

**AN ANALYSIS ON THE ROMANTIC APPROACH OF GOETHE IN  
*THE SORROWS OF THE YOUNG WERTHER***

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**Abstract**

This paper deals with the romantic approach of the writer Goethe in the novel “*The Sorrows of the Young Werther*”. Werther is the major character in this novel, whose life is circled and filled with emotions and feelings. Werther’s character, his characteristics and the ideas possessed by him in the novel shows the essence of romanticism in the novel and the settings .Werther’s longing for Charlotte brings out the taste of the romance which is actually a concept of passionate one. This novel is an epistolary one and this work is a best one which is exhibited during the romanticism. As romanticism is a pack of the feelings of the author engaged with his work. This work specially focuses on the qualities, sufferings and the expressive perspectives of the man who is of no higher order.

**Key Words:** Romanticism, Werther, emotions, feelings, virtues, common man.

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe, German author was born in August 28, 1749 at Frankfurt am Main, Germany and he died in March 22, 1832 at the age of 82 in Weimar, Germany. He is a famous lyricist, playwright, critic and artist, novelist, scientist, diplomat. He is one of the greatest people of the German literature of the Modern era. The efficiency of him is said in simple words that his range in consideration with the German philosophers is equal. In literature aspect of the German he is a very dominant form. At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, his works are said to be a classical one. In the aspect of the European, he is considered as the lead of the Romantic Movement. He stands in the linear line with the relation to the period which begins with the Enlightenment and Renaissance and the prospects the middle ages. His father, Johann Caspar Goethe who was the son of the wealthy inherited family was a man of luxury. His father then learned law in Leipzig and Strasbourg and he is very much devoted to it. Later on he went on tour to Italy, The France countries and many others to collect books and pictures of the great paintings and in purpose for the education of his children. His mother Catharina Elizabeth Textron, is the daughter of the senior official in Frankfurt . She is very younger to her husband and she is nearly close to the age of his son .

Goethe is the first of the seven children only one along with him survived over a period and the person is his sister Cornelia with whom he is with deep affection . There is another aspect of the emotive in his early days, which developed hate in love was the joint with his

young brother who left the world at the age of six. He was given his lessons along with his sister by the home tutor till the age of 16. Caspar Goethe, father of the author had definite ideas in his education and he wishes to follow him in his career. His father is in a definite way that he should also take law and service the court and he also wanted him to go tour to the Italy and also to many other in order to enjoy and to taste the different wealth of the nature which is embedded as spirit of the world and he also expected him to marry and settle but Goethe who took up the ideas of his father was unable complete his the ideas of his father even after some years of the death his father.

In 1765 Goethe came out of the home to receive the education of the law at Leipzig. Goethe became the follower of the Winckelmann. Goethe who thought that the taste of him was advanced and he began to write erotic. He also fell with the daughter of the famous keeper but the girl preferred some other guy as he was in a good position where Goethe was not much success, this degraded him and he started to write the mature play as the revenge of his one side love which pictures a women who regrets for marrying the man and later he also became the prey of the tuberculosis disease which was chronic in him and after the great suffering he had turned his mind towards the Christianity from the free will. He took up alchemy seriously and got an idea of writing a work which characterizes the Faust a man of knowledge and wisdom who turned his qualities towards the antonym angels which is consumer power and knowledge for a negative work and this idea later became the great fame of him. Goethe's life can be lined with the following aspects in the life of him. The time line of Goethe's participation and contribution is being listed, the first one is

Sturm and Drang Movement is a movement of the late eighteenth century with the literary perspective in Germany which dignified the emotive of nature and space for individual and which also enlightened the sect of Rationalism. Goethe and his friend Schiller started their life as the leading members of the act. This movement was influenced by the thought of Rousseau and Johann George Haman. The tender writers also acquired the passion from the works of the poets of English – Edward Young and from the poems of the James Macpherson. This movement is related with a close association with the Goethe in his early age. While he was receiving the education at Strasbourg, he was with the good connection with Johann Gottfried Von Herder. The name of the movement has its origin from the play of Friedrich von Klinger. The literature of this period was the outcome of characteristics. Willpower hasn't been the principle of this movement and the movement came to an end by itself. The end of this period with the works of Schiller and Goethe framed the aspect of classical works.

Nearly Goethe took nearly ten years of time to get set with the courtly affairs. This is the era where the public affairs in the Frankfurt court has been taken by the Goethe for forty years. It is clear that he was wanted by him than visiting the court passively. Goethe became a private councillor and there were also two beside him. Goethe suffered and struggled over a period of 20 years, where he started preparing the legal work and Goethe at last he was attracted by the court works and its world. The life at Weimar was not an ease for him.

In the year of 1817 Goethe saw the marriage of his child. As well he resigned the posof director of the theatre at Weimar. Though there are many tides in the life of Goethe, there was no fall in the energies of the Goethe. He completed the editions of the collected works and he began his texting the autobiographies of him. Goethe fell in love with the daughter of the family Levittown where he was a guest to them. Ulrike was just 19 years old and any how when he proposed his proposal was refused. He then returned to the Weimar where he drafted the poem on the way from Marie bad to Weimar and he stayed at Weimar for a long period of time that is

his rest of the life. He saved money and fame and also made his works in to collections before his death and he willed in purpose to their grand children. Later his 80th birthday was celebrated all throughout Germany and even then he worked hard. In 1832, March 22, at almost 11.30 in the day he passed away in his bedroom sitting in the arm chair because of the heart attack. He passed away but there are numerous awards given in his name they are, Goethe Prize, Goethe Medal, Goethe Awards and Hanseatic Goethe Prize. Goethe's notable works are Faust, The Sorrows of the Young Werther, Apprenticeship, and Italienische Reise. Faust is one of the works which he rehearsed before his 81<sup>st</sup> birthday and he didn't attend the show because of his unhealthy state and the next famous work of Goethe is The Sorrows of the Young Werther.

*The Sorrows of the Young Werther* was published in the year 1774, this novel was the first narrative work of the author Goethe. It captures the image of the youth driven to the suicide which is the European imagination. This novel was an immediate success and it is developed as a genre. Goethe was one of the celebrity of the west literary life's and the movement Sturm and Drag. The novel reached a high sensation during this period and the character Werther serve as a popular one for a while. This character helps to bring out the Romanticism and also produced the vocabulary turmoil which continued to last this last. This is an autobiographical novel. Goethe in 1772, he was a young man who is legal and he apprenticed in Wechsler. He developed a great passion towards a girl Charlotte Buff, she is already engaged to Kestner, who is already a friend of Werther. This was very painful for him and he passed with the ideas of suicide as it was a great agony to accept the triangle aspect. Meanwhile his colleague who was also depressed shot himself because of the unsuccessful affair with the married woman and the name of the colleague is Jerusalem. Jerusalem's life is fascinating to him and then he brought out the sufferings and then the agony of being rejected through the character Werther. This was not only a famous one but this also was an exact resemblance of many lives who rash suicides. He also mentioned that the blast of Werther was touching to the hearts of the youngsters of the period. Goethe's Werther was one of the best one and popular work which even had great impacts on society than the Faust. This work is not only the capture of the sufferings of the youths life in Werther but also it possess the meditation of the young one and sorrowful.

The thought of the mind and body are different entity which is originated in 17<sup>th</sup> century. We could find the conflicts of emotion and intellectuality. The heart which is in need of the affection and attention where as the mind thinks with clear way.

Werther contains characters of almost of all perspectives and periods. In this Werther, Albert, Lotte are the entire one who is in the same age and the absorption oneself that it is common for adulthoods and the rectification serves as the guide to many people. There were many strivings where people fought for the equality; we could find this issue all over the world and especially in India. Though this novel is around the letters of the two men, here the character of a single woman has the whole plot around her and the characters are emotionally bound with various roles.

Tress is symbolised as the memories of the past and here he deals with the trees as the memory. To the Goethe trees is the image of the Strength and beauty which wraps the time and his feelings. The emotions of the Werther can be exactly in relation with the him and which he is incapable of controlling the emotions. The character Werther is the emotive one which focuses the agony rejection and the adulthood. Books plays a great role in the life of the Werther, he really wants them when he is very sad and he objects it when he is happy. When he is with Lotte he is no need of the books which consoles in the times of happiness.

This novel is Epistolary novel. A genre which attains its fame in the seventeenth century and the plot is narrated as a letter. It gained its fame in the Britain during the middle of the 18th century. The epistolary novel comes from the origin of the Greek words, *epistole* which means the letter. The form this novel is actually a letter through which the series of the stories are delivered. The authors of this genre generally wrote about the morality and many sentiments. These novels are actually sentimental in origin. Much of these novels are written about the women or for the women. The female characters are the one who tempts lust; there are also some of the female characters with the genuine voice. Recently the authors of the genre use the technology and forms like the mails, recordings, a written document etc. One of the best examples is *The Colour Purple* written by Alice Walker, in which the teenage girl Celie writes her life as a letter to the god. There are many more examples and the another best novel of this genre is Pamela. This brings out the realism into the story and gives a intimate picture to the reader who could be easily connected to the novel. Thus this genre becomes close to the view readers as it makes them fascinated as reality strains hard.

Almost all part of the sorrows in the novel is in the of the letters which has been written by Werther, the young man who is an artist and he is very sensitive and close to his friend Wilhelm. These show the personal life of his stay in the village of Waltheim, he meets the Charlotte, a young girl who fascinates him; she actually takes care of her siblings after the fall of his mother. Werther falls in love with her by seeing her but she is betrothed to man who is very gentle and wise. Though he had pain in his heart he cultivated a great friendship with them. He is also compelled to leave Wahlheim and he has to go to Weimar. He suffers a lot when he saw his charm, where he was about meet the weekly crowd of the higher class, as he is not a noble man, he was expelled from the meet and he turns back to the village where Albert and Lotte are married and Charlotte remains very loyal to her husband. Each day of his life becomes crisis to him and Charlotte, who thinks of her friend, decided and warned her friend to remain away from her and she also confessed that she loves her husband and she wish to live a quite life. The love which is triangle between them disturbs the mind of the Werther. Werther decides that any one of the three must die, Albert and Charlotte married each other and they care for each other, the only person left is Werther and he is ready to get out of the world. He wrote many letters and at last when he decided to die he wrote a farewell note as a letter to Charlotte and he wrote to Albert asking pistols and Lotte receives the letter and Werther shot himself to death. Neither clergy man nor Albert or Charlotte attends the funeral. The novel ends with the quote that “I shall say nothing of ... Charlotte may die of a broken heart. “I shall say nothing of...Charlotte’s life was despaired of”, etc.

Romantic works are with characters which gives the freedom of the creativeness and they focused on the matters of the heart than focusing the matter of the mind. They realised that the nature and human body are both in the linear line. In the letters of the Werther, each one of them is the ideas of the romantics. The Sorrows of the Young Werther is a very good example during the romantic period. Romanticism is an emotive connection among the writer and the text where his personal feelings are loaded and as the romanticism is the one which refers to the sincerity and this novel I deal with also has the same sense of sincerity where the author expresses the deep feelings of him through the character of the Werther in the letters written by Werther. This age of enlightenment is characterized by the virtues and reasonable. Since this is another characteristic of this era, Werther to made it far from the sequence presentation. The other characters are the focusing on the virtues, agonies and emotional palys of the ordinary man. It is said that Werther is also very a good man of ordinary and regular works, where the reader could

feel the innermost ideas. One of the major characteristic of the Romanticism is praise of the nature in “The Sorrow of Young Werther”. His nature for love and his passion is very much shown in the novel by the end that he is buried in the linden tree.

Our life is full of sorrows and there are two sides of the coin in life too, the romantic approaches, symbols used, the theme are of about the importance given to the ordinary things. The nature and human mind and body are in the linear line, the human heart is associated innately with the nature which helps us to lead the peaceful life. The romanticism in the Werther’s sorrow is very much serving as an example. Love is like a chocolate cake it may taste sweet if it is in the right proportion and sometimes it seems bitter even the taste is in correct proportion without any reason. It’s better to respond than to react. The hopes filled are ruined by the same creator and it gives the impermanent facts of life. If something or someone left you without any purpose it means that there is something that is about come. Losing hope, committing suicide, making you destructive is not the correct action to overcome the distractions but it lies in the decision and determination towards the decision will lead to the expected end. So dream, desire and determine.

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