Romanticism

Rome, Romans & Countrymen, lend us your ears, for we’re about to elaborate the turn of the century, fired by ideas of personal and political liberty and of the energy and sublimity of the natural world, artists and intellectuals sought to break. Although the works of Jean Jacques Rousseau and William Godwin had great influence on the entire international citizenry, the romantic vision had taken forms other than political, and these developed apace.

The earlier romantic works presented and illustrated a liberating aesthetic: poetry should express, in genuine language, experience as filtered through personal emotion and imagination; the truest experience was to be found in nature. The concept of the *Sublime poetry* strengthened this turn to nature, because in wild countryside the power of the sublime could be felt most immediately. In search of sublime moments, romantic poets of earlier times wrote about the marvelous and supernatural, the exotic, and the medieval. But they also found beauty in the lives of simple rural people and aspects of the everyday world. In their great odes, intellectual and emotional sensibility merge in language of great power and beauty.

The best romance novelists are writers who draw readers in with a beautiful love story and keep them interested with compelling details. Romance novels have come a long way in recent years. No longer are romance fans limited to mere "bodice-rippers": Now bestselling romance authors are churning out elaborate tales that incorporate elements of historical fiction and even science fiction. We truly agree to the fact that modern writers certainly recognizes the pulse of a large section of the Indian society. But they should not tar the art of literature. Here are some reasons why we feel the same.

Region stereotypes, gender stereotypes, class stereotypes, you name it and they have it in their book. A boy from a rural area in Bihar only has sex on his mind, his friends say things like "Make Bihar proud" to provoke him to force himself upon a girl and the girl is ever-suffering submissive rich kid. Just why? Yes, there are men and 'friends' who talk in such a manner but that has nothing to do with their place of origin or gender.

Some sections of our society apparently find resonance in what Chetan Bhagat writes - the way his characters behave and talk. But it is just not literary. It might be entertaining (entertainment can mean different things to different people). When we study literature, we expect to learn something out of it. Bhagat's geniuses give us nothing. They just reaffirm the stereotypes our society strives to fight against.

Thirdly, it’s not the English you wish to learn. Modern writers have often said they write not to be a literary genius but to get people learn English. Not a good idea at all. Learning English from Patna's Pride English Learning Centre (where Chetan's protagonist Madhav aspires to learn English and where the teachers do no better from the students) would be as good. These writers claim to use the common man's language. Well, so did Premchand. But did the Hindi literary genius ever spoil the language he wrote in? Nope, sir. All he did was use colloquial language, not random abusive slangs to sound cool.

Enough said and argued, they’re too much of showbiz for literature. You are anyways turning each of your book into a Bollywood film. The movie rights for your books are even sold before the launch of the book! So, you are doing pretty well there (blockbusters and all). Enjoy the fame, just do not spoil reading for book-lovers who love the written word otherwise.

Auf Wiedersehn, countrymen.

Your Fidus Achates, Mrinal Wahal.