



Hearts and Minds: The Rise of Romanticism in Literature

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Abstract. This article explores the origins and evolution of Romanticism, a literary and artistic movement that emerged as a reaction to the industrial revolution and growing utilitarianism. It emphasizes the Romantic celebration of nature, emotion, and individual experience, contrasting sharply with the rationalism of the time. The piece highlights key male and female contributors, such as William Blake, Mary Shelley, and Jane Austen, noting the rise of female writers and the growing popularity of the novel and Gothic fiction. Ultimately, Romanticism is portrayed as a powerful countercultural movement that sought beauty in both light and darkness.

Keywords. *Romanticism, emotion, nature, individualism, gothic fiction.*

Сердца и умы: Восхождение романтизма в литературе

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Аннотация. В статье рассматриваются истоки и развитие романтизма — литературного и художественного движения, возникшего как реакция на индустриализацию и утилитаризм. Акцент делается на прославлении природы, эмоций и индивидуального опыта, что резко контрастирует с рационализмом той эпохи. В статье упоминаются ключевые фигуры, такие как Уильям Блейк, Мэри Шелли и Джейн Остин, а также подчеркивается рост популярности женских авторов, романа и готической прозы. Романтизм представлен как мощное контркультурное движение, находящее красоту как в свете, так и во тьме.

Ключевые слова: *Романтизм, чувство, природа, индивидуализм, готическая литература.*

Romantizm: Qalb va Ong Sayohati

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Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada romantizm harakati — sanoatlashtirish va utilitarizmga qarshi javob sifatida paydo bo'lgan adabiy va badiiy oqimning kelib chiqishi va rivojlanishi yoritilgan. Bu harakat tabiat, hissiyot va shaxsiy tajribani ulug'laydi va o'sha davr ratsionalizmiga qarama-qarshi qo'yiladi. Maqolada Uilyam Bleyk, Meri Shelli va Jeyn Osten kabi muhim yozuvchilar tilga olinadi, shuningdek, ayol yozuvchilar, roman va gotik adabiyotning ommalashgani ta'kidlanadi. Romantizm yorug'lik va zulmatda go'zallikni topishga intiluvchi kuchli madaniy qarshi oqim sifatida tasvirlanadi.

Kalit so'zlar: *Romantizm, hissiyot, tabiat, individualizm, gotik badiiy adabiyot.*



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Romanticism. The word might inspire thoughts of roses and candlelight. Long walks in the countryside or lyrical prose. Perhaps it puts you in mind of someone who is out of touch with reality or who caves in to their emotions too readily.

Romanticism was an intellectual movement at the beginning of the nineteenth century that has greatly impacted our literature and media. It is often associated with idealism and “softening” harsh truths, but true romanticism invites us to embrace darkness right along with the light. It is a philosophy that seeks beauty and depth in all experiences and encourages us to embrace life with complete abandon.

Romanticism was birthed at the beginning of the nineteenth century right at the onset of the industrial revolution. Rural life, which had remained more or less the same for centuries, was turned upside down as people moved to cities for jobs in factories. The familiar world of tending the land gave way to standardized time and machines. People who were used to spending large amounts of time outside were now cooped up indoors for long hours completing repetitive tasks. Philosophies such as utilitarianism gained popularity as things -and people-were valued based on their usefulness and efficiency (Taryn Tyler. 2020, February 29).

Romanticism was a counter culture to this new way of life. It emphasized nature and emotions and doing things for the sake of doing them rather than for a practical purpose.

The romantic poets, who were the major forerunners of the movement along with painters and musicians, were like rock stars in their time. Most of them died early deaths from their passionate, aimless lifestyle but they were able to capture the intensity of the human spirit in their work and inspire not only the people of their own time but generations of people after their deaths.

There are several components to their philosophy that allowed them to capture this spirit. One of which was the celebration of nature.

THE START OF ROMANTICISM

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. His works, **Songs of Innocence** (1789) and **Songs of Experience** (1794), are two of his most significant. These collections of poetry are some of the first to romanticize children, and in these works Blake pits the innocence and imagination of childhood against the harsh corruption of adulthood, especially within the city of London. He was also known for his beautiful drawings, which accompanied each of these poems.

THE NOVEL



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During the Romantic Period the novel grew in popularity and became one of the major sources of entertainment for middle class citizens. Authors began to tailor their writing to appeal to this audience. **Sir Walter Scott** gained popularity during this time, both in Britain and around Europe. He mainly wrote within the genre of historical romances and made this a viable form of fiction for later writers. Scott also focused on his home country of Scotland, often writing about its beauty and romanticism. Scott's first major novel was **Waverly** (1814), which is set during the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745. The rebellious group sought to restore the Stuart dynasty to Charles Edward Stuart. The hero, Edward Waverly, is commissioned to the army and sent to Scotland in 1745. While there, he joins the Jacobite groups even though he knows they will fail and is imprisoned; however, he is ultimately freed. The novel ends with a marriage between Waverly and a Baron's daughter, Rose, representing the rational, realistic present of Scotland post-rebellion. While this was his first success, generally **The Antiquary** (1816), **Old Mortality** (1816), and **The Heart of Midlothian** (1818) are considered his masterpieces.

Gothic Fiction

During the second half of the 18th century, **gothic fiction** began to increase in popularity in Great Britain. This came from a look back to medieval times. Often this genre would combine supernatural and mysterious elements with the castles and dungeons of the past. The gothic novel combines the intense emotions of terror, anguish, fear, and even love. Coleridge and Byron both contributed works to this canon, but **John William Polidori's The Vampyre** (1819) and **Mary Shelley's Frankenstein** (1818) stand out as two of the genre's most enduring pieces. Polidori's work has importance for creating the vampire literary genre. Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, published during the Victorian Period, would continue to generate popularity around vampirism.

Shelley combines elements of love and the supernatural in her gothic novel, *Frankenstein*. Dr. Victor Frankenstein harnesses the power of life and uses it to animate a creature he has built. When the creature is cast away and refused companionship for his hideous physical features, he becomes murderous and determines to ruin Victor's life.

Women Have Arrived

The Romantic Period saw more successful women writers, a precursor to their popularity in the Victorian era. The most significant female writer during this period was **Jane Austen**. Writing toward the end of the period, Austen did not always adhere to the strict Romantic Period guidelines and mocked some of the more extravagant plots of previous writers. Instead, Austen chose to highlight the everyday lives of average people, making a turn toward **social realism**. Her novels include relatable heroines with adventures that the ordinary reader would likely encounter. She was also able to better depict the lives of women in this way. She understood that women had very little class mobility at the time and used many of her novels as a way to show this. Some of her famous novels include **Sense and Sensibility** (1811), **Pride and Prejudice** (1813), **Mansfield Park** (1814), **Emma** (1815), and **Northanger Abbey** (1817). *Pride and Prejudice* is still widely read today and tells the story of Elizabeth Bennet, the second eldest daughter among five. When Mr. Bingley and Mr. Darcy move into the neighborhood, the Bennet family hopes they will wed two of



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the unmarried daughters. Although Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy clash heads early on in the novel, they eventually fall in love and get married. Austen's novel *Emma* is also very popular and shows the consequences of meddling with love. Emma thinks that she could be a matchmaker, but her efforts ultimately fail and lead to heartbreak along the way. Although in the beginning of the novel she vows never to marry, by the end she realizes she is in love with Mr. Knightly and the two do get married.

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