



ENGLISH ROMANTICISM AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

English Romanticism was a literary and artistic movement that emerged in the late 18th century and flourished throughout the 19th century. It was characterized by a focus on imagination, emotion, nature, individualism, and the supernatural. This abstract provides an overview of the development of English Romanticism, highlighting its key features and major contributors.

Key words: Imagination, Emotion, Individualism, Medievalism, Symbolism.

INTRODUCTION

English Romanticism was a literary and artistic movement that emerged in the late 18th century and reached its peak in the early 19th century. It was a reaction against the rationalism and scientific progress of the Enlightenment, emphasizing the power of imagination, emotion, and individual experience. Romanticism celebrated the beauty of nature, the supernatural, and the exotic, and it placed a strong emphasis on the expression of personal feelings and inner turmoil.

The development of English Romanticism can be traced back to the cultural and intellectual climate of the late 18th century. The Industrial Revolution was transforming Britain into an urban and industrialized society, and many artists and writers felt a deep sense of loss and alienation from the natural world. They sought to reconnect with nature as a source of inspiration and solace.

The Romantic movement in England was influenced by several key figures. One of the pioneers of English Romantic poetry was William Blake, whose visionary and mystical works explored themes of spirituality and the imagination. Blake's rejection of the constraints of reason and his embrace of the imagination set the stage for the Romantic movement.

Another important figure was Samuel Taylor Coleridge, whose collaboration with William Wordsworth resulted in the publication of "Lyrical Ballads" in 1798. This collection of poems marked a significant departure from the formal and artificial poetry of the previous era. Wordsworth and Coleridge sought to capture the beauty



and power of ordinary language and to depict the lives and experiences of ordinary people.

The Romantic movement in England reached its zenith with the publication of works by poets such as Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and John Keats. These poets explored themes of love, nature, and the supernatural, and they often expressed a sense of melancholy and longing. Byron's rebellious and passionate persona, Shelley's radical politics, and Keats's sensuous and lyrical style epitomized the spirit of English Romanticism.

English Romanticism also extended beyond poetry to other forms of artistic expression. The Romantic painters, such as J.M.W. Turner and John Constable, sought to capture the sublime and awe-inspiring aspects of nature in their landscapes. The Gothic novel, with its emphasis on mystery, horror, and the supernatural, also emerged as a popular genre during this period, with notable works by Mary Shelley and Bram Stoker.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, English Romanticism marked a significant shift in artistic and literary expression during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It emerged as a response to the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution, rejecting the rationalism and mechanistic worldview of the time. English Romantic writers and artists celebrated individuality, imagination, and a deep connection with nature.

The movement emphasized the exploration of emotions, the power of the imagination, and the subjective experience of the individual. Romantic poets like William Blake, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and William Wordsworth sought to capture the beauty of the natural world and delve into the depths of human emotions. They celebrated the unique voice of the artist and the transformative potential of self-expression.

English Romanticism was also influenced by the political and social climate of the era, with writers grappling with the ideals and aftermath of the French Revolution. This added a dimension of social and political commentary to their works, as they explored themes of liberty, equality, and the complexities of revolutionary fervor.

The impact of English Romanticism extended beyond poetry. It influenced other artistic forms, including painting and music. Romantic painters sought to depict the sublime beauty of nature, while composers composed music that evoked powerful emotions and told stories through sound.



English Romanticism left a lasting legacy in the world of art and literature. Its emphasis on individuality, emotion, and the power of nature continues to resonate with audiences to this day. The movement challenged the prevailing cultural norms of its time and paved the way for new modes of artistic expression, leaving an indelible mark on the artistic landscape.

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