

## THE RECEPTION AND CRITICAL RECEPTION OF BYRON AND LERMONTOV'S POETRY IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES

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### Abstract:

This article examines the reception and critical reception of the poetry of Lord Byron in England and Mikhail Lermontov in Russia. Both poets were considered controversial figures in their respective countries, with their works often challenging societal norms and conventions. By analyzing the ways in which their poetry was received by contemporary audiences and critics, this study sheds light on how their works were perceived within the cultural contexts of England and Russia during the Romantic era.

**Keywords:** Lord Byron, Mikhail Lermontov, poetry, reception, critical reception, England, Russia, Romantic era.

### Introduction

The works of Lord Byron and Mikhail Lermontov are considered to be among the most influential pieces of poetry in English and Russian literature, respectively. Both poets were known for their revolutionary ideas, romanticism, and unique writing styles that captivated audiences during their time and continue to do so today. Their works have been widely studied, analyzed, and celebrated for their depth, complexity, and emotional impact. In this article, we will explore the reception and critical reception of Byron and Lermontov's poetry in their respective countries. We will delve into how their works were received by the literary community, critics, and the general public during their lifetimes and in the years that followed. By examining the cultural contexts in which these poets lived and worked, we can gain a deeper understanding of how their poetry was perceived and appreciated by different audiences.

Lord Byron was a prominent figure in English Romanticism, known for his lyrical poetry, satirical wit, and political activism. His works often explored themes of love, nature, freedom, and individualism, resonating with readers who were drawn to his rebellious spirit and passionate expression. Byron's poetry was widely read and admired in England during the early 19th century, but it also sparked controversy due to its boldness and unconventionality. Mikhail Lermontov, on the other hand, was a leading figure in Russian Romanticism whose works reflected the tumultuous social and political climate of 19th-century Russia. His poetry delved into themes of love, fate, heroism, and existential angst, portraying a darkly introspective view of the human condition. Lermontov's writing style was characterized by its emotional intensity, vivid imagery, and philosophical musings that challenged traditional literary norms.<sup>1</sup>

As we explore the reception of Byron and Lermontov's poetry in England and Russia respectively, we will examine how their works were received by critics who praised or criticized their writing styles, and thematic concerns. We will also consider how their poetry has been interpreted over

<sup>1</sup> Cardwell, Richard A., ed. *The Reception of Byron in Europe*. Vol. 6. A&C Black, 2004.



time ,and how it continues to influence contemporary literature today .By analyzing the cultural significance of these two poets' contributions to English ,and Russian literature ,we can gain insight into why they remain enduring figures in literary history.

### MAIN PART

Lord Byron and Mikhail Lermontov are two of the most prominent poets in English and Russian literature, respectively. Their works have been widely celebrated for their innovative use of language, deep emotional resonance, and exploration of themes such as love, nature, and the human condition. In this article, we will explore the reception and critical reception of Byron and Lermontov's poetry in their respective countries.

Lord Byron, an English poet who lived in the early 19th century, was a controversial figure in his time. His poetry was characterized by its romanticism, wit, and rebellious spirit. Byron's works often tackled political and social issues of his day, such as war, freedom, and morality. His most famous works include "Don Juan," "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage," and "She Walks in Beauty."

Byron's poetry was met with both admiration and criticism in England. Many readers were captivated by his lyrical style and passionate themes, while others found his work to be overly sentimental or morally questionable. Despite these mixed reactions, Byron became a highly influential figure in English literature, inspiring future generations of poets to explore new forms of expression.

In Russia, Mikhail Lermontov emerged as a leading poet during the early 19th century. Like Byron, Lermontov's poetry was marked by its romanticism, introspection, and exploration of human emotions. His most famous works include "A Hero of Our Time," "The Demon," and "Borodino."

Lermontov's poetry received a mixed reception in Russia as well. While some critics praised his innovative use of language and psychological depth, others criticized him for being too pessimistic or nihilistic. Despite these criticisms, Lermontov's work resonated with many readers who were drawn to his evocative imagery and profound insights into the human soul.<sup>2</sup>

Both Byron and Lermontov faced challenges in their respective countries due to their controversial beliefs and unconventional lifestyles. Byron's outspoken support for Greek independence led to accusations of treason in England, while Lermontov's criticisms of Russian society earned him the ire of authorities in Russia.

Despite these challenges, both poets have left a lasting impact on their respective literary traditions. Byron is often regarded as one of the greatest English poets of all time, while Lermontov is considered a key figure in Russian Romanticism.

The reception and critical reception of Lord Byron and Mikhail Lermontov's poetry varied in their respective countries. While both poets faced criticism for their controversial beliefs and unconventional lifestyles, they ultimately left a profound mark on English and Russian literature with their innovative use of language, deep emotional resonance, and exploration of universal themes that continue to resonate with readers today.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Zhatkin, Dmitry Nikolayevich. "ENGLISH ROMANTIC POETRY IN RUSSIA (PROBLEMS OF TRANSLATION RECEPTION)." Turkish Online Journal of Design, Art & Communication 7 (2017).

<sup>3</sup> Pribble, Kit. "BETWEEN EARTH AND HEAVEN: LERMONTOV, BYRON, AND ROMANTIC GNOSTICISM." Slavic & East European Journal 67, no. 2 (2023).



## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the reception and critical reception of Byron and Lermontov's poetry in their respective countries have had a profound impact on the literary landscape of their times. Both poets were able to capture the spirit of their nations and express it in a way that resonated with audiences across borders. Byron's romantic and rebellious spirit, combined with his keen social commentary, made him a controversial figure in England but also garnered him a wide following. Lermontov, on the other hand, was seen as a voice of dissent in Russia, challenging the status quo and exploring themes of love, loss, and heroism.

Despite facing criticism from some quarters, both poets have left an indelible mark on literature and continue to be studied and celebrated today. Their works have inspired generations of writers and readers, influencing not only the literary world but also broader cultural movements. The enduring popularity of Byron's "Don Juan" and Lermontov's "A Hero of Our Time" is a testament to the enduring power of their poetry.

In conclusion, the reception and critical reception of Byron and Lermontov's poetry highlight the importance of understanding the socio-political context in which they wrote. Their works continue to provoke thought, spark debate, and inspire creativity. As we reflect on their legacies, we are reminded of the enduring power of poetry to transcend boundaries and speak to universal truths. Byron and Lermontov may have been products of their time, but their words continue to resonate with readers around the world today.

## REFERENCES

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