

An Analysis of Female Consciousness in Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre

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Abstract:

The famous British writer Charlotte Bronte's novel Jane Eyre shows us an alternative foreign female image. She is completely different from the image of women that are shown in previous literary work. She looks ordinary. She is short and has humble and miserable life experiences. However, she makes her independent personality by her tenacity and keeps unremitting efforts always. She dares to resist oppression, require independence and freedom, and seek after equal spirit. Therefore, Jane Eyre is a qualitative leap in the image of women in foreign literature. This paper will show readers Jane Eyre's independent and equal personality. The heroine Jane Eyre is a warm-hearted person, and she has a lot of personal ideas. She lives at the bottom of the society and has suffered a lot. But she's very stubborn, and she always pursues equality and happiness. She dares to love the one she loves, although there is a wild gap between their social statuses. But she won't be controlled by love, she won't marry her lover without any acceptance in law, and she won't marry her cousin just for gratitude. Many readers are touched by Jane Eyre's attitude toward love and Jane's principled marriage view. As for Jane Eyre, it was a successful novel absolutely. This novel uses rich lyrical craft and deep psychological description to give us the fascinating demonstration of the hero and heroine through the ups and downs of their love story and praise the spirit for daring to break away from all the old customs and prejudices.

Key Words: Charlotte Bronte, Jane Eyre, Female consciousness, love, personality.

تظهر رواية جين إير للكاتبة البريطانية الشهيرة شارلوت برونتي صورة نموذجية بديلة للمرأة الأجنبية. إنها مختلفة تمامًا عن الصورة التي ظهرت في الأعمال الأدبية السابقة. تبدو عادية، قصيرة القامة، ولديها تجارب حياة متواضعة ومؤلمة. ومع ذلك، تُظهر شخصيتها المستقلة من خلال عزميتها وجهودها الدؤوبة دائمًا. تجرؤ على مقاومة القهر، وتطالب بالاستقلال.

والحرية، وتسعى لتحقيق روح المساواة. وبالتالي، تمثل جين إير قفزة نوعية في صورة المرأة في الأدب الأجنبي. سيقدم هذا البحث للقراء شخصية جين إير المستقلة والمتساوية. إن جين إير البطلنة شخص ذو قلب دافئ ولديها العديد من الأفكار الشخصية. تعيش في قعر المجتمع وتعاني الكثير، لكنها عنيدة جدًا وتسعى دائمًا للمساواة والسعادة. تجرؤ على أن تحب من تحب، على الرغم من الفارق الواسع بين أوضاعهما الاجتماعية. لكنها لن تسمح للحب بالسيطرة عليها، ولن تتزوج من حبيبها دون قبول قانوني، ولن تتزوج من ابن عمها فقط من أجل الامتنان. يتأثر العديد من القراء بالموقف الذي تتخذه جين إير تجاه الحب ورؤيتها المبنية على المبادئ للزواج. بالنسبة لجين إير، إنها رواية ناجحة بكل تأكيد. تستخدم هذه الرواية الحرف اللغوي الغني والوصف النفسي العميق لتقديم عرض ساحر للبطل والبطلنة من خلال مناهات قصة حبهما وتمجيد روح التحدي والكسر مع كل العادات والتقاليد القديمة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: شارلوت برونتي، جين إير، الوعي الانثوي، الحب، الشخصية.

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Introduction

Jane Eyre is a great novel. It plays an important role in the history of British literature. This is a realistic novel with a strong romantic color. This fiction portrays the love story of Jane and Rochester. The heroine Jane Eyre is a warm-hearted person, and she has a lot of personal ideas. She lives at the bottom of society and has suffered a lot. But she has a stubborn disposition and the spirit to pursue equality and happiness. This novel uses rich lyrical craft and deep psychological description to give us the fascinating demonstration of the hero and heroine through the ups and downs of their love story and praise the spirit for daring to break away from all the old customs and prejudices. The sincere love story rooted in mutual understanding and mutual respect has the heavy artistic power of shocking our soul. The most successful point is the produced image of woman who dares to resist the old traditional prejudice and fights for freedom and equality. (Brontë, 1847)

In the prelude, development, climax and ending to the work, the heroine's freedom, rebellion, equality and self-esteem are the subjects of each chapter. Jane Eyre grows up in a violent environment. She experiences what her contemporaries do not experience. She has to face the inhuman abuse that her aunt gives her, and she has to face her cousins' violent treatment and arrogance from their eyes. Even though she wants to try to win the good feelings of others, the facts tell her it is all in vain. Such a helpless and unfair growth environment makes Jane grow up longing for equality, freedom and love. These desires are performed undoubtedly in her later growth process, while the subject of the heroine's unique concept of love is showed off the most. It reflects the helplessness of women's strong sense of independence and the love of female consciousness.

Problem Statement:

While Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* depicted a strong, independent female protagonist for its time, the novel's feminist ideals remain limited in scope and fail to adequately challenge systemic gender inequalities.

The outline suggests the paper will discuss *Jane Eyre* in relation to feminist theory and women's liberation movements. However, it appears to lack critical analysis of the novel's shortcomings in representing liberatory ideals. A problem statement could highlight how *Jane Eyre* makes strides but also reproduces patriarchal narratives that constrain women's resistance and independence. The paper has an opportunity to critique the selective gains for privileged women represented by Jane's individualism versus collective action to dismantle institutional oppression.

Chapter 1 Women's Liberation Movements and the Creation

Background of *Jane Eyre*

1.1 Feminist theory

Feminism, also known as feminist movement, refers to the end of sexism, gender exploitation and oppression, to promote equality of classes and the creation and launching of social theory and political movement. In addition to the critique of social relations, feminism also focused on the gender inequality and the promotion of the underlying (such as women, transgender) rights, interests and issues.

Feminist movement is a social movement through the boundary between class and race. Feminism of each culture has its uniqueness and it can propose a topic against the social female oppression, such as the genital mutilation in Sudan and the women in politics in China.

1.2 Three waves of women's liberation movement

Women's liberation movement can be divided into three waves. The background of *Jane Eyre* is ahead of the wave. So, the mind that *Jane Eyre* embodied is on the verge of the first wave, gender equality.

1.2.1 Gender equality

The first wave of women's liberation movement was the 19th century. The focus of debate is to require sex, including the equality of whole life process between men and women and that is gender equality. It also required citizenship, political rights, struggling against aristocratic

privilege. It opposed polyandry and polygamy, emphasized no difference on the ability of men and women in the intelligence. The most important goal is to fight for the equivalent domestic, social labor and political rights of equal value, often called —the feminist movement. (Rampton, 2015)

1.2.2 The equal rights of gender

The second wave of feminist movement began from the 1960s-1970s. It was believed that the second women's liberation movement also originated in the United States. The campaign continued until the 1980s. Its tone was to emphasize the natural sexual division of labor between men and women and to decline the phenomenon of unequal pay between men and women. It asked to ignore the difference between men and women and ignore the female was attached to the male in gender social relations and so on. (Thornham, 2000)

The other result that the second feminist movement brought was the rise of feminist scholarship for gender studies. Therefore, there had been all sorts of feminist genre. The concept that people formed in paternalism ideology made them describe the world from the angle of men's right, and believed it was unalterable to confuse this description with truth. However, the feminist gave a challenge on this concept people used to believe. Although there were many schools, the basic point was still to struggle for gender equality till the end of life.

1.2.3 The equal grid of gender

It proposed women to have the sense of self-esteem and self-respect, to face their ugliness, and to take care of them. Women are required to get rid of ignorance and repression with the help of men, so that they can get the same status in society. In this period, feminist scholarship has developed into a branch of theoretical system of many genres. Various feminist schools had different opinions about the origin and nature of the patriarchy, but the struggle was the same goal. That was to wipe out the social reality caused by inequalities of patriarchy and the gender discrimination to female. (Tong, 2018)

1.3 The relationship between Jane Eyre and feminist movements

Jane Eyre was written in 1847 before the first feminist movement. So Jane Eyre is always regarded as a representative feminist novel. Jane Eyre almost is an autobiographical novel. It illustrates a theme: human dignity plus value equals love. The story of this book is mythical but the life, surrounding even the most life details of the hostess and many characters are all taken

from the real experiences of Charlotte Bronte and the people around. It portrays the social status of women in 19th century vividly. (Gilbert and Gubar, 1979)

Charlotte Bronte was born in a pastor family in the north of England in 1816. Her mother died when she was very young. When she was eight, she was sent to a boarding school. Contracted tuberculosis took her two sisters away because of the miserable environment. So Charlotte and her sister Emily went back home and spent their childhood at home. When she was fifteen, she entered the school that was run by Miss Woollier. A few years later, she became a teacher in that school. Then she made a living by doing tutor but she gave it up because she could not endure the discrimination from the dame. She wanted to run the school. So Charlotte Bronte and her sister went to Italy to learn French and German under the help of her aunt. The school finally failed to operate because no one came to learn. But the experience excited her strong desire for self-expression and it pushed her throw herself to literary road. Charlotte Bronte was a representative figure in the first feminist movement. She always pursued personal independence and economic independence in her life and she succeeded finally. She made the gender equality come true. (Gaskell, 1908)

The outstanding point of Jane Eyre was the truth and amazing love story of and the independent and aggressive image of woman. The love story of Jane and Rochester showed us an enthusiastic and sincere heart. She contemned for the royal's arrogance and mocked their silly behavior. She showed us a self-reliant personality and a beautiful ideal. She loved the person she loved. However, when she found the one she loved, he turned to have a wife, she left him without any hesitation. Women are keen to seek for the same rights as man both in jobs and in family so as to be free from the shackle given by the society. That extraordinary novel was a hit in British literature at that time. The fictional end of Jane Eyre described that Jane Eyre had got a large number of heritage and went back to Rochester. Although this plot was worthy of deliberating, it conveyed the writer's dream that women had an independent and equal status in family, society even economy. (Poovey, 1988)

Chapter 2 The Embodiment of Resistance Consciousness from Jane Eyre

This novel contains thirty-eight chapters. The heroine Jane Eyre was the main line of this book. Jane Eyre was an image of woman who dared to resist oppression and sought independence. This novel used a vision of women to look again at the prevailing patriarchal world. Jane Eyre was

not a traditional character with beautiful appearance in this novel. She was weak and thin and had no strong attraction. The author created a new image of a female tutor. Jane pursued women's right and equality and she stood up for her personality independence. She would not tolerate oppression, humiliation and any despicable acts. There was a sharp conflict between Jane Eyre and the unfair society. (Thormählen, 2007)

2.1 The wakening of resistance consciousness. Nations often say that people's childhood plays an important role in one's human life. No matter what kind of doctrine, the writer recognized the experiences of Jane Eyre in her aunt family had a huge influence on her future personality. Because her parents died, she was staying at her uncle's family. The important role that changed her from an orphan into having relatives—Mr. Reed did not appear in Jane's life at the very beginning. As the original owner of Gateshead, he should have the absolute right. Under his asylum, Jane Eyre should have been treated as a small master. However, also the role made Jane too early to leave. Being confined to red house, Jane cannot ask for help but wonders: —If Mr. Reed still alive, I must be treated very well. However, such a person also caused the ultimate success of Jane's defection. Before she came into the red house, Jane was a person who used to endure. Jane often sits on the windowsill, covered up by the curtain, she did not want to get attention. However, faced with her unreasonable cousin, Jane cannot always hide. Therefore, she used to obey John. —I have not only understood John. Reed's curse, but also never wanted to retort, I thought only to survive the beat.

In the Red House, Jane's thought was complex and multi-change, she thought she should be free and protest. She suspected herself as a mediocre new person. Finally, she deeply understood that Mr. Reed had been dead. These understandings made her wake up from self-pity and instead have created an enormous sense of apprehension. This fear made her humble to her aunt. Aunt's impatience made Jane psyche to understand that her aunt thought she was a vicious nature, despicable idea, and insidious cunning person. Jane began to realize that she wanted to leave. Jane was accustomed to the life, which was not seem to be a master. Mr. Reed's death made Jane understood that she couldn't live there. If we said that Mr. Reed was once a simple hope lies for Jane, then his death was fusing despair. And such despair made Jane escape from the habits of life. (Dunn, 1971)

From Jane's journey of life, we had learned that she was exposed to a hostile environment. But she still struggled continuously and fearlessly for her ideal life. The story could be interpreted as a symbol of the independent spirit.

2.2 The further development of resistance consciousness

Jane came to Lowood after she escaped from Gateshead. Compared to the ravages of the mind and spirit, the living of poverty in Lowood didn't hurt Jane. She met new friends, and increased knowledge. Jane felt that she would never get the poor life of Lowood in return for the luxury of Gateshead. But here, Jane still had a competitor—Mr. Brocklehurst. In the Lowood, Mr. Brocklehurst enjoyed an absolute right. From the first time they met, Brocklehurst gave a great distrust to Jane. In the early days, Jane often fell into the —high stool of fear. And when that day came, Jane's heart was extremely angry, and she even had "difficulty in breathing, throat tightening" (Brontë, P 69) of the situation, however, the emergence of Helen and the Temple of the teachings in time to curb this strong self-esteem girl's anger. However, it was extremely important that Jane would not be always accompanied by them, but it was precisely because of their leaving, which achieved Jane's another fight. Firstly, Helen passed away. It was for the first time that Jane faced death, but the final conversation with Helen made Jane understand death was not terrible, which gave more fears to this brave woman. Secondly, Temple's departure also made Jane feel lonely—somewhat like a solid family affection and contact. Jane felt such a change by herself. The past emotions had become active again. Jane began to face her heart that filled with all kinds of hope and anxiety and excitement of the Heaven. This rebellion compared to the first case that also had a sense of ownership. Jane realized sensitively that she should go to a larger world to find her own value when there was not much nostalgia around. Such was a pro-active rebellion, which was strongly advocated by the feminist. (Davies, 2006)

2.3 The gradual maturity and the peak of resistance consciousness

In Thornfield, she met the third oppressor, Mr. Rochester, with whom she fell in love and he fell in love with her too. After an arduous life of experience, Jane's thinking became more mature. In the brutal, arbitrary face of Rochester, Jane always performed neither haughty nor humble. In the course of love with Rochester, Jane pursued a kind of equality and freedom love. Most writers agreed that the theme of *Jane Eyre* was the search for love. Lawrence had said "the novel was revolutionary in its treatment of love" (Lawrence, 1985). Rochester's oppression did not come from the fact that Rochester wanted to marry Jane without telling her his mad wife's story. Here, the point was that Rochester's love oppressed Jane and jeopardized her independence. When they prepared things for marriage, Rochester said, "I will myself put the diamond chain around your neck, and the circlet on your forehead...and I will clasp the bracelets on these fine wrists, and load these fairy-like fingers with rings" (Brontë, P 279). He used visible jewelry to

limit Jane invisibly. Jane felt that she was oppressed; she felt Rochester's smile had "such a sultan might, bestow on a slave his gold and gems had enriched" (ibid P 280), and she, herself, just like the east illusion, was without freedom. Jane knew, facing Rochester, she was no longer as independent as before. In this not a long time, Jane had a fierce inner struggle, she felt she had been caught in infatuation, willing to contribute her everything to him, but it is the efforts that made and reminded her to be the master of her own soul. She became much more reasonable when she knew that the existence of Bertha Mason. She strongly opposed to Rochester's romantic behavior, so the church and the government still believed that he married a woman with ties to other circumstances; she refused to live with the Rochester. (Poovey, 1988)

Jane Eyre had no money, and she was homeless, cold and hungry after leaving Rochester. After three days of wandering, she met the fourth oppressor, St. John Rivers. He was idealistic, very good-looking, religious and zealous. He turned egotism and ambition to the service of religion. He used the name of obligation to oppress Jane and gave Jane spiritual suffering. He did not treat Jane as a woman or as his future wife, but a slave, a slave of God as well as his. St. John said to Jane,

"Simplify your complicated interests, feelings, thoughts, wishes, aims; merge all consideration in one purpose that of fulfilling with effect with power the mission of your great Master. Here, Master was capitalized. It seemed that Master was the God. In fact, St. John used the word to refer to his own mission. He regarded himself as Jane's Master^l. He deprived Jane of all her rights, especially the rights of a woman. Jane was no longer an independent woman, but a doll, a machine in his eyes. The word —Master^l" (Brontë P 487)

also delicately discovered the most important element of man's attitude towards woman. St. John's proposal was even more outrageous than

Rochester's, for it involves a spiritual prostitution instead of a physical one. Only when St. John involved God's name in support of a false idea of marriage did Jane resist, "If I were to marry you, you would kill me" (Brontë P 487) Jane's first —kill me indicated that the miserable life in India would destroy her health and kill her. Jane's second —kill me referred to St. John's oppression to her spirit. Jane Eyre bravely showed her feelings, but St. John denounced Jane as violent, untrue and unfeminine. But what was feminine? "Should women always regard man and their husbands as —Master? Shouldn't women show their true feelings and be independent?" (Davies P xxii)

If we say that the former three resistances are based on the control of emotional impulses, then the fourth resistance is Jane's reflection based on a post-rational thinking. This post-rational thinking is still attached to her desire for freedom and equal of love, not a result of extremely post-rational thinking.

2.4 Regaining love

Facing St. John's courtship, Jane escaped. The escape meant Jane's two kinds of rebellion.

One was the religious rebellion. John was a Christian of ambitious, self-satisfied, personal heroism. He attempted to sacrifice Jane's emotion to achieve the moral responsibility. Jane's rebellion was the rebellion of religious hypocrisy. The other was the rebellion of the traditional concept of love. Jane returned to Thornfield and returned to Rochester's side that had already been devoid of any self-care ability. Jane's move was subversive, which submersed the traditional good match and the previous fairy tale. In the end, she achieved the final victory of pursuit love and independence. (Gao 2016)

This rebellion seems to be sudden, as if there is a point of arrangement somewhere. Thus Jane heard the cries of Rochester. Whether this is the will of God, we cannot verify. However, at the moment that Jane saw Rochester and decided to marry him, everyone would have to acknowledge that this is a really pure woman.

Chapter 3 The Embodiment of the Sense of Independence from Jane Eyre

Discussing the meaning of the female consciousness, Simone Beauvoir believed that feminism was independent from class struggle, and struggled for women's issues. Gilman thought feminism was the awakening of the whole world women. Kate believed feminism was all artificial barriers against the law and customs that thwarted women to enjoy their rights. Although feminism is too complicated to be explained in a few words, the entire feminist theories have a basic premise that the women of the entire world cannot stand the oppression and discrimination. Based on the above understanding of feminist theory, this paper will analyze the embodiment of sense of independence from Jane Eyre and then discuss the causes of female independent consciousness of Charlotte Bronte. (Liu 2020)

3.1 The embodiment of the sense of independence in Jane Eyre

Independence is the outstanding quality throughout the whole process of the novel. Jane Eyre is not pretty and her character is unique. She is maltreated by her cousins and aunt. One day, when Jane takes John's book to read, he beats her once more. John says that Jane has no business to take his books; "You have no business to take our books; you are a dependent, mama says, you have no money; your father left you none; you ought to beg, and not to live here with gentlemen's children like us, and eat the same meals we do, and wear clothes at our mama's expense." (Brontë 2006). When she fights against him severely, she is sent to Red Room.

In the Red Room, she is frightened, but she keeps a clear mind that she realizes she needs to be saved from her blind fear of authority and be self-reliant. "Her mind is in tumult, and all her heart in insurrection, her reason says —unjust! I never compromise to them. I shall be independent." (ibid p 35). She hates Gateshead, hates everyone there. She hates Mrs. Reed who is a bad, hard-hearted woman. She treats her with miserable cruelty. Gateshead is a shelter for her, which teaches her a lot of things. Only when she is independent, can she be respected by others.

After all, she is a little girl. It is hard for her to be independent in economy. Therefore, she decides to be independent, self-sufficient in her mind. The Reeds are really mean to her and she thinks they suck. Of course, the feeling is mutual. Therefore, she is spared from the Reeds and is sent to a low budget orphan school called Lowood Institution. This makes her begin to realize the importance of independence. Her independent consciousness is mainly manifested the following respects. (Li 2007)

Firstly, Jane Eyre was encouraged from the bottom of heart to fight against her cruel relatives. The sense of independence was expressed in the book incisively and vividly. Jane Eyre had been having a conflict with her cousin John during her whole childhood living with her aunt Mrs. Reed, but weak and small Jane dared to fight with her cousin John and rebuked the vicious and cruel John, just like a murder and a Rome emperor. Except that, Jane also accused her cold aunt that she had a vicious heart. As for Jane Eyre if there was no struggle and fight, she would had been thoroughly controlled and strangled by her sponsor in her childhood. (Wang 2012)

Secondly, she dared to get rid of the secular and be rich in self-esteem. When Mr. Rochester pretended to test her through marrying a noble lady Ingram, Jane rebuked him angrily, "Because we are equal" (Brontë P 114), which was defense of the spirit of the equal concept from the bottom

of Jane's heart. If she had no self-esteem and self-love, she had already lived with Rochester and lived a rich and comfortable life.

Thirdly, there was some individual inspiration to women. If women hoped to get true happiness, they couldn't rely on a man; they must be independent in personal independence and economic independence in their life. From Jane Eyre, "the spirit of —independence, —struggle, —no surrender and —dare to pursue could be clearly seen" (Davies P xxv). Therefore Jane Eyre had become a classic representation of the independent women. Whether it was poor or not and whether it was beautiful or not, if only a woman had a fine mind and a full heart, she could have the ability to look for the independent personality and personal life, and she were able to pursue the spirit of independence between men and women bravely. (Wang 2012)

3.2 The forming reason of the sense of independence

At Lowood Institution, under the hypocritical Evangelicalism of the headmaster, Mr. Brocklehurst, she suffers further privation in the austere environment. The condition there is disgusting, but Jane doesn't submit to it. She gains her strength from her teacher and her fellow students to achieve her independence. Maria Temple, an independent woman, is the headmaster of the Institution. She is a responsible teacher, and kind to the students, even the low students. Consequently, she gains respect and popularity from the people around her. From Maria Temple, Jane learns that independence is a very important thing for everyone. (Liu 2020)

In our modern society, it seems to be more important to be independent. Jane learns the importance of duty and self-control through the friendship with Helen. At the beginning, Jane has much sympathy for Helen, because Helen doesn't dare to fight against the person who insults her. When Helen is to be flogged and to be asked to stand in the middle of a room that full of people, Jane thinks that Helen should turn against others when she is bullied; she should resist against Miss Scatcherd, and dislike Miss Scatcherd. From these we can see that Jane is not obedient to anyone if someone bullies her, she will do the same thing to others. As known to all, it is not violence that best overcomes hatred, nor vengeance that most certainly heals injury. And Jane learns these from Helen. Jane is deeply moved by Helen's actions and words. "Yet it would be your duty to bear it, if you could not avoid it: it is weak and silly to say you cannot bear what your fate to be required to bear." (Brontë P 119). Then through the friendship with Helen, she learns to be self-control in a certain degree. "It is far better to endure patiently a smart which nobody feels but yourself, than to commit a hasty action whose evil consequences will extend to all connected

with you; and besides, the Bible bids us return good for evil” (ibid 114). 10Jane gains strength from her teacher and her friend to achieve her independence. (Liu 2020)

Jane stays at Lowood for 8 years. She attempts to do well in all aspects. She makes rapid progress both in study and work. She becomes stronger than before in her heart. The idea of breaking out the conservative puritan life does not occur to her. She longs for a new form of life. So she gets a job by herself. Jane gains strength from her teacher and her friend to achieve her independence. The era reason of Jane’ independence consciousness has the following respects. (Liu 2020)

Firstly, the social environment was the basis of the female consciousness. When Charlotte Bronte wrote *Jane Eyre*, the British labor movement was broken out. The bourgeoisie was trying to take certain measures to collapse the worker’s movement; however the social status of women was not improved. So there was still an unequal social status between men and women, and women’s self-interest couldn’t be guaranteed. This social context promoted Charlotte Bronte to generate the spirit of anti-oppression and anti-discrimination. Therefore, the distinctive heroine *Jane Eyre* was created to express the spirit. (Wang 2012)

Secondly, the female consciousness of Charlotte Bronte generated from the upbringing. Charlotte Bronte was born poor and she never enjoyed any material comforts in her childhood. But she was very smart and read books wildly from an early age. She was eager to reading and writing poetry. And at the age of fifteen, she got a chance to enter the Wooler’s school. Before that time her father had been teaching them reading, painting, singing and playing piano. And the versatility of her laid a foundation for her creation of literature. However, her favorite thing was always writing. In 1864, Charlotte Bronte finished her full-length novel *Teacher* and began to write *Jane Eyre*. The —body writing of her life experience and the —ideal writing of her inner feeling were reflected in most of his novels. These novels became permanent in her short life. Then Jane left home to be a tutor for earning a living. In the era of her life, teaching was the only job that an educated woman could do. The female teachers who taught in a proposal family had low social status just like the servant. Family female teachers often received a good family education and then became some remarking women who had self-respect and independent personality, but they were in lower position. So she desired for personal independence and economic independence. And she described Jane desired for personal independence and economic independence. Some people thought that they could get everything from high political, economic and social status, but

the writer had a strong belief that only women who had self-love, self-reliance, self-improvement and self-esteem could be liberated in the true sense. (ibid)

3.3 The naissance of the sense of independence

In order to lead a life of independence, Jane works as a governess at Thornfield Hall. She is looked down upon by the rich ladies of the fashionable society, but she never despises herself, she never feels herself inferior. She is satisfied with, and even proud of her honest, independent work. She loves Rochester who is in a large possession of fortune and in a high social position, but she never thinks of relying on these things. She refuses all the precious gifts that could have been owned as a mistress and reminded Rochester again and again of the responsibility she should continue to fulfill as a governess. Her love doesn't mix with other strange ideas. In her opinion, self-respect, independence and equal rights are the fundamental elements of one's love. She doesn't want to be the slave of money, and she doesn't want to rely on others. Jane refuses his suggestion that Jane doesn't need to work anymore without any hesitation. In her opinion, if she loses her job, she must depend on Rochester to live, thus independence says goodbye to her. She doesn't want to be a thing of Rochester. At last, she decides to preserve her independence. With the news coming that Rochester's wife is still alive, she runs away. She wants to get dignity, freedom and independence. Jane arrives at the desolate crossroads of Whit Cross and is reduced to begging for food. Fortunately, the Rivers siblings helped her. At Moor House, Jane learns the pleasure of self-sufficiency. She intends to find a job to support herself, so St. John finds a job for her to teach at the local school. While teaching, she gains more social respect, and her students make progress quickly. Furthermore, the students and their parents like her very much. She is very happy and satisfied with her own conditions. As a teacher, her students' progress and popularity are the best gifts to her. So Jane Eyre is really independent from the bottom of her heart. (Liu 2020)

There was no doubt that the heroine Jane of Jane Eyre was the most rebellious spirit image that created by Charlotte Brontë. Many excellent qualities of women would be manifested in Jane Eyre. Jane Eyre always pursued independence in her life. Jane Eyre was the spokeswoman for subversion of the traditional female values. From Jane Eyre, we could know that Charlotte Brontë fully expressed her understanding of independence thought from the distinct perspective. Jane's independence made Jane Eyre shiny and sharp feminist ideology gave new meaning to that era and made Jane Eyre become a timeless masterpiece of literary history. (Wang 2012)

Conclusion

Charlotte was living in the era that women were man's appendage. Women's social status was very low. Jane was portrayed as an extraordinary new woman character with unique personality and strong mind although she was an orphan and she had no status in society. This made this novel completely different from the other works that portrayed the story of genius and beauty. Jane Eyre was a woman who pursued independence and equality throughout her whole life. She wouldn't wrong herself on marriage. She left her lover rather than be a mistress. Jane Eyre was also a female image that wouldn't marry someone who just gave her help not love. She believed marriage should be based on love, independence and equality.

In summary, the authoress shaped an extraordinary and unusual image of a female tutor, praised love that combined the two equal spirits, and also praised the women who dared to struggle against patriarchal society. The strong female consciousness of Western women in 19th century was weak and pathetic from thousands of years, but the authoress made the heroine strong and powerful in character. Jane not only got independence in spirit, but also made economic independence come true. Jane Eyre became tall and extraordinary. She flashed a strong feminist consciousness like torches in the darkness and lit a beacon of hope for the majority of women. The authoress created an extraordinary but unusual image of a female teacher carefully. She praised love that made the two souls together equally, and praised social women that had the courage to struggle against patriarchal society indomitably and saw the defense of women's personal dignity above all things. The bright outcome of the novel told us we must have the freedom, dignity and equality in the process of longing for love.

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