

The Theme of Romanticism in Medieval British Literature

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Abstract

Romanticism is the term based on the love and affection for nature by the writers. The concept of romanticism was introduced in the middle age of European evolution after industrialization. The term medieval refers to the middle revolution age of Europe. Writers assumed nature as their teacher and ultimate beauty, therefore romanticism was based on the writer's love towards nature rather than human love. Personification is the term that was widely used by the poets at that time to address nature as a person.

Keywords

Literary works, Medieval period, novels, Romanticism.

INTRODUCTION

There are three periods in the English literature period such as old English, middle English, and neo English. The old English period was in the age of 450-1066 years, the Middle English period was in the year 1066 to 1500 years and the neo-English period is after 1500 years. [1] (2020) stated that medievalism is defined as the system and practice that occurred in the middle ages of English literature. Medievalism was expressed in many fields such as literature, architecture, art, music, scholarship, philosophy, and so on. Romanticism can be defined as the literary movement that had occurred in the 18th century and had ended in the middle 19th century. This can also be defined as an individual's perspective of respect for the primitive and nature, the celebration of the common man. Romanticism evolved due to changes in the society that happened during that time.

Late middle ages many individuals were literate in late middle ages, hence maximum literature was being written in that era. Romanticism does not describe the concept of love rather focused on the inner life and emotion of the writer. The renaissance occurred in the middle era and happened in Europe therefore infrastructure was evolving and new industrial organizations. [2]. (2020) argued that nature was being harmed at that time hence the poets were writing novels, poems, stories that consist of romanticism. English literature has the Romantic Movement based on some poets that consist of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Wordsworth, John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lord Byron, William Blake, and so on. These poets have written romantic literature to criticize the revolution regarding the industries. After the redness, the educational backgrounds in Europe were evolving rapidly therefore the increase in the number of educated people was also improving hence the criticism was made by the poets through the poems and literature.

The world was aware of the industrial revolution and its effect in the form of the literature written by the famous poets

of that time. The most important feature of the poetry of that time was personal thoughts and the individual thoughts of the poets. The poets were said to be the spokesman of the society. [3]. (2020) opined that romantic poets addressed nature as the teacher and infinite source of beauty. The romantic poets were also to be known as the influencer to the other people from the middle age of the revolution of Europe and many people were influenced and converted into romantic writers. The term strangeness is defined as a combination of intellectual sense regarding curiosity and emotional sense regarding wonder. These senses were gratified by the remote, romance-clad, and mystery of the middle ages.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of romanticism

The romanticism term does not mean the love concept rather came from the french term *romant* which means story based on the romanticism told in verse. Romanticism is based on the emotions and the life experience of the authors. [4] (2020) stated that romanticism is also used in autobiographical material or a template provided for it, unlike traditional literature. The term also focused on nature as the primordial force and also brought up the isolation concept that is necessary for artistic and spiritual development. The romantic literature can be characterized by the six characters that are personification fallacy, women idealization, common man interest, a spirituality of the individual, and the melancholy and isolation celebration. Industrialization occurs after the renaissance that use a lot of environment destruction hence a lot of water realized the importance of nature. Romanticism was dedicated to the common people of that time and hence many people evolved as writers. Great writers at that time did not consider themselves as romantic until August Wilhelm von Schlegel gave the Vienna lecture in 1808-1809 on the difference between plastic, organic qualities regarding romantic art with mechanical characteristics of classicism.

Romanticism in medieval (middle) period of English Literature

Looking upon European history the medieval period or the middle ages lasted from the fifth century to the late fifteenth century. The fall of the western empire of Rome and the discovery age began in the medieval period. It was considered as the backlash against empirical science and industrialism. [5]. (2018) opined that romanticism in middle age was based on the admiration of nature that was thought to be a great teacher and ultimate beauty. John Keats was known as one of the most famous workers of romanticism for his poem *Ode To Autumn* introduced in 1820.

Many romantics such as Coleridge, Novalis, and Keats admired the middle age as a great age because of two reasons. [6], (2017) argued that first; it was considered as the last Christian period as England and other European countries were united in one church known as Christendom. This unity led to the right environment for the writers as an idyllic, pure place. Keats used the personification in his poem that refers to imagining an entity as a person that is not a human. Keats personifies the 'Autumn' season and shows the arrival of the season, harvest, and end of the season at the time winter takes place.

Description of literary works in the medieval period

There were many writers in the middle ages such as John Keats, Lord Byron, William Wordsworth, and so on. Their literature amazed the readers in many ways such as the importance of nature is common in their literature. *Tintern Abbey* is one of the important poems by William Wordsworth that was published in 1798. [7]. (2019) stated that the poem is based on a conversation that contains dramatic monologue and Ode. The poem is set in a village Tintern situated in Monmouthshire. There was a river called Wye beside the village, the poet helped readers to understand philosophies based on nature and beauty. Chaucer was one of the great poets of his time; his *Troilus and Criseyde* give the example of reimagining the trends that were popular at that time.

There is a great poem by Lord Byron called *There is Pleasure in the Pathless woods*, also written on the behalf of nature. This poem describes the enjoyment of walking on the pathless woods rather than walking on the paths everyone follows. Walking on a different path alone can be enjoyed more by individuals as there is a chance of discovery of a new part of the woods. [8], (2018) argued that enjoyment of being alone is more satisfying than being with other individuals. Therefore this poem also represents love and affection towards nature. Some of the other nature poems from the medieval age are Fowls in the frith, Merry it is while summer lasts, Somer is y-comen in, When the turf is thy tour, Each day me cometh tydings there and so on.

METHODOLOGY

Research methods can be described as data collection and analysis. This literature is based on the secondary research methods that refer to collecting the data from previously

published magazines, journals, newspapers, online portals, books, and so on. The journals are based on the middle age period and romanticism in Europe. The literature is not primary as no data has been taken from the interviews and surveys. Research philosophy can be associated with assumptions and understandings about the World. This literature is also based on positivism philosophy that stands for gaining factual knowledge through observation, in this philosophy the role of the researcher is to collect data and interpretation.

There was a specific period that was involved in the evolution of romanticism. Deductive research approaches can be classified as achieving research objectives through testing hypotheses; this literature focuses on industrialization and its effects on nature. The research is designed as the descriptive design as it refers to describing through close observation the behavior of the subject without influencing it. Romanticism in the middle age had changed the way of thinking of individuals as many poets were evolving at that time and many kinds of literature were being produced.

DISCUSSION

Evaluation of theme of romanticism

Romanticism was coined more before the middle age; the concept was based on the beauty of nature and its role in human society. After industrialization in Europe, the poets were more inclined towards nature and much literature had been made based on the beauty of nature. The middle-aged writers were also inspired by the previous age writers and their literature created on romanticism. [9], (2021) stated that the late medieval age also known as the Victorian age has also romanticism poets that have been inspired by the literature of middle age. This can be described as a series of events on romanticism in British literature. Some of the poets of the Victorian age are Alfred Tennyson, Robert Browning, Mathew Arnold, Thomas Hardy, and so on. Nature poetry was significant in the Victorian age and many poets have made a connection with human nature. Coventry Patmore, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Lord Tennyson described nature as being sorrowful, indifferent, in their poetry.

Alfred Lord Tennyson's *The Splendor Falls* described the vividness of being alive. He used many verbs to describe his nature view. Tennyson had described a castle in winter. The word dying describes the depressing nature in winter and the falls of tree leaves. [10], (2017) argued that there was a famous poem on winter in middle age that is *Those Winter Sundays* written by Robert Hayden. This poem described the beauty of Sunday winter and falls. Here the poet had personified nature and described the condition. This event has clearly shown the Victorian age writer also gets inspiration and ideas regarding romanticism.

Analysis of characters propelling theme of romanticism

There is a tragic romance created by Geoffrey Chaucer called *Troilus and Criseyde* that was composed in the 1380s, this work is also considered as the finest work of his. [11]

(2018) opined that this novel was on the love story based on Troilus the son of King Piram and Criseyde was the daughter of Priest Calchas. Criseyde and Troilus were connected in love halfway through the novel. Criseyde was sent to the Greek camp situated in Troy. She promised him to return home but was loved by Diomedes the Greek warrior. [12] (2021) argued that the analysis of the Troilus character has shown the romanticism theme that later has inspired the other writer to think about romantic characters and hence Victorian age writers also got their inspiration from this.

So we'll go no more to a roving novel written by Lord Byron, also a romantic poem, where the narrator told a story about youth. The narrator has been told to stop roving around the party and seek pleasure. Thus, the poem emphasizes the struggle and sadness of having to appear like an adult while yet feeling the thrill of childhood inside.

Katherin was another novel written by Anya Seton, in this novel the duke of Lancaster John of Gaunt was the younger son of King Edward 3. John married three times but he had loved with his last wife Katherine Swynford. She was the center of his life, this novel is heart-shattering and epic. This is the perfect example of romanticism that was widely practiced in the middle age of British literature.

CONCLUSION

The romanticism theme was first widely accepted in the medieval age of Europe. Romanticism was coined for the effect of industrialization done after the rest, in that time a lot of nature was being harmed for the sake of revolution. Writers from those eras got inspiration from these events and hence focused on nature personification and romantic literature. Romanticism was the way of criticizing the social state at that age, there were many people inspired by this term and wrote other romantic literature. Many authors have evolved and worked as the spokesperson of that time. English literature was evolved more by the unity of European Christians in the middle age. Romanticism also created inspiration for the next-age writers. They have followed the theme applied to previous ages. Hence romanticism has brought up literature in Europe in many aspects.

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