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Ideas and Themes Appear in English Literature

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Abstract

The earliest form of literature or the Anglo-Saxon literature descends from the language spoken by the two Germanic tribes: the Angles and the Saxons after their settlement in England circa 450. Keywords- Anglo- Saxon ,Secular Literature,Theme etc. French vocabulary following the conquest of England by Norman France, under William. Ideas and themes from both the French and Celtic literature appear in English writing at about this time and the Norman dialects of the ruling classes became Anglo-Norman. As with the Old English Literature, much of the Middle English writings were religious in nature and hagiographies were written, adapted and translated, for example: The Life of Saint Audrey and Eadmer's (c.1060- c.1126); however, from 1350 onwards, secular literature began to rise. At the end of 12th century, Layamon in Brut adapted the Norman-French of Wace to produce the first Under the directions of John Wycliffe, Middle English Bible translations, Wycliffe's Bible helped to establish English as a literary language and these group of Bible translations appeared between 1382 and 1395, and writers in English first appeared.

Keywords- Theme, Duchess,, Religious etc.

Introduction-

William Langland, Geoffrey Chaucer and the so-called Pearl Poet. Poet Geoffrey Chaucer was born in the year 1340 and was a public servant to Countess Elizabeth of Ulster. His first major work was 'The Book of the Duchess', an elegy for the first wife of his patron John of Gaun. Chaucer introduced the iambic pentameter line, the rhyming couplet and other rhymes used in Italian poetry. He died in 1400 and was the first to be buried in Westminster Abbey's Poets' Corner.

Thomas Kyd's The Spanish Tragedy, written between 1582 and 1592 is a Senecan play that was very influential in its time and had a lasting impression. Christopher Marlowe was another great dramatist of the Elizabethan period and his works include Edward –II, Tamburlaine the Great, The Jew of Malta, The Massacre of Paris, and Doctor Faustus. His career (dated from 1589 to 1613) corresponded exactly to the period of greatest literary flourishing, and only in his work are the total possibilities of the Renaissance fully realized. The different genres included histories.

Twelfth Night, *Midnight Summer's Dream*, the somber plays (such as *All's Well That Ends Well*, *Measure for Measure*, *Troilus and Cressida*) and the Roman plays (such as *Julius Caesar*, *Antony and Cleopatra* and *Coriolanus*). Other notable Elizabethan playwrights are Thomas Dekker, Thomas Middleton, Thomas Heywood, Francis Beaumont, John Fletcher etc. This represents the culmination of a tradition of Bible translation into English that began with the work of John Wycliff and after his death William Tyndale tried on this project. Coverdale carried on the work of Tyndale. Herrick's poems such as 'The Country Life' and 'The Hock's Cart' gained retrospective poignancy by their implied contrast with the disruptions of the Civil Wars. Among his best known shorter poems are *To Althea*, *To Julia*, and *Cherry Ripe* .

Discussion-

Age after Blake, among the earliest Romantics were the Lake Poets, including William Wordsworth (1770–1850), Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772–1834), Robert Southey (1774–1843) and journalist Thomas de Quincey (1785–1859). William Wordsworth was a nature poet. His most famous works include an *Evening Walk* and *Descriptive Sketches*, *The Prelude* (autobiographical epic) and some of the best lyrical poems of English language such as *The Solitary Reaper*, *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud*, *Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood*, *Resolution and Independence* etc. *Lines composed a Few Miles above the Tintern Abbey* is one of the greatest poems of Wordsworth. He worked along with Samuel Taylor Coleridge in the *Lyrical Ballads*. William Lisle Bowles wrote the *Fourteen Sonnets* in 1789. Second Generation The second generation of Romantic poets includes Lord Byron (1788–1824), Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792–1822), Felicia Hemans (1793–1835) and John Keats (1795–1821). Lord Byron's *Don Juan* is considered to be one of his greatest satirical works. *The Vision of Judgment* is also a fine political satire written by him. Restoration of Charles II (1660) brought about a revolution in English literature as the censorship and radically moralist standards under Cromwell's Puritan regime was broken and it allowed a fresh start to all forms of literature. The greatest philosopher of the period, John Locke, explicitly acknowledges Newton and some of his fellow "natural philosophers" in the opening of his *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690). During this time, he wrote many of his philosophical works such as the *Treatises on Government* which later inspired the thinker in American Revolution. John Milton's *Johnson*. He made huge contributions to English literature. His finest poem was *The Vanity of Human Wishes* was written in 1749. After nine years of work, *A Dictionary of the English Language* was published in 1755. important work of Sterne is *A Sentimental journey through France and Italy*. Frances Burney (1752-1840) was works reflected deep personal convictions and his poem *Areopagitica* reflects this passion and is written in condemnation of pre-publication licensing and censorship and is among history's most influential They worked on many periodicals together such as *The Tatler*, *The Spectator*, *The Guardian*, *The English Man* and *The Reader*.

Robinson Crusoe (1719) was an immediate success and is considered to be his greatest work. His *A Journal of The Plague Year* deals with the plague in London in 1665. The Age of Sensibility is also known as the “Age of one of the most engaging and minor novelists of the period and was famous for her novels *Evelina* (1778) and *Camilla* (1796). A movement in philosophy but especially in literature, romanticism is the revolt of the senses or passions against the intellect and of the individual against the consensus. This period brought about one of the major social changes in England and Wales and during this time the Agricultural Revolution and the Industrial Revolution took place due to the movement of so many people in England. The French Revolution was an especially important influence on the political thinking of many of the Romantic poets Jane Austen (1775-1817) is one of the greatest novelists of this time. Three of her novels—*Sense and Sensibility* (first published in 1811; originally titled “*Elinor and Marianne*”).

Keats, another great Romantic poet wrote some excellent poems in his short period of life. The *Eve of St Agnes* is regarded as his finest narrative poem. Some of his great odes are *Ode to a Nightingale*, *Ode on a Grecian Urn*, *Ode to Psyche*, *Ode on Melancholy* and *Ode to Autumn*. Some of his other noteworthy writings are *Bleak House* (1852-53), *Hard Times* (1854), *Little Dorrit* (1855-57), *Great Expectations* (1860-61), *Our Mutual Friend* (1864-65) and his final book was *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (published posthumously in 1870). Elizabeth Gaskell deal with social problems. Although her later work like *Sylvia’s Lovers* (1863), *Wives and Daughters* (1864- 66) and *Cousin Phyllis* (1864) deal with psychological complexity. Charlotte Bronte’s most famous work was *Jane Eyre* (1847), she also wrote *Shirley* in 1845 and *Villette* in 1853 which has distinctive Gothic elements. Emily Bronte’s only novel, *Wuthering Heights* (1847) had an extravagant Gothic theme and was a huge success. Carlyle who was said to have initiated Victorian literature with *Sartor Resartus* also wrote *On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History* (1841). John Ruskin who was an art critic wrote about the social and economic problems in *Unto This Last* (1860), *The Crown of Wild Olive* (1866), and *Fors Clavigera* (1871-84). John Henry Newman wrote many of the tracts, published as *The Tracts for the Times* (1833-41) and this prompted the Oxford Movement. Jules Verne (1828-1905) was a major figure in the development of the science fiction genre. H.G. Wells (1866-1946) wrote some science fiction novels in the 1890s such as *The Time Machine* (1895), and *The War of the Worlds* (1898). Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland* (1865).

Conclusion-

Through the Looking-glass were developed as a part of a separate genre, children’s literature. The major American novelists of this time include Nathaniel Hawthorne, Mark Twain, William Dean Howells, Samuel, Longhorne Clemens and Henry James. The major poets include T.S. Eliot, W.H. Auden, Dylan Thomas, Philip Larkin, Ted Hughes, Seamus Heaney, Christopher Reid, Charles Tomlinson, Geoffrey Hill and Carol Ann Duffy. This era saw an important cultural movement in the British theatre and some of the important playwrights include Terrance Rattigan, Noel Coward, John Osborne, Samuel Beckett, Dylan Thomas and Angela Carter.

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