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## A Comparative study of Romanticism and Impressionism Art Movements, Artists and their art works.

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**Abstract:-** The following paper is a comparative study of the artistic movements Romanticism and Impressionism in early 19th century in Europe. Romanticism is associated with classicism and Impressionism is an emotion –oriented and beginning of abstract style of art. Romanticism was a cultural movement that valued nature, imagination and emotion and emotion over rationality .Impressionism was an art movement that emphasized light and bright unmixed colors .Artists of Romanticism art movement wanted to express their emotions through the medium of painting. French Impressionism is including its further development into pointillism and post impressionism .The introduction will provide historical background for the visual composition of the era .The important idea of this research is to how the movements were important for social change.

**Keywords:-** Art movement , Impressionism ,Romanticism , Paintings, Palette , Colors , Brush strokes , Artists, Optical mixing ,Imagination ,Expressions ,Nature.

**1. Introduction :-** Romanticism and Impressionism vary in terms of visual goals .The difference between the movements represents – their inspirations developed from artistic styles of past. The term ‘ Romanticism‘ was first adopted in Germany . In early example of Romanticism was the German movement ‘ Sturm und Drang ’ , a term usually translated as ‘ Storm and Stress’ .The term ‘Impressionism ‘ came from a criticism by Louis Leroy that claimed Monet’s painting named “Impression Sunrise “ ,was an sketch or ‘impression ‘ rather than a finished painting.

The artists of Romanticism explored human character and its linked passion; and many other domains such as folk culture, the national and ethnic origins and the medieval era. The movement established the supremacy of sentiment over mind .This movement agrees with the beginning of radical changes in the society that ultimately concluded in the French revolution and the Napoleonic era .On the contrary side, Impressionism emphasized on the creative area of French art in the late 1860s for the next thirty years .This movement was also called ‘ Optical Realism’ .In this movement focus on light was main subject in painting .Artists painted all phases of time and seasons. Impressionism was a reaction to a style of thought.

## 2. Comparison between Romanticism and Impressionism:-

Both Romanticism and Impressionism used to paint nature in their art works. In Romanticism art; nature was depicted with its uncontrollable power. The violent and terrifying images of nature painted by Romantic artists recall the 18<sup>th</sup> century aesthetic of ‘the sublime’. Romantic artists focused on emotion, including terror, awe, joy and loneliness. These artists wished to do nothing with the harmony, rationality and order of the neoclassical painters. They refused the tiny brushstrokes of previous artists. They worked with active and stimulating brushwork. Romanticism can be defined as irrational, imaginative, personal and mostly emotional. While Impressionism brought about more of a blurred reality to the canvas. Impressionist artists used specific techniques which were unblended colors and quick, short brush strokes with a unique play on light. The

Aim of Impressionist artists was to objectively paint reality in terms of impermanent effect of light and color.

Romanticism acquired characteristics of Classicism as seen in Jacques Louis David’s Oath of Horatii. Romanticism idealized the monarchy and mythological characters as seen in Anne Louis Girodet Trioson’s classical work, The Burial of Atala. Romantic artists were more subjective than Impressionism. Impressionistic paintings were more about the process with the artist, Romantic artists used their art to bring out certain emotions. The subject matter of Romantic pieces was quite different from Impressionistic artworks. Impressionism is an emotion-oriented and beautiful style of art, while Romanticism is both emotional and realistic. Impressionism is a form of Abstract art while Romanticism is a perfect blend of reality and fantasy. Romantic paintings depict the struggle of man and nature or man against himself. The artworks of Romanticism movement were darker and featured Gothic elements. The darker colors were selected to convey the mood and expression. Impressionists used effect of blending colors optically rather than on the palette. They used vibrant colors. The mixing was avoided for brighter colors to allow optical mixing.

Unlike the Impressionists the Romantics paid attention to detail. The scenes were always realistic and human figures conveyed distinct emotions and expressions. To paint sky and clouds artists used bold brush strokes and sharp contrasts. Red color was used for sunset or in clothing. The black and gray colored skies depict a fear of unknown or some sort of looming danger. While impressionists worked quickly to gain fleeting effects. They applied their paint in small bright colored strokes. They did not use black color to depict the reflection of the sky onto surface of water (ponds, rivers). The main Impressionist painters were Claud Monet, Pierre Auguste Renoir, Camille Pissarro, Alfred Sisley Berthe Morisot, Armand Guillaumin and Edgar Degas. Monet was greatly influenced by Monet’s works in the 1870s. Monet’s art revealed a new aesthetic which was to be a guiding force in Impressionist work. In Romanticism movement, French artist Delacroix brought this art through his painting on its peak. Two sections were developed in Romanticism art movement, first genre was based on nature and developed through art of Constable. The second one was based on divine vision, which was depicted in artwork of Turner. Artists like Joseph Mallord William Turner, Eugene Delacroix, Theodore Gericault, Francisco Goya and Casper David Friedrich established inspiration in their own imaginations.

Edouard Manet was a transitional figure in the Paris in mid and later 1800s. He started work in realism in starting but later he included impressionistic techniques in his paintings. His paintings; ‘The Luncheon on the Grass’ and ‘Olympia’ publically announced starting of modern art. He was an independent artist. Manet chose to capture everyday life and common objects in his paintings such as the cafes and bars of Paris, the city and urban life; the street and its people’s beggars, singers and workers. He used loose brush strokes. On the other hand, William Turner who made nature with its force and power of the supporter of his paintings. In his painting ‘Rain, Steam and Speed- The Great Western Railway’ the elements or nature blend with speed of a train travelling to its destination surrounded by mist, which makes it Impressionistic and abstract painting. He was called father of French Impressionism and Expressionism art movements. He depicted vividness of nature through his landscape paintings. Turner captured light in his paintings. J.M.W. Turner’s depiction of ‘Hannibal and his army crossing the Alps’ in which the general and his troops are dominated by the overwhelming scale of landscape and overtaken by snow, depicted the Romantic sensibility landscape painting.

Claude Monet is known as one of the fathers of Impressionism. The subject matter of Monet’s painting was light and atmosphere. He used bold colors in his art works and compositions were unusual in his paintings. Monet was influenced by John Constable and J.M.W Turner. Monet’s notable artworks include ‘Hay stacks’ and ‘Women in green dress’. He painted outdoor paintings. While, Romantic artist Eugene Delacroix was studio artist, he saw the city out of his studio and then he used to create paintings with his imagination. His trade mark was intense colors. He painted figures in abstract way. His artworks are ‘The massacre at Chios (1821)’, ‘Death of Sardanapalus (1827)’, ‘Women of Algiers’ (1834), ‘Royal tiger’.

In impressionism, the subject matter of paintings by Edgar Degas was individuals and horses. He used dense shadow in paintings, figures in background were painted in depths. Work of Degas is supposed to be mixture of Realism and Neoclassicism. He is best known for his ballet dancers ‘painting named’ ‘The Dance class’.

The painting 'The Raft of Medusa' (1818-1819), by Theodore Gericault was famous for his dramatic and monumental demonstration of an real event of the survivors of a ship wreck with heroic quality .This painting became an icon of emerging Romantic style. The pictorial composition of is constructed upon two pyramidal structures .Figures in this painting are larger more than life size. This painting is dark and tones of brown color are mostly used. The sea is painted in dark green color rather than using deep blue, which is contrast with the color of figures and raft.

In impressionism artists painted change in light according to time ,season and atmosphere .For example painting by Claude Monet named " Impression Sun Rise " .Monet painted sun seen mist at the harbor in the spring of 1872. This painting is very clear comparison bellow to the style of Romantic art. The atmospheric effect outshines and diminishes the importance of the shapes of objects. The color of the sun depicts the mood of the painting. While Turner painted the painting named " Fisherman at sea" oil on canvas in 1794 .Turner depicted true style of Romanticism art by showing emotions and dark hazy lighting similar to that of the 'Baroque style ' . The energy of the moonlight contrasts with the delicate attraction of lantern. The painting defines the true power of nature. The painting "Abbey among Oak trees " ( 1809-1810) by Casper David Friedrich" shows more of romanticism it uses nature and emotions. On one side of painting is a falling down rough rocks. Some men are carrying a coffin and passing through the arch .The colors are used as bright yellow and brownish black. There are dark and old branches. This is a winter scene which depicts the end of year or time. The emotions in this painting are shown by use of death and light.

The painting the " The Grands Boulevards" ( 1875) by Pierre Auguste Renoir is an impressionist work involves light and modernity .in this painting ,the scene is of busy street ,where people are moving forward .The colors are blue ,green and yellow –green are used in this painting .Tiny dots of red color are used in clothes . Trees are painted in texture and smaller brushstrokes are used. Romantic artists John Constable painted his painting in 1835 named 'The Stonehenge'. In this painting artist used two very bold brush strokes in white and violet colors, which seems like rainbow from the ground to heavens. The sky is painted in violet and blue green, soft yellow and light green colors. This painting depicts nature and emotional play.

An example of Impressionist painting "Water Lilies" by Claude Monet. This painting includes very beautiful blend of colors .The lines are not clear in this painting, which can be seen as a main feature Impressionistic paintings. Monet focused on upper layer of water. He painted reflection of sky and trees in water . He omitted horizontal and foreground in paintings of water lilies pond. The whole painting shows only water and rays of light are shown in background by which colorful flowers and leaves are painted. Dots of colors are used to depict depth in this painting.

**3. Conclusion:-** After analyzing a comparative study on Romanticism and Impressionism art movements and their artists , we can say that both romanticism and impressionism were originated in early and late 19<sup>th</sup> century in Europe. These are movements are different from each other. Romantic artists painted nature with its terrifying images, emotions, reality and fantasy, realistic human figures in their art works. They used dark and contrast colors and their color palette was featured with Gothic elements. While artists of impressionism painted all phase of light and seasons, city life ,humans ,streets , gardens, water ponds ,dance classes and horses with abstract and quick way in their paintings. They used optical-mixing by applying direct of colors on canvas rather than mixing on palette. Impressionism is beautiful and abstract form of art. Both art movements have their own importance in history of art.

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