

الحب الحقيقي في كبرياء وتحامل لجين أوستن

True Love in Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

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ماجستير في اللغة الانكليزية

كلية الحلة الجامعة

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الملخص

توضح رواية كبرياء وتحامل لجين أوستن اللقاء بين الملكتين الحاكمتين للبشر: العقل والعاطفة. شخصيات هذه الرواية، ومعظمهم من الشباب، منخرطون في شؤون القلب والعقل، ويبحثون عن الحب والمودة من أحبائهم بينما هم في نفس الوقت مثقلون بقواعد الأخلاق والسلوكيات في مجتمعهم. وعلى الرغم من إجراء العديد من الدراسات حول موضوع الزواج والحب في روايات أوستن، إلا أن طبيعة هذا الحب لم تحظى بالاهتمام المناسب.

الكلمات المفتاحية : جين أوستن، الحب الحقيقي، الزواج.

Abstract

Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice demonstrates the encounter of the two ruling faculties of human beings: reason and passion. The characters of this novel who are mostly young people are involved in matters of heart and mind, seeking love and affection from their beloved ones while simultaneously burdened by the codes of manners and mannerisms of their society. Although many studies have been conducted on the subject of marriage and love on Austen's novels, the nature of this love has not been given its proper attention.

Keyword : Jane Austen , True Love , Marriage

Chapter one

Introduction

As literature often brings out the image of real life, Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice' is no exception. It holds a mirror which reflects the life of the eighteenth century people. Studying the novel will draw a real image of the social lives of English people at that time. The English community which was affected by the political, economical and social conditions of the country can be seen in 'Pride and Prejudice', though Austen in most of her novels did not deal with the political aspects, the social and economic conditions are explored in details. She gave minute details of how their lives are affected by social and political conflicts. We can find very interesting aspects of their lives through this novel. (Austen: 1990, 95).

The novel "*Pride and Prejudice*", written by Jane Austen between 1796 and 1813, carries themes of love, reputation and class, among which the theme of love can be regarded as the most successful one conveyed to readers. The novel contains one of the most cherished love stories in English literature: the courtship between Darcy and Elizabeth. Their love has many differences compared to the love between Bingley and Jane Bennet. (Vu, 2002:1-2)

Since the two main themes of 'Pride and Prejudice' are 'love and marriage' and 'husband hunting', it is clear that Jane Austen talks much on the topic of 'marriage'. Therefore, studying the aspect of marriage in the novel seems to be a valid point. It is evident that the writer portrays the life of the eighteenth-century people and how the life of the people was centred on how good the economic and the social conditions of the people were. One cannot separate their mentality from the conditions of the society we therefore; the study will have

to take into consideration the social conditions of the England during that period.
(David: 1935, 65).

1.1 Aims of the Study

The aims of the research are as follows:

1. Reading and Understanding the novel *Pride and Prejudice*
2. Show true love in *Pride and Prejudice*.

1.2 The Problem of the Study

Pride and Prejudice is a novel which encompasses various themes within its events and characters. This paper tries to investigate the true love in the novel.

1.3 Methodology

The paper is directed toward used presenting some theoretical material about the novel “*Pride and Prejudice*” and tracing the themes by analyzing the events are the related themes.

Chapter Two

Jane Austen Life and Career

Jane Austen was born in small village of Hampshire in south of England in 16th of December 1775. Her father was the revered George Austen and he mother is Cassandra. She was the seventh child and the second daughter in the family. She had five successful brothers and one sister. During her life, she stayed inside England. However she made some journeys to discover some other places such as the south of England. She found difficulty in travelling because she was a woman. Furthermore, she wasn't allowed to complete her education because she was a woman. In 1785, Jane and her sister joined the boarding

school with her sister. Austen was well-know from her interest for reading. She read copiously and widely. These conditions were the main reasons behind make in her establishing her talent in writer from a very young age. She produced her first novel at eh age of fourteen. Her first novel was entitled “Love and Freindship”. She also wrote plays that her sister acted in the family. She was greatly influenced by certain writer such as Fanny Burney, Maria Edgeworth, and Charlotte Smith. She was never married. She was onlyengaged for one day to Harris Bigg-Wither in 1802. During her life, her family moved to several places. She and her sister as well as their parents moved to Bath in 1801. In 1805, her father died. After the death of her father, the family moved to from Bath to Clifton, and then to Southampton. Then, she kept on being a very prolific writer despite the fact that she was not happy with her surroundings. (Bloom, 2004:10-11)

Jane Austen is considered as one of the famous writers in English literature. She was able to write plenty of works that are regarded essential in among her famous. She was considered as the voice for female writing in her time. Moist of her popularity appeared after her death. Through her writing she was able to portray the image and conditions around her. Furthermore, as a Victorian writer she was determined to make clear the situation and exploitation at the time. She expressed her rejection and disgust for the treatment of women as being limited and paralyzed. (Mondadori, 2018:222)

She was successful in describing everyday life in her novel. She started to write from her younger years, so after the Love and Friendship, she produced ‘History of England’. Then, she continued of writing famous publication such as “Sense and Sensibility”, “Pride and Prejudice”, and “Northanger Abbey”. She was interested in freedom and free environment thus; she expressed her dislike for the busy towns and place. (Wagaa, 2014: 321)

She highlights certain topics and themes in her time. One of the important issues that he made clear is the turmoil in the social class. He reflects on this mission by setting forth as characters that are belonging to upper and middles class. She also makes the authoritative power of men clear in most of her novel. She makes clear that women should be connected to man and they have to be equal. Through her characters, she criticized the roles that are assigned to women as being limited to the domestic roles. She delineated the social mannerism, which is considered as a ladder to climb up the next class in the social categorization. She also sheds light on issues of marriage and love. The issue of marriage is considered one of the main themes that she has come up with to manifest the Victorian social evaluation women. (Goswami & kumaran, 2018: 25-26)

Jane Austen ranks among the greatest novelists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She has established herself as a master of English with an insight into common patterns of human behaviour. Austen's style is a colorful mixture of wit and elaboration, which tends to depict the meticulous daily life of the upper middle class in the nineteenth century. She is meticulous in detailing the events in her novels. A feature that enhances realism and enables readers to imagine the places you describe and understand the characters you display. Moreover, it deals with important issues and themes that carry romantic comedy along with social satire and internal psychological conflicts. Her writing style is elegant and ironic at the same time. (Al Jiboory, 2018: 11)

Austen's novels exemplify the evolution of English literature from neoclassicism to romanticism, in which he blends the styles of both. It makes use of the logic and formal constraints of neoclassicism, and the love and delusion of romanticism. It is already not easy to completely mix these conflicting styles and prove Austen's strong abilities. She is able to tackle a poignant, dramatic

scene on one page followed by a sarcastic,ironic scene on the next. Her extraordinary knowledge and intelligence allowed her to navigate the depths of the sea of personality to show off her strengths and illnesses with subtle style. (Ibid, 11-12) She deals with realistic matters surrounding her own life with a complex elaboration illustrating human behavior accurately. Her use of irony is amusing especially when she exposes her flawed characters that make themselves fools by their mistaken choices. She invites the reader to think evoked by the use of irony; "Jane Austen does not tell us a single view:she gives us several different views, which often seem contradictory; andshe makes us think about them without resolving them" (Marsh, 1998: 204).

Chapter Three

3.1 Jane Plot Summary of ‘Pride and Prejudice’

The novel begins by the arrival of the man Mr. Bingley. His arrival causes turmoil as Mrs. Bennet tried to marry him one of her five daughters who are Jane, Elizabeth, Marry, Kitty and Lydia. When Mr. Bingley meets Jane, he soon became fond of her. However, his friend Darcy who was arrogant was rude to the girls but by some social gatherings, Darcy became attracted to Elizabeth. However, the family of Mr. Bingley and Darcy refused these bonds as they are from different social class. Elizabeth continued to despise Darcy and in return she fell in love with George Wickham who is an attractive army officer who tells her that his father works for Darcy's family. This makes Elizabeth prejudices against Darcy to be hardened. The events go by and soon Mrs. Bennet declares in a social gathering that a marriage between Mr. Bingley and Jane will be arranged. Meanwhile , Mr. Collins who is proud clergymen and the cousin of the Bennett's daughters who proposes Elizabeth but she declines

and then her proposed her friend Charlotte who accepted his offer for security rather than love. Meanwhile Caroline Bingley, Mr. Bingley sister wanted Darcy for herself and as the events went by she started to have prejudices against the Bennet's daughters. After that, Caroline wanted her brother to stay away from Jane. As he went to business to London, Caroline sent a letter to Jane telling her that they will stay there and Charles Bingley will marry Georgina, Darcy's sister. (Fyfe, 2013:L Online)

This makes Jane to be crushed. Jane was invited to London hoping that she can overcome her disjointed conditions. The event went by, Elizabeth soon visited Darcy's house and met his sister Georgina as well as meeting Bingley who assured that he is still in love with Jane and all the fabrications of letting them be separated unveil. Elizabeth fantasied of being Darcy is wide and she discovered that she misjudged him before. After that, Elizabeth sent a letter to Jane telling her that firstly that their sister Lydia has eloped to George Wickham which she went to be present because he was in love with him. This incident might destroy the reputation of the family. Wickham conditioned that his debts to be paid, in return, he will marry Lydia. The Bennet thought that Gardiner has paid Wickham debts, but soon the truth appears that Darcy who pays the debts for the sake of devoting himself for Elizabeth. Then Bingley and Darcy came back to Netherfield and Bingley proposes to Jane who became overjoyed. While Darcy travels to London on business, Lady Catherine who is Darcy's aunt visits Elizabeth, telling her not to marry Darcy. Elizabeth rejects this warning to promise. As he returned, he asks Elizabeth to marry and she accepts. She then told him about her prejudices against him. He in return confesses his pride and performing social class biases. Finally, both couples are married and the Bennet family feels happy for their daughters' happiness. (ibid)

3.1 True Love in Pride and Prejudice

By fostering social conduct and cultural consciousness, Victorian society was the forerunner of establishing rules and standards of individual and social dealings and transactions. The conduct books, which were popular in the era, “operated to create and regulate conceptions of desirable masculinity in the same way that female conducts literature sought to create ideals of desirable femininity” (Ailwood, 2008:44).

Austen’s society ingrained social conduct and morality with sexual repression. Open articulation and practice of passion was not acceptable. People did not talk about sexuality since it might put young people in danger of getting passionate and losing their rationality. “Explicit novels, sensuous pictures, and exciting dances were repressed because they might awaken sexual desire in young women and young men who were not yet mature enough to take on its responsibilities” It was in such society that Austen’s heroes and heroines lived and loved (Mitchell, 2009:269).

In spite of the anti-romantic atmosphere of Victorian society, love has always been the central theme of Austen’s novels. Although, in *Pride and Prejudice*, she carefully observes the strict rules of courtship of her society, Austen “does not fail to portray passion. In addition, she makes a case for moderation... She argues even for deep romantic fulfillment that can come from a sense of restraint” (Ruderman, 1990:2).

The lovers, in spite of their strong feelings, reserve expressing their emotions as long as possible in order to stick to propriety. For instance, in order to adhere to convention, Elizabeth and Jane repress their feelings to their lovers even after finding them strong and real. Charlotte Lucas, noticing such a concealment as a risk of losing their lovers, warns Elizabeth that It may perhaps be pleasant... to be able to impose on the public in such a case; but it is sometimes a disadvantage to be so very guarded. If a woman conceals her affection with the same skill from the object of it, she may lose the opportunity of fixing him... There are very few of us who have heart enough to be really in love without encouragement. In nine cases out of ten, a woman had better show more affection than she feels. Bingley likes your sister undoubtedly; but he may never do more than like her, if she does not help him on (Pride and Prejudice, 246).

But neither Jane nor Elizabeth give heed to such statements. They consider it to be men's function to realize whether a woman is in love with them. That is why throughout the novel they act accordingly. Elizabeth regards it to be improper of a woman to show her affection. She believes that "if a woman is partial to a man, and does not endeavor to conceal it, he must find it out" (Austen, 2004:246).

As a representative of the nineteenth century polite society, Austen is concerned with courtship. This makes her "concentrated on how man and woman may best live in harmony with each other" and with society. She believes that true love and affection can harmonize men's and women's relationship and asks the very

essential question and gives her crucial solution for being happy in marriage through Jane's and Elizabeth's sisterly chat: (Tanner, 2005:66)

"And do you really love him quite well enough? Oh, Lizzy! do anything rather than marry without affection" (Pride and Prejudice 463).

Here, Austen interchanges the words "affection" and "love" to distinguish them from passion which she calls "the expression of violently in love" (Austen, 2004:321), and to indicate that true love is growing and lasting feelings, "not work of a day" (ibid,465), not fleeting or blinding emotions that afflict the mind and lead the lovers to misconduct and indecency; but rather, enumerates with energy the lovers' good qualities (*Pride and Prejudice* 465). She explains that "the expression of 'violently in love' is

... so doubtful, so indefinite... It is as often applied to feelings which arise from an half hour's acquaintance, as to a real, strong attachment" Austen speaks of love and affection for couples' well-being while she knows that passion is within people (ibid, 321).

Comparing her conception of love with Plato's reveals that he, too, considers true love as the harmonizer of dispositions and calls it "an agreement of disagreements" (Symposium). Plato affirms that the love of the body is not everlasting since the body itself is not stable and when the youth and beauty are away, the love fades away too; whereas the love of the "noble disposition" is everlasting (Symposium). The passion which results in "a hasty attachment is ... dishonourable" (Plato, Symposium). As it is observed in Lydia's case, passion violates the social bounds of decency whereas affection, as in Elizabeth's case, trims men's and women's relationships off excess, acting as a moderator of passion and harmonizer of dispositions.

Elizabeth, Austen's spokeswoman in the novel, rejects Darcy's first proposal because, stimulated by pure passion, it does not come along with the accepted

rules of propriety and politeness. On his first proposal, Darcy, with an air of superiority, addresses himself to Elizabeth claiming that “In vain have I struggled. It will not do. My feelings will not be repressed. You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you” (Austen, 2004:350)

He cannot be accepted until his ardent love changes to affection, until his passion is tempered by reason. Darcy’s next proposal is very different in tone and temperament. With a gentle tone and better disposition, he

repeats his offer claiming that “You are too generous to trifle with me. If your feelings are still what they were last April, tell me so at once. My affections and wishes are unchanged, but one word from you will silence me on this subject forever” (Austen, 2004:458)

Now Elizabeth has no doubts that “his affection was not the work of a day, but had stood the test of many months’ suspense” (ibid, 465)

After reading these phenomenal words of Austen, we could easily understand the importance of marriage, and how much the issue of true love occupied a central place in women’s life in Austen’s time. Towards Austen love means not to fall for anyone so deeply and blindly, rather love means rational and sensible activities between two honest persons. If anyone deceives or betrays another means that a false heart will never be able to get true love. True love is much more exotic, heavenly and cherishing than money and social position. On the basis of her doctrine regarding love, Austen did emphasise logical love through the character Elizabeth. She was a loyal follower of her own instinct. She also encouraged Jane to chase her true love towards Bingley. Elizabeth also showed her disagreement of Caroline’s exaggerated flatteries of Darcy in order to marry a gentleman of high social position and great wealth (Haque, 2016:1750).

The another example of Elizabeth's unique thoughts appeared to us when we saw that she did refuse the marriage proposal of Mr. Collins without any hesitation because she knew that he doesn't love her but wanted to marry her only to make her as his wife. Jane Austen has been portrayed the character of Elizabeth according to her own attributes as Elizabeth has exposed everything that Austen wanted to expressed. Personally Austen believed that a happy marriage is possible upon the mutual understanding, honesty and pure love for each other. Likewise the character Elizabeth also had the same thinking and feelings regarding love and marriage issues. As a result it has been proved that true love and happy marriage will not possible by the first sight of appearance and impression (Haque, 2016:1750).

Happy marriage and pure love needs time to make it stronger. However, Elizabeth and Darcy actually showed the example of true love and successful marriage in this novel. Elizabeth adored about the purity in love but she didn't show disagreement about the needs of money, rather than she confessed that true love happened through happy marriage. She said money or wealth actually, should be the guarantee for a girl, as the marriage will be shattered without the guarantee of money, and no matter how true the love is (Ibid).

Conclusion

At first glance, *Pride and Prejudice* focuses more on the social context of courtship than on love itself. Austen emphasizes the cooperation of reason and emotion in love. As portrayed in Love Darcy-Elizabeth, Austen stresses the need to guide reason over emotion to help lovers overcome physical beauty and reach a realm of eternal beauty and goodness. Reason, prompted by sensual desire, illuminates the lovers' path to intellectual and spiritual beauty. Austen insists on deducing reason in moderation and restraining passion because she believes

passion tends to violate the rules of social decency. Violating the rules of decency and decency does not meet the standards of a courteous and civilized Austin community. Therefore, she urges her heroes and heroines to maintain a balance between emotional and rational needs to satisfy social claims in their romantic relationships. Otherwise excesses of sentimentality and rationality, as in Lydia-Wickham and Collins-Charlotte, would deprive lovers of eternal mutual happiness, violate rules and social decency and lead to public dissension. What matters is the behavior of the lovers in their romantic relationships in a very rational and civilized society. Looking at the relationships of individuals, what matters most to Austen is morality and virtue.

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