

The Romantic Criticism.

→ Political Reasons for Romantic upheaval:

- French Revolution will its rallying Cry of "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity." influenced romantics like Wordsworth and Shelley. There was a general revolt against authority and man claimed freedom as birth right. This resulted in advocacy of individualism and humanitarianism of romantic writers.
- The social and political writings of Rousseau with his hatred of royal absolutism, aristocratic privileges and religious dogmatism.

→ Influence of Germany:

Specially August Wilhelm Schlegel, his brother and Schelling. Schlegel brought out distinction between classicism and romanticism. Classicism according to him is a search artistic search for a beautifully ordered world, while romanticism is a hidden longing for the chaos which underlies all creation.

→ Bishop Percy brought forth the beauty and charm of the medieval literature by his Reliques of Ancient English Poetry in 1765.

→ Gray, Thomas Watson worked in the same direction.

→ Romantic Criticism:

An English Criticism Before Romanticism

After

→ Problems of language & Style

Origin of Poetry

→ Outward form of Poetry

Why the poet composes?
What feelings and
emotion give birth to
poetry.

William Wordsworth's Preface to Lyrical Ballads.

- He wrote Preface because Lyrical Ballads was criticised by Edinburgh and Quarterly Review.
- He wrote to justify in self-defence and justification of the type of poetry he was writing.
- He added a Preface to Second Edition of Lyrical Ballads in 1800, enlarged it in 1815
Appendix was added in 1802.
Supplementary Edition in 1815.

Preface to Lyrical Ballads (1800).

- Coleridge tells that the plan of Ballads emerged during their stay in Somerset.

Coleridge was assigned: his endeavors would be directed to persons and characters supernatural or at least romantic, yet so as to transfer from our inward nature a human interest and a semblance of truth to procure for these shadows of imagination that willing suspension of disbelief that constitutes poetic faith.

Wordsworth: self assigned to give charm of novelty to things of every day

- Preface is a manifesto to Romantic movement in Poetry.
- His Theory of Poetry:
He revolted against the excessively charged diction of

and stereotyped moulds of 18th C poetry.

→ Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling that takes its origin from emotion recollect'd in tranquility.

Spontaneous here means natural/unforced and not sudden/immediate.

→ Steps of poetic creation → ① Observation → Mediation → Emotion and feeling co-ordinate with thought and transform and spiritualize — purgation of accidental ingredients — essential truth/ideal is left finally.

Artistic creation = Observation, impression, feeling, thought and interaction.

He laid special emphasis on memory. He blamed Scott for taking a note-book for making an inventory of all the pleasant objects.

Subject Matter of Poetry

Choose incidents and situations from common life, in a selection of language really used by men.

Neo-classicals: the artificial and unnatural life of the fashionable lords and ladies living in the city of London.

Wordsworth advocated for themes from humble and rustic life because: A poet is a man speaking to men. His first duty is to trace the primary laws of human nature. The primary instincts and impulses which govern human behavior can be best studied in elementary and simplest forms of life.

→ In rustic life: passions find a sincere, uninhibited and unsophisticated expression.