

***PRIDE AND PREJUDICE: A SOCIAL CRITIQUE OF 19TH CENTURY
ENGLAND***

A Project


**Submitted in partial fulfillment for the requirement of the degree of
Bachelor of Arts in English (Honors)**



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Registrar
K.R. Mangalam University
Sohna Road, Gurugram, (Haryana)

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled "Pride and Prejudice: A Social Critique of 19th Century England" is a genuine work done by **Anu Yadav (Roll No. 2008180006)** under my supervision and submitted to K.R. Mangalam University in partial fulfilment for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Arts in English (Honours).

Counter Signed by-
Dr. Swati Chauhan

Supervisor-

DEAN, SOHS

K.R. Mangalam University

DEAN
School of Humanities (SOHS)
K.R. Mangalam University
Sohna road, Gurugram
Haryana 122103

Assistant Professor

DECLARATION

I, Anu Yadav, a student of B.A. (H) English of K.R. Mangalam University, Gurugram would like to declare that the dissertation entitled "Pride and Prejudice: A Social Critique of 19th Century England" submitted by me in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Arts in English (Honours) is my original work.

Anu

Anu Yadav

Roll No.:2008180006

B.A. (H) English

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INTRODUCTION

During the 19th century Britain was transformed by the industrial revolution. In 1801, at the time of the first census, only about 20% of the population lived in towns. By 1851 the figure had risen to over 50%. By 1881 about two thirds of the population lived in towns. Furthermore in 1801 the majority of the population still worked in agriculture or related industries. Most goods were made by hand and very many craftsmen worked on their own with perhaps a laborer and an apprentice. By the late 19th century factories were common and most goods were made by machine.

Jane Austen's brief life and writing career overlapped with one of the most transformative eras in British history, marked by revolution abroad and unrest at home. The signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, the year after Austen's birth, signaled the start of the American Revolution, followed in the next decade by the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789. For the next two decades, Britain was engaged almost without cease in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars of 1793–1815, one of the most significant conflicts in British history.

Among the effects of England's foreign wars during this period were great financial instability and monetary volatility. The precariousness of the late eighteenth-century was followed in the 1810s and 1820s by what is known as the Regency period. The Regency officially began in 1811, when King George III went permanently insane and his son George, Prince of Wales, was sanctioned to rule England in his place as Regent. The political Regency lasted until 1820, when George IV was crowned. However, the Regency period has also come to refer more generally to the early decades of the nineteenth century before the start of Victoria's reign in 1837, during which the Prince Regent provided a great deal of support for the development of the arts and sciences that flourished during this period.

Austen would have witnessed, moreover, the beginning of industrialization in England, though the growth of the factory system would not reach its peak until

the middle of the nineteenth century. Outside of the genteel world we see in *Pride and Prejudice*, a third of the country's population lived on the verge of starvation, spurring food riots across the countryside. This unrest was compounded by Luddite protestors who attacked new industrial machinery (a practice called "machine breaking") in demonstrations that were a precursor to labor strikes. As these demonstrations spread fear of a revolution in England, the government responded with repressive measures that sharply curtailed freedom of speech.

Pride and Prejudice novel by Jane Austen is a romance novel. It has described clearly the condition of English social life in early 19th century such as social class and marriage. It was originally titled *First Impression* because the appearances of the characters of the characters created the plot of the novel. However, the novel is also concerned with the effects of the character's first impression, which is their prejudice; Austen finally found the title *Pride and Prejudice* more appropriate. *Pride and Prejudice* was far more fortunate than its earlier incarnation and it was published to the world on January 28, 1813. This novel belongs to Romantic Period between 1800- 1850, which is signed with France Revolution.

There is some of literature review related to *Pride and Prejudice* can be divided into two categories, namely movie and novel by Jane Austen. The researcher of movie is Sofia Fitrianingsih, Dimas Nur Baladi, and VionaEvyRachmawaty. The researcher of novel is VimaSetiyawati and AyuFauziahSofy Citra Anggista. The last researcher Axioma Dany Imamasari, is about comparison between novel and movie *Pride and Prejudice*. But the researcher in here tries to analyze this novel again but in different theory. The researcher want to analyze social stratification using sociological approach.

This research paper concerning about social stratification. Social stratification is a distinction or grouping of members of the community as a vertical (rise). According to Pitirim A. Sorokin (2005:60) social stratification is a difference in the population / society into layers in stratified class (hierarchical). Pitirim A. Sorokin

in his essay entitled "Social Stratification" said the coating system in the community is a common characteristic of a fixed and regular life in society. Meanwhile, according to Max Weber (Harold. R. Kerbo, 2006:229), social stratification is the classification of people who belong to a particular social system into hierarchical layers according to the dimensions of power, privilege and prestige. But, according to Astried S. Susanto (1983: 98) social stratification is the result of human relationships habits regularly and structured so that every person, every moment has to do with the situation that determines the vertically or horizontally in the community.

Talking about social stratification, it can't be separated from sociology. Sociology of literature is basically aimed to analyze literature work in terms of the author's social status, the availability of markets, the stipulation of type's publication, and the structure of the leaders (Laurensen and Swingewood, 1972:14). According to Wellek and Warren (1977: 94), literature reserve about life and life, in most part, is part of the real society. A literary work exists because of society; the existence of literary work is influenced by the condition and phenomenon in society either in social, economy, politic, science and technology, culture, and religious aspect. According to Laurensen and Swingewood (1972: 13), there are three types of sociology of literature: literary work as the social documents, literary work as reflection of social situation of the writer, literary works as the manifestation from the historical moment. ((Aschkenes, n.d.)

Review of Literature

The study of *Pride and Prejudice* has ever been conducted by Sofia Fitrianingsih, entitled "Rebellion Against Conventional Norms in Joe Wright's *Pride and Prejudice* Movie: A Sociological Approach". This research viewed through this movie, Wright wants to criticize the condition of society at that time. People consider that money is everything because it influences the position of the people in society. The upper class will marry only with the same class status, so the lower

class cannot move to the upper class. But in this movie, Joe Wright wants to show that marriage should not be driven by thoughts of money.

The researcher was Axioma Dany Imamasari in her study entitled "A Comparison between Novel and Movie Version of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*: A Structural Approach". This research viewed that the reason why production house uses novel as a source of movie based on the market's demand, it is because people will be more curious and fascinated by the product of literary for some reason: they have read the novel and want to know the novel visually by watching the movie version.

The researcher is Dimas Nur Baladi in his study entitled "Material Oriented Marriage in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*: A Sociological Approach". In his research viewed that the correlation between novel and social reality which have the background of making the novel. The social reality includes the social aspect, economic, politic, cultural, religion and science and technology. They are reflected in structural element of the novel such as character and characterization, setting of time and setting of place, plot, style and theme. Besides reflect the social reality, through her work the author also tries to convey opinion and critics toward social reality that has happened.

Żaneta Przybylska in her research article entitled "Jane Austen's novel as an example of a depiction of English society in the long nineteenth century" talks about the Jane Austen's life and the general division of the social classes in England in the nineteenth century. Its main concern is the social situation in England during that time.

Ajda Güney in her research article entitled "The Nineteenth Century Literature and Feminist Motives in Jane Austen's Novels" talks about the common theme in all Austen's works includes the marriages of young women and the general social class structure of England in the 19th Century.

Objectives

- To reflect on the social class in 19th Century England.
- To understand the condition of Women in 19th Century in England.

Methodology

My Research project explores 19th Century Social class in Jane Austen "Pride and Prejudice". The Qualitative Method of analysis has been used along with textual approach and content analysis to serve the purpose of research.

Chapter- 1

Biography of Jane Austen

Jane Austen was born on 16 December 1775 in the rectory of Steventon, where her father was a vicar, a distinguished classical scholar. Jane's mother was a keen gardener, mother of eight children and proud of her aristocratic relations and heritage. Jane was the sixth child, her only sister Cassandra, named after her mother, was two years older than Jane. The second son was fostered out to a family in a neighboring village because he suffered fits. The boys received a classical education while the girls were schooled in household management. In 1784 both sisters went to Abbey School at Reading for two years. Before the age of sixteen Jane had filled three notebooks with stories, poems and plays. By 1796

she had completed *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Northanger Abbey*. In 1801 the family moved to Bath where the sisters were not happy. Jane is said to have fallen in love with a man whose sudden subsequent death dealt her a blow from which she never fully recovered. Her sister Cassie told her niece Anna whose daughter recollected the story; Speculation has ranged from the suggestion that he was a clergyman, to that he was Captain John Wordsworth, brother of the Lakeland poet, who drowned at sea.) With her father's death in 1805 financial worries became a constant problem. The sisters and their mother moved with their brother Frank to Southampton and later to Chawton where Jane devoted herself to writing. To all outward appearances she seemed no more than just another refined spinster gentlewoman; she dressed in the style of an older woman, generally wearing a cap, symbol of middle-age. She spent her time in the kitchen garden and at her embroidery, a routine only broken by visits from relatives, nieces and nephews, to whom Jane was an amusing, interesting and animated speaker. In 1811 she published her first book *Sense and Sensibility*, followed by *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) and *Mansfield Park* (1814). Her health deteriorated and she began to suffer from fatigue (Addison's Disease). She died in 1817 at 41 years of age.

Jane Austen made her own restricted social world the centre of her writing. Her novels have a unique and subtle charm, with an unprecedented mixture of sharpness, fun, wit and wisdom. Critics have accused Jane Austen of being peculiarly oblivious to the great events occupying the world stage in her lifetime. Jane Austen's view of the world and of human nature was rooted in the 18th century. In Britain the 18th century turned its back on the excesses of the previous century that had led to civil war. Order and the management of life -both social and individual- according to the dictates of reason rather than emotion was considered necessary to hold in check Man's violent, corrupt and fundamentally volatile nature.

Using the material she had at first hand, Jane Austen fashioned her art. Almost all her action reported in dialogue, that is conversation. When anything dramatic upsets the order and calm lives of her characters, elopements, duels, death, it

occurs off-stage, belonging to a realm beyond her experience. Jane Austen prized accuracy of detail and what she called credibility. Such qualities give her novels great realism, the feeling that you have seen the places she describes and known her characters personally. She depicted the domestic life of the Regency period with photographic realism. She can be considered a modern novelist because she concentrated on human beings and their mutual reactions. Austen's novels are far from being openly didactic, but they have a moral purpose that cannot be overlooked, even if her subject-matter is in a sense trivial (a young woman's finding a husband). It was from the 18C novelists that Austen derived her conception of the novel. She owed much to Richardson and Fielding; her novels represent a feminization of Fielding's. She relied more on dialogue and, as with Fielding; the comment is not direct but implicit in the turn of the sentence. Both are examples of the moralist as satirist. She owes much of her elegant prose, simple and witty, occasionally stiff, to Addison and Steele. She has a special gift for dialogue, especially comic dialogue.

Novel writing in Jane Austen's day was considered by some to be trivial and unimportant. Jane was determined that the novel should be taken seriously as other literary forms. "The novel is a work in which the greatest powers of the mind are displayed... the most thorough knowledge of human nature, the happiest delineation of its varieties, the liveliest effusions of wit and humour are conveyed in the best chosen language". Austen finally saw her work published and achieved recognition. Even the Prince Regent admired her work and kept a set of her books in each of his royal houses. In addition to her powers of observation, description and characterization, Jane Austen was a moralist, believing firmly in a moral code by which to judge human conduct. It was a code based on honesty tempered by realism, "right" decision and "good sense". In each of the novels the heroine only gains her heart's desire after learning -sometimes painfully- self-knowledge. What prevents this knowledge is often delusion -not seeing people as they really are - and the reasons for this are inexperience, inadequate knowledge and superficiality. Only experience and long association will reveal a person's true nature. The subtlety and intimacy of female relationships is one of the mainsprings of her art. She depicts men solely in relation to women -negotiating the pitfalls of the drawing room rather than the battlefield. Works: *Sense and*

Sensibility (1811), Pride and Prejudice (1813), Mansfield Park (1814), Emma (1816), Northanger Abbey (1818), Persuasion (1818). In her first novels, Sense and Sensibility, and Northanger Abbey, the source of her comedy -the conflict between illusion and reality- is essentially the confusion in an immature mind between literature and life.

Thence she proceeds in her later novels to dissection and exposure of the more normal follies and illusions of mankind. Mansfield, Emma and Persuasion were written after an interval of more than ten years and her mind grew graver; it is as if she could find folly, self-deception, irresponsibility, silliness and the individual lack of knowledge of himself or herself, no longer merely funny; they became contemptible, even hateful to her.(Austen, n.d.)

Jane Austen`s Writing Style

Jane Austen was born in 1775 in Parsonage House of Steventon in Hampshire, which was the family residence for about thirty years. As the seventh child of George and Cassandra Austen, Jane became one of the most famous writers at the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Austen bridged the gap between both of these centuries, but on the other hand, she could be assigned to no group because she was considered as a unique writer. As Burgess said, Jane Austen`s novels were full of freshness and humor. What is more, he described her as the first important woman novelist because, as a young writer, she wanted to present the readers a small and still mysterious part of English society. Her main aim was to clarify the ordinary human life, especially these parts which were connected with the social mobility and social conventions.

Another characteristic feature of Austen`s writing was omission, or even disregard for the political events. The Napoleon`s history, or the wars led by England in the nineteenth century were not one of the main factors which determined Austen`s creativity. That is why, her plots were mostly straightforward, and did not outline

more difficult issues than marriage, social life, and love affairs. Furthermore, by creation of the specific types of characters Austen acquaints the readers with the different social groups of England.

It is important to notice what kinds of dialogs were used by Jane Austen. Usually they were funny and tricky with a whit of moral issues, or advice. Mroczkowski said that Austen, as a modest and provincial writer, had uncommon abilities to use satirical and comic language in her novels. Her dialogs often included the moments of choice between that what people should do, and that what they really wanted to choose. According to Burgess, Jane Austen's dialogs were admirably true to life.

In the Norton Anthology of Literature by Women the author noticed that Jane Austen began to define herself as a writer who criticized the overvaluation of love, the uneducated women, and so called marriage market. Austen also depicted rivalry among women for approval and social acceptance. That is how Austen presented women as a dependant only on men, their wishes and good will ((Przybylska, 2015)

Historical and Social Background in Jane Austen's Novels

Jane Austen was not interested in historical events. Austen totally skipped the political issues of the eighteenth and the nineteenth century, wars and political events did not impact the plots of her novels. She was focused only on the social issues, and on a female position in the society. The author very clearly distinguishes the differences between male and female role in the society.

Eighteenth-century England was still a country divided into small villages. Before the industrial revolution country life was and the main source of writers' interests. According to Burgess, a new kind of literature should seem more natural. Burgess

also said that Romanticism in English literature started with the publication of *The Lyrical Ballads* written by William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge. These two poets are considered as founders of the Romantic Movement.

William Wordsworth laid down very important rules for Romantic writing, which should use common language. That kind of language was an ordinary language of people. Moreover, writers should pay more attention to rural characters. William Wordsworth was totally against the poetic diction. Austen followed these rules and rejected the ideas of Samuel Taylor Coleridge who returned in his poetry to the mysterious and magical elements.

Austen could identify with other Romantic writers like Byron, who was a scoffer of his country's conventions and laws. He used a lot of satire and social criticism in his poems. Another writer, Percy Bysshe Shelley, rebelled against existing laws, religion and common customs. What is more, he was an opponent of an existing marriage law and, as Burgess called him, the advocate of universal love. That kind of writing had to influence Austen's writing style. She tried to adapt to the style of her epoch.

English urban society of that period was divided into four groups. The first group was the wealthy merchants, the second consisted of ordinary merchants and traders. The third class was skilled craftsmen. The last class, and the largest one, was workers without skills who could not be sure of their work and financial situation. The situation of the poorest class in England was better than in other countries because aristocrats had less power. David McDowall claims that for foreigners, the English law was an example of a perfect justice. What is more, it was strange for foreigners how easy it was to move up or down the social ladder.

The most important duties for the rich men were hunting and improving their estates, while female lifestyle was more boring and depressing. The biggest and the most desirable entertainment was visiting London during winter. London was

commonly known as the city of balls. In addition, London gave the best occasion to meet well-situated, rich, and lonely men. That is why many young girls dreamed about spending some time in London. On the other hand, London was also very important because of the possibility of making political connections which could raise one's social status.

English countryside changed more than the cities in the eighteenth century. Farming became more efficient because of the improvements in the agriculture. Greater landlords wanted to invest their money in lands. Farmers started to use new machinery and more effective methods of farming. In the eighteenth century the process of enclosing the lands started³. It was beneficial for agriculture, but unfortunately not for the English society. Sometimes the villagers had no idea about the land enclosure. In conclusion, the enclosure of the lands changed English countryside and contributed to the growth of landless class. Many people were forced to leave the countryside and to look for a job in the city.

As far as family life is considered, McDowall claims that people started to express their affections more openly. Furthermore, children were considered as a group with special needs, not as small adults like before. These of girls who led the lonely life were the worst.

Woman should be mentally and physically beautiful. Young girls should have undeniable and unique beauty. Of course girls' appearance improved their chances of finding a wealthy man. In the nineteenth century parents still decided about a suitable marriage. However, it also became common for children to get married against their family's wishes. It was not entirely strange for people to marry for love. Still, wives and husbands were not equal. A husband, as it was in the past, was considered a house master. Wives were still husband's properties.

In the nineteenth century it was still normal for an older man to take a younger woman for a wife. On the other hand, it was hard to imagine the wedding

between an older woman and a younger man. As noticed, such way of thinking was caused by the fact that the main function of a family was procreation.

It was possible for an older man to have children with a young woman. In addition, in most of the European countries the Napoleon's Codex was widely accepted. It changed the way of thinking about human's rights, but unfortunately not about women. According to this Codex, men had the legal superiority over women. What it more, they decided about family's finances and signed transactions. Without the husband's permission a woman could not decide about issues connected with the law, except when she was her husband's representative. Furthermore, after divorce ladies did not have the rights to ask their ex-husbands for maintenance, or for some financial support. Moreover, it was very common that women could not write their last wills, and thus they could not appoint their children foster-father.

Because of the law and tradition, a man was usually respected. The position of women in family depended on him. Fathers were responsible for the future of their children. They also chose future husbands for their daughters. The best type of wife was a humble and religious, lady: she also had to be obedient. It was very important to notice the different roles of the women. Their duties were dependant on their social positions. In aristocratic families a woman had to be a lady. She always had to be present when her husband welcomed the guests, or when they had a meal. What is more, wives should be able to conduct nice and intelligent conversations. Women from the townspeople state had more duties and were more important in the family life. That is why, they were more respected as well. Workers' families demanded from women to be more hard-working. In this class differences between men and women were the smallest. Women and men mostly had the same duties because it was common that they worked in the same place like a mine, or a factory. Moreover, in the workers family's women and men were both responsible for earning the money. In the countryside the position of women was a little better than the position of the women in the city.

They had to be hard-working as well, but they were more respected. In the countryside, women did not have that kind of training and education as girls from the aristocratic families. That is why, the relations between girls and boys were less strict than in the cities. What is more, the same author put an emphasis on marriage process. Marriage did not have a lot in common with love. It was more dependent on trade, or financial advantages. It was common that people from different classes should not mix with each other. If it happened, it was called "misalliance" and it was widely criticized. In the end of the nineteenth century this situation started to change. The main destination for women was to get married, and the main duty for every family was to have a child. Therefore, women who did not have husbands were not respected in the English society. What is more, they seemed to live with sense of their vital vain.

Austen wrote her books in accordance with general and social rules that were practiced during her childhood and adulthood. She tried to reflect the social conventions. The author very clearly depicted the male and female roles in the society. Social issues in the nineteenth century became one of the most important plots in the Austen's novels.

Chapter- 2

Introduction to 'Pride and Prejudice'

Mrs. Bennet has five daughters and a big problem: none of them are married, there isn't much fortune to go around, and—thanks to a quirk of English property law—they'll all be kicked out of their house when Mr. Bennet dies. Enter Mr. Bingley, a rich, single man who moves into their neighborhood and takes a liking to the eldest Miss Bennet, Jane.

But don't save the date quite yet: Mr. Bingley might be easygoing and pleasant, but his sisters are catty snobs and his controlling friend Mr. Darcy isn't about to let Mr. Bingley marry beneath him. When they all meet up at a local ball, Mr. Darcy

lets everyone around him know just how dumb and boring he finds the whole thing—including our new BFF and protagonist, the second Bennet daughter, Elizabeth.

It's clear to everyone that Mr. Bingley is falling in love with Jane, but Jane keeps her feelings on the down low, against the advice of Lizzy's good friend Charlotte Lucas. And, surprising no one, Mr. Darcy finds himself strangely attracted to Lizzy. The two get even more opportunities to snip at each other when Lizzy goes to Mr. Bingley's house to nurse her sister, who's gotten sick on a wet horseback ride over for dinner.

And now it's time to meet Bachelor: Mr. Collins. As Mr. Bennet's closest male relative, Mr. Collins will inherit the estate after Mr. Bennet's death. Mr. Collins has decided that the nice thing to do is to marry one of the Bennet girls in order to preserve their home. Unfortunately, he's a complete fool and Lizzy hates him on sight. Also unfortunately, he sets his sights on her.

As for the two youngest Bennet sisters, the militia has arrived in town and they're ready to throw themselves at any military officers who wander their way—like Mr. Wickham, who rapidly befriends Elizabeth and tells her a sob story about how Mr. Darcy totally ruined his life, which Elizabeth is happy to believe. Oh, and Mr. Collins' boss, Lady Catherine de Bourgh, just so happens to be Mr. Darcy's aunt. Small world!

Not too long after this, all the Bennet girls (including middle sister Mary, who's too wrapped up in books to notice boys) head to a ball at Nether field. It's kind of awful. Darcy, of all people, asks Elizabeth to dance, and Lizzy's entire family is unbearably embarrassing—like her mom loudly announcing that they all expect Bingley to marry Jane.

But it gets worse when Mr. Collins proposes the next morning. Elizabeth refuses, obviously, but holds your pity: Charlotte Lucas shows up to “help out,” by which we mean “get Collins to propose to her instead.” It works, which is good news for the 27-year-old Charlotte, who’s too poor and plain to expect anything better; but bad news for Elizabeth, who can’t believe that her friend would actually marry the guy—even when Charlotte explains that she’s really out of options, here.

And then more bad news arrives: Jane gets a letter from Miss Bingley basically breaking up with her on her brother’s behalf. Jane is super bummed, and she goes to stay with her aunt and uncle in London to get over it. Elizabeth travels too: she’s off to visit the newly married Charlotte, who seems to be holding up well. One problem: Mr. Darcy is on his way to visit his aunt, who’s also, you might remember, Mr. Collins’ boss.

Darcy almost acts like he’s glad to see Lizzy, and even comes to visit her at Charlotte’s house, but Lizzy is not having it: she learns from Mr. Darcy’s friend that Bingley was going to propose to Jane until Darcy intervened. And that’s exactly the moment Darcy chooses to propose. Can you guess how it goes?

Not well. During the proposal, mixed in with Darcy’s “I love you” are some “I am so superior to you” comments, which, not surprisingly, don’t go over so well. Elizabeth has some choice things to say to him, and the next day he hands her a letter with the full story about Wickham and Jane. Cue emotional transformation.

When Lizzy gets him, she finds that Lydia, the youngest of the Bennet girls, has been invited to follow the officers to their next station in Brighton. Elizabeth thinks this is a Very Bad Idea, but Mr. Bennet overrules her. Big mistake, as we’ll find out soon.

But first, it's time for Elizabeth to accompany her aunt and uncle on a trip to Derbyshire, which, incidentally, is where Mr. Darcy lives. Uh-oh! Oh, but he's out of town. Phew. They visit his estate (Pemberley) as tourists—you can do that kind of thing in England—and Lizzy is impressed. Darcy's housekeeper also has nothing but compliments for her master. Weird, right? It gets weirder when they run into Darcy whose home early, and he's actually polite and friendly.

This scandal could ruin the family, so Elizabeth's uncle and father try to track the renegade couple down. Elizabeth's uncle saves the day and brings the two young 'uns back as a properly married (and unapologetic) couple. When Lydia lets slip that Darcy was at her wedding, Elizabeth realizes that there's more to the story and writes to her aunt for more information.

Here's the full story: Darcy saved the Bennet family's honor. He tracked down the couple and paid off Wickham's massive debts in exchange for Wickham marrying Lydia. Why would he possibly do that? Well, we have some ideas—but we don't get to find out right away. First, Bingley comes back and finally proposes to Jane. And then, Lady Catherine visits Long bourn to strong-arm Elizabeth into rejecting any proposal from Darcy, which obviously doesn't work.

When Lizzy and Darcy finally get some alone time on a walk, we get the moment we've all been waiting for: they clear up all their past misunderstandings, agree to get married, and then make out in the rain. (University, n.d.)

Introduction to 19th Century England

19th Century Trade Unions

In 1799 and 1800 the government passed laws called the Combination Acts, which made it illegal for men to combine to demand higher wages. The Combination

Acts were repealed in 1824 but it was still doubtful if trade unions were legal. It was not until 1871 that trade unions were definitely made legal. In 1875 the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act made peaceful picketing legal. In the 1850s and 1860s skilled workers formed moderate trade unions called New Model Unions. In return for subscriptions members were given sickness and unemployment benefits. However the New Model Unions were keen to be seen as 'respectable' and tried to negotiate rather than strike. The TUC was founded in 1868.

In the late 19th century unskilled workers began to form powerful trade unions. In 1888 a woman named Annie Besant managed to organize a strike among the girls who worked making matches for Bryant and May. The girls were very poorly paid and they suffered from an illness called 'phossy jaw' caused by working with phosphorous. The strike was successful and the employers were forced to raise their pay. In 1889 the match girls formed a trade union. In March 1889 the Gas Workers and General Labourers Union were formed. Then on 14 August 1889 the Great London Dock strike was held. It lasted 5 weeks and was a great success. The Dockers demanded a minimum wage of 6 pence an hour. Also in 1889 a Seaman's Union and the General Railway Workers Union were formed.

19th Century Housing

In the early 19th century much working class housing was appalling. It was overcrowded and unsanitary. Of course, poor people's housing had always been bad. However things grew much worse when vast numbers of people lived together in a small area. Towns had been dirty and unsanitary for centuries. In the 18th century in many towns bodies of men called Paving Commissioners or Improvement Commissioners were formed with powers to pave, clean and light the streets. However in those days England was divided into parishes and the commissioners only had powers in certain parishes. However in the 19th century towns spread to new parishes. Huge numbers of houses were built where previously there had only been fields and small villages. The commissioners had

no powers in these new 'suburbs'. In them streets were often unpaved and unlit. There were no drains and when it rained streets turned to mud. People threw dirty water in the streets and stagnant pools formed. Furthermore toilets were often shared by several houses and queues formed on Sunday mornings.

In the early 19th century in most towns there were no building regulations. Builders simply built as they pleased. Usually they tried to cram as many houses as possible onto every piece of land. Many houses were 'back-to-backs'. These houses were literally back to back. The back of one house joined the back of another. They usually consisted of two or three rooms. Worst of all were cellar dwellings. In cities like Liverpool families lived in cellars, which were damp and poorly ventilated as well as crowded. Very poor people slept on straw because they could not afford beds. Skilled workers lived in 'through' houses, so called because you could walk through them from front to back. However in the 1840s town councils began to take action. Cellar dwellings were banned and new back-to-backs could not be built. It was impossible to demolish and replace existing back-to-backs all at once. It took decades and some people were still living in them in the 20th century.

In the early 19th century toilets were usually cesspits, which were infrequently emptied and sometimes overflowed. Or urine might seep through the ground into wells from which people drew drinking water. Given these disgusting conditions it is not surprising there were outbreaks of cholera in many towns in 1831-32, 1848-49, 1854 and 1865-66. In 1848 a Public Health Act was passed. The act made it compulsory to form local Boards of Health in towns if the annual death rate exceeded 23 per 1,000 or if 10% of the population wanted it. Local Boards of Health could demand that all new houses have drains and lavatories. They could also organize a water supply, street cleaning and refuse collection.

In 1875 a Public Health Act strengthened previous acts. All local authorities were forced to appoint Medical Officers of Health who could prosecute people who sold food or drink unfit for human consumption. The councils were also required

to provide refuse collection. Town councils also began to provide public parks and most passed by-laws, which laid down minimum standards for new houses. Furthermore in the 1860s and 1870s sewers were dug in most large towns. In the 1870s water supplies were created in most towns. As a result of these measures towns were much healthier and cleaner by the end of the 19th century than at the beginning.

In 1875 the Artisan's Dwellings Act was passed which gave councils the power to demolish slums but large scale slum clearance did not begin till the 20th century. Furthermore in the second half of the 19th century living standards rose. Gradually houses grew larger. In the late 19th century 'two-up, two-downs' were common. Many skilled workers lived in houses with three bedrooms. However even at the end of the 19th century there were some poor families still living in just one room?

The Poor Law In the 19th Century

In 1792 well-meaning magistrates met at Speenhamland in Berkshire and devised a system for helping the poor. Low wages were supplemented with money raised by a poor rate. Many areas of England adopted the system but it proved very expensive and the government decided to change things. In 1834 they passed the Poor Law Amendment Act. In future the poor were to be treated as harshly as possible to dissuade them from seeking help from the state. In future able bodied people with no income were to be forced to enter a workhouse.

For the unfortunate people made to enter workhouses life was made as unpleasant as possible. Married couples were separated and children over 7 were separated from their parents. The inmates were made to do hard work like breaking stones to make roads or breaking bones to make fertilizer. The poor called the new workhouses 'bastilles' and they caused much bitterness. However as the century went on the workhouses gradually became more humane.

Living Standards in the 19th Century

At first the industrial revolution did cause much suffering to some people. However in the end it made a much higher standard of living possible for ordinary people. In the 18th century when goods were made by hand they were scarce and therefore expensive. Machines meant that goods could be mass produced and so they became much cheaper.

It is true that in the early 19th century many people worked very long hours and they lived in appalling conditions in overcrowded towns. However by the late 19th century housing for most people was better than in the 18th century. People were also better fed. Inventions like trains and steamships made it possible to import cheap food from abroad, wheat from North America and meat from Australia and New Zealand. For thousands of years bread was the staple diet of ordinary people. The poor lived mainly on bread. By the end of the century bread was ceasing to be the 'staff of life' and most people were eating a varied diet. Furthermore a host of inventions made life more comfortable and convenient. Railways made travel much faster. Waterproof clothing also made life more comfortable. So did anesthetics. Furthermore today we take street lighting for granted but in the 19th century gas street lights made going out at night much easier and safer.

We also take photography for granted but people in the 19th century thought it was wonderful. For the first time ordinary people could have pictures of their loved ones to remember them by if they lived far away. It is true that poverty was common in the 19th century but things had always been that way. A large part of the population lived at subsistence level – or below it but that was nothing new.

The Decline of Britain In the Late 19th Century

In the middle of the 19th century Britain was the richest and most powerful nation in the world. However in the late 19th century Britain's power declined. It was inevitable. Britain was the first country to industrialize. She therefore had a head start over other nations. However the other countries began to catch up. France, Germany and the USA industrialized. By the end of the 19th century Russia, Sweden, (North) Italy and Japan were also industrializing. As a result Britain became relatively less important.

British Foreign Policy in the 19th Century

The 19th century was a relatively peaceful era for Britain. After the defeat of Napoleon in 1815 Britain only fought against another European power once, in the Crimean War against Russia (1853-1856). Other wars were colonial wars involving small numbers of soldiers. During the 19th century Britain built up a great overseas empire including South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. In 1857-58 they crushed the uprising called the Indian Mutiny and in 1877 Queen Victoria was made Empress of India.

Meanwhile in 1819 Sir Stafford Raffles founded Singapore. Britain also took Burma in stages during the 19th century. In the late 19th century Britain took large swathes of Africa. Nevertheless by the end of the 19th century it was obvious that Britain was no longer as powerful as she had once been and needed allies in Europe.

Gender roles in 19th Century

During the Victorian period men and women's roles became more sharply defined than at any time in history. In earlier centuries it had been usual for women to work alongside husbands and brothers in the family business. Living 'over the shop' made it easy for women to help out by serving customers or keeping

accounts while also attending to their domestic duties. As the 19th century progressed men increasingly commuted to their place of work – the factory, shop or office. Wives, daughters and sisters were left at home all day to oversee the domestic duties that were increasingly carried out by servants. From the 1830s, women started to adopt the crinoline, a huge bell-shaped skirt that made it virtually impossible to clean a great or sweep the stairs without tumbling over.

'Separate spheres'

The two sexes now inhabited what Victorians thought of as 'separate spheres', only coming together at breakfast and again at dinner.

The Ideology of Separate Spheres rested on a definition of the 'natural' characteristics of women and men. Women were considered physically weaker yet morally superior to men, which meant that they were best suited to the domestic sphere. Not only was it their job to counterbalance the moral taint of the public sphere in which their husbands laboured all day, they were also preparing the next generation to carry on this way of life. The fact that women had such great influence at home was used as an argument against giving them the vote.

Educating women

Women did, though, require a new kind of education to prepare them for this role of 'Angel in the House'. Rather than attracting a husband through their domestic abilities, middle-class girls were coached in what were known as 'accomplishments'. These would be learned either at boarding school or from a resident governess. In Jane Austen's *Pride & Prejudice* the snobbish Caroline Bingley lists the skills required by any young lady who considers herself accomplished:

A woman must have a thorough knowledge of music, singing, drawing, dancing, and the modern languages ...; and besides all this, she must possess a certain something in her air and manner of walking, the tone of her voice, her address and expressions ...

As Miss Bingley emphasizes, it was important for a well-educated girl to soften her erudition with a graceful and feminine manner. No-one wanted to be called a

'blue-stocking', the name given to women who had devoted themselves too enthusiastically to intellectual pursuits. Blue-stockings were considered unfeminine and off-putting in the way that they attempted to usurp men's 'natural' intellectual superiority. Some doctors reported that too much study actually had a damaging effect on the ovaries, turning attractive young women into dried-up prunes. Later in the century, when Oxford and Cambridge opened their doors to women, many families refused to let their clever daughters attend for fear that they would make themselves unmarriageable.

Marriage and sexuality

At the same time, a young girl was not expected to focus too obviously on finding a husband. Being 'forward' in the company of men suggested a worrying sexual appetite. Women were assumed to desire marriage because it allowed them to become mothers rather than to pursue sexual or emotional satisfaction. One doctor, William Acton, famously declared that 'The majority of women (happily for them) are not very much troubled with sexual feeling of any kind'.

Girls usually married in their early to mid-20s. Typically, the groom would be five years older. Not only did this reinforce the 'natural' hierarchy between the sexes, but it also made sound financial sense. A young man needed to be able to show that he earned enough money to support a wife and any future children before the girl's father would give his permission. Some unfortunate couples were obliged to endure an engagement lasting decades before they could afford to marry.

If a young man was particularly pious he might manage to stay chaste until he married. Many respectable young men, however, resorted to using prostitutes. All the major cities had red light districts where it was easy to find a woman whom you could pay for sex. Out-of-towners could consult such volumes as Roger Funnyman's *The Swell's Night Guide through the Metropolis*. Unfortunately

syphilis and other sexual diseases were rife, and many young men unwittingly passed on the infection to their wives. For those unlucky enough to develop full-blown tertiary syphilis, the result was a painful and lingering death, usually in the mid-40s.

Young and not-so-young women had no choice but to stay chaste until marriage. They were not even allowed to speak to men unless there was a married woman present as a chaperone. Higher education or professional work was also out of the question. These emotional frustrations could lead to all sorts of covert rebellion. Young Florence Nightingale longed to be able to do something useful in the world, but was expected to stay with her mother and sister, helping supervise the servants. She suffered from hysterical outbursts as a teenager, and could not bear to eat with the rest of the family. Elizabeth Barrett, meanwhile, used illness as an excuse to retreat to a room at the top of her father's house and write poetry. In 1847 Charlotte Brontë put strong feelings about women's limited role into the mouth of her heroine Jane Eyre:

Women are supposed to be very calm generally: but women feel just as men feel; they need exercise for their faculties and a field for their efforts as much as their brothers do; they suffer from too rigid a restraint, too absolute a stagnation, precisely as men would suffer; and it is narrow-minded in their more privileged fellow-creatures to say that they ought to confine themselves to making puddings and knitting stockings, to playing on the piano and embroidering bags.

This passage was considered so shocking that conservative commentators such as Lady (Elizabeth) Eastlake in a famously scathing review of *Jane Eyre* likened its tone to Chartism, the popular labor movement that advocated universal suffrage.

In her review – which also covered William Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* – Lady Eastlake took a strong dislike to the sexual ambition of Jane Eyre and Becky Sharp, both of whom end up marrying into the households by which they are employed. The figure of the governess was unsettling, especially in literature, because it drew attention to the fact that not all Victorian women were as sexless as Dr Acton had suggested.

Prostitution

The prostitute was the shadow that haunted the well-run middle-class home. She serviced the needs of the men of the house, not just before marriage but sometimes during it too. Just like the men she slept with, but unlike their wives, the prostitute was a worker in the economic market place, exchanging services for cash. Doctors such as Acton were extremely worried by the 'problem' the prostitute presented, in particular the way she spread sexual disease amongst the male population. For this reason Contagious Diseases Act were instituted from 1860 which allowed, in certain towns, for the forced medical examination of any woman who was suspected of being a sex worker. If she was found to be infected she was placed in a 'Lock Hospital' until she was cured. A reform movement led by Josephine Butler vigorously campaigned for a repeal of the acts, arguing that it was male clients, as much as the prostitutes, who were responsible for the 'problems' associated with prostitution.

Many charities were instituted to help reform prostitutes. Charles Dickens even collaborated with the philanthropist Angela Burdett-Coutts to set up a 'Magdalen House' which would prepare girls for a new life in Australia. Despite these efforts, prostitution continued to flourish for as long as there were bachelors who were prevented by economy from marrying until their late 20s, and working-class women who desperately needed to make money to raise their own children. ((hughes, 2014)

Elements of 19th Century Society in Pride and Prejudice

Social Aspect

The social class in England in the nineteenth century is influenced by the industrial revolution. As Perkin (1969) has observed, "the Industrial Revolution was no mere sequence of changes in industrial techniques and production, but a social revolution with social causes as well as profound social effects". The impact of industrial revolution had a great influence especially in forming of the structure of the society (McKay, Hill and Buckler, 1983: 780). In the nineteenth century, the structure of the society consists of three major classes in England. They are upper class, middle class, and lower class (working class). But Jane Austen in *Pride and*

Prejudice only reflects two structure of the society, the upper class and middle class.

In *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen shows that Darcy family belongs to the upper class. It can be seen from their estate, snobbish life style. They stay at the large estate and they have company. The income also identifies the social status of someone. The higher someone's income the higher social status she or he gets in society. The income identifies Darcy's social status. Fitzwilliam Darcy is annual income is ten thousand pounds.

Another character belonging to the upper class is Bingley family. Mr. Bingley is Darcy's closest friend. He always holds the dancing party. He is categorized based on his wealthy. His wealthy got from inheritances property to the amount from his father. As a part of Bingley family, she thinks that wearing an elegant gown in every party at ball so important to determine her social status. She feels that it shows one's pride and position in society.

Lady Catherine de Bourgh family also represents the upper class. She is Darcy's aunt. Like the other upper class family, they dwell at the elite estate, which is known Rosings park. It is a beautiful modern building house at England.

From the analysis above, Jane Austen wants to portray that the upper class usually stay in the luxurious and elite estate. It is also completed with a beautiful park in front of the house as a symbol of their social status.

The middle classes are represented by Bennet's family and William Collins. It is categorized based on their income and their profession. Bennet's family consists of Mr. Bennet and Mrs. Bennet and their five unmarried daughters. They live in Long bourn, the small town in England. Bennet's income is two thousands a year.

William Collins is a Clergyman. During Austen's time, clergyman in the Church of England increasingly came from the middle class. The occupation was viewed as a learned and prestigious profession and providing a moderate income. Actually, the lifestyle of the middle class is almost the same as the upper class. They like to go to important places where many people are gathering such as attending the dancing parties.

Jane Austen also draws the class distinction which is in fact very rigid at her time. The upper class also shows their identity to the society. They do not want to be

similar with the other class. Their performances are elegant and luxurious. They like to have the distinction of rank preserved.

There are distinctions among the landed classes that are determined by the amount of wealth possessed by the members. In this novel, for instance Miss Bingley and her sister underestimate Bennet's family because they are not wealthy compared to them. This situation is shown when Miss Elizabeth visited her old sister in Nether field.

Economic Aspect

In the sixties and early seventies of last century, the British economy was one of the fastest growing in the world. Condition was unusually favorable at that time in all of its great departments, in agriculture, industry, transport and foreign trade, for an exceptionally wide and rapid advance in output and incomes (Court, 1965: 3). The new industrialist and traders were gradually rising as class, but had still not won the right vote. Jane Austen creates the character of Mr. Gardiner to reflect that. He is in business and he is not considered a gentleman by the social elite although he has every personal quality associated with gentility.

Through *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen presents this phenomenon in to surface by drawing economic setting that is mostly filled by professions dealing with agricultures. She wants to despite the British economic condition before the booming of industrialization in nineteenth century. She attaches the characters in this novel with professions. For instance, Mr. Bennet represents the farmers who cultivate his field.

Political Aspect

Two political parties dominated English politics in the early 19th century –the Whigs and the Tories. The Whigs and Tories were loose groupings rather than tightly disciplined modern parties. Both parties' names were originally seventeenth century terms of abuse associated with their supposed religious and rival loyalties.

In *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen does not draw any political condition that seems to affect the story since the setting, characters, or theme is merely about

life society in that time. There are no political acts or regulations issued by the government during nineteenth century that influence the flow of the story. Neither domestic nor foreign political policies which influence any events in the story can be found. She also does not portray any role of society in political process or the role of society in decision making and public policy.

Science and Technology

In science, the nineteenth century was great period of specialization, as witness the formation of the separate scientific societies to supplement the older general academies such as the Royal Society. The technical developments of the nineteenth century brought about a complete transformation of the manner of life of hundreds of millions of people in countries dominated by industrial production and mechanized agriculture, and notably affected the conditions of all the remaining population of the world. Nevertheless, it is principally in quantity that the technical transformation of the nineteenth century was remarkable, in quality it was much less so.

In *Pride and Prejudice* the development of science and technology reflected in this novel. There are many tools as the results of the industrialization shown in the story, such as newspaper, bell and letter. Newspaper, as one of printed material or information really helps people to get some information.

This novel also uses interesting letter. Letters are built into the novel in a quite fascinating way. It is used for a long distance communication. In *Pride and Prejudice* letters are mostly used to make information available and letters are used to inform about circumstances the Jane when she was sick in the Nether field to her young sister, Elizabeth.

Industrialization also improved transportation system so it makes people to go some places easier. Jane Austen wants to give strong emphasis on traditional values in his novel. The most popular transportation in that time is carriage and coach. Most of the people have them to go some places. Traveling in that time was accomplished in horse drawn carriages and coach. This is proven by Jane, when she asked Mrs. Bennet to permit her to use carriage to come at Caroline's dinner invitation at Nether field.

Conclusion

Firstly, based on the structural analysis of the novel it can be concluded that in *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen conveys a moral message that some people use marriage to lift up their social economic status. In other to delivers the moral message, Jane Austen create the major character and divide them into two categories namely, the upper class and lower class. She then write plot of the novel like that to make it impossible for the major character to get married in their different social classes.

Jane Austen wrote the structural elements of the novel in such a way that the structural elements are related to one another forming a unity. It can be concluded that in *Pride and Prejudice* Jane Austen reflects the social realities of the English society including social, economic, political, science and technology, cultural and religious aspect at late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. The dominant aspect including in the novel is the social aspect, especially social stratification and social relation. In this novel Jane Austen also criticize the society that tends to consider social class as this only issue. Related to the conclusion above, the writer suggests to the researcher to study the novel through other perspectives such as psychological, psychoanalytic, feminism, and Marxism.

Jane Austen is worth her fame. She created not only the romantic and tricky novels, but also a perfect social depiction of the English classes in the nineteenth century. The author tried to present in an easy and funny way the most important rules which decided about the social status. What is more, Jane Austen commented on the social situation, especially manners, origins, marriage market, behavior, and attitude of other people. In *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma* Austen very clearly depicted the lower and the upper-middle classes. The author tried to present every details of a village life. The nineteenth century countryside was the best example of a place where different social classes had to life together, but also compete with each other. Furthermore, Austen focused on artificial barriers which divided people. On the one hand, people believed in the necessity of social divisions, but on the other hand, sometimes money and good connections could not ensure people`s happiness. Moreover, Austen explained the social position of women, and their way of perceiving marriage.

Pride and Prejudice is very engaging read because it was able to portray a holistic perspective of England's society and culture during that era. Underneath the love stories are the personification of social aspects integral to the understanding of the dynamics of the social and moral fiber that holds England at the turn of the 19th century. The novel was effective enough as a literary portrayal of the English social structure and prevailing culture. What is more, it becomes very interesting because it is packaged in such an engaging love story that only upon reflection would the reader realize that it was able to view early 19th century England through the perspective of a woman.

The author tried to explain how important the role of education was. She also passed a lot of information about woman's life, her duties and possibilities, but on the other hand, she created a picture of a lonely and unhappy lady. Austen tried to present a huge distance between people from different classes, however, she explained that these boundaries cannot describe the real characters. As one of the best narrators and a critic of the social divisions as well, Jane Austen gave short, but clear picture of the social history of England. The best example of how Jane Austen's novels were popular is the number of films and books about Austen's biography or creativity.

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