



The Impact of Social Changes on Love and Marriage in Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice"

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Abstract

Jane Austen is a pioneer novelist in the history of art of fiction. She depicts in her novels the life of the people especially the middle class and their relationship with others. In her novel "Pride and Prejudice", she presents a very important thing in the life of people "love and marriage". She discusses the motives behind marriage and also she presents all the different kinds of marriages. She emphasizes the social changes happened in the societies in nineteenth century and their effect on marriage. Some of these changes are divided according to the behavior of the people and according to their wealth. Also Austen wants to say that in spite of the rules or the traditions of the society in that time the individuality of the people effect their choices, and each one from the upper or the middle class people has his own decisions in life.

ملخص البحث

جين اوسن روائية رائدة في تاريخ الفن الروائي. قد صورت في رواياتها حياة الناس و خاصة الطبقة الوسطى و علاقاتهم مع الاخرين. في روايتها (الفخر و الكبرياء) قدمت موضوعا مهما في حياة الناس و هو "الحب والزواج". ناقشت الدوافع التي تقود الشخص لاختيار الزوج وكذلك قدمت في روايتها كل انواع الزواج المختلفه. اكدت على ان التغيرات الاجتماعيه التي حدثت في ذلك الوقت و تأثيرها على الزواج. بعض هذه المتغيرات طبقا لسلوك الناس والبعض الاخر طبقا للتغير الناتج من الحصول على الثروة. لكن الروائية ارادت ان تقول ايضا بالرغم من العادات او القوانين في ذلك الوقت, خصوصية الناس تؤثر على اختياراتهم وكل شخص من الطبقة العليا او الوسطى له قراره في الحياة.

١. Introduction:

The remarkable thing in Pride and Prejudice is that Jane Austen reflects her understanding of the active involvement with ordinary people. Austen portrays the life of people perfectly. Pride and Prejudice is based on the concerns of the people in her time, such as, marriage, money and the social life. Love and marriage is the main concern in Pride and Prejudice therefore, it will be discussed from all aspects in order to reach the ideas that Austen wants to convey to the readers. Austen discusses this topic cleverly and shows how love and marriage are connected, and how they complete each other. She emphasizes marriage as the most important choice one can make in life. Therefore, Austen portrays the marriage in the Victorian Age, and shows the motives behind marriages. Two kinds of marriages are presented in this novel. First those based on materialistic motives, like money and emotional motives such as lust. Second those

based on fidelity. Austen also shows how manners, behaviors and looks of the social class affect the choice of marriage. She portrays the social changes in life that go together with the behaviors of human beings, to illustrate it is obvious in Darcy's behavior towards Elizabeth and the others as he considers and treats them as lower in status than his own. However, he changes his behavior after his falling in love with Elizabeth. In addition, when Elizabeth rejects Darcy's proposal at the beginning of the novel, it is because she thinks that Darcy tries to separate her sister from Bingley, and his injustice towards Wickham. However, when Darcy sends her a letter to explain and justify everything to her, Elizabeth changes her opinion and accepts his proposal at the end.

Austen portrays the social changes according to the wealth especially after the industrial revolution in England, and how does money affect the choices of the human's marriages. Finally, Austen wants to criticize, and evaluate the social life in her time and the most importantly make a balance between classes. Thus, she presents her characters in the novel from different classes.

٢. Austen's Realism and Social Manners;

Austen's realism and depiction of social manners made her one of greatest novelists in the English literature. She was not a romantic person, and that made her a realist. Her realism gave the novel a new art and style.

For the novelist to be realistic what is required is not only a sense of intuition but also a very minute and searching observation. And this Jane Austen has as her fort (Muhammed, ٢٠١٠).

Jane Austen is an excellent novelist. She depicted her characters, and events according to the real life. She observed her society very closely, and pictured it in her novels. The settings like gardens, parks, assembly rooms, drawing rooms and ballrooms. For the characters, they are shown through their conversation. Through the characters' conversations, the nature of the human being and emotions like, love, envy, pride, jealousy, vanity and hypocrisy had been skillfully depicted.

Austen's novels end up with couples who are happy married, but before this successful conclusion many intense actions and events are presented. Her novels reveal in the comings and goings of the upper class, and show no small disgust towards the bad and blunter habits of the middle class to which Jane Austen herself belonged. But Austen put her snobbish instincts to good practice, and she opened the way for a great writer, Jane Austen, and through her to a whole school of great women writers (Southman, ٢٠٠٥, p: ٣٢).



In *Pride and Prejudice*, Austen is very careful to give her readers precise characterizations of the manners of her most important characters very close to the first appearance in the novel. And perhaps one of her reasons for following this is her desire to make absolutely sure that her readers do not make erroneous assumption that unattractive characters like Miss. Bingley can ever had really will-bred manners. (Nardin, ١٩٧٣, p: ٤٩)

Jane Austen lived among ordinary people and herself was from the middle class even her father could not send her to educate because he did not have enough money to send his children to college except one of them. She got her education and her knowledge from her parent's library. At the beginning of her life, she wrote stories and novella for entertainment and even when she wrote her great novels, she did not care about money therefore she did not publish them in her lifetime. She was attending parties in her local and she was a good dancer, and the most important thing in her life that she had seen nothing of the world beyond Steventon, the town when she grew up but she could write witty worldly novels according to her real social life.

So from her possessions of the comic sense, the affinities with great masters like Richardson and Fielding, her detachment and fairness, her limited world, and her ant-romantic attitude, and all the good qualities of a good writer, the reader can see the true picture of the social classes especially the middle class of south England in the early nineteenth century.

Austen learns much from her predecessors but she learns from her own practice. She borrows the realism of Defoe and psychological grasp of Richardson and the comic aptitude of Fielding. (Sen, ٢٠٠٩, p: ٢٠)

٣. Marriage in the Victorian Age:

"The worst of all mockeries is a marriage without love : a yoking together, but not union; without a bound; a multiplication of the burdens of life for both parties, without a mutual life interest"

-Reynolds Miscellany, September (١٨٤٨)

Marriage is very important for both men and women. In the Victorian age, a man from an aristocratic class was allowed to marry a woman from a class similar to his or higher than his, but not all men are accepted to marry a



woman from a social status which is beneath his own therefore the man's conditions were still better than the woman's.

The women in the Victorian age had to get married to men of the same social class or higher one. Very few marriages were based on love, because women at that time were pushed by social and economic reasons to find a husband and get married, so a lot of them did not think about falling in love before getting married.

A woman had no right to use her own property, and even if she had a property, when she gets married, all her right would be legally transferred to her husband, even the woman became a property to her husband. Also the happiness of a woman's life depended on her making a good marriage, because if her husband was poor or a gambler or a drunkard, she and her children could suffer genuine privation. (Salami, ١٩٩٩, P: ٣٨٣)

It can be seen through the image of women's conditions in the Victorian age, the connection between slavery and marriage. The husband had the right to control everything in the house including his wife. However, if there were love between the husband and the wife, their life would be different, because love is the strongest foundation for marriage and the best way to ensure happiness.

٤. The Title of "Pride and Prejudice":

The title of "Pride and Prejudice" had taken from the moral drawn in Fanny Burney's Cecilia. At first, Jane Austen named her novel "First Impressions". The new title "Pride and Prejudice" is so appropriate. Austen is not a psychological novelist, but she tries to give a psychological study of the human emotions like pride and prejudice according to the social life in that time.

The new title represents the hero and the heroine of this novel, and both of them represent real characters from the social life. Darcy represents pride, while Elizabeth represents prejudice. The main story of the novel is about the misunderstandings and involvements created by their first impressions, and how these impressions are corrected at the end of the novel.

From the very beginning of the novel, Darcy appears to be "the proudest, most disagreeable man in the world". His family pride forces him to interfere in Jane and Bingley's love-affair, believing that Jane is not in love



with Bingley, and also tries to prevent his friend from making a bad alliance. Darcy's pride keeps him aloof, apart from society, full of self-love. But he finds himself more and more fascinated by Elizabeth. It is her intelligence, wit, charm and beauty that involve him in a relationship of love in spite of himself, but it is a long time before it can wash away the pride in him. (Sen, ٢٠٠٩, P: ١٠٨)

Elizabeth's prejudice starts from the very beginning of the novel too. When Darcy refuses Bingley's suggestion to dance with her, thinking her "tolerable" and not "handsome enough to tempt" him, Elizabeth feels humiliated by his remarks and immediately gets prejudice against him.

Her prejudice is deepened when she hears Wickham's story of how Darcy ill-treated him, and ruined his prospects. Elizabeth's prejudice intensified even more when Darcy ruins her sister's happiness, by separating her from Bingley.

All these charges push Elizabeth to reject Darcy's proposal of marriage at the beginning. He is shocked by her rejection, because he does not imagine that any women from the middle class will reject a suitor from the upper class. But his strong love for her leads him to write her a letter refuting all her charges against him.

Before the end of the play and from the moment, that Elizabeth reads the letter from Darcy, their pride and prejudice vanish, and they become aware of the truth and reality of their personalities. So the pride and prejudice of the hero and the heroine justify why Jane Austen gave her novel this title.

• The Social Changes in Pride and Prejudice:

"It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a life."

-(*Pride and Prejudice*, Ch. ١, P: ١)

Jane Austen starts her novel with this most-quoted sentence, and continues through her novel to assert this truth. This opening statement gives the reader a hint of what the novel will be about. It is also very bold sentence crafted in stark terms, considering several factors of contemporaneous society and literature. (McGurk, ٢٠١١).

In (١٨٠٣-١٨١٤) England and France were at war and that war took many men out of the society to the battlefield. Thus there was a shortage of men. So

when a single man appears in the countryside, it's a good news for all the single ladies, because marriage offers them the best cover against the treat of economic dependence and would save them from the little of a spinster.

The Bennet girls, Charlotte Lucas, Caroline Bingley, Miss. De Bourgh and Georgiana Darcy, all these single ladies belong to different social classes, but each one of them wishes to secure a marriage that would give her a financial security and the best social class. All of them except the elder Bennet daughters, Elizabeth and Jane, think about marriage but without keeping in mind the most important basis in marriage which is love.

In fact, both men and women are in need for good mate, and Jane Austen proved this in the first half of her novel through Charlotte and Mr. Collins's marriage. A man with a good fortune like Mr. Collins is pushed by the society to marry a suitable woman, while a woman who is financially weak is in need to marry a man who would provide a financial security and who would save her from spinsterhood. But in the second half of the novel this statement takes a whole new meaning, a meaning proved by the relationship between Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy.

Thus, Jane Austen ironically represents marriage in her society, and at the same time, she boldly suggests that even when a girl is at social and financial risk she should not marry a man with whom she is not in love.

The work of Jane Austen reflected the life itself; therefore, most of her characters had been taken from the real life. At the beginning of the novel, Austen presented all the characters according to their classes, but later there happened many changes. These changes played an important role in the developing the relationship between the characters, and led to a successful conclusion of the novel. According to the plot we can divided these changes into social behavior changes and wealthy changes.

Many social behavior changes took place in this novel. All these changes serve to develop the relationship among the characters in this novel. Firstly a version of Elizabeth and Darcy, Darcy was proud of his social position and Elizabeth encumbered by her unpreventable family. Each one dislikes the other at the beginning. Elizabeth is true to the candor of her mind in believing Darcy to be cold, haughty and vindictive, but later she discovers that she is mistaken and she changes her opinion about him (O'Neill, ١٩٩٤, P: ٣١).

Darcy does not really see that he has routinely displayed arrogant and distinctly un-gentlemanly behavior in his treatment, and dealings with Elizabeth or even with her family, and all the others woman he considers to be



inferior to him. This would be of course, including his bumbled marriage proposal in which he spends more time listing Elizabeth's shortcomings as the wife of a "gentleman" than he does telling her why he loves her--which he obviously does (Steinbach, ٢٠١٤).

When Darcy sends a letter to Elizabeth justifying everything to her, and that he would not separate between her sister and Bingley, nor he would treat Wickham unjustly, Elizabeth changes her opinion and she accepts to marry him at the end.

Secondly, Mr. Bennet is the head of the Bennet family. He is, as Austen describes him, "so odd a mixture of quick parts, sarcastic humor, reserve and caprice. He is a good perceptive judge of character. He is an irresponsible father. But he becomes aware of his irresponsibility after Lydia's elopement and he starts to take care of his family.

Thirdly, Mr. Collins is a clergyman but he does not care about his job. He is self-important, boring and is concerned with outward show. He is shown to the reader as a man of superficial feelings .Mr. Collins is insensitive and callous man who makes his proposal to Elizabeth without thinking about her feelings, and emotions, therefore Elizabeth rejects his proposal(Jeffers, ٢٠١٠, P: ١٥).

Fourthly, the Jane Bennet's relationship with Bingley, Jane Bennet is uncommonly beautiful, an earnest, modest, unselfish girl, who suffers uncomplainingly from the family private and public foolishness. Her serenity forces to believe that she is not in love with Bingley. Jane says, When Bingley left Netherfield he could not really have been in love with her. At the end, thanks to Elizabeth- Darcy affair, Jane gets back Bingley's love and they get married (Littlewoods, ١٩٩٩, P:٢٧٥).

In addition, we notice that the Bennet family does not seem like the appropriate kind of family for a man like Darcy and Bingley to marry into. In today's terms, Mrs. Bennet seems tacky and ill mannered, and Elizabeth's and Jane's sisters, such as Kitty and Lydia, flirt with soldiers in a most unrefined way. When Lydia runs off with Wickham without being married to him and without caring of her family, her act has the potential to bring shame to the entire Bennet family until Darcy arranges the marriage between Lydia and Wickham. Darcy is better suited to Caroline Bingley than to Elizabeth, as Caroline has money and has been raised to belong to upper class, but in the



end, Darcy marries Elizabeth for love. Bingley also marries Jane for romantic reasons (Jameadows, ٢٠١٦).

All the above changes play an important role on marriage in the novel, and to put the happy conclusion of the novel, serve Jane Austen to evaluate and criticize the society in her time, also to convey the reader that the relationship between man and woman must be ending by marriage, as she believed.

In the early nineteenth century, one of most concern subjects in the life of people is "money". Many people suffered from the financial problems especially the middle class people, and that is what Jane Austen herself suffered, because her father could not send all his sons and daughters to school except one because he had not enough money. In addition, the women in that time were looking for good marriages. If the husband was poor the wife and her children will suffer.

The realities of the middle class life are the central in *Pride and prejudice*. Many critics criticized Austen because; she focuses on materialism, and presents a lot of her characters deal with money. One of the first things we learn about her characters, for example, is how much income they have. Her critics considered it bad taste to talk about money, either one's own or someone else's. But in the middle class of Jane Austen's time, the amount of your income could be a matter of life and death. What is more significant? It was not money you worked for and earned that mattered, but money you were born to or inherited. People who worked very hard to earn money like, traders, businessmen, manufactures, and even some professional people such as lawyers were not accepted as members of the gentry. They were in trade, and the gentry looked down on them (Salami, ١٩٩٩, P: ٢٨٢).

In Jane Austen's time, a great change was coming over England. The industrial revolution was reaching its height, and a new middle class of prosperous factory owners was developing. Yet in the midst of this change, one ancient English tradition still survived, and that the true gentry were not the newly rich in the cities but those who lived on their inherited estates. The new rich middle class people, who had become rich in trade were buying manor houses and estates in the country, and setting up their heirs as members of the landed aristocracy. For example the leading male characters in *pride and Prejudice* represent this social change. Mr. Darcy's aristocratic family goes back for generations, and draws his income from his vast estate of tenant farms. But his friend Mr. Bingley , however, is heir to fortune made in trade



and is looking for a suitable country estate to establish himself in the upper class (Salami, ١٩٩٩, P: ٣٨٢-٣٨٣).

Jane Austen proves the above situation when Darcy at the beginning of the novel effected Bingley's decision to marry Jane, and tries to separate between the lovers because Jane from the middle class and her family do not have wealth. Bingley followed the opinion of Darcy and left his beloved, but at the end he gets back to his beloved when Darcy changes his opinion on Bennet's family because he wants to marry Elizabeth.

Darcy and Bingley are from a different class than Elizabeth and Jane. Darcy is from the landed gentry, and Bingley is from the successful business class. Elizabeth and Jane, on the other hand, are from the middle class, and their family does not have a great deal of money. In Jane Austen's time wealthy men (particularly men from a higher class such as Darcy) were expected to marry women within their class. These marriages were seen as the proper way for people to pair off, and they were also ways to keep money flowing into the upper classes (Jameadows, ٢٠١٦).

In our time, women have many other choices in addition of marriage, but in Jane Austen's time it was not so. A young woman from the middle class depended for her happiness, her health, in fact the whole shape of her life, on her making a good marriage. A girl with no fortune of her own often could not attract a husband. Then she might have to become a governess, living in other people's houses, looking after her children and subject to her whims (Salami, ١٩٩٩, P: ٣٨٣).

In the case of Mr. Bennet's family, Bennet has no son, according to the rules in that time; his nearest male relative, Mr. Collins, will inherit his estate. This clergyman comes to Longbourn seeking a wife. He proposes Elizabeth, who rejects him even though marrying him would be the one way to keep the estate in the family. Mrs. Bennet has a desire to convey her daughter to accept this marriage for the sake of the estate but Elizabeth refuses (Salami, ١٩٩٩, P: ٣٨٤).

Also Mr. Wickham tries to seduce Georgiana, Darcy's sister to elope with him in order to get some money from her or from her brother Darcy, but he failed .

Mr. Bingley's sister , Caroline wants to win the rich Darcy so hard and she becomes instrumental in separating her brother, Bingley, from Jane so may be



her brother may marry Darcy's sister Georgiana, and she may marry Darcy (Bhattacharyya, ٢٠٠٥, P: ١٤).

Lady Catherine de Bourgh comes and talks with Elizabeth in order to make her not accept the marriage from Mr. Darcy because she wants to marry Darcy to her daughter and keeps the fortune in the family.

All the changes happened in the novel affect directly or indirectly on the marriages in the novel and affect on the relationship among the characters. As a result Jane Austen wants to deliver her opinion to the reader that not only the rich man can choose his wife but also the woman from the middle class has the right to choose and decide to marry a man that she believes he will be a good husband, and he will give her the happiness.

٦. The First Two Proposals Made to Elizabeth:

Mr. Collins makes his proposal to Elizabeth without any care about Elizabeth's feelings and consent. His proposal is both awkward and insensible. He gives three reasons for his decision to marry:

" My reasons for marriage are first that I think it a right thing for every clergyman in easy circumstances (like himself) to see the example of matrimony in his parish. Secondly, that I am convinced it will add very greatly to my happiness, and thirdly, which perhaps I ought to have mentioned earlier, that it is the particular advice and recommendation of the very noble lady whom I have the honor of calling patroness (Lady Catherine de Bourgh)

(Pride and Prejudice, Ch. ١٩, P: ٨٠)

Elizabeth, of course, rejects Mr. Collins' proposal leaving him angry and confused:

" I think you again and again for the honor you have done me in your proposals, but to accept them is absolutely impossible. My feelings in every respect forbid it"

(Pride and Prejudice, ch. ١٩, P: ٨٠)



Mr. Collins' proposal is a prize for Elizabeth. He offers her financial security and a good house. It would also save her family from losing their estate. Mrs. Bennet chides Elizabeth for rejecting Mr. Collins:

"I am sure I do not know who is to maintain you when your Father is dead. I should not be able to keep you"

-(Pride and Prejudice, Ch. ٢٠, P: ٨٦)

Mr. Collins courting of Elizabeth Bennet greatly amuses us, but his manner, and the reaction it provokes, is not exceptional within the novels world. This is the more fact as fact it is-points to a system of social forms and conduct which we do not readily grasp and to further fact that Mr. Collins, while himself scarcely typical of that world is curiously not unrepresentative of it (Morris, ١٩٩٩, P: ٩٠).

For Mr. Darcy, he makes his proposals at the time when Elizabeth is angry and burning slowly with resentment against him, after she found out that he played a role in the split between her sister Jane and Bingley.

Darcy makes his proposals with the declaration that he liked her against his will, against his reason, and against his character. Elizabeth, at first, was not insensible of Darcy's affection and she felt sorry for his pain, but her feelings changed by his subsequent language. Elizabeth felt angry and offended at such declaration of love, and she tried to answer him with patience, but she rejected him brutally:

" from the very beginning, from the first moment, I may almost say, of my acquaintance with you, your manners impressing me with the fullest belief of your arrogance Your conceit, and your selfish disdain of the feelings of others , were such as to form that groundwork of disapprobation on which succeeding events have built so immovable a dislike, and I had not known you a month before I felt that were the last man in the world whom I could ever be prevailed on to marry."

-(Pride and Prejudice, ch ٢٤, p: ١٤٥).

Both proposals are strikingly similar in somehow. They both make their proposals suddenly and unexpectedly to Elizabeth. But each one of them makes his own mistakes.



For Mr. Collins, nothing can ever clear him of his sins against love. His clumsiness and bugling in the affairs of the heart, he can be considered as the smug enemy of romance (Morris, ١٩٩٩, P:٨٨-٩٠).

For Mr. Darcy, who says that he struggled with his feelings because he sees Elizabeth's family, a family who lacks propriety, with ill-manners and inferior connections. In addition, their condition in life is decidedly below their own. However, what he makes Elizabeth angrier is Darcy's role in the separation of Jane and Bingley, his bad dealings with Mr. Wickham, his rudeness and arrogance.

All these mistakes forced Elizabeth to reject both proposals. She is not a romantic person, but she refuses to accept a marriage without respect and love.

٧. Darcy's Letter to Elizabeth:

Elizabeth and Darcy belong to different social classes. This difference leads to a big misunderstanding and wrong impressions between them. Beside all his qualities, Darcy is proud, snobbish, confident and arrogant in the way he deals with people. At first, Elizabeth could see only the bad qualities he has, but later she could see him the generous, brave, and gentleman. Elizabeth also, has many good qualities. She is a beautiful, witty, confident, honest and intelligent young woman. Elizabeth, just like Darcy, has the quality of judging in a harsh and haste way.

Because of Elizabeth's social class and her family's bad behaviors, Darcy basis his first impressions on her. His pride prevents him from seeing Elizabeth's real character. The same thing for Elizabeth, She also bases her first impression on many things, beside his pride and self-confidence, first in the ball at Moryton, when Bingley asks Darcy to dance with Elizabeth, but he refuses and says:

" she is tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt me....

You are dancing with the only handsome girl in the room. "

-(pride and prejudice , Ch. ٣, p: ٧).

Elizabeth overhears his words and feels hurt by such declarations. She hears from the people much information, especially from Mr. Wickham, who told her false information about Darcy.

" for almost all his actions may be traced to pride, and his

pride has often been his best friend. It has connected him never with virtue than any other feeling, but we are none of us consistent, and in his behavior to me, there were stronger impulses even than pride".

-(Pride and Prejudice, Ch. 17, p: 71).

Wickham also told Elizabeth that before Darcy's father's death, he promised to give him a parish in their state, but after his death, Darcy ignored his father's wish and did not give Wickham the parish. And when Colonel Fitzwilliam, Darcy's cousin, tells her that Darcy had lately saved a friend from a bad marriage, Colonel Fitzwilliam confirms Elizabeth's feelings that the major responsibility lies on Darcy for separating Jane and Bingley.

Elizabeth's prejudice against Darcy starts growing more and more while Darcy starts falling in love with her. So he proposes to her, but she refuses him for two reasons: the first and the most important reason is separating Jane and Bingley, therefore she says to Darcy:

"Do you think that any consideration would tempt me to Accept the man who has been the means of ruining, perhaps forever, the happiness of the most beloved sister ? "

-(Pride and Prejudice, Ch. 24, P: 143).

The second reason is his unjust dealings with Mr. Wickham. Therefore, Mr. Darcy decides not to give him a parish that Darcy's father had promised to give to Mr. Wickham.

Darcy decides to send Elizabeth a letter to clarify everything to her. It is the turning point in the novel. It clears up the current mystery to help them change their opinions neither with pride nor with prejudice.

In the letter Darcy tells Elizabeth that his decision to separate his best friend Bingley from her sister Jane was derived from his desire to protect his friend from making an inferior alliance. He tells her that Bingley liked Jane, but Darcy, until the ball at Netherfield, notices a serious attachment, he did not notice any particular regards from Jane.

Darcy also tells Elizabeth about Wickham's real story. Wickham is the son of a very respectable man who had the management of the Darcy's estate. Darcy's father was fond of him. Darcy and Wickham grew up together. After



Wickham's father death, Darcy supported him at school and helped him to study at Cambridge University, but Wickham's manners were bad and disgraced.

Five years ago, Darcy's father died and Wickham declined any interest in taking the church as his profession and asked for three thousand pounds. He also showed his interest to study law. All the connections between Darcy and Wickham seem to be resolved.

Wickham persuaded Georgiana, Darcy's sister who was then only fifteen years old to elope and to believe herself that she is in love with him. Two days before the elopement Darcy joined them unexpectedly. Georgiana, who considered Darcy not only a brother but also a father, told him the whole plan. Mr. Wickham left the place immediately, and relinquished his object which is Georgiana's thirty thousand pounds inheritance.

When Elizabeth reads the letter, she begins to regret her earlier behavior. Becoming more self-reflective and self-critical, Elizabeth wishes that her former opinions had been more reasonable, her expressions more moderate (Kaplan, ١٩٩٩. P: ١٩٠).

So now, Elizabeth's prejudice vanishes when She realizes Darcy's real intentions in Jane and Bingley's case. She recognizes the bad role, which her family plays in pushing away all the good suitors. She also realizes how a wicked person Wickham is.

٨. The Marriages in the Pride and Prejudice:

Jane Austen presents in Pride and Prejudice all the kinds of marriages. She believes that the best happy ending to the relationship between man and woman is marriage. She depicts the real life of her time according to the couples, therefore we notice that each one from the five couples has his own reason to get married, and no two of them alike: Mr. and Mrs. Bennet, Charlotte and Mr. Collins, Lydia and Wickham, Jane and Bingley and finally the most attractive couples, Elizabeth and Darcy.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennet's marriage is the first example of the bad marriage in the novel. The marriage was based on superficial motives, captivated by youth and beauty.

" Mr. Bennet was so odd a mixture of quick parts: sarcastic humor, reserve, and caprice, that the experience of three

and twenty years had been insufficient to make his wife understand his character."

-(Pride and Prejudice, Ch. 1, P: ٧).

MR. Bennet, an ironical man, shows little interest in his wife's and daughter's actions. He is content with dropping his remarks every now and then, teasing his wife by expressing good-natural amusement instead of taking action (Strohmeier, ٢٠١٢).

"Mrs. Bennet was a woman of mean understanding little information, and uncertain temper. When she was discontented she fancied herself nervous, the business of her life was to get her daughters married, its solace was vesting and news"

-(Pride and Prejudice, Ch. 1, P: ٧).

Mrs. Bennet could not give birth to a son; therefore, Mr. Collins "Mr. Bennet cousin" will inherit their estate Longbourn according to the rules in that time. That's why Mrs. Bennet is eager to marry one of her daughters to him. Therefore, by this way she could save the house.

Through the novel we can see the wrong decisions that both Mrs. and Mr. Bennet make. It is so very clear when Mrs. Bennet gives Mr. Collins permission to have a private conversation with her daughter, Elizabeth ignoring her opinion about the subject.

For Mr. Bennet, allowing his daughter, Lydia, to travel to Bath, despite the fact that Elizabeth has warranted him not to do so, was an irresponsible act. Mr. Bennet has isolated himself from his wife and daughters and had pended most of his time in the library readings books. But at the end of the novel, Mr. Bennet realizes his lack of attention towards his family, the thing which led the family to the way they are.

As a result of their marriage, they, as Austen said, "had very early in their marriage put an end to all real affection for his wife. Respect, esteem and confidence had vanished forever and all his veins of domestic happiness were over thrown".

Charlotte Lucas and Mr. Collins's marriage is based on economic and social reasons rather than love or good looks. Charlotte accepts to marry Mr. Collins only to be saved from spinsterhood and to be financially secure, she does not think about falling in love like many women during Austen's time. When

Charlotte accepts Mr. Collins's proposal, her family feels relieved and happy for her, but her friend, Elizabeth is shocked at Charlotte's engagement, and can hardly conceal her disapproval even from her.

Elizabeth cannot believe that Charlotte will be happy with her foolish, embarrassing husband. And yet, when she visits the couple, Charlotte does not seem to be managing so badly. She encourages her husband's gardening as the best way to get out of the house, ignores him with fair success the rest of time, and in general she does not seem to ask for compassion (Berlasky, ٢٠١٣).

Elizabeth knows that Charlotte is not a sentimental person and knows that she can manage too well in a marriage, which offers her a financial security and a good social status. Charlotte is a good wife of clergyman; she also enjoys the company of Lady Catherine de Bourgh's patronage (Shapiro, ٢٠٠٨, P: ٩).

Lydia Bennet and Mr. Wickham's marriage is a very bad marriage because it is based on superficial reasons. She repeated the same error that her parents committed when they married without caring about love. Wickham's glamour, personality and manners attract Lydia. She thinks herself to be in love with him, but in fact she is only infatuated with him.

Though Lydia had had written to Mrs. Forster, Lydia's close friend that she and Wickham are going to elope and marry at Grenta on the border of south Scotland, but Wickham's intention was not the same. He even tells Mr. Darcy that he had no such idea in his mind. Wickham is not really in love with Lydia, just like what Elizabeth had expected to find:

"Wickham's affection for Lydia wasnot equal to Lydia's for him. She had scarcely needed her present observation to be satisfied, from the reason of things, that their elopement had been brought by the strength of her love, rather than by his, and she would have worse why, without violently caring for her, he chose to elope with her at all, had she not felt certain that his flight was rendered necessary by distress of circumstances, and if that were the case he was not the young man to resist an opportunity of having a companion"

Jane and Bingley's marriage compared to the previous marriages is a good one. They are both gentle, sweet, lovely, good natured, easy going understanding and sincerely in love with each other. They are also free from ill will, duplicity, hypocrisy and ill thinking of others. Austen expresses her opinion about these two through Elizabeth's words:

" Elizabeth really believed all his expectations of felicity to be rationally founded, because they had for basis the excellent understanding and super excellent disposition of Jane, and a general similarity of feeling and taste between her and himself".

-(Pride and Prejudice, Ch. ٥٢, P: ٢٦٠).

But at the beginning Jane is undemonstrative. Both Bingley and his friend Darcy could not be certain of her feelings. On the other hand, Bingley is too flabby and gullible. In spite of being deeply in love with Jane, he does not confess his love to her and allows the external force presented by his two sisters, Caroline and Mrs. Hurst, and his friend Mr. Darcy who tried to separate him from Jane.

One important thing to note here is that Jane and Bingley had never any serious argument or quarrel. Their marriage was a lovely and smooth one. Sometimes, it got boring for the readers as they did not have any fighting. At the end of the novel the two are united and happily married (Ahmad, ٢٠٠٨).

The last marriage in the novel is Elizabeth and Darcy's marriage. It is considered as the best marriage in the novel. Elizabeth and Darcy relationship dominates the novel. At the beginning, Darcy and Elizabeth begin with a mutual dislike. At the assembly at Meryton, Darcy thinks that Elizabeth is not handsome enough to tempt him. Elizabeth overhears him and feels hurt by his remark and starts to think him as a proud man.

When they next meet at Sir William Lucas's party, his opinion of Elizabeth is changed. Now he thinks that her face "was rendered uncommonly intelligent by the beautiful expression of her dark eyes" and "her figure to be light and pleasing" he is also caught by the easy playfulness of her manners.

Elizabeth is determined not to dance with him because of the grudge. She is holding against him. To Elizabeth, he was the only man who made himself agreeable nowhere. In addition, who had not thought her handsome enough to dance with him?

While Darcy is feeling charmed by her, she continues to feel prejudice against him. Darcy begins to feel the danger of paying Elizabeth too much attention. By drawing more and more towards Elizabeth, the readers start to feel that Mr. Darcy is falling in love with her. But the thing that's holding Mr. Darcy from telling her about his love is her social class which is lower than his.

When Elizabeth meets Mr. Wickham and learns that he is a victim of Mr. Darcy's injustice and bad dealings, her prejudice against Darcy increases. Another event, which makes Elizabeth's prejudice, get more intensified, she learns from colonel Fitzwilliam that Mr. Darcy has prevented his friend Mr. Bingley from proposing to her sister Jane.

From above points, Elizabeth hates Darcy, but he loves her and decides to propose to her. She is staying at Hansford when Mr. Darcy proposes to her, while his declaration of love he hurts Elizabeth's feelings by emphasizing on the fact that her social class is beneath his own. She rejects his proposal, and gives him the reasons behind her rejection. The two most important reasons are; separating her sister Jane and Bingley, and his cruel dealings with Mr. Wickham.

Then Darcy decides to send Elizabeth a letter explaining everything to her. When everything becomes clear to her, her opinion is changed. Now she can see the generous, wise, brave, and amazing gentleman. Elizabeth's admiration for Darcy increases, for his role in the Lydia-Wickham affair. When she learns that he played a big role in setting down things between Lydia and Wickham and helps them to get married, she begins to see him as a kind of man that, she wants to marry. And the most important thing that she starts to fall in love with him.

Now, another thing happens, which plays an affective role in Elizabeth-Darcy relationship. When Darcy's aunt, Lady Catherine de Bourgh learns that there is a possible attachment between Elizabeth and Darcy, she visits Longbourn and has a private meeting with Elizabeth in which she warns her not to accept Darcy's proposal of marriage. The reason behind Lady Catherine behavior is that, she wants her nephew to marry her daughter Miss. Ann de Bourgh. Elizabeth answers coolly:

"I am not to be intimidated into anything so wholly understandable. Your ladyship wants Mr. Darcy to marry your daughter, but would my giving you the wished-for promise make their marriage at all more probable? Supposing him to be attached to me, would my refusing to accept his hand make him wish

to bestow it on his cousin ? Allow me to say, lady Catherine, that the arguments with which you have supported this extraordinary application have been as frivolous as the application was ill-judged. You have widely mistaken my character, if you think I can be worked on by such persuasions as these. How far your nephew might approve of your interference in his affairs I cannot tell : but you have certainly no right to concern yourself in mine. "

-(Pride and Prejudice , Ch. ٥٦,P: ٢٦٧).

Lady Catherine is much annoyed when Elizabeth tells her that if Darcy proposes to her, it would be her to decide whether to accept his proposal or not, and the choice belongs to her only. Also Lady Catherine does not have the right to decide whether Elizabeth accepts or refuses the proposal.

When Lady Catherine meets Mr. Darcy in London, she tells him about her meeting with Elizabeth. Darcy feels that Elizabeth now has tender feelings towards him so he decides to propose to her again. He comes with Bingley to Longbourn, makes his proposal and Elizabeth accepts. After obtaining Mr. Bennet's permission they get married.

Therefore, their mutual understanding, respect and love have made their marriage a perfect marriage in the novel. In addition, their marriage does not depend on superficial things like others in the novel, but they realize that each one has his individuality and his own choice despite the traditions or rules of the society in the nineteenth century.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that Jane Austen tries to make the point that social class, money, looks, lust, reputation and all the trivial reasons won't matter anymore, but kindness, honesty and virtue instead. And love separates from the traditions of society, it can break the barriers between social classes. Austen also makes it clear that love is an important basis for marriage. She depicts in her novel the inside world of her society therefore this depiction are given her a wide understanding of the human being's nature, and the complex of human being's relationships. She reflects the life of the people in her time, therefore she presents to us the life of people according to her point of view, she emphasizes on the social changes as an important thing in her time because many things will happen according to these changes. She divides the social changes in her novel into the changing happens according to wealth, and what will happen to the characters when they hire or collect money, also

their class will be changing or not. On the other hand, the changing happens according to the behavior or the manner of people. Also she depicts the different kinds of marriages in her novel, and she proves that the successful marriage is the one, it is based on love.

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