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Certificate

This is to certify that the thesis entitled “Romantic Poetics: A Study of the Critical Utterances of P.B. Shelley and John Keats” submitted by Shri Angom Pishak Singh is the result of a long and painstaking research done under my supervision. The thesis, in part or in full, has not so far been submitted to any institution for the award of any Degree or Diploma.

I am glad to recommend the thesis to be sent to the examiners for its evaluation for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English Literature of Manipur University.

Ratankumar
(Th. Ratankumar Singh)
Supervisor

PREFACE

The present work is an in depth study of the poetics of Shelley and Keats. The poetics of Shelley and Keats have not yet been fully explored like their poetry. And my earnest desire to know the poetics of Shelley and Keats urged me to take up this study. This study is purely a product of my appreciation of the two poets who died quite young but left a perennial inspiration for the lovers of poetry. There have been adverse criticisms of their works in their lifetime. Their poems were considered as the works of adolescence and not worthy of companion for a mature person. And their poetics still left unexplored in the right perspective.

Most of the previous speculations on the poetic theories of Shelley and Keats have gone astray because they have failed to take into account the real nature of the poetics of Shelley and Keats. Shelley used his knowledge of metaphysics for the development of his poetics. He used platonic ideas to expound his concept of poetry. He wrote his poetic theories based on idealism not on materialism. So to judge Shelley's poetics from a materialistic point of view would be like the trial of a person with a foreign law. On the other hand, Keats was not a scholar like Shelley. He used his knowledge of Shakespeare and his understanding of the Greek spirit of beauty to formulate his theory of poetry. However the native spirit of English dominated his theories on poet and poetry. To establish his theory of poetry from his letters is a worthy venture to take up. His epistolary poetics is a unique contribution to the Romantic Poetics. Even though they were contemporary Romantic poet-critics, Shelley and Keats had different views on the poetic art.


Now I take this opportunity to record my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Thounaojam Ratankumar Singh, Associate Professor, Department of English, Manipur University but for whose able guidance this thesis would never have been completed.

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Dated, Canchipur
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A. Pishak Singh