



Akademik Tarih ve Düşünce Dergisi

Academic Journal of History and Idea

ISSN: 2148-2292

11 (3) 2024

Derleme Makale / Review Article

Geliş tarihi |Received:25.04.2024

Kabul tarihi |Accepted:25.05.2024

Yayın tarihi |Published:25.06.2024

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Atf Künyesi / Citation Info

Mammadova, I. (2024). English Romanticism-Poets of the Lake School. *Akademik Tarih ve Düşünce Dergisi*, 11 (3), 1759-1765.

English Romanticism-Poets of the Lake School

Abstract

The article studies the rise of English romanticism in the last half of the 18th century, the French bourgeois revolution in 1789 that sharpened the contradictions within capitalism and paved the way for the emergence of English romanticism, the emergence of the progressive and reactionary romantic movement and their participation in the struggle. Within the article, progressive romantics like George Sand, Dickens, and Thackeray are compared to the founding members of reactionary romantics like Chateaubriand, Alfred de Vigny, Alfred de Musset, and Walter Stott's English romanticism, as well as the "Society of London Correspondents" in the "Society of Revolutionaries" and the "Constitutional Society." The emergence of romantic poets like Robert Southey, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and William Wordsworth is also studied in the article. The essay also discusses how poets like Byron, Shelley, and Keats elevated revolutionary romance to the pinnacle of art, and how romantics like Ward Sword and Coleridge—who lived in a lake-surrounded Cumberland—struggled against the poetry of classicism. Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Southey, and William Wordsworth are all discussed in this article along with samples of their poetry and an analysis of their lives and creative output. A list of the used literature concludes the article.



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Keywords: *Romanticism in England, French Bourgeois Revolution, "Lake School" poets, William Wordsworth, Robert Southey, Taylor Coleridge*

İngiliz Romantizmi-Göl Okulu Şairleri

Öz

Makale, 18. yüzyılın son yarısında İngiliz romantizminin yükselişini, kapitalizm içindeki çelişkileri keskinleştiren ve İngiliz romantizminin ortaya çıkmasına zemin hazırlayan 1789 Fransız burjuva devrimini, ilerici ve gerici romantik hareketin ortaya çıkışını ve mücadeleye katılımlarını incelemektedir. Makalede George Sand, Dickens ve Thackeray gibi ilerici romantikler, Chateaubriand, Alfred de Vigny, Alfred de Musset ve Walter Stott gibi gerici romantiklerin İngiliz romantizminin yanı sıra "Devrimciler Cemiyeti" ve "Anayasal Cemiyet" içindeki "Londra Muhabirleri Cemiyeti" kurucu üyeleriyle karşılaştırılmaktadır. Robert Southey, Samuel Taylor Coleridge ve William Wordsworth gibi romantik şairlerin ortaya çıkışı da makalede incelenmektedir. Makalede ayrıca Byron, Shelley ve Keats gibi şairlerin devrimci romantizmi sanatın zirvesine nasıl çıkardıkları ve göllerle çevrili Cumberland'de yaşayan Ward Sword ve Coleridge gibi romantiklerin klasisizm şiirine karşı nasıl mücadele ettikleri tartışılmaktadır. Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Robert Southey ve William Wordsworth bu makalede şiirlerinden örnekler, yaşamları ve yaratıcı üretimlerinin bir analizi ile birlikte ele alınmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *İngiltere'de Romantizm, Fransız Burjuva Devrimi, "Göl Okulu" şairleri, William Wordsworth, Robert Southey, Taylor Coleridge*

Introduction

Romanticism first emerged in England in the latter half of the eighteenth century. England was not yet experiencing capitalist tensions at this period. The 1789 French bourgeois revolution created difficulties in capitalism, which in turn led to the emergence of English romanticism. However, this direction could not occupy a significant place in English literature.

Romantics who were progressive and reactionary were not happy with the outcome of the French bourgeois revolution (1789–1794). Reactionary romantics desired a return to the feudal order, whereas progressive romantics could not reconcile with the newly established bourgeois society. The romantics were split into two poles in this conflict. Prominent progressive romantic writers, like George Sand, Charles Dickens, and William Thackeray, banded together and contributed to groups like the Constitutional Society, the Revolutionary Society, and the Society of London Correspondents (History of XIX century foreign literature, 1964). They were progressive romantics in large numbers. Such circumstances led to the birth of reactionary romantics in England, including Chateaubriand, Alfred de Vigny, and Alfred de Musset (Sinclair,

1978). Walter Scott elevated English romanticism to new heights during this time. Romantic poets known as the "Lake School" emerged during this period.

1.Main Part

The poets, who the sources refer to as reactionary romantics, included writers like, William Wordsworth, Samuel Coleridge, and Robert Southey. They were referred to as Lake school in English. More poetic ballads were written by Ward Sword and Coleridge. They prepared a preface and released their collection of poetic songs in 1800. This opening, which defied classicism's norms, was seen as a manifesto of English romanticism. These writers advocated for the growth of man's contradictory external and inner world. As the fundamental pillar of art, they appreciated the infusion of traditional poetic traditions into the arts. They supported employing rural labor and opposed capitalism. The "Lake School" writers eradicated classicism from poetry and established the groundwork for a new romantic style. Revolutionary romanticism became the cornerstone of art via the works of Byron, Shelley, and Geats.

1.1.William Wordsworth (1770–1855)

William Wordsworth was raised by attorneys from his birth. He attended Cambridge University, adopted a republican-democratic outlook, and endorsed Rousseau's notion of being in harmony with nature. In his writings, he backed the French Revolution; yet, he eventually broke with the bourgeois revolution and enlightenment, and he opposed bourgeois legislation. He taught about unity in the arms of nature with God. In 1795, Wordsworth and Coleridge met for the first time. After the revolution, they were united only by a feeling of disappointment, and they were afraid of the bourgeois world. In these conditions, they created the collection "Lyrical Ballads" (1798). Wordsworth's preface to the second edition of "Lyric Ballads" (1800) became a manifesto of English romanticism (History of XIX century foreign literature, 1964). Wordsworth formulates it as follows: "...the main purpose of these poems is to select incidents and situations from everyday life and tell or describe them, using as much as possible ordinary language and at the same time coloring them with the colors of imagination, thanks to which ordinary things become extraordinary, - it appears in the usual form; after all, this is the main thing: to make these cases and situations interesting, to reveal the basic laws of our nature in them not consciously, but truthfully..." (History of XIX century foreign literature, 1964).

William Wordsworth wrote as a patriotic poet in his poem "Lucy" series:

Till the time I appeared

*In the far away remote countries
You haven't known
How I am tied to you
I awoke from sleep
Be aware my last love
My heart is not going to leave
This native land any more*

Shelley, a representative of the English revolutionary romanticism, praised Ward Swarth's work and wrote:

*Poems coming out of his pen
Were how nice, how beautiful!
That language, that music, that taste, that courage,
Be it a shepherd or a villager
Astonished everyone.*

After some time, Wiliam Wordsworth distanced himself from the democratic movement. This position of his greatly influenced Shelley. Therefore, in his poem "Peter Belli III" and in a sonnet called "William Wordsworth", Shelley reproached W.Wordsworth for leaving the democratic movement and wrote:

*The songs created by him in poverty
Called everybody to liberty and truth
You changed unexpectedly:*

I was taken by grief and sorrow,

I was taken by grief and sorrow, as you know that (History of XIX century foreign literature, 1964).

W.Wordsworth is the master of landscape in English romantic poetry. He was able to convey various states of nature and its beauty. Nature, animals and birds are mysteriously represented in the poet's verses. The poet compares the cuckoo with love and happiness, which, like him, are invisible and unattainable. In the work, the image of the cuckoo is considered as the embodiment of an unattainable ideal, the secret of nature and existence.

*O bird of mystery! The world around,
In which we live*

*It suddenly seems like a vision to me,
It is your magical home* (Hartman, 2015).

Shelley wanted Wordsworth to remain committed to the democratic movement.

1.2. Robert Southey (1774-1843)

Robert Southey occupies a special place among the Lake School poets. He studied at Oxford University, where he absorbed the ideas of William Godwin, a representative of the republican and democratic movement. At that time, the ideas of the republicans and Godwin were in fashion in France, and these ideas also attracted Southey. The crimes and oppressions created by feudalism did not correspond to Southey's worldview (Southey, 1855). Therefore, Southey, who had taken a radical position in his youth, criticized feudal oppression and spoke out against the tyranny of the king. In one of his poems, Southey wrote:

*While the poor are starving today
The palace wastes millions to the sky
Who is going to answer for all these to the people*

(Note: Literally translated by the author of the article).

In his political views, Southey expressed his support for the French revolution and opposed capitalist laws. He prioritized these issues in his "Joan of Arc". He wrote works in praise of the Southi king and state officials and praised Christianity. For this position, Southey was awarded the honorary title of court poet laureate by the king. During this period, Southey wrote ballads and poems in praise of government officials. Because of this position, Byron criticized him many times and opposed Southey in his work called "Liberal". But Southey did not leave Byron unanswered, he released a scathing pamphlet called "Antiliberal" and called both Byron and Shelley poets who serve the devil. In England in the first half of the 19th century, Byron and Shelley developed and shaped the revolutionary novel. In their works, they stood for a democratic republic and fought for the creation of an independent Ireland.

1.3. Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)

One of the famous members of the Lake School was Samuel Taylor Coleridge. He studied at Oxford University and during his studies he became friends with Southey. During this period Samuel also became seriously interested in the French Revolution and the teachings of Godwin. Therefore, during this period Samuel decided to go to the woods and create an organization called Pantisocracy. Members of this group adopted the stance that human slavery and private property

should be abolished by the government (History of XIX century foreign literature, 1964). But he was not successful with this project, so it remained a dream. A few years later, in 1798, Samuel collaborated with Ward Sword to publish a collection titled Lyrical Ballads. Later, Samuel moved to Germany and enrolled at the University of Göttingen to study idealist philosophy. After that, the tricycle is encircled and destroyed. His life was ruined by his opium addiction later on. The Lake school poets held that religious and mystical inspiration was the only source of poetry writing. They attempted to use brief but powerful phrases and common speech patterns to convey their emotions and ideas in the most straightforward, lyrical language possible.

These lines by S. T. Coleridge, in my opinion, support this idea.

May this (I eriod) my course tthrough Lil'o portray!

New scenes of Wisdom may each step display,

And Knowledge open as my day's advance!

Till what time Death shall pour the undarken'd ray,

My eye shall dart thro' infinite expanse (<https://archive.org/stream>).

Conclusion

To sum up, with their innovative approach to poetry and deep affinity for nature, the Lake School poets profoundly influenced Romantic literature. Because of their intense admiration for the breathtaking grandeur of the Lake District, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Robert Southey brought a powerful sense of place and passion to their writing. With a heavy emphasis on the sublime, the natural world, and personal experience, their poetry challenged conventional wisdom and offered a novel, introspective viewpoint on the human condition. In addition to having a direct influence on Romanticism, the poets of the Lake School have left a rich heritage that continues to influence authors and readers today. They laid the groundwork for succeeding literary trends with their contributions.

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