

THE INTERPRETATION OF THE FEMALE IMAGE IN JANE AUSTIN'S NOVEL  
"PRIDE AND PREJUDICE"

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**Abstract:** This article is about the characters of the novel "Pride and Prejudice" written during the Romanticism period of English literature. You can find a comprehensive analysis of the female figure. A special place in Jane Austen's work is occupied by one of her six most famous novels, "Pride and Prejudice". In the work, the writer depicted not only the actual social problems of that period, but also revealed the place of women in society in the 18th century. In a word, Jane Austen refers to opposite feelings in the human heart, such as hate and love.

**Keywords:** interpretation, the female image, romanticism, determination, society, marriage, upbringing.

**Introduction**

Jane Austen was an English novelist known primarily for her six major novels, which interpret, critique, and comment upon the British landed gentry at the end of the 18th century. Austen's plots often explore the dependence of women on marriage in the pursuit of favourable social standing and economic security. Her works critique the novels of sensibility of the second half of the 18th century and are part of the transition to 19th-century literary realism. Her use of social commentary, realism and biting irony have earned her acclaim among critics and scholars.<sup>1</sup>

When talking about the specific style and themes of Jane Austen's novels, we would like to start by quoting one of her lines: "I must have my own style and go my own way. And if I never succeed in this nor am I sure that I shall fail utterly at anything else".<sup>2</sup> In fact, Jane Austen chooses her own literary method when entering literature. She created in a unique and distinctive direction and quickly gained popularity. She uses parody and humor to criticize the image of women in the 18th century in her novels dealing with sentimental and social issues. Austen expands her critique by emphasizing social hypocrisy through irony; she often creates a tone of irony through free indirect speech interspersed with the thoughts and words of the characters. A number of scholars who study Austen's work continue their work by analyzing her work to this day. Critics reflect on Austen's vision of realism to believe that Austen's characters have psychological depth. Some scholars point out that Austen fell into the tradition of realism because of his well-executed individual characters and realistic depiction of the literary environment typical of that period, while others argue that his images lack a realistic feel compared to his previous works, and many of Austen's they argue that its edgy tone makes it realistic, and think it makes it break from tradition.

**Literature review:** If we look to the history of Jane Austen, we can see that many scientists interested in her works. By the mid-19th century, her novels were admired by members of the literary

<sup>1</sup>Jane Austen - [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane\\_Austen](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Austen)

<sup>2</sup> [www.britanica.com](http://www.britanica.com) "Emma| Jane Austen, Summary, Characters & Facts Britanica"

elite who viewed their appreciation of her works as a mark of cultivation, but they were also being recommended in the popular education movement and on school reading lists as early as 1838.<sup>3</sup>

Austen's novels explore the precarious economic situation of women in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. As Gilbert and Gubar explain, "Austin argues that the weakness of women underlying the monetary pressure to marry is reflected in the injustice of inheritance laws, the ignorance that denies women formal education, and the psychological weakness of the heiress or widow in the boredom of the unemployed lady".

If we pay attention to Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice", the book begins with the problems of Mrs. Bennet, a woman from a middle-class family who can't think of anything other than marrying off her daughters. Mrs. Bennet has 5 daughters: Jane Bennet, Elizabeth Bennet, Mary Bennet, Catherine Bennet and Lydia Bennet, each of the girls live in their own world. For example, Jane is the eldest child in the family and the most beautiful lady in Hertfordshire. She obeys her mother's wishes for marriage and falls in love with Charles Bingley, one of the rich gentlemen who has recently arrived in Hertfordshire. We can learn Jane's feelings from this conversation between the sisters:

..... *When Jane and Elizabeth were alone, the former, who had been cautious in her praise of Mr. Bingley before, expressed to her sister how very much she admired him.*

*"He is just what a young man ought to be", said she, sensible, good humoured, lively; and I never saw such happy manners! So much ease, with such perfect good breeding!"*<sup>4</sup>

In general, the later breakup between them is because of Darcy, because of Jane's love, which was not there from the beginning of the relationship.

Elizabeth Bennet, the 2nd princess in the Bennet family, is one of the main characters of the play, and the development of events is based on the love conflicts between Elizabeth and Darcy. The relationship between Mr. Fitzwilliam and Elizabeth Bennet, a dear friend of Charles Bingley's sister Jane Bennet's lover, begins with a strange love-hate relationship. Elizabeth is the most intelligent and sensible of the five Bennet sisters. She is well read and quick-witted, with a tongue that occasionally proves too sharp for her own good. Her realization of Darcy's essential goodness eventually triumphs over her initial prejudice against him. Elizabeth is the most intelligent and sensible of the five Bennet sisters. She is well read and quick-witted, with a tongue that occasionally proves too sharp for her own good. Her realization of Darcy's essential goodness eventually triumphs over her initial prejudice against him.

From the first line of *Pride and Prejudice*, the narrator reveals her satirical approach to matrimony. If it was "a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife" then the women in the novel would not have to struggle so much.

Mr. Bingley falls in love with Jane, and Mr. Darcy begins to like Elizabeth. But Elizabeth was certain that Darcy despised him. Also, during the walk, the Bennet sisters meet Mr. Wickham.

*".....Mr. Wickham was the happy man towards whom almost every female eye was turned, and Elizabeth was the way woman by whom he finally seated himself; and agreeable manner in which he immediately fell into conversation, though it was on its being a wet night, and on the probability of a rainy season, made her feel that the commonest, dullest, most threadbare topic might be rendered interesting by the skill of the speaker...."*<sup>5</sup>

The guy makes a good impression on everyone. Some time later, Mr. Wickham tells Elizabeth about Mr. Darcy's inappropriate behavior towards him. The fact is that Darcy does not fulfill the last

<sup>3</sup> Reception history of Jane Austen - Wikipedia  
[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reception\\_history\\_of\\_Jane\\_Austen](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reception_history_of_Jane_Austen)

<sup>4</sup> Jane Austin "Pride and Prejudice", - London Published in Richard Bendley, 1853, page 11

<sup>5</sup> Jane Austin "Pride and Prejudice", - London Published in Richard Bendley, 1853, page 66

will of his late father and does not give Wickham the priesthood that was promised to him. Elizabeth has a bad opinion of Darcy. Darcy, on the other hand, calls the Bennets "not equals", and Elizabeth's acquaintance and friendship with Wickham is not acceptable to him.

Elizabeth meets Mr. Darcy's relative, Colonel Fitzwilliam. During the conversation with the girl, the colonel notes that "Darcy is trying to save his friend from marrying a girl who is not his equal." Elizabeth learns that this is about Bingley and her sister Jane, and her hatred for Darcy grows stronger. Therefore, when Darcy suddenly comes to her, confesses his love and asks for her hand in marriage, she flatly refuses. Elizabeth accuses Darcy of ruining her sister's happiness, humiliating Mr. Wickham, and being old. Darcy writes to him, informing him of his friend Wickham's ill treatment of Darcy's sister Georgiana. As for Jane and Mr. Bingley, Darcy says that he believes Jane has "no deep feelings" for Bingley. Furthermore, Darcy speaks of the "indecent" that Mrs. Bennet and her younger daughters constantly display. Elizabeth changes her mind about Mr. Darcy and regrets being rude to him.

#### Conclusion

In general, the unique relationship between Elizabeth and Darcy is undoubtedly the highlight of the work as it captivates the reader throughout the story as the relationship goes through many confusing stages and finally embraces love. Although many consider this work of Austen to be romantic, it seems that the author has moved away from the love story that he chose in the work. The main characters stumble, make mistakes. It's a true reflection of what can happen in a romantic relationship between two people, where things may not turn out the way we want them to.

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