

The Celebration of Nature in Nathaniel Hawthorn's *Scarlet Letter*

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Abstract

American literatures have their own concept of Romanticism, even though the ideas are basically developed based on European concepts. One aspect that commonly found in America Romantic literature is celebration of the nature; authors describe their own version of Mother Nature based on their personal value. It also presents in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *Scarlet Letter* which describes the nature based on Hawthorne's moral value, natural preference, as well as Roseau ideas. In describing the nature, Hawthorne relates the beauty of virgin America to his personal critics toward puritan society. He uses both natural surroundings and characters to support his idea about an ideal human being. As the result, the natural landscape that presents in his *Scarlet Letter* means more than the beauty of New Eden.

Keywords: *Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorn, Romanticism, America*

1. INTRODUCCION

Romantic era is influenced by both industrial and French revolutions. Even though it is considered as the shortest era in English history, but the influence of its movement can still be found until today. Romanticism was not only occurred in Europe and Great Britain; the movement also affected the American society. Some concepts of European Romanticism were brought to America; those concepts were then modified to fit with the new land. There are several issues that are common in Romantic literatures in both Europe and America including celebrating the nature, dream, and criticism toward the government policies and social conditions.

Celebrating the nature was used to describe the influence of natural surrounding toward the human behavior during Romantic era. Nature became the most important thing in creating the literature as well as improving human's knowledge. Authors were going to the country side to enjoy their time to write the master pieces and to escape the city. Country is not only understood as a place where a small group of people living in the

same place but it is also interpreted as a landscape. Countrysides were chosen because of its never changing atmosphere, fresh air, and its landscape garden. The countrysides were treated as virgins that need to be explored by authors, since they were seen as the opposite description of city especially London.

In celebration of the nature, each author tends to create their own ideal description of the nature. Nature also becomes an object that makes individual possible to perform their personal experience and freedom. It is during Romantic era, we found the different description of the nature between one author with another. Wordsworth describes the nature by adding his personal childhood experience while Coleridge tries to explain the relation between the natures and imagination. In *English Poetry of the Romantic Period* it is explained that most author during Romantic period saw the nature not only 'with the eyes' but 'through the eyes'. Seeing the nature through the eyes means that the authors not only describe the exact image of the