

ROMANTICISM IN THE POEM “ILA UMMI” BY MAHMOUD DARWISH BASED ON THE PERSPECTIVE OF JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

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ABSTRACT

This paper uses Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's literary Romanticism to analyze traits of Romanticism in Mahmoud Darwish's "Ilaa Ummi." It examines how aspects of Goethean Romanticism including emotional expression, attitude toward nature, and spiritual importance are present in the poem. The research identifies a knowledge gap in literary studies by analyzing Goethean Romanticism in a contemporary Arabic literature context, which has been looked at through a political or identity lens, and not a Romantic one. Through close reading and thematic analysis, the study uses a descriptive qualitative method to explore how certain hallmarks of Goethean Romanticism, such as subjectivity, reverence for nature, and quest for spiritual meaning, can be found in Darwish's oeuvre. The findings highlight three major categories: (1) pathos, represented by mother-longing and love for the mother, (2) the human-nature relationship, where landscapes denote warmth and emotional bond, and (3) deeper spiritual embodiment, which articulates existential contemplation and personal identity exploration. In a way, by tracing the tints and shades of Darwish's oeuvre, the work attends to the reductiveness of denoting the poet as "postmodern" (which had fallen out of fashion by the time he had died) and highlights Goethean Romantic elements to his literary agenda, bridging disparate Eastern and Western traditions. The study sheds light on the relevance of Goethean Romanticism in non-Western poetry and advances the research into intertextual connections between Eastern and Western literatures.

1. INTRODUCTION

Romanticism is a late 10th century literary movement that emphasized emotions, nature, and examining the more profound meanings of human identity (Surur, 2023). The movement is ultimately based on the expression of the poet's (or author's) perceptions and feelings as the basis of artistic creation. The literary figures describe reality in the previously beautiful form in this movement (Noor et al., 2024). Johann Wolfgang von Goethe represents, as one of the most important figures of Romanticism, a path of thought that relates self-expression, the human nature relation, and spiritual meditation (Wilson, 2024). This study uses principles derived from Goethean Romanticism to analyze the poem Ilaa Ummi by the poet Mahmoud Darwish, in order to trace how these elements appear through the poetic expression of Darwish.

There have been many studies on Mahmoud Darwish's poetry; however, they mostly deal only with themes of exile, identity and resistance (El-Ariss, 2019; M. Hafidzulloh, S.M & Salam, 2021; Noor et al., 2024). Yet there are few studies of his works in the press through the lens of



Romanticism, especially Goethean Romanticism. The current research attempts to fill this gap by investigating the ways in which Darwish's poetry enacts the ideals and main characteristics of the Romantic movement, extending the boundaries of the conversation on the intertextual linkages between the two literary traditions of the West and the Arabic world (Surur, 2023; Wheeler, 1984). Engaging the subjectivity of human experience, Goethe helps to bridge Western and Eastern cultures, and the architecture of his thinking informs generic orientation to the beauty of life. The poet, Mahmoud Darwish, for instance writes about what all this means, in the context of Palestine, but also much broader (El-Arissi, 2019; Safranski, 2017).

The main question of this study is: How does the concept of Romanticism in the perspective of Goethe appear in Mahmoud Darwish's poem *Ilaa Ummi*? The study aims to meet three main objectives. First, to explore and define the main aspects of Goethean Romanticism, such as emotional expression, human-nature relationship and spiritual dimensions (Barrento, 2019). The second is to investigate how these elements resonate with the foundations of Goethean Romanticism, both aesthetically and philosophically, and intertextually link Goethe's concepts with Darwish's literary manifestation. Thirdly, this research seeks to make a contribution to the study of intertextuality between Western Romanticism and contemporary Arab poetry on an intellectual level, identifying particular manifestations of the influence of Goethean Romanticism, which can be perceived in various literary contexts throughout history, culture and language.

This study is theoretically underpinned by and limited to three dimensions of Goethean Romanticism. In the first place, emotion expression, in which personal feelings and subjective experience are considered the center of poetry creation and appreciation. Second, The relationship of humans and nature; nature is not only a glittering background but also a medium for emotional and philosophical reflections that reinforce the tenets of the poetry. Third, spiritual meaning - the concept that deals with existential themes and the quest for self-identity, capturing the transcendental facet in literary context (Barrento, 2019; Eldon et al., 2023; Mehrgan, 2015). These three principles must be present for an analysis of Mahmoud Darwish's poem *Ilaa Ummi* in light of Goethean Romanticism.

The research uses descriptive qualitative research, using the method of reading in depth, and thematic analysis with the text of the poem of Mahmoud Darwish of *Ilaa Ummi* (Fiantika, 2022). There are two main steps for the analysis process. Analyzing the text deeply, first, it lets the reader know about Romanticism in-depth, including emotional expression, the relationship between humans and nature, and spiritual meaning. In the second part, a comparison is held to reflect the values of Goethean Romanticism on the poetic style used by Mahmoud Darwish and to what extent the values of Goethean Romanticism can be observed in the poem (Fiantika, 2022; Sahir, 2021).

It demonstrates the impact of Western Romanticism on modern Arabic poetry, thus adding to the literary conversation. The research introduces another perspective to the aesthetic of



Romanticism from its European roots through a reading of Darwish's poetry viewed through a Goethean Romantic aesthetic. In addition, the study illustrates the importance of Romantic topics in modern literary analysis, especially in regards to the universal characteristics of human emotions and creativity (Braun, 2001). This research allows the researcher to better understand narratives and means of expression—with roots in Arabic poetry tradition—that Darwish adopted from Romanticism, and goes beyond the cultural and temporal dimensions.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Definition of Romanticism According to Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Romanticism is a cultural movement that emerged as a reaction against the rationalism of the Enlightenment and the artistic restraint of Neoclassicism (Surur, 2023). Goethe became the pioneer of this movement, with his works emphasizing emotional expression, individual freedom, and the relationship with nature. One of his most phenomenal works, *Faust*, portrays the search for the meaning of life through profound emotional and spiritual experiences. According to Goethe, Romanticism is primarily focused on emotional expression (Berkowitz, 1997). In works like *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, Goethe depicts individual feelings and psychological portrayal as crucial elements of the narrative. The character Werther, whose love is unrequited, illustrates how emotions and feelings can become central to an individual's existence (Goethe, 1987b). Goethe delves into inner conflicts, psychological suffering, and the search for emotion in his works, creating space for freer emotional expression (Mehrgan, 2015).

Goethe's Romanticism is not only found in literature but also encompasses his views on nature, art, and life. Goethe made significant contributions to the theory of Romanticism, which sees emotion, imagination, and subjective experience as central to human expression (Widyaningrum & Hartarini, 2023). As a major figure from Germany, Goethe played an important role in the transition from the era of Classicism to Romanticism (Wheeler, 1984). While Goethe is not entirely categorized as a Romantic writer, his works reflect various aspects of Romanticism, especially in their emotional themes and exploration of human personality. Goethe's Romanticism approach is often seen as reflecting a desire to bridge emotions, reason, and universal human experiences (Lehleiter, 2021). This is because Goethe himself lived in a transitional period between *Sturm und Drang* (a German literary movement emphasizing emotional freedom) and Romanticism (Rahmanyan, 2016).

Goethe focuses more on emotional expression, as seen in several of his works, which emphasize individuality and psychological portrayal (Berkowitz, 1997). He also links the relationship between humans and nature, not just as a physical object but as something that holds spiritual and symbolic meaning (Eldon et al., 2023; Von der Linde, 1993). Additionally, a hallmark of Goethe's Romanticism is the search for the meaning of life through profound spiritual experiences (Meyer, 2003). Goethe's Romanticism can be categorized into three key



points: emotional expression, the relationship between humans and nature, and the search for spiritual meaning.

2.2. The Fundamental Concept of Goethe's Romanticism

In Goethe's works related to Romanticism theory, the expression of emotions and personal feelings becomes a central theme (Wheeler, 1984). For example, in his novel *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, Goethe illustrates how Werther, the protagonist, expresses his anxiety and feelings about his unrequited love for Lotte, who is already engaged to Albert, his close friend (Goethe, 1987a). This work serves as the foundational theory of Goethe's Romanticism, portraying how emotions and feelings can define an individual's existence. Goethe also introduced the idea that intense emotions are an integral part of human existence (Ehrmann, 1978).

In addition to emotional expression, in Goethe's perspective, the relationship with nature is believed to play a crucial role as a source of inspiration and a space for contemplation (Berkowitz, 1997). Nature is regarded as more than just a physical object; it is seen as something imbued with spiritual and symbolic meaning (Eldon et al., 2023). For instance, in his renowned work, the drama *Faust*, Goethe integrates philosophical views on nature as a medium to achieve higher understanding. Nature is also considered a space where humans undergo spiritual transformation (Goethe, 1987b). It becomes a realm where individuals can reflect, express their emotions, and gain a deeper understanding of their subjective experiences (Rahmanyana, 2016).

The search for spiritual meaning is also a hallmark of Goethe's Romanticism. In many of his works, Goethe often portrays the journey of an individual striving to understand and explore life in a more transcendental and philosophical way (Jenkyns, 2004). For instance, in *Faust*, the protagonist's quest for happiness and enlightenment takes various forms, from the pursuit of knowledge to connections with nature and higher powers (Goethe, 1987a). In this context, Goethe emphasizes that the search for the meaning of life goes beyond material achievements (Barrento, 2019). This philosophy contributes to the Romantic understanding of how humans, despite facing uncertainty and limitations, are compelled to seek and grow through life experiences that are rich in emotion and spirituality (Nassar, 2022)

2.3. Previous Studies

Regarding research on the Romanticism movement, several studies have explored this topic, including: "Romantic Expressions in the Poem *Asyiq min Falistin* by Mahmoud Darwish (Analysis of the Romanticism Movement)" (Noor et al., 2024). "Symbols of Romanticism in the Poem *Aku Ingin Membawa Angin* by Heri Isnaini" (Alfriandi & Astuti, 2022). "Romanticism in the Poetry Anthology *Kidung Leluhur Cianjur* by Yusuf Gigan" (Munsi, 2022). "Analysis of Religious and Romantic Values in the Novel *Islammu adalah Maharku* by Ario Muhammad" (Ulfa & Nurlaili, 2020). "Romanticism Reflections in the Poetry of Mahsati Ganjavi" (Mahdavi et al., 2023). "*Géricault. Vérité du romantisme*" (Thélot, 2024).



"Representation of Romanticism in the Song Lyrics *Jatuh Suka* by Tulus: A Semiotic Study Using Peirce" (Riswari, 2023). "Romanticism Analysis in Four Poetry Collections *Kakawin Kawin* by WS Rendra" (Khoerunnisa et al., 2023). These studies reflect the widespread exploration of Romanticism across various forms of artistic expression, such as poetry, novels, and music, highlighting the enduring influence of this literary and artistic movement.

The similarity between this study and previous research lies in the focus on the Romanticism movement, which serves as the theoretical foundation for analyzing literary works. However, the significant difference lies in the object of study; this research specifically seeks to explore the connection between Romanticism as developed by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and the writing style in Mahmoud Darwish's poem "*Ilaa Ummi*." This approach adds a new dimension that has not been widely discussed in prior studies, particularly in linking Goethe's Romantic aesthetics and philosophy with the unique context and themes found in Darwish's work. This provides a new aspect that has not been explored extensively in past research, especially concerning the connection between Goethe's Romantic aesthetics and philosophy and the specific context and themes existing in Darwish's poetry.

Thus, this study aims to analyze how the principles of Goethean Romanticism cross connect, depth of emotions, the connection between humans and nature, and the search for spiritual meaning, are adopted in the works of Darwish. Describing similarities in several literary features, we arrive at a promising conclusion of the relevance and applicability of Romanticism principles in Arab literature so far detached from its cultural origin. Thus the key aim of this research is to enhance the knowledge gained from previous studies but also brings a new perspective into play regarding the perception of the influence and importance of the Romanticism movement in the respective cultures. Thus, while the essential characteristics of Romanticism have been addressed in literature a lot; the approach that ties Goethe's Romanticism and Darwish's poetry together, contributes to the existing discussion and offers a new lens to look through in the literary studies.

3. METHODOLOGY

This research employs a descriptive qualitative approach, which involves analyzing and interpreting findings, phenomena, problems, and events naturally occurring in the field within a specific timeframe (Fiantika, 2022). Qualitative research is also considered a profound perception of the phenomenon being studied, allowing for an in-depth examination of cases individually, with the possibility of producing varying research outcomes (Sahir, 2021). The data sources in this study are divided into two categories: (1) primary data sources and (2) secondary data sources. The primary data source is the poem "*Ilaa Ummi*" written by Mahmoud Darwish. Meanwhile, the secondary data sources comprise various literature reviews that support the analytical process in



this study. The inclusion of primary and secondary data sources serves as a parameter for the robustness of research and ensures the production of accurate findings (Sahir, 2021).

The data collection technique used in this study involves a reading and note-taking approach. The researcher reads and closely examines the entirety of the poem "*Ilaa Ummi*" and notes several excerpts that contain elements of the Romanticism movement. Subsequently, the data analysis technique follows the method proposed by Miles and Huberman, which consists of three steps: Data condensation: This refers to the process of selecting, focusing, or simplifying and transforming the data related to the research object. Data presentation: This involves organizing and summarizing information in a structured and concise manner so that conclusions and actions can be drawn. Drawing conclusions: This final step in data analysis ensures openness and skepticism and addresses the rationality of the research problem statement (Fiantika, 2022).

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 The poem "*Ilaa Ummi*" by Mahmoud Darwish

أحن إلى خبز أمي

وقهوة أمي

ولمسة أمي

وتكبر في الطفولة

يوم على صدر يوم

وأعشق عمري لأني

إذا مت

أخجل من دمع أمي!

خذني، إذا عدت يوما

وشاحا لهدبك

وغطي عظامي بعشب

تعمد من طهر كعبك

وشُدِّي وثاقي....

بخصلة شعر..



بَحِيْطٍ يَلُوْحُ فِي ذِيْلِ ثُوْبِكَ ..
عَسَانِيْ اَصِيْرُ اِلْهًا
اِلْهًا اَصِيْرٌ.

اِذَا مَا مَلَسْتُ قِرَارَةَ قَلْبِكَ !
ضَعِيْنِي , اِذَا مَا رَجَعْتُ
وَقُوْدًا بَتَنُوْرٍ نَارِكُ ..
وَحَبْلٍ غَسِيْلٍ عَلٰى سَطْحِ دَارِكَ
لَا اِنِّيْ فَقَدْتُ الْوُقُوْفَ
بِدُوْنِ صَلَاةٍ تُحَارِكُ
هَرَمْتُ , فَرْدِيْ نَجُوْمِ الطَّفُوْلَةِ
حَتٰى اُشَارِكَ
صَغَارِ الْعَصَافِيْرِ
دَرْبِ الرَّجُوْعِ ..
لَعُشِّ اَنْتَظَارِكَ !

4.2 Goethe's Romanticism in the poem "Ilaa Ummi" by Mahmoud Darwish

A. Emotional Ekspression

Data 1

أَحْنُ إِلَى خَبْزِ أُمِّي
وَقَهْوَةِ أُمِّي
وَمَلْسَةِ أُمِّي



“I miss my mother’s bread
My mother’s coffe
And my mother’s touch”(Darwish, 2008)

The word "bread" in data 7 becomes a symbol of the warmth of love. In many cultures, food made by a mother symbolizes comfort for every child. "Coffee" also refers to tradition and moments of togetherness that are simple yet deeply meaningful. The poet yearns for those moments of familial warmth spent together enjoying coffee. This moment may have been lost or no longer enjoyed. The phrase "my mother's touch" symbolizes the sense of security and tenderness of a mother, representing a small child who feels safe and comforted when close to their mother. This touch serves as a reminder of the physical bond from the past.

The word "bread" carries the emotional warmth of love, and here, Mahmoud Darwish seems to recall his peaceful past with his mother, filled with security. This reflects a deep nostalgia for an intimate and pure relationship, forming the emotional foundation of individuality. Aligned with Goethe's Romanticism, where emotions and feelings not only drive life but are an essential element in the existential search of humanity (Wilson, 2024). In this context, bread transcends its literal meaning and becomes a profound expression of the human need for love, safety, and comfort (Darwish, 2008).

Data 2

وأعشق عمري لأني

إذا مت

أخجل من دمع أمي!

“I love my life so much
Because, when I die
I am ashamed of my mother’s tears” (Darwish, 2008)

"The tears of mother" become a symbol of the emotional expression of a mother. In this context, the poet portrays a strong effort to avoid seeing his mother sad. Moreover, the tears of the mother also represent the struggles of a mother, and in this case, the poet feels ashamed if he were to disappoint all the sacrifices his mother has made. "The tears of mother" also serve as a symbol of love, which becomes the reason for a child to continue



living, fighting, and appreciating every moment of life. "The tears of mother" make the poet no longer think of life for his own sake, but also for the benefit of his mother.

In the sentence "I love my life so much," the poet's emotional expression is evident, showing how deep his love is for his mother. The poet views his mother's happiness as the most important thing in his life. This fragment seems to depict how the poet has devoted his entire life to his mother. It illustrates how immense love can give birth to total sacrifice and sincere dedication, representing a virtue of feeling and defining human existence (Thompson, 2020). This aligns with Goethe's romantic perspective in his work *The Sorrow of Young Werther*, where love and emotion are expressed through anxiety and worry (Goethe, 1987b).

Data 3

عساني أصيرُ إلهاً

إلهاً أصيرُ.

إذا ما لمسْتُ قرارة قلبك !

"I wish to become a god,
A god I will become,
If I touch the depths of your heart!"

The phrase "become a god" symbolizes the profound and immense influence of a mother's love on the poet. In this excerpt, the mother is positioned as someone more than a deity, representing a pure figure that almost reaches the divine realm. The mother transcends the ordinary, human existence. The phrase "the depth of your heart" becomes a symbol of complete acceptance of that love, where the mother reaches the highest essence of human existence, akin to the rights of a god. "The depth of your heart" also represents the love and sacrifice of a mother. In this context, the poet understands and experiences a mother's love in its purest form (Darwish, 2008).

The choice of words that convey emotional expression aligns with Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's romanticism approach. From Goethe's perspective, this poem reflects intensity that mirrors human emotions, which are at the core of life's experience (Wheeler, 1984). The deep longing for the mother and memories of childhood touches (Darwish, 2008) resonate with this idea. As in his work *The Sorrow of Young Werther*, emotion is central to understanding life (Goethe, 1987b). Mahmoud Darwish often employs simple entities like coffee, bread, tears, and gods as expansive symbols for the mother. These elements make Darwish's poem more meaningful and profound in expressing the concept of the mother (Darwish, 2008).



B. The Relationship Between Humans and Nature

Data 4

وغطي عظامي بعشب

"And cover my bones with grass." (Darwish, 2008)

In this excerpt, Mahmoud Darwish uses "grass" as a symbol of the return to nature, where the human body becomes one with the earth. Darwish reflects on the desire to remain close to his mother even after death, to be buried in the same soil where his mother's presence resides. The grass, in this context, also symbolizes a love that continues to grow and endure, much like grass, even though it is no longer tended to by the mother. This imagery aligns with the romantic themes of eternal connection and the idea of love transcending physical boundaries, echoing Goethe's perspective on the lasting power of emotions and connections (Goethe, 1987b).

The word "grass" is deeply associated with nature, representing freshness and the beauty of the natural world. In this poem, the mention of "grass" signifies that the poet is using elements of nature to express his emotions and feelings toward his mother. This is in line with Goethe's romantic perspective, which suggests that nature is not merely a physical object, but also carries symbolic and spiritual meaning (Eldon et al., 2023). Just as Goethe (1987) integrates philosophical views about nature as a medium for achieving higher understanding, Mahmoud Darwish similarly uses nature to express deep emotional connections and existential reflections (Holub, 2004).

Data 5

ضعيني , إذا ما رجعتُ
وقوداً بتنور نارك..

“Place me, when I have returned,
as fuel in your fire's furnace”(Darwish, 2008)

In this excerpt, Mahmoud Darwish illustrates the immense love he has for his mother, as well as the warmth symbolized by the fire in the furnace. The line reflects more than just nostalgia for simple yet meaningful moments; it conveys an infinite willingness to sacrifice, even if it means being consumed by flames for his mother. This line not only reveals deep love and affection but also communicates Darwish's love, longing, and



affection for his mother. It expresses an understanding of life, death, and eternal love, emphasizing the profound emotional bond that transcends even the limits of life itself.

The word "fire" is part of nature, symbolizing the poet's sacrifice and willingness to do anything for his mother. The choice of the word "fire" also shows that the poet uses natural entities in his poem, highlighting that nature is not just a symbol of beauty, but also holds an opposite meaning — a sense of fear and a departure from safety. This aligns with Goethe's perspective on Romanticism, where nature serves as a space for individuals to reflect, express emotions, and understand their subjective experiences more deeply (Rahmanyman, 2016).

Data 6

هَرَمْتُ ، فَرَدِّي نَجُومَ الطُّفُولَةِ

حَتَّى أُشَارِكَ

صِغَارَ الْعَصَافِيرِ

“Now I am old, so return my childhood star,
So that I can follow the little sparrows.” (Darwish, 2008)

The word "star" in this excerpt symbolizes something incredibly precious. Darwish expresses a longing for his beautiful childhood, a time when his mother would care for him. The phrase "little sparrows" reflects Darwish's realization that his childhood has passed and will never return. Nature, as an entity, is also employed in Mahmoud Darwish's poetry to express his deep yearning for his mother. It illustrates how the natural world can be intertwined with human emotions, aligning with Goethe's Romantic view where nature is not just a physical entity, but also a source of meaning, symbolism, and emotional depth.

The natural entities presented in Mahmoud Darwish's poetry align with Goethe's Romantic paradigm, where nature serves not just as an aesthetic backdrop, but as a medium for deep reflection on the essential nature of humanity and as a vessel for philosophical meaning (Von der Linde, 1993). According to Goethe, nature is treated as a reflection of the complexities of the human soul and as a source of wisdom that connects humans with universal existence. Similarly, in Darwish's work, nature is frequently employed as a metaphorical symbol to depict the grandeur of the mother figure and the profound love she bestows (Thompson, 2020). A mother's love, as symbolized through elements of nature in Darwish's poetry, not only reflects beauty and warmth but also embodies the essence of cosmic wisdom, making that love divine and transcendental, surpassing the confines of ordinary earthly love (Darwish, 2008).



C. The Search for Spiritual Meaning

Data 7

أحن إلى خبز أمي
وقهوة أمي
ولمسة أمي

“I miss my mother’s bread
My mother’s coffee
And my mother’s touch”(Darwish, 2008)

In this excerpt, Darwish cries out restlessly with longing for his mother. It portrays the mother as someone he will never encounter again. This longing is symbolized not only for the mother but also for the bread, coffee, and the touch of the mother, signifying that all these elements are part of the essence of the mother. When viewed in the context of Mahmoud Darwish as a Palestinian poet, this longing in the excerpt also represents a sense of loss for his home, homeland, and culture, embodied in the figure of the mother. Essentially, the meaning of the mother here is not just personal, but also a symbol of the homeland.

The sense of longing also reflects the poet's search for spiritual meaning. Longing is an emotion tied to entities that have gone and disappeared (Meyer, 2003). Here, Darwish appears to have lost his mother within himself, and he seems to have lost his childhood, now grown up, no longer experiencing the same affection from his mother as he once did as a child. The loss he feels can also be seen as a transition from his childhood to adulthood, where an emotionally warm relationship transforms into a memory, becoming an introspection of love, time, and existence (Nassar, 2022).

Data 8

وأعشق عمري لأني
إذا مت
أخجل من دمع أمي!



“I love my life so much
Because, when I die
I am ashamed of my mother’s tears” (Darwish, 2008)

This excerpt also illustrates a search for the meaning of life. Darwish portrays his mother as someone who holds immense significance and is deeply loved. The presence of a mother is so precious to him that he cannot bear to hurt her feelings. In this passage, Darwish conveys that his life is not solely for himself but also for his mother, who has now passed away. The "tears of the mother" symbolize the mother's sorrow, and even after her death, Darwish does not wish to escape his responsibility as a child.

Data 9

هَرَمْتُ , فردي نجوم الطفولة
حتى أشارك
صغار العصافير

"Now I am old, so return to me the star of my childhood,
so that I can follow the little sparrows"(Darwish, 2008)

The lines you provided evoke a deep sense of nostalgia for childhood, a time when life was simpler and the presence of a mother brought comfort and security. The poet longs for the carefree days of youth, symbolized by the "little sparrows," which represent freedom and joy. The phrase "I am old now" reflects the burdens and weariness of adulthood, contrasting with the lightness and happiness of childhood. The poet expresses a desire to return to a time when life felt lighter, filled with play and happiness, and when the presence of a mother provided a sense of safety and warmth. This yearning reflects not only the loss of innocence but also the desire to recapture a time when the world seemed full of possibilities and devoid of the responsibilities that come with growing up.

The longing and search for meaning in Mahmoud Darwish's poetry align with the romanticism of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. According to Goethe, longing is a connection to something or someone that is unattainable or lost (Meyer, 2003). In his dramatic work *Faust*, the yearning to understand the meaning of truth and transcend human limits is at the core of the narrative (Goethe & M, 1989). Similarly, Darwish's longing represents the deep yearning for his mother, who can no longer be reached. Additionally, this longing embodies a desire for his childhood, a time of freedom and innocence. This yearning also becomes a search for meaning in his adult life, reflecting his inner struggle



and the transition from youth to maturity, as he grapples with the loss of his past and the pursuit of self-understanding (Darwish, 2008)..

5. CONCLUSION

The research findings reveal that in Mahmoud Darwish's poem "Ilaa Ummi," there are nine instances that clearly reflect the elements of romanticism from the perspective of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. These findings include three instances that convey deep emotional expressions, highlighting the intensity of love, longing, and an overwhelming yearning; three others that depict the relationship between humans and nature as a symbolic medium connecting individuals to spiritual experiences; and the final three instances that explore the search for spiritual meaning, where elements of life, death, and immortality are examined through an emotional and existential lens typical of Goethe's romanticism.

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