

Explore the English Romantic Literary Style

-- Take Shelley's Poems as an Example

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Abstract

English literature has experienced a long and complicated course of development. The political, economic, cultural and war, these factors have influenced deeply the characteristics of lots of literary works. The styles of poetry in different historical period are different. During the romantic period, many poets wrote a lot of excellent poetry. This paper mainly introduces the background of the development of English literature in the romantic period, as well as the representative figures of poetry, Shelley, his works. Then it summarizes and analysis the artistic technique of Shelley's poems. At the same time, it also summarizes the English Romantic Literary Style.

Keywords

English Romanticism Literature Style; Shelley's Poetry; Artistic Technique.

1. Introduction

At the end of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth century, the literary trend of Romantic Literature rose and made great achievements in Britain. It was a literary peak after Shakespeare. During the development of Romantic literature, two generations of Romantic poets grew up. Among them, the first generation of representative poets were "lakeside" poets, such as Wordsworth, Coleridge and so on. The second generation of Romantic poets included Byron, Shelley, Keats and so on, all of whom were revolutionary fighters. The second generation of Romantic poets pushed English Romantic literature to its peak. They had a very clear political stand, dared to face the reality, had a sense of fighting, and dared to criticize the darkness of society. They are passionate Romantic poets. In their poems, they are full of the spirit of struggle and yearning for a better future.

British Romantic poetry has been born for more than two hundred years, because the expression of this kind of poetry is concerned about nature, eulogizing nature, paying attention to social contradictions in the early industrial revolution, and pursuing the freedom of human life. The interpretation of poetry by future generations is mostly based on these aspects. Shelley's poetry fully reflects the style and characteristics of Romantic poetry. Through the analysis and study of Shelley's poetry, we can clearly understand the style of Romantic literature. There are many artistic techniques in Romantic poetry. The Romantic style of poetry can be more obvious by using these artistic techniques, so that the poet's feelings can be better expressed.

2. The Background of the Rise of Romantic Literature

2.1. Definition of Romantic Literature

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the British poetic style changed greatly. Romantic literature became popular very much. Romantic literature pays more attention on the

expression of the author's inner feelings. Romanticism is the counterforce of classicism. The trend of Romanticism in Britain has set off a magnificent wave of literature, and at the same time, it has opened up a colorful flower of poetry. Shelley had a trip to Italy and had a great influence on him. His imagination and creativity were greatly stimulated by Italian architecture and beautiful local scenery. We can often see Italian images in his poems, such as "Liberated Prometheus" and "Ode to the West Wind".

Romanticism is divided into two factions: including positive romanticism and negative romanticism. Some positive romantic writers always criticized the darkness of society, aiming at the feudal aristocracy and opposing the remaining feudal factors in the capitalist society. Negative romantic writers yearn for the past, beautify the fantasy of the middle ages, and seek spiritual comfort and sustenance from the ancient feudal society. But these two factions share a common feature, which is to emphasize lyric and to use exaggerated techniques to express what they think.

2.2. The Influence of European Industrial Revolution

The industrial revolution of Europe began in the middle of the eighteenth century and ended at the end of the nineteenth century. This is a major revolution. Not only in the production technology has a major revolution, social relations has also produce significant changes. The industrial revolution greatly promoted the development of capitalism and the establishment of the capitalist system in Europe and even the whole world.

The industrial revolution was characterized by the replacement of the traditional handicraft industry with the big machine industry. Since then, the machinery industry throughout in every field of the British industrial production. The birth of steam engine and gas locomotive promoted greatly the rapid development of economy. Among them, the invention of steam engine is an important symbol of the first industrial revolution. The invention of steam engine further developed the means of transportation, shortened greatly the production time and increased the output. The results of the industrial revolution not only developed in Britain, but also promoted the development of the whole Europe, resulting in huge changes in the productivity of European countries. With the promotion of the industrial revolution, the capitalist system established its dominant position and replaced the feudal system. The continuous expansion and improvement of bourgeois democracy has promoted the initial formation of the capitalist world market. However, capitalism also has some inherent contradictions and disadvantages, which make lots of thinkers and reformers constantly put forward reform plans, and they are dissatisfied with the social existence after the industrial revolution. Thus, romanticism was born.

The social basis for the emergence and development of romantic literature is the establishment of the capitalist system, which replaced the feudal system. The bourgeois democratic movement and the national liberation movement gradually prevailed. The rise of the Industrial Revolution in Britain has promoted people's creativity and self-awareness. People begin to take their feelings on the landscape and like to recall the past. Thus, Romantic literature also emerged basis on this. Romanticism can be divided into two literary schools, positive Romanticism and negative Romanticism. Positive Romantic poets are full of hope for the future, they dare to fight against the dark forces and dare to disclose various ugly social phenomena. On the contrary, passive Romantic poets have a strong negative attitude towards society. They are nostalgic for the past and dissatisfied with the real society. They like to seek spiritual consolation from past social history. Shelley is a typical positive Romantic poet, and the representative writers of negative Romanticism are Wordsworth and so on.

2.3. The Influence of Political Events on the Development of Literature

At the end of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth century, there are a series of important political events in Europe, which greatly affected the development of culture. The outbreak of the French Revolution not only overthrew the feudal rule, but also established the bourgeois regime. Meanwhile, people's life become worse very much. In 1799, Napoleon established an empire, exercised autocracy and waged war. While he was practising autocracy, the people of Europe were full of complaints. In 1815, Napoleon was defeated. With the support of the international reactionary forces, the French Bourbon Dynasty was restored. This period was called the "Restoration Period". In the 1920s, the National Democratic liberation movement was booming, and European society had been in a turbulent state for decades. The restoration of the feudal dynasty's rule has led people to fall deeply into autocratic dictatorship once again, which has aroused public discontent. They yearn for political liberalism. Liberalism emphasizes independent thought and extreme freedom. Thus, in the nineteenth century, the essence of the whole literature was the pursuit of liberalism, which Romantic writers widely used in the field of literature. Literature and art are the reflection of society and closely related to revolution. Many literary and artistic works deeply reflect the background of the society at that time.

The French Revolution had a great influence on the emergence and development of Romantic literature. People are full of enthusiasm and expectations for their own future and the destiny of the country. Therefore, even in the turbulent stage of social development, they feel as if all their dreams can be realized. In the current social situation, these Romantic writers wanted to express their own subjective feelings and expectations. Romantic literature characterized by this has gradually risen.

2.4. Romanticism in the Realm of Thought

At that time, the ideological and theoretical basis of the Romantic Movement in European literature was German classical philosophy. Classical philosophy mainly emphasizes idealism, which attributes everything in nature to spirit. The representative of objective idealism in German classical philosophy is Schelling, who believes that everything in nature is "the soul of the universe" and is created according to its will and purpose. Hegel established a strong philosophy system of objective idealism. He advocated that the soul is real and the soul can cover everything in the world. At the same time, he analyzed the natural beauty and artistic beauty. He believed that the artistic beauty produced by the soul was higher than the natural beauty, and the soul was the most real.

Both Schelling's and Hegel's philosophies exaggerate the subjective initiative of human beings and lay a theoretical foundation for German Romanticism. Therefore, Romanticism in Europe and the United States has also had a tremendous impact. In the eighteenth century, British sentimental literature also laid a solid foundation for Romanticism.

3. Appreciation of Shelley's Poetry

3.1. "Ode to the West Wind" Analysis

This poem is Shelley's most famous Lyric poem. This poem is divided into five sections, the description of natural scenery focuses on the first three sections. The first section mainly describes the scenery of the earth. Under the brunt of the West wind, the fallen leaves roll over and there are sleeping seeds in the dark soil, waiting for the next year to fill the mountains and plains with colorful colors and fragrances. In the autumn scene of annihilation and decay, there is still hidden vitality for the coming year, and the west wind is the driving force of this process. In the second section, the poet's brushwork begins to turn to the high sky, mainly describing how the westerly wind tears away the drifting clouds and the

formation of thunderstorms in the sky. In the third section, the poet began to turn to the description of the ocean. Under the call of the westerly wind, the Mediterranean began to wake up after sleeping for a summer. It gave a way to the westerly wind. The plants on the sea floor were frightened. In the first three sections of the article, the poet describes what changes have taken place in nature wherever the westerly wind goes, and praises its great creativity and destructive power. In this poem, scenery is described from the sky to the ground. The scene changes greatly and is full of dynamic feeling. The expression of emotion in the poem is extremely powerful, and it is described in conjunction with the brutality of the West.

This poem well reflects Shelley's character and spirit, his innate rebelliousness and fighting spirit, he opposes the old feudal customs. He was unwilling to use the rules of the outlines of the upper classes of society and family as a model of life. From the poem, we can see a strong soul who dares to confront tradition and does not adhere to the secular world. He hates evil forces and wants to change all this to create a new society. At the end of the poem, "If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?" It shows the poet's vision of revolution and the future.

However, this poem has another meaning. As Shelley grew older, his talent and learning became exhausted. He longed for the West Wind to bring him new inspiration, let his talent and learning explode, and continue to get creative inspiration and bring better works. And he pinned all this on the westerly wind.

3.2. "To a Skylark" Analysis

This poem is Shelley's other masterpiece. It's a Lyric poem. Poetry is mainly in praise of larks. In the poet's works, larks symbolize happiness, beauty and light. He not only described the lark in detail with his unique artistic techniques, but also wrote his unique spiritual realm and literary ambition with enthusiasm. The most important thing is the poet's pursuit of beauty. The poet compares the lark to himself, the girl in the boudoir and the firefly, so that readers can clearly feel the beautiful image of the lark. At the same time, the poet also compares the lark's song with various external voices, such as the voice of spring rain, the chorus at the wedding, and the victory song. The description of these sounds highlights the tremendous power contained in the lark's song. The rhythm of poetry is artistic very much. At the same time, the poet also compares the lark's song with various external voices, such as the voice of spring rain, the chorus at the wedding, and the victory song. The description of these sounds highlights the tremendous power contained in the lark's song. The rhythm of poetry is artistic very much.

The image of the lark in Shelley's poem is not the real lark in nature, but a carrier of the poet's image of his ideal through imagination. He expressed his inner world through the image of lark. The image of the lark in Shelley's poem is not the real lark in nature, but a carrier of the poet's image of his ideal through imagination. He expressed his inner world through the image of lark. From the tone of the poem, we can see that although the poet is sad and painful because his ideal is too far away, he still uses a positive mood to transcend the sadness. The poem as a whole gives people a power to move forward.

The poem consists of twenty-one verses. From the praise at the beginning of the poem to the exclamation at the end, the structure of the poem is very precise. The first section is about the poet's strong psychological feelings after he heard the lark's call while walking in the wild. The second section is based on the poet's imagination, carefully depicting the movement and singing posture of the lark. From the third to the seventh sections, the poet describes the beautiful feeling of hearing with various beautiful visual images. From the eighth to the twelfth sections, the poet uses the rhetoric of metaphor, comparing the lark to various images to express the image of the lark. From the thirteenth to fifteenth sections of the poem, the origin of beauty is discussed, and the answers are given in the form of questions. Section 15 puts forward the relationship between art, life and nature, and elaborates on the relationship

between them in detail. The sixteenth verse of the poem answers the reason that the lark sings is happy and beautiful. In the seventeenth section, the poet explores the views of death and the value of life. In the last three sections, the poet reflects the ugliness of human society by praising nature. The poet also used a sighing tone to express his ideal and ambition.

Among the liberated Prometheus, an elf said, "From morning till dusk he watched, the sun shining on the lake, the Yellow bees in the ivy, and he could not hear or see what they were! But we can create more real bodies than real people, immortal babies." From Shelley's point of view, the poet not only writes poetry, but also perceives the world and becomes a prophet. See the infinite future through the limited real world.

3.3. "Prometheus Unbound" Analysis

This poem is based on Greek mythology. Prometheus stole fire from heaven to earth in order to bring light to people. But he angered the God Zeus, who tied him to the cliff, let the eagle peck his viscera, and then recover, so that he has been cycled to suffer. But, Prometheus did not give in. He responded to Zeus'Ze f with arrogance and contempt.

In this poem, Prometheus represents change, which refers to the transformation of production relations promoted by the industrial revolution. At that time, the proletariat made great efforts to realize communism and promoted change. At that time, although the battle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie for dominance was long very much, Shelley expressed his firm determination to win the battle in his poems. In Shelley's description, Prometheus symbolizes intelligence, wisdom, love and strength, and perfectly portrays a victorious hero image. The poem also enthusiastically depicts the victory after the collapse of the tyrant and the liberation of the people. However, the beautiful blueprint of the future world described by him does not go beyond the realm of "rational kingdom" and has fantastic elements.

4. Summary of Artistic Technique in Shelley's Poems

4.1. Symbolization Artistic Techniques

Symbolism is based on the relationship between things, with the help of a specific image. It can reflect an abstract concept, emotion or thought. This technique makes the article become profoundly and express the author's thoughts and feelings better. Symbolism is generally used to praise the good things, reflecting the author's pursuit of the ideal state. But sometimes it can also be used to satirize ugly things and criticize unreasonable phenomena. It can be used throughout the text, the author does not specify, but the reader himself to understand the meaning of symbols. It can also be used only in some chapters. The author points out the meaning of symbols directly.

In Romantic poetry, the most basic way of expression is to describe directly the poet wants to express image, and also to use the means of moral or metaphor to express the image. The imagery in Shelley's poetry is not usually selected from the ordinary imagery in nature or the real world, but creates a system of imagery in spirit or soul. In "Ode to the West Wind", Shelley symbolizes the west wind with various images, calling the west wind is "uninhibited spirit". In "To the Lark", Shelley calls the Lark is "happy spirit."

4.2. Exaggeration Artistic Techniques

Exaggeration is a rhetoric way which intentionally exaggerates or reduces the image, features, functions and degrees of things in order to achieve certain expressive effects. Exaggeration is a rhetoric device that uses rich imagination and on the basis of objective reality, purposefully enlarges or narrows the image characteristics of things to enhance the effect of expression. Exaggeration is one of the necessary means to express fantasy. At the same time, it can

highlight the characteristics of a thing or an image, reveal their essence more profoundly and simply, and make readers get a distinct and strong impression.

Exaggeration can make the expression effect of Romanticism become obviously, so that we feel a very strong impact. In the second section of Ode to the West Wind, Shelley uses the dead leaves of the earth as a metaphor for the flowing clouds, describing the great destructive power of the West Wind from the side with great exaggeration. The poem also describes the west wind and lightning accompanied by heavy rain, so that the magnificent sea becomes no longer silent. When Shelley describes the west wind, we can feel the powerful force of the westerly wind. It has the power of overturning clouds and overturning rain. Shelley's awe and love for the West Wind are expressed in exaggerated ways. In the third section, the force of west wind awakens the Mediterranean. Shelley used exaggerated methods once again to show the power of the west wind incisively and vividly.

In his poems, Shelley combines reality with imagination perfectly through subjective imagery, and expresses his feelings deeply. He longs to follow the westerly wind and face the storm. It also shows his courage and determination to face difficulties.

4.3. Imagine Artistic Techniques

Imagination is also a common method in Romantic poetry, which is the most basic manifestation of Romanticism. The artistic technique of imagination can make readers associate and immerse them in their imaginary situations, and break through the constraints of time and space.

Shelley believes that the essence of poetry is imagination, and the imagination is a way of expression of poetry. He agrees that imagination is the banner of creation, and the imagination plays a very important role in the creation of poetry. Shelley's "Ossimandes" is an imaginative Political Lyric poem. At the beginning of the poem, "I met a traveler from an ancient land." and then began to describe: "A pair of huge stone feet without body, standing in the desert..." At the beginning of the poem, the poet uses the artistic technique of imagination, which can make people daydream and give readers a very mysterious feeling. Shelley also believes reading and writing poetry can also enhance people's imagination. He believes that if we want to transform human beings and society, we must transform the hearts and minds of the people.

In order to transform people's hearts, we should not only use moral preaching, but also use imagination to create unique literary works to infect people. In Shelley's view, only by injecting moral sentiment and ideological feelings into the infinite imagination can the poet produce a stronger artistic effect. Only in this way can we better infect the readers and achieve the purpose of educating them. Poetry can not abandon imagination to simply elaborate a creed, it will be a dull poem.

4.4. Express Emotion though Describing Concrete Objects

One of the basic characteristics of Romantic literature is the combination of praising nature and expressing one's ambition by holding things. Romantic poets have a deep feeling of worship for nature. They often express their inner feelings and ideals by describing natural scenery. There are some similarities between the artistic and symbolic techniques of expressing one's ambition by holding things. They all use one thing to express their feelings.

In the first three sections of the Ode to the West Wind, the poet uses a lot of pen and ink to describe the scenes and gestures of all things in the world before the thunderstorm, and deeply describes the destructive power of the West Wind to nature. The scenery description in the first three sections provides a good foundation for the poets to express their thoughts directly. The way of expressing one's ambition through material plays a very important role in

English Romantic poetry. It is a very important artistic way to express the poet's feelings, at the same time, it can infect the readers.

In Shelley's second "To the Lark", the poet's ideas changed from a supporter of the French Revolution to a somewhat conservative politician. In this poem, the lark still flies high and sings loudly, but at this time the lark seems tired and begins to miss the nest on the earth. It often stops its singing, stops its jumping wings, and no longer flies as freely as before. In fact, the poet is expressing his mood and helplessness through the lark. He used to be full of ambition and lofty ideals, full of infinite beautiful yearning for the future. By describing the lark, the poet expresses his ambition is fading away and his ability to deal with the current situation of society is not satisfactory. The poet's two poems of the same name use the artistic technique of expressing his ambition by holding things, but the feelings expressed are quite different. The poet's mood and environment have also changed greatly.

5. Conclusion

Romantic literature in Britain has experienced a long history of development. During the period of Romanticism, many excellent poets left endless literary treasures to future generations. Romantic poets gather their extraordinary talent, rich imagination, keen insight and thinking about life in their poems, leaving these excellent literary works for later generations to read. These poems not only reflect the atmosphere of the times in England at that time, but also expose some social phenomena. Romantic poetry is a brilliant pearl in the treasure house of world literature, which has shocked readers' hearts for a long time.

Shelley is a very pure poet. He writes his thoughts into his poems. He describes everything in the world by symbolic means and expresses his soul and spirit with unique images. Shelley was not only a poet in the period of British Romanticism, but also an outstanding revolutionary fighter. He fought for freedom all his life. Many of his works can be regarded as brilliant treasures in English Romantic literature. His poems are full of infinite passion and amazing imagination. Among them, "Ode to the West Wind" opened up a road for British Romantic Literature and added a color to the history of world literature. Shelley is a great poet whose works play an irreplaceable role in English Romantic literature. English Romantic Literature is also a brilliant and meaningful literary school in the history of world literature.

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