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**TRACING DARK ROMANTICISM
IN EDGAR ALLAN POE'S *LIGEIA*****Henny Herawati**English Education Study Program
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*Romanticism, emerging after the Age of Reason, highlights the freedom in expressing individual feeling and imagination and the uniqueness of men. Dark Romanticism, which is the dark stream of American Romanticism, is characterized by a nightmare landscape, supernatural entity, heroic despair, an ambivalent human being and the presence of crime and murder. Edgar Allan Poe's *Ligeia* provides evidence of Poe's skillful talent as an outstanding, dark romantic writer. This brief study intends to trace the dark romantic features in Poe's prose *Ligeia* (1838) and to reveal how Poe explores the theme of supernatural entity and the inward mind of human beings, in contrast to the rationalism themes of the 18th century.*

Keywords: *dark romanticism, supernatural, gothic, heroic despair, inward mind.*

1. Introduction

Romanticism emerged as a reaction against the Age of Reason or the Neoclassical Age. Foerster, Grabo, Nye, Carlisle, and Falk assert that Romanticism was a "revolt against the rationalism that dominated the 18th century" (470). This Romantic movement began in the 1780s and was a reaction against the prevalent belief in materialism as well as faith in reason and logic. It set out from the notion that reality was too diverse to be dealt with reason and common