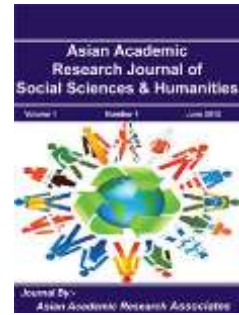




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WORDSWORTH'S CRITICAL THEORY: IN DEFENSE OF IMAGINATION AND PLEASURE

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ABSTRACT

William Wordsworth is one of the greatest poets of England, one to whom Mathew Arnold assigns a place next only to Shakespeare and Milton. He was primarily a poet, and not a critic. He has left behind him no comprehensive and systematic treatise on literary criticism. His criticism consists of advertisement to the lyrical Ballads (1798), Preface to the lyrical Ballads (1800), Preface to the lyrical Ballads (1802), with an appendix on poetic diction. The preface was constantly revised for the subsequent editions of the lyrical Ballads. For the 1815 edition, he wrote new preface ilia and the older one was added as an appendix. Wordsworth preface is a critical document of abiding significance. It underwent a number of revisions till it acquired its present form.
