

# **Byron**

Satirical neoclassical poems

## **Beppo - an extract**

Is set in Venice → is about an aristocrat, who is believed to have died → he returns to Venice and has to reconquer the love of his previous lover

Here Beppo makes a digression on language → Byron was influenced by Sterne in this → he wrote an experimental novel, called "Tristan Shandy" → so experimental, that he inspired experimental novelists of 20th century

"Tristan Shandy" is full of digressions

The point made is that neo-latin languages are superior in comparison with germanic languages → because they sound better

Here he uses a specific stanza → called "ottava rima":

Foot = a syllable

- 8 lines → first 6 iambic pentameters (10 feet) + last 2 hexameters (6 feet), also called "alexandrines"
- rhyme AB AB AB CC

Bastard because Latin developed from Greeks

"Melts like kisses" → figure of speech: simile

"from a female moth" → alliteration of F

"sounds / should / satin (raso)" → alliteration of S → creates musicality

Line 4: personification of syllables → they are breathing → + alliteration in S

Pat in = smooth

Uncouth = (rozzo)

"Like our" → simile

Hiss = sound of the snake

Sputter = spit

## **Don Juan - another extract**

Marriage is love being spoiled → marriage and love don't mix, marriage ruins love

Love is pure, superior → gets spoiled by marriage, just like wine turns into vinegar

It is a digression on the theme of love

In Byron's opinion, it is a hypocritical institution

Line 2 → alliteration in F

Line 3 → alliteration in C

"Like vinegar from wine" → simile

Love is superior to marriage → they only rarely combine

Don Juan is written in ottava-rima