

Romantic and Modern Poetry: Literary Visions of Sustainability and Human Responsibility

Assist Lecturer; Sakina Alsuwaydi

English Department

College of Arts and Humanities

Al Mustaqbal University

Introduction

Poetry reflects human emotions, social concerns, and our relationship with nature. From Romantic to modern poetry, poets explore environmental harmony, human responsibility, and social change, aligning with sustainability and education for sustainable development.

Romantic Poetry and Sustainability

Romantic poets like Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Shelley celebrated nature as a source of moral guidance and emotional balance. They opposed industrial exploitation and materialism, promoting environmental respect, moderation, and ethical behavior. Romantic poetry also addressed freedom, equality, and social justice, fostering social sustainability and ethical awareness.

Modern Poetry and Crisis

Modern poets such as T.S. Eliot and W.H. Auden highlighted industrialization, war, environmental degradation, and social fragmentation. Contemporary poetry increasingly tackles climate change and identity crises, raising awareness of sustainability challenges and humanity's responsibilities.

Romantic vs. Modern Poetry

Romantic poetry emphasizes harmony with nature, while modern poetry highlights crises and unsustainable practices. Teaching both traditions fosters critical thinking and links literature to real-world environmental and social issues.

Conclusion

Romantic and modern poetry enrich sustainable education by promoting environmental consciousness, ethical reflection, and empathy, preparing students to engage responsibly with global challenges.

References

- United Nations. Sustainable Development Goals and Education
- UNESCO. Education for Sustainable Development
- Wordsworth, W. Lyrical Ballads
- Shelley, P.B. Selected Poems
- Eliot, T.S. The Waste Land
- Auden, W.H. Selected Poems