

## ENGLISH ROMANTICISM AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

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### ANNOTATION:

This article describes romanticism and its evolution in English literature history. You can find the answers to these major and interesting questions:

What is the Romanticism in English?

What is the history and development of Romanticism?

Why is Romanticism important in English literature?

Who is the father of Romanticism?

What are the features of Romanticism? etc...

**KEY WORDS:** romanticism, literature, English, background,

### INTRODUCTION:

Romanticism, sometimes referred to as the Romantic movement or the Romantic age, was a late eighteenth-century European artistic and philosophical movement. The movement's goal during the Industrial Revolution and the Age of Enlightenment was to promote the value of subjectivity, imagination, and an appreciation of nature in society and culture.

Romanticists eschewed the prevailing social mores in favor of individualism, a moral philosophy. They maintained that beauty is more than just an aesthetic quality but rather something that arouses deep emotions, and that passion and intuition are essential to comprehending the world. This philosophical underpinning allowed the Romanticists to elevate a number of important themes to which they were passionately dedicated: a celebration of the heroic and the sublime, an idealization of the past as a nobler time, an obsession with the exotic and the mysterious, and a reverence for nature and the supernatural.

The Middle Ages were especially beloved by the Romanticist movement because they were seen as a time of bravery, chivalry, and a more natural bond between people and their surroundings. Their modern industrial society's ideals, which they viewed as alienating due to its economic materialism and environmental devastation, stood in stark contrast to this idealization. Arguments centered on the movement's depiction of the Middle Ages, with claims that Romanticist images frequently ignored the drawbacks of medieval existence.

The 19th-century European movement known as romanticism emerged in reaction to the Industrial Revolution and the disillusionment with the rational ideas of

the Enlightenment. Following the French Revolution of 1789, which significantly altered European society, romanticism began to flourish.

Unlike traditional literature of the time, romanticism placed 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.

The Lyrical Ballads of William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, which were published in the 1790s, marked the beginning of romanticism in English literature. The English Romantic movement in poetry was founded upon Wordsworth's "Preface" to the second edition (1800) of Lyrical Ballads, when he defined poetry as "the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings." The movement's third principal poet during its early stages in England was William Blake. Preoccupation with the mystical, the subconscious, and the supernatural, as well as changes in literary form and subject, characterized the initial phase of the Romantic movement in Germany. Friedrich Hölderlin, the early Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Jean Paul, Novalis, Ludwig Tieck, August Wilhelm and Friedrich von Schlegel, Wilhelm Heinrich Wackenroder, Friedrich Schelling, and many others are among the many gifted individuals that make up this initial stage. Because of their significant historical and theoretical publications, François-Auguste-René, vicomte de Chateaubriand, and Madame de Staël were the main pioneers of Romanticism in revolutionary France.

The father of Romanticism is William Wordsworth who was a key personality and significant thinker in English Romanticism, as well as one of its creators. He is recognized as a poet who explored spiritual and epistemological ideas, wrote on the interaction between humans and nature, and vehemently supported the use of everyday language and speech patterns in poetry.

The word "romance," which refers to a prose or poetry heroic tale with medieval origins, is where the term "romantic" originates. Other aspects of the Romantic movement were affected by the principles of the French Revolution. Romanticism legitimized the individual imagination as a critical authority that allowed independence from classical ideals of form in art, and it glorified the achievements of what it saw as misunderstood heroic individuals and artists that changed society.

Romanticism, in its broadest definition, encompasses a number of different artistic, literary, musical, political, philosophical, and social movements as well as trends that emerged in Europe in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Romanticism is primarily distinguished by its opposition to the Enlightenment, which placed a greater emphasis on reason over imagination and intense emotion. The Romantics used intuition to illustrate certain aspects of knowledge rather than an epistemology based on reasoning. For the entire twentieth century, there was little to no agreement on how to characterize and describe Romanticism. This was the subject of intellectual and literary history.

In his groundbreaking essay "On The Discrimination of Romanticisms" from *Essays in the History of Ideas* (1948), Arthur Lovejoy attempted to illustrate the complexity of this issue; some scholars date romanticism firmly in the immediate aftermath of the French Revolution, while others see it as the beginning of modernity, the beginning of a tradition of resistance to the Enlightenment, or the beginning of modernity as a whole. The French symbolist poet Charles Baudelaire provided perhaps the most clear and concise explanation when he said, "Romanticism is precisely situated neither in choice of subject nor exact truth, but in a way of feeling."

Some modernist authors contend that Romanticism is a component of the Counter-Enlightenment, a pejorative term for movements or ideologies they perceive as opposing the Enlightenment's inherent objectivity and reason and as encouraging emotionalism, superstition, and instability.

Generally, Romanticism can be understood as a pursuit for the value of beauty on the part of humans because they have the faculty of emotion. Of course, humans also have two other faculties: Intellect and will, which pursue the values of truth and goodness, respectively. But when intellect (reason) is emphasized one-sidedly as in the Enlightenment in the eighteenth century, and when will is stressed very much as in the moral philosophy of Immanuel Kant around the end of the eighteenth century, human beings naturally react with their faculty of emotion as in Romanticism.

Individuality, subjectivity, irrationality, inventiveness, personal spontaneity, emotion, vision, and transcendence were all highlighted by romanticism. The artists stressed the importance of senses and emotions as equally significant ways to see and interpret the world, in addition to reason and order. Romanticism praised the creative and intuitive abilities of the individual in the never-ending pursuit of personal freedom and rights.

Subjectivity and an emphasis on individualism, spontaneity, freedom from rules, living alone as opposed to in society, the conviction that imagination is superior to reason and devotion to beauty, and a love and worship of nature are just a few of the specific traits of romantic literature.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Romanticism was characterized by a number of attitudes, including a greater appreciation of nature's beauty, a general exaltation of emotion over reason and the senses over intellect, a turning inward toward oneself, and a closer examination of the human personality, including its moods and mental potential; an obsession with the brilliant, the hero, and the extraordinary person in general, with an emphasis on their inner conflicts and passions; a fresh understanding of the artist as a highly autonomous creator, whose inventive spirit takes precedence over rigorous obedience to formal guidelines and customs; a focus on the role of imagination as a conduit for spiritual

truth and sublime experience; a fascination with folk culture, the beginnings of national and ethnic cultures, and the Middle Ages.

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