

## The Romantic Side of Indonesian Literature

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The development of literary works in the world has existed since the era before AD. These works have their characteristic differences; one of the triggering factors is the difference in times. As already mentioned and explained in the book of world literature, literary works have several periods that correspond to the conditions of doing the literary work at that time. One period of world literature was the age of romanticism. This period was a literary movement that emerged around 18 AD in Europe. The literary romanticism movement was a reaction to the industrial revolution in France, which later became a form of resistance to the rules of the nobility and the political order that existed in people's lives at that time. This statement follows Wolfreys et al. in (Key Concepts in Literary Theory, 2006) book which state that "Romanticism is distinguished by its general embrace of the emotions and nature, particularly in response to a growing sense of materialism and to such moments of violence and upheaval as the French Revolution in 1789."

In other words, literary works symbolize freedom of expression against all forms of pressure on people's lives. Literary works born in the era of romanticism have characteristics that glorify nature, focus on emotions, history, themes of solitude, and explore aesthetic beauty. Romanticism is a genre in literature that emphasizes the expression of feelings as the basis for its manifestation. In European countries, the form of romanticism movement through literary works can also be found in Indonesian literature.

Historically, the period of romanticism was beginning in Indonesian literature in the 19th century. Romanticism in literary works in Indonesia emerged because of the influence of Dutch colonialism at the time. According to Faruk in (Metode Penelitian Sastra, 2012) the history of Indonesian literature is a bias of colonialism because the aesthetic built is the aesthetic of romanticism, which was introduced by Dutch colonialism. Therefore, then comes many literary works that characterized romanticism at that time. Starting from the *pujangga baru* era, up to *angkatan 45*.

One example of a literary work in the form of poetry in the *pujangga baru* entitled "*Sawah*" by Sanusi Pane has the characteristic of romanticism, aesthetic beauty. Through his admiration for the creation of God, namely *sawah* (rice fields), Sanusi Pane saw a beautiful scenery that unfolded in the middle of the rice fields that moved his heart to describe the scenery in the form of rhymes. Another poetry titled "*Gembala*", written by M. Yamin, also showing up the poet's admiration for nature and the *anak gembala* (little shepherd) who blew a flute on top of a buffalo. For Yamin, the beauty of nature attracts him to follow the shepherd's game with his buffalo.

The genre of romanticism in Indonesian literature also appeared until the era of the *angkatan 45*. One of the most famous poets was Chairil Anwar. Through his works, Chairil Anwar shed all emotions on what happened at the time. For instance, in his work titled "Aku", Chairil Anwar composing a word full of energy, passion, and passion in him that runs through the limits of fear and fairness. The series of words he made described the resistance to colonialism and Japanese imperialism pioneered by the *angkatan 45*.

In conclusion, literary works in Indonesia are characterized by romanticism, used by writers to express their expressions and emotions. Similar to the romanticization period in European country's literary works, Indonesian literature was also used to criticize the social and political conditions that existed at that time. Romanticism in Indonesia is very influential to developing the patterned literature in Indonesia because the time of romanticism is present to give way to the general public to understand better the surroundings based on their feelings and thoughts.

## References

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## Biodata Penulis



**Davita Soimatul Fauziah.** Lahir di Kediri, pada Januari tahun 2000. Davita adalah seorang mahasiswi prodi S1 Sastra Inggris di Universitas Negeri Surabaya. Mahasiswi semester 6 ini, pernah menjuarai lomba “Surat untuk Bapak Walikota Kediri”. Memiliki jiwa sosial yang tinggi ia beberapa kali tergabung menjadi relawan untuk kegiatan sosial. Selama pandemi, ia bersama teman-temannya membantu anak-anak sekitar rumah belajar membaca dan berbahasa Inggris. Pada akhir tahun 2020, ia juga turut membantu menyukseskan pembelajaran literasi di SD dengan mengikuti program Kampus Mengajar Perintis.

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