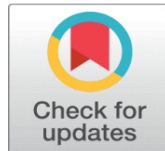


RENAISSANCE REDEFINED: INFLUENCE AND EFFECT OF RENAISSANCE PARLANCE ON WESTERN CULTURAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL AMBIENCE

Jithesh J. Nair ¹, Dr. Joji John Panicker ²

¹ Assistant Professor and PhD Research Scholar, P. G. Department of English, N. S. S. College Pandalam. Research Centre: Department of English, C. M. S. College Kottayam, India

² Assistant Professor and Research Supervisor, Department of English, C. M. S. College Kottayam, India



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ABSTRACT

The Renaissance, a pivotal cultural movement from the 14th to the 17th centuries, profoundly shaped Western cultural ambience through its influence on art, architecture, music, and literature. This abstract explores the transformative effects of Renaissance parlance on these domains, emphasizing its role in the evolution of Western aesthetics and intellectual thought. Renaissance parlance encouraged a return to classical ideals in art, emphasizing realism, proportion, and perspective, thereby revolutionizing visual representation. Architectural advancements during this period, marked by a revival of Greco-Roman elements and innovative structural techniques, epitomized the Renaissance's commitment to symmetry and harmony. In music, the era's linguistic and cultural shifts facilitated the development of polyphonic textures and expressive forms, reflecting a deepened appreciation for human emotion and narrative. Literary contributions of the Renaissance, characterized by a renewed focus on humanism and classical themes, significantly influenced narrative structure and poetic form. This examination underscores how Renaissance parlance, with its emphasis on classical revival and humanistic inquiry, left an indelible mark on Western cultural expressions, fostering a legacy of aesthetic and intellectual advancements that continue to resonate in contemporary Western culture.

Keywords: Renaissance, Culture, Art, Architecture, Music, Humanism, Reformation, Classical Revival, Aesthetic Evolution

1. INTRODUCTION

The advent of the Renaissance in Europe, in the mid-15th Century, marked a great transition from the hard restraints of the dark Middle Ages to modern sensibilities. The word 'Renaissance' in the French language means 'new birth'. The movement, beginning in the central Italian region, of Tuscany, awakens the flames of wisdom from the ashes of murky medieval notions. It renews the Western sphere's art, science, politics, architecture, and literature to a degree never known before.

The fall of the Byzantine Capital, Constantinople, to Mahomet II's Turkish invasion in 1453, politically denoted the rise of the Renaissance. The anti-secular situations followed by the Turkish invasion resulted in the large-scale migration of scholars from the Eastern Roman Empire to Western European Countries, especially to Italy. The spreading of knowledge brought several cultural and social changes.

Classical ideals of the Renaissance like the polyphonic richness of perspective and experiences, and the quest for power, knowledge, beauty, and perfection found powerful expression in musicians, (Thomas Tallis, William Byrd, and Orlando Gibbons) artists (Da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael) and early writers like Chaucer and later in Marlowe, Shakespeare and Webster.

2. REVIVAL OF ART

With Renaissance, art and artists began to be viewed with a new respect and recognition, because of the belief that art is invaluable and so its creator has an immortal quality. Features of Renaissance art such as primacy of the author, depth of composition (as in Da Vinci's Mona Lisa), and realistic depiction of human beings (as in Michelangelo's David and Pieta) heralded the centrality and dignity of man which was trumpeted through Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales, Marlow's Doctor Faustus and Shakespeare's Hamlet

What piece of work is a man
How noble in reason, how infinite in faculties,
In form and movement how express and admirable,
In action how like an angel, in apprehension
How like a God (186)

3. REDESIGNING OF ARCHITECTURE

In architecture, Filippo Brunelleschi (Dome of Florence Cathedral) and Bramante (St. Peter's Basilica in Rome) formulated the Renaissance style which emulated and improved on classical forms. Rejecting the more irregular, picaresque, space-less medieval style Renaissance architecture introduced spacious rooms, domed roofs, sumptuous decorations, and symmetrically arranged towns with gardens, ponds, and fountains. Realistic linear perspective, one of the distinguishing features of Renaissance architecture, eschewed the mundane medieval artistic nations and offered more space and freedom to artists to portray their imagination.

Figure 1



Figure 1 Creator: Francesco Riccardo Iacomino

The new techniques such as introduction of oil paint and canvas, the study of light and shadow, and human anatomy (Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man) renewed the artistic desire to depict the beauty of nature and to unravel the axioms of aesthetics.

Figure 2

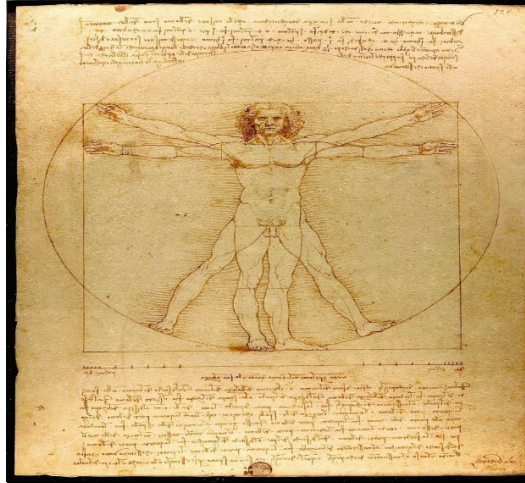


Figure 2 Vitruvian Man

4. DEVELOPMENT OF MUSIC

Renaissance music observed an impressive polyphonic style which was expressed in Renaissance Church music with multiple choirs of singers, brass, and strings. These multiple musical harmonies spread over Europe and later it demarcated the beginning of a Baroque musical era of the 17th century. Renaissance music reached its peak of perfection during the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods.

The musicians of that time Thomas Tallis (Lamentations of Jeremiah) William Byrd (Parthenia) and Orlando Gibbons showed a penchant for instrumental symphonies which ultimately led to the improvement of musical instruments such as organ flute harp and bassoon. The later Jacobean age found a tremendous creative impetus in the field of keyboard music.

Figure 3



Figure 3 A Group of Renaissance Musicians in the Concert (1623) by Gerard Van Honthorst

5. LITERARY GROWTH DURING THE RENAISSANCE

Though the Renaissance spirit reached England in the late 15th century, the rise of Protestantism, geographical discoveries, and scientific revolution broadened the perspective of Renaissance England. Caxton's printing press (1476) increased the number of translations and adaptations in English which ultimately improved the dignity of the English tongue. The nation of homogeneous culture which was lighted by nationalism, (Spenser's Faerie Queene and Thomas Nashe's The Unfortunate Traveller) flourished quickly through education literacy, and literature. New genres

and meters began to be imported into England (Petrarchan sonnet by Wyatt and blank verse by Surrey). Literary experimentations (English sonnets, Spenserian stanzas, and Shakespeare's tragicomedies) enriched the variety of English literature. Thus the English Renaissance which was largely literary, liberated English from the shadows of French and Latin.

Spreading of the chief Renaissance spirit, humanism, through the works of Erasmus, John Colet, and Thomas More encouraged the 16th-century prose works. The predominant style was that of the ornate, elaborate, and courtly, enriched by allusions, antithesis, and alliteration as in Lyly and Sidney. Other Elizabethan writers-Francis Bacon with strings of aphorism and sparkling wit; Richard Hooker with his liberal, philosophic, and sublime style and Walter Raleigh with clear sonorous prose built a marvelous dome of prose and influenced later writers like Swift, Addison, and Defoe.

The influence of Classical masters Seneca, Terence, and Plautus resulted in the production of comedies such as (Ralf Roister Doister) and the blank verse tragedies (Gorboduc). The 'serious' tragedies gained the upper hand over 'trivial' comedies but both reflected the plenty and extravagance of Renaissance England. Senecan revenge plays and *Commedia dell' Arte* (comic drama in Italy) deeply influenced the Elizabethan stage. Heroic admiration and revenge themes of University Wits, the democratic spirit of Shakespeare, and the horror plays of Webster very largely exploited the romantic notions of Renaissance society.

6. REFORMATION AND RENAISSANCE

The questioning spirit of the Renaissance paved the way for the Reformation. Reformation originated in Germany under the leadership of Martin Luther and spread to other European countries. Both Reformation and Renaissance were basically a rejection of authority and tradition in favour of individuality. Bible translations, the chief product of the Reformation, upheld the rejection of Latin hegemony. Authorized Version of Bible, the finest example of the prose of the period, appeared in 1611 and was so much influenced by the earlier Bible translations of Wyclif (1382) Tyndale (1526), and Coverdale (1535).

Reformation, which epitomized personal experience of spiritual struggle and salvation, challenged the institutionalism of the Roman Catholic Church and encouraged the direct transaction of God with the individual soul. By eschewing the intermediation by Church, priest, or sacrament, the Reformation promulgated the extreme manifestation of "Renaissance individualism"

7. CONCLUSION

The colonial zeal of the West was much encouraged by the Renaissance. Linda Woodbridge's *Vagrancy, Homelessness and English Renaissance* explains the hidden capitalist agenda and pseudo-humanitarian traits of English "humanists" during the Renaissance period. The quest for invasion and exploitation is very visible in Spencer's *A View of Present State of Ireland*. Marlowe's *Tamburlaine the Great* and Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. The penchant for nationalism later acquired the form of Imperialism and the writers who praised the Renaissance indirectly endorsed the colonial attitudes and the passion for conquest. The colonial ethos is quite exemplified in Marlowe's *Tamburlaine the Great*,

I perceive my martial strength is spent,
In vaine I strive and raile against those powers,

That meane t'invest me in a higher throane,
As much too high for this disdainfull earth.
Give me a Map, then let me see how much
Is left for me to conquer all the world,
That these my boies may finish all my wantes (209-215)

On the whole, the Renaissance period in Europe was great in what it achieved; sublime in what it dreamed; abounding in ripe wisdom and heroic deeds, full of light and of beauty and life.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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