

## Understanding Perception And Timeline Of Russian Romance: A Brief Introduction On Its Origin, Development, Intricacies & Peculiarities

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### Abstract

The objective of this research paper is to provide a concise exploration of Russian romance literature. The paper traces the long and fascinating journey of romance as a new literary genre, from its origins in Italy and Spain to its development in England, Germany, France, and other countries, and ultimately its arrival in Russia. The paper is an attempt to precisely introduce the main torchbearers of Russian Romance and its types.

**Keywords:** Romance, medieval Spain, Jewish culture, sentimental poetry, literature, young genre, Golden Age, Soviet era.

A literature on romance between two genders is considered to be an epic poem, which may be narrated in a few lines could present an event. Though it may appear to be an ordinary one yet the choice of words arouses fantasies and various emotions such as love, lust, separation, quarrel, distance, fights, loneliness, pain etc. The term “**Romance**” was derived from a Spanish word called “**Romance**”.

Initially, the medieval Spain contributed this romance as a culture by the active influence of the Jewish and the Arabic cultures particularly between the 7<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The first Romances appeared around the XV-XVI centuries in Spain, but the actual heyday of the Romance began only in the second half of the XVIII century. In Spain Romances were not always necessarily lyrical, but also could tell about historical events and the military exploits of the heroes of that time.

Having spread in other countries, the term “Romance” began to denote, on one hand, a poetic genre, in particular a melodious rhythmic poem and as well as a beautiful poem composed intentionally with music and now on the other hand a genre of Vocal Music. This vocal form included songs about love either lyrical or elegiac nature, which were based not on the church but on the “worldly” everyday theme.

The Romantic fire caught on to England and France. The British addressed it as “The Great Knightly poems” and the French called them “Lyrical Love Songs”. From the midst of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Romance became popular both in Germany and France. The same became a unique genre on the verge of the rise of Music and Poetry. The poems of great poets such as Heine and Goethe were the foundation for the romances of this era.

The term Romance in the Russian literature first occurred in the 80s of the XVIII century. Initially it was borrowed from the French literature based on the French culture and adorned by the French music which was also known as “Romance”.

As we had mentioned earlier this Romances is an art borrowed from the French yet it laid a foundation for the Russian authors and composers to develop the Russian literature. As the decades passed and

the centuries passed this became a prerequisite even for the Russian authors and composers. Romances with the Russian text were called as “Russian songs”, in fact some of the Russian noblemen of those days showed a great interest in this new genre Romance.

Russian romance is a kind of sentimental poetry; it took its formation under the influence of romanticism and fantasy in the first half of the XIX century. The leading figures who played a significant role in the development of Russian romance were famous composers such as Alexander Alyabyev (1787–1851), Alexander Varlamov (1801–48), and Alexander Gurilyov (1803–58).

The development of the Russian romance took place directly under the influence of Russian poetry. In XIX century romance was influenced by the poetries of the famous Russian poets such as, Pushkin, Lermontov, Koltsov, Fet, Tyutchev, Zhukovsky, Baratynsky, Delvig, Batyushkov, and Yazykov, A. Tolstoy, A. Maikov, and E. Bekeetova. A large number of romances were written based on their poems. A.S. Pushkin contributed a great volume of Russian romance to stand out as a major artistic phenomenon in the world of Russian literature. His poetry kindled a decisive momentum for the development of Russian romance literature.

In Russia romance became popular in all segments of Russian society during the second half of the XIX century. The romance was widely spread not only among the educated section of the society, but also among the commoners, bourgeois, skilled and unskilled and the labor class who appreciated various emotions such as sincerity, cordiality, romantic relationships etc buried in it. Romance was addressed to every person who had experienced the warm sincerity, disappointments and sacrifices with love in real life history.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Culture, witnessed emergence of a Varieties of Russian Romances such as: **Classic, Salon, Urban, Gypsy, Cruel, Hussar, Cossack Romances** and etc.

**Classic Romance** was written by Professional Composers. The music for such a romance, as a rule, belonged to renowned composers.

**Salon Romance** was designed to awaken tenderness, silent joy, and romantic sadness. The author could be any person.

**Urban or Household Romance** was characterized by their simplicity, the absence of techniques of artistic complexity, and sometimes a certain irregularity in the language.

**Gypsy Romance** was based on gypsy themes. Such works were not created much by the Gypsies themselves, as much as created by the remarkable Russian poets (**A. Grigoriev, Ya. Polonsky, A. Blok**).

**Cruel Romance** was about a story of a passionate yet unhappy love. They included exaggerated sufferings that appealed to the beloved. The major difference of this genre form is, the constant presence of the motive of self-denial, sacrifice, and the rejection of possible happiness.

**Hussar Romance** occurred in the officer's corps. Dare, fearlessness, love, war, vodka, and Horse Hussars were the main theme of Hussar Romance.

**Cossack Romance** was based on Cossack Themes.

In the XX Century, some new genres of Romances such as **Emigrant Romance, White Guard Romance, Rock Romance** and much more came into existence.

Romance in Russian culture is a relatively young genre. In Russia, Romance was called as Rhythmic Poems that was showcased with Music. The genre of Romance is a noticeable page in the fate of Russian Poetry and Russian Verse in a simple Literary and Musical form. Russian Romance reveals a lot and pays close attention to the most important aspects of human life i.e. **love, joy, sadness, meetings, farewell, loyalty, hopes, thoughts, feelings, disappointment, conflicts, excitement** etc. Even the bitterness of love separation is softened by the memory of former love, of the happiness and warmth of past relationships associated with it.

During the second half of the XIX Century, the genre of Romance in Literature and Music reflects the emotional life of the Russian Mass in general.

Many laudable Russian writers for example **Lev Tolstoy, Ivan Turgenev and Nikolai Leskov** also used romance in their literary works to reinforce the emotions expressed or not expressed by the hero, to convey a special mood that is not conveyed by words.

The “**Golden Age**” of the Russian Romance was the beginning of the 20th century. It is very significant and important to mention the great Russian Poets, Musicians and Composers like A. Vertinsky and A. Vyaltseva contributed to the Russian literature world during this period.

In Soviet times, especially since the late 1930s, the romance went through a tough time and as it was regarded as harmful to socialist future. During the Soviet era, leading figures of Russian Romance were either repressed, or were forced to leave their homeland.

Despite the severe conditions for the representatives of Russian Romance under Soviet era, the genre had a flourishing and influencing impact among **Teachers, Students, and Researchers** of Literature, Linguists, Writers, Poets and Musicians. With **Time, Craze and Enthusiasm** for Russian Romance is spreading wide, not only among Russians, but also foreigners who admire Russian Language, Culture, Literature and Music.

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