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Exploring Romanticism in Literary Traditions

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Abstract: The Latin word that gives us the phrase "the Romance languages" is the source of the ancient French word "Romantic," which originally meant a vernacular tongue. However, the term eventually grew to refer to more than just a language. It suggests the caliber and themes of writing produced in "the Romance languages," particularly tales and romances, in addition to being a whimsical tale and a courtly romance. But as time went on, it became to symbolize a great deal of other things as well. By the seventeenth century, everything that is fantastical or extravagant, whimsical or odd, exaggerated and fanciful, or imaginative or imaginary was considered "romantic" in English, a translation of the French term.

Additionally, the term "roman-tic" was used with a negative meaning. It began to be used more often in the eighteenth century, and it began to have a variety of positive implications, particularly when describing the attractive aspects of the terrain. The word "romantic" encompasses all these and other meanings and implications, which illustrates the richness and plurality of European Romanticism.

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