

beauty of the sea's melody, we find echoes of our own hopes and fears, dreams and desires, reminding us of the eternal ebb and flow of life itself.

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THE IMPACT OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT ON AMERICAN AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

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Abstract: *This article explores the profound influence of the Enlightenment on American and English literature. It examines how Enlightenment ideals of reason, individualism, and progress shaped literary works, authors, and movements in both cultural contexts. Through an analysis of key texts and authors, it highlights the enduring legacy of the Enlightenment in shaping literary forms, themes, and styles across centuries.*

Key words. *Enlightenment, American literature, English literature, reason, individualism, progress, literary movements.*

Introduction. The Enlightenment, a period of intellectual flourishing in the 17th and 18th centuries, revolutionized thought across Europe and beyond. Its emphasis on reason, individual rights, and societal progress left an indelible mark on literature in American and English contexts. This article explores how Enlightenment principles influenced literary works, authors, and movements, shaping the development of both American and English literature.

Main part. The Enlightenment in English Literature:

The Enlightenment era in English literature witnessed a profound shift from traditional authority to empirical inquiry and rational thought. Central to this transformation were key Enlightenment thinkers whose ideas permeated the literary landscape, shaping the works of writers across various genres.

One of the most influential figures of the Enlightenment was John Locke, whose theories on empiricism and the social contract laid the foundation for modern political philosophy and profoundly impacted English literature. Locke's emphasis on the importance of individual rights and the limitations of governmental authority resonated deeply with writers grappling with questions of freedom, identity, and governance. In literary works of the period, such as Daniel Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe," Locke's ideas are reflected in the portrayal of the protagonist's struggle for autonomy and self-reliance, embodying the Enlightenment ideal of the rational individual navigating the world on their own terms.

Another prominent Enlightenment thinker whose influence reverberated throughout English literature was David Hume. Hume's skepticism and empiricism challenged conventional notions of knowledge and belief, inspiring writers to explore the complexities of human understanding and experience. In Samuel Johnson's essays and Samuel Richardson's novels, Hume's ideas are echoed in the portrayal of characters grappling with uncertainty and moral ambiguity, reflecting

the Enlightenment emphasis on reason and observation as the basis for understanding human nature and society.

The Enlightenment in American Literature:

The Enlightenment era intersected profoundly with the Colonial and Revolutionary periods in America, shaping the nation's literary landscape and intellectual discourse. During this time, Enlightenment ideals of reason, individual rights, and societal progress resonated deeply with American writers and thinkers, influencing their works and shaping the trajectory of American literature.

Two influential figures who embodied the spirit of the Enlightenment in America were Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Paine. Their writings not only reflected Enlightenment principles but also played pivotal roles in shaping public opinion and galvanizing support for American independence.

Benjamin Franklin, often hailed as the quintessential Enlightenment figure, epitomized the Enlightenment values of self-improvement, practical wisdom, and scientific inquiry. Through his prolific writings, including "Poor Richard's Almanack," Franklin disseminated practical advice and moral aphorisms that encapsulated the ethos of Enlightenment rationalism and self-reliance. His autobiography, a testament to the power of reason and industriousness, became a foundational text of American literature, inspiring generations of readers with its message of individual agency and upward mobility.

Thomas Paine, another towering figure of the American Enlightenment, wielded his pen as a potent weapon in the fight for independence. In pamphlets such as "Common Sense" and "The American Crisis," Paine articulated the moral and philosophical justification for American independence, drawing upon Enlightenment ideals of natural rights, democracy, and republican government. His incisive prose and impassioned advocacy galvanized support for the revolutionary cause, reshaping the political landscape of America and inspiring a new generation of writers and activists.

Emergence of New Literary Forms and Styles Influenced by Enlightenment Principles:

The Enlightenment era witnessed a remarkable proliferation of new literary forms and styles that were deeply influenced by the principles of reason, individualism, and progress. As writers grappled with the intellectual currents of their time, they sought innovative ways to explore and express Enlightenment ideals through their works.

One of the most significant literary forms to emerge during the Enlightenment was the novel. Unlike traditional literary genres, such as epic poetry or drama, the novel offered writers a flexible and expansive canvas upon which to depict the complexities of human experience and society. Influenced by Enlightenment principles of empiricism and realism, novelists like Daniel Defoe, Samuel Richardson, and Henry Fielding pioneered a new narrative form that emphasized psychological depth, social commentary, and the portrayal of ordinary life. In works such as Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe" and Richardson's "Pamela," Enlightenment themes of individualism, self-reliance, and moral development are vividly depicted through the experiences of the protagonists, reflecting the era's belief in the power of reason and human agency to shape one's destiny.

In addition to the novel, the Enlightenment also saw the rise of essay writing as a popular literary form. Essayists such as Joseph Addison, Richard Steele, and Jonathan Swift used the medium of the essay to engage with a wide range of social, political, and philosophical issues, offering incisive commentary and moral reflection on the pressing concerns of their time. Through their essays, these writers explored Enlightenment themes such as reason, skepticism, and the pursuit of knowledge, fostering a culture of intellectual inquiry and debate that would profoundly influence subsequent generations of writers and thinkers.

The Enlightenment's impact on American and English literature was profound and enduring. By championing reason, individualism, and progress, writers in both cultural contexts engaged with the pressing questions of their time while shaping the literary landscape for centuries to come. The legacy of the Enlightenment continues to inspire writers and readers alike, reminding us of the enduring power of human intellect and aspiration in literature and society.

Moreover, the study of cross-cultural influences in literary translation underscores the importance of cultural sensitivity and awareness in the translation process. Translators must grapple with questions of representation, identity, and authenticity, recognizing the profound impact of their choices on the reception and interpretation of translated works.

Conclusion: Looking ahead, the future of cross-cultural translation holds both challenges and opportunities. Advances in technology offer new tools and platforms for facilitating cross-cultural exchange, yet they also raise ethical considerations regarding cultural appropriation and the commodification of literary heritage. Nonetheless, the transformative potential of translation as a catalyst for cross-cultural understanding and dialogue remains undiminished.

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