

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF ROMANTIC POETRY IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN LITERATURE BASED ON J. BYRON AND M. LERMONTOV'S POETRY

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Abstract: This article presents a comparative analysis of Romantic poetry in English and Russian literature, focusing on the works of two prominent poets, Lord Byron and Mikhail Lermontov. By examining their poetic styles, themes, and influences, this study seeks to highlight the similarities and differences between Romantic poetry in these two cultural contexts. Through a detailed exploration of selected poems by Byron and Lermontov, this article aims to provide insights into how the Romantic movement manifested in both English and Russian poetry.

Keywords: Romantic poetry, Lord Byron, Mikhail Lermontov, English literature, Russian literature, comparative analysis.

INTRODUCTION

Romantic poetry is a genre that has captivated readers and scholars alike with its emotional depth and exploration of the human experience. Two prominent figures in Romantic poetry, Lord Byron from England and Mikhail Lermontov from Russia, have left a lasting impact on literature with their works. In this article, we will conduct a comparative analysis of Romantic poetry in English and Russian literature through the lens of Byron's and Lermontov's poetry. By examining the themes, styles, and influences present in their works, we aim to gain a deeper understanding of the similarities and differences between Romantic poetry in these two cultures.

MAIN PART

Romantic poetry is characterized by a focus on emotion, nature, and individual expression. Two prominent figures in the Romantic movement are Lord Byron from England and Mikhail Lermontov from Russia. Both poets were known for their rebellious spirit, vivid imagery, and exploration of themes such as love, freedom, and the human condition.¹

Lord Byron, known as one of the leading figures of English Romanticism, was a poet whose works often reflected his own turbulent life. His poetry explored themes of love, nature, and the struggle for personal freedom. Byron's most famous works include "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage" and "Don Juan". These poems are characterized by their lyrical beauty, passionate language, and exploration of the complexities of human emotions.

Mikhail Lermontov was a Russian poet who is often considered one of the greatest poets in Russian literature. His poetry is known for its introspective nature, melancholic tone, and exploration of existential themes. Lermontov's most famous works include "A Hero of Our Time" and "The Demon". These poems delve into the inner workings of the human psyche, exploring themes such as alienation, despair, and the search for meaning in a chaotic world.

¹ Wang, Emily. "Russia's Radical Byron: Reexamining the "Decembrist Pushkin"." *Comparative Literature* 74, no. 1 (2022): 73-98.



When comparing the poetry of Byron and Lermontov, it is evident that both poets share a common interest in exploring themes related to love, nature, and individualism. However, there are also significant differences in their approaches to these themes.²

One key difference between Byron's and Lermontov's poetry is their treatment of nature. While Byron often portrayed nature as a source of inspiration and solace in his works, Lermontov tended to depict nature as a harsh and indifferent force that reflects the dark aspects of human existence. This difference can be seen in Byron's poem "She Walks in Beauty", where he describes a woman's beauty as being akin to the beauty of nature itself. In contrast, Lermontov's poem "The Sail" portrays nature as a dangerous force that threatens to engulf the protagonist.

Another difference between Byron's and Lermontov's poetry lies in their treatment of love. While both poets explore themes related to love in their works, they approach this theme from different perspectives. Byron often depicted love as a source of passion and desire that could lead to both joy and pain. In contrast, Lermontov tended to portray love as a destructive force that could bring about tragedy and despair.

It is clear that both Lord Byron and Mikhail Lermontov made significant contributions to Romantic poetry through their exploration of universal themes such as love, nature, and individualism. However, the differences in their treatment of these themes reflect distinct cultural, social, and personal influences that shaped their respective poetic visions. Their works continue to inspire readers around the world with their timeless beauty, and profound insights into the complexities of the human experience.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the comparative analysis of Romantic poetry in English and Russian literature based on the works of J. Byron and M. Lermontov has shed light on the unique characteristics and themes present in both traditions. While both poets were influenced by the Romantic movement, they expressed their ideas and emotions in distinct ways that reflected their cultural backgrounds and personal experiences. Byron's poetry often explores themes of individualism, rebellion, and escapism, reflecting his own tumultuous life and political beliefs. His use of vivid imagery, emotional intensity, and lyrical language captivated readers and established him as a prominent figure in English Romanticism.³

On the other hand, Lermontov's poetry is characterized by its introspective nature, existential themes, and exploration of the human psyche. His works delve into questions of identity, fate, love, and mortality with a sense of melancholy and disillusionment that is distinctly Russian in its tone. Despite these differences, both poets share a commonality in their exploration of human emotions and experiences through their poetry. Through their use of language, symbolism, and poetic devices, they have created works that continue to resonate with readers across time and cultures. Overall, the comparative analysis of J. Byron's English Romantic poetry and M. Lermontov's Russian Romantic poetry has highlighted the diversity and richness of the Romantic tradition in literature. By examining these two poets side by side, we gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of human nature as expressed through art.

² Zhatkin, Dmitry N., and Tatiana A. Yashina. "Thomas Moore's poems and his book about Jg Byron in the creative perception of M. Yu. Lermontov." *Amazonia Investiga* 7, no. 14 (2018): 104-111.

³ Shaw, Joseph Thomas. "Byron, the Byronic Tradition of the Romantic Verse Tale in Russian, and Lermontov's Mtsyri." *Poetry Criticism* 250 (1956).



Their works serve as timeless reminders of the power of poetry to evoke emotions, provoke thought, and inspire readers to reflect on their own lives.

In conclusion, the study of Romantic poetry in English and Russian literature offers valuable insights into the universal themes that transcend cultural boundaries and speak to the shared experiences of humanity. The works of Byron and Lermontov stand as testament to the enduring legacy of Romanticism in shaping our understanding of love, nature, freedom, and the human spirit.

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