on the individual rather than society. Romantic writers believed in progress, as well as societal and human improvement. As advocates for democratic values, they vehemently opposed all types of dictatorship and the rising horrors of individualism, such as urban blight, contaminated environments, and people's separation from nature and each other[4]. The two generations' split is in line with the actual age gap between the two groups as well as shifts in the settings in which they wrote and in specific aspects of their output.

The first generation is distinguished by a focus on the individual and their connection to the natural world. A brief phase of hope for the French Revolution is followed by a lengthier one marked by pessimism and despair as the Revolution turned into terror. The famous writers of this era are : William Blake, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

The first generation of poets transitions from ardent progressive campaigners to resigned conservatives, from enthusiastic support of the new

concerns affecting man and society to a forlorn renunciation of their beliefs. This is especially true of Wordsworth, whose advancing years have made him progressively more tolerant of conservatism. His move to the Lake District in retirement is an obvious indication of his inability to uphold his revolutionary beliefs about humanity and human rights. William Blake was the first of the great English Romantics, primarily because, in an era when the twin imperatives of industry and "system" were starting to dominate human life, he was the first English poet to challenge the ideas of science and commercialism[5]. He composed music. He composed epic poems in poetry. He composed dramas in verse. They were all driven by a desire for spiritual reality and a reinterpretation of human imagination that went beyond Newtonian principles of control and order. He redefined radical protest poetry. Scholars say that the Romantic Period began with the publishing of *Lyrical Ballads* (1798) by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. Later Romantic poets, such as Coleridge and Wordsworth, redefined nature as a healing and spiritual force. They pioneered the 'return to nature' movement by recognizing the transformative power of nature. Coleridge's meditative poetry expanded the boundaries of individual sensibility, incorporating the drama of his opium-induced visions. This redefined human nature as the subject of poetry.

The second generation is more interested in the problems connected with the relationship between life and art. The works of George Byron (1788-1824), Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822) and John Keats (1795-1821).

The Second Generation of Romantic poets is distinct from the First Generation. They are the embodiment of the romantic insurrection. The rebellion aims to affirm extreme individualism (Byron), achieve freedom and equality (Shelley), or promote a new ethical system based on beauty and truth (Keats). BYRON pioneered the concept of the writer as a hero or celebrity, establishing a literary personality cult. The early deaths of SHELLEY and KEATS shaped the perception of poets as isolated geniuses who suffered greatly. They confirmed the poet's status as above societal norms.

### **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Romanticism had an impact on political philosophy by promoting support for the underprivileged and downtrodden as well as for the goals of social development and emancipation[6]. Although the individual was valued, there was also a sense that people had a duty to one another, making personal loyalty to the collective crucial. The movement's goal was to promote the value of subjectivity[7], creativity, and an appreciation of nature in Enlightenment and Industrial Revolution society and culture. Romanticists eschewed the prevailing social mores in favor of individualism, a moral philosophy. Wordsworth and Coleridge worked together to redefine the sublime and the beautiful, displaying an aesthetic that was much at odds with the traditional classical ideas of formal symmetry and proportion.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Romanticism is significant because it contributed to the definition and creation of the contemporary world. It influenced how each of us thinks and imagines things today. It is evident that Romanticism had a significant impact on Western society that continues to this day. Any truly meaningful departure from Romantic ideas has only just started to occur, and even then, it has done so in a spectacular, stereotypically Romantic manner.

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