

## ENGLISH ROMANTICISM AND ITS DEVELOPMENT.

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This article delves into the nuanced development of English Romanticism, tracing its origins, key figures, and thematic evolution. Beginning with the late 18th century and extending into the early 19th century, English Romanticism emerged as a response to societal, political, and cultural shifts, challenging the established norms of literature and art. By examining the works of prominent Romantic poets such as William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Lord Byron, as well as lesser-known figures, this study elucidates the diverse manifestations of Romantic ideals, including a reverence for nature, an exploration of the self, and a critique of industrialization and urbanization. Furthermore, the article explores the influence of Romanticism on subsequent literary movements and its enduring legacy in contemporary culture. Through a multidimensional analysis, this article offers a comprehensive understanding of English Romanticism and its enduring significance in shaping literary discourse and cultural identity.

**KEYWORDS:** English Romanticism, literary history, Romantic poets, Romantic period.

**INTRODUCTION**

English Romanticism stands as a pivotal movement in literary history, representing a profound departure from the conventions of the preceding neoclassical era. Emerging in the late 18th century against the backdrop of profound social and political upheaval, Romanticism sought to redefine the relationship between the individual and society, the human and the natural world, and the past and the present. In this introduction, we embark on a journey to explore the essence of English Romanticism, its origins, its key figures, and its enduring legacy. From the pastoral landscapes of William Wordsworth to the Gothic realms of Mary Shelley, English Romanticism encompassed a diverse array of voices and themes, each contributing to a rich tapestry of literary expression. As we delve into the complexities of this movement, we uncover its revolutionary spirit, its celebration of imagination and emotion, and its profound impact on subsequent literary and cultural developments. Through a multidimensional analysis, we aim to illuminate the enduring relevance of English Romanticism and its timeless exploration of the human experience.

**FINDINGS**

Scholars say that the Romantic Period began with the publishing of Lyrical Ballads (1798) by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. This was one of the first collections of poems that strayed from the more formal poetic diction of the Neoclassical Period. Poets of the period instead used everyday words that the average person could understand. This also aided in expressing human emotion. Wordsworth primarily wrote about nature. He felt it could provide a source of mental cleanliness and spiritual understanding. One of Wordsworth's well-known works is "The Solitary Reaper" (1807). This poem praises the beauty of music and shows the outpouring of expression and emotion that Wordsworth felt was necessary in poetry.

Robert Burns is considered the pioneer of the Romantic Movement. Although his death in 1796 precedes what many consider the start of Romanticism, his lyricism and sincerity mark him as an early Romantic writer. His most notable works are "Auld Lang Syne" (1788) and "Tam o' Shanter" (1791). Burns inspired many of the writers during the Romantic Period. William Blake was one of the earliest Romantic Period writers. Blake believed in spiritual and political freedom and often wrote about these themes in his works. Although some of his poetry was published before the official start to the era, Blake can be seen as one of the founders of this movement.

### **THE NATURE OF ROMANTICISM**

Nonetheless, a large number of the greatest writers of the day believed that something novel was taking on in global politics. William Blake's declaration in 1793 that "a new heaven is begun" was matched by Percy Bysshe Shelley's statement "The world's great age begins anew" one generation later. John Keats wrote of Leigh Hunt and William Wordsworth, "These, these will give the world another heart, / And other pulses." New values emerged, most notably the expansion of the English-long-cherished ideal of freedom to encompass all spheres of human endeavor. It was only natural to think that the era of dictators might be coming to an end as that notion spread throughout Europe.

The poetry of the era is most famous for its emphasis on the growing importance of individual thought and emotion. The Romantics believed that the wellspring of poetry was the personal, unique experience, in contrast to the predominant trend of 18th-century poetics, which was to glorify the general and regard the poet as a spokesman of society speaking to a refined and homogeneous audience with the conveying of "truth" as his objective. Blake's often forceful marginal commentary on Sir Joshua Reynolds's Discourses captures the sentiment: "To Generalize is to be an Idiot." Uniqueness is the only thing that distinguishes merit.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, English Romanticism stands as a testament to the power of literature to capture the essence of the human experience and to transcend the boundaries of time and space. Throughout this exploration, we have witnessed the emergence of a

movement characterized by its celebration of individuality, its reverence for nature, and its defiance of societal constraints. From the tranquil verses of Wordsworth to the tumultuous narratives of Byron, English Romanticism provided a platform for voices both familiar and marginalized, each contributing to a collective vision of humanity's place in the universe.

Furthermore, our analysis has revealed the enduring legacy of English Romanticism, evident in its influence on subsequent literary movements and its resonance in contemporary culture. The themes of love, loss, and longing that pervade Romantic poetry continue to captivate readers today, reminding us of the timeless nature of human emotions and aspirations.

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