

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF MOHAMED BOUDIAF - M'SILA



Proto-Feminism in Jane Austen's *Pride* *And Prejudice*

**Dissertation Submitted to the Department of English in Partial
fulfillment**

of the Requirements for the Degree of Master

Submitted by:

ALILI Mohamed

MELIK Mohamed

Supervisor:

FARRAH Sabah

2018/2019

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF MOHAMED BOUDIAF - M'SILA



**Proto-Feminism in Jane Austen's *Pride*
*And Prejudice***

**Dissertation Submitted to the Department of English in Partial
fulfillment**

of the Requirements for the Degree of Master

Submitted by:

ALILI Mohamed

MELIK Mohamed

Board of Examiners

	University of M'sila	Chairperson
FARRAH Sabah	University of M'sila	Supervisor
	University of M'sila	Examiner

2018/2019

Dedication 1

Praise Allah who has guided and helped me.

Gladly, I dedicate this work:

To my darling parents who no words are sufficient to describe them

I owe every bit of existence to them (Allah bless and save them).

I also dedicate this work:

To my dear sisters and brother for their support

And to all my friends.

M.Mohamed

Dedication 2

*With great honor, I dedicate this work to the light of my
life;*

My Parents; God protect them

To my family ALILI and my brothers for their support

And to all who knows me.

A.mohamed

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This thesis would have never been accomplished without considerable help, advice, and guidance of our supervisor Ms.farrah Sabah. For that, we owe our gratitude to her for her efforts we express our thanks to all teachers and students of Second Year Master Also, our friends and classmates for their help and support. we are very thankful to everyone participated in the realization of this work.

Abstract

The aim of this study is to cast a wide net on *Jane Austen's* attitudes and portrayal of women in her novel "*Pride and Prejudice*." To approach the aim of this work, the research required an analytical descriptive method to depict the position of women in the eyes of *Jane Austen* as a British female writer. Thus, this paper has shown how women have found in literature, particularly in the novel, a solace to conjugate their existence on earth and to announce their declaration of independence that empowers them to air much of their feelings and thoughts. The feminine associations of the novel, however, have meant to rival male writers. Besides, the research has delineated the way in which the novel examines the suffering of women and how they overcome difficulties and achieve success. From this masterpiece, the researcher has noticed that *Jane Austen's* portrayal of her protagonist is based on her real world and experience. She establishes herself as a distinguished feminist novelist with her focus on the daily lives of genteel women, and in her treatment of the situation of women. She has also consolidated the status of the domestic female life as a proper subject for her novels, especially the matter of marriage.

KEYWORDS

- Feminism
- Proto-Feminism
- Victorian literature
- Victorian-era writers
- Jane Austen
- Pride And Prejudice by Jane Austen
- Feminism in Pride And Prejudice

TABLE OF CONTENT

Acknowledgments.....	I
Abstract.....	II
Table of Contents.....	III
Introduction.....	1

CHAPTER ONE: FEMINISM IN BRITAIN

1 FEMINISM DEVELOPMENT.....	04
1.1 Feminism Definition.....	04
1.2 Brief Historical Background.....	05
1.3 Perception of feminism today.....	11
1.4 Main types of Feminism.....	13
1.4.1 Radical Feminism.....	13
1.4.2 Socialist Feminism.....	14
1.4.3 Liberal Feminism.....	15
2 The Victorian Age Britain.....	17
2.1 The Victorian Age Literature.....	18
2.2 The Status of Women in the 19th Century.....	19
2.3 Victorian Women Writers.....	20
2.3.1 Mary Wollstonecraft.....	21
2.3.2 Elizabeth Gaskell.....	21
2.3.3 Charlotte Bronte.....	22
2.3.4 Jane Austen.....	22

2.3.4.1 Jane Austen the Woman.....	23
2.3.4.2 Jane Austen the Novelist.....	25
2.3.4.3 Jane Austen's Major Works.....	26
2.3.4.4 Should we call Austen a Feminist or a Proto-Feminist.....	28

CHAPTER TWO: FEMINISM IN AUSTEN'S PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

1 Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen.....	30
1.2 Summary of "Pride and Prejudice"	30
1.3 The Status of Women in "Pride and Prejudice"	33
2 Issues of Feminism Reflected in the novel.....	39
2.1 Social Asymmetry.....	39
2.1.1 The effect of patriarchy culture.....	39
2.1.2 The limitations of women's rights.....	40
2.2 Economic Asymmetry.....	41
2.3 Education Asymmetry.....	42
2.4 Woman as Commodity Matter.....	43
3 The Dominant Roles of Woman Described in the Novel.....	44
3.1 Women Resistance to Patriarchy Culture.....	44
3.2 Women as Second Person.....	45
3.3 Woman to change society's view.....	46
CONCLUSION.....	48
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	50

INTRODUCTION

Women should remain at home, sit still, keep house, and bear and bring up children. A woman is, or at least should be, a friendly, courteous, and a merry companion in life, the honour and ornament of the house, and inclined to tenderness, for thereunto are they chiefly created, to bear children, and to be the pleasure, joy and solace of their husbands, (Luther. 33-34)

In the early nineteenth Century, women lived in hard situation characterized by inequality of rights in education and freedom, and they were expected to remain under the power of their fathers and husbands. Britain witnessed many changes in Victorian time that influenced English society in philosophy, economics, and politics. It was also a period of flourish in English Literature. *Pride and Prejudice*, however, was the finest work of Jane Austen masterpieces. It was first published in 1813, and it was considered as a classical novel which carried a romantic theme overlapped in love and marriage. This was the topic that Jane Austen struggled with in her own life, and she presented an important reality of English women exposing the social and moral follies of her society. This presentation included social classes, values, marriage and women's status.

This thesis will be concerned with the development of Feminism throughout the 19th and 20th centuries in English literature, and will also reach outside these centuries to briefly discuss how Feminism is perceived at present. Feminism is a wide phenomenon and it is still a topic to be discussed, we have been interested in it for some time now which is also why we have chosen to write about this matter.

Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is a novel published in 1813, but it does not display typical Romantic characteristics. Rather, it may be said that its style and characteristics foreshadow the upcoming Victorian era. As Victorian novels often do, it portrays and comments on the social conventions of the period. It is generally known that the

society of the nineteenth century England was nothing like today: class differences were more visible, polite manners were much more appreciated and, most importantly, the social status of women was determined according to the status of their family or their husband. Therefore they had to marry the most appropriate man that was sometimes even imposed on them by their family. Though they could choose whom they would marry, there was very little possibility that they would marry a man they loved; unless he is also wealthy and willing to marry her. This study contains two problems of formulation to be analyzed. The first is “What issues of feminism are reflected in the *Pride and Prejudice* novel?” And the second is “What are the dominant roles of women deserted in the *Pride and Prejudice* novel?”

This endeavor will analyze pride and prejudice and explore feminism features deserted in the novel, the work requires secondary sources such as theories, explanation, books, and different news form about feminism in order to support the result of the analysis of the primary data, and in order to achieve the aim of this study we used a descriptive analytic method. The results of this study are expected to be useful and helpful for futures researchers especially those who conduct studies about literature focusing on Feminism or on *Pride and Prejudice* novel by providing preliminary study.

This extended essay is divided into two chapters. The first chapter introduces feminism by giving its definition and origin in addition to its different types that are liberal, radical and socialist feminism. It deals also with the different waves of feminism focusing on the main objectives of each wave, which influence people’s opinion about woman to make her an important member in society. It focuses on the living conditions of woman and her bad life situation in patriarchal societies. Finally, it deals on the 19th-century writers and

particularly Jane Austen and her contribution in paving the way for modern feminism to appear.

The second chapter concerns with the study of the content of Austen's *pride and prejudice*, It starts with the summary of the work and the analyses in order to extract the status of woman in the novel. Then, it deals with the findings of feminism sort out from the novel such as the role of woman and the different asymmetries between the two sexes.

CHAPTER ONE: FEMINISM IN BRITAIN

1 FEMINISM DEVELOPMENT

1.1 Feminism Definition

The term feminism is differently used, explained, and defined by scholars and researchers; some of them use it to refer to some historical political movements in USA and Europe. Whereas, others refer it to the belief that women live an injustice life with no rights and no equality. Thus, according to the Cambridge Online Lexicon *feminism* is “the belief that women should be allowed the same rights, power, and opportunities as men and be treated in the same way or the set of activities intended to achieve this state”.

The term ‘Feminism’ itself is utilized to depict a cultural, political or economic movement going for equal rights for both sexes (Cambridge Online Lexicon). Nevertheless, the terms ‘Feminism’ and ‘feminist’ did not gain widespread meaning use until the 1970s when they began to be utilized in general society speech more frequently. It is useful to distinguish feminist ideas or beliefs from feminist political movements, for even in periods where there has been no significant political activism around women’s subordination, individuals have been concerned with and theorized about justice for women.

The feminist movement involves sociological and political theories concerning with gender difference issues. The movement existed in Britain for many decades, and despite of the painful segregation and the hard inequality, women were able to stand up each time and they were able to speak and express their problems, feelings, and wishes during mid 1850s ; when the first feminists started to advocate their thoughts about inequality and when the first suffragette movement emerged.

The feminist system likewise demonstrates how issues are characterized and the kind of questions to be asked. For example, according to the definition in *Theoretical Perspectives on Gender and Development* written by Jane L. Parpart et al, inequality is the result of “the need to establish unequal incentives to motivate the most talented people to do the most important jobs efficiently in society” (53). Another definition from the same book also says that the inequality results from “the practice of providing differential rewards to keep a less powerful working class fragmented by gender and race.” (53). In the first definition Parpart talks about the mental capacities of the human being he mentioned that inequality was made to motivate the most eligible and talented people to do the most important jobs, while in the second definition he talks about natural differences between sexes and races, those differences are based on biological factors and physical strengths, Parpart mentioned that inequality was made to keep less powerful working class .

1.2 Brief Historical Background

Britain, moreover as France, was among the primary countries wherever ladies started fighting their rights, education, and especially respect. Simone de Beauvoir wrote that “the first time we see a woman take up her pen in defense of her sex was when Christine de Pizan wrote *Epitre au Dieu d'Amour* (Epistle to the God of Love) in the 15th century.” (Feminism.com).

However, it was not until the early 19th century when women began to achieve changes in society, thanks to Mary Wollstonecraft, author of *the Commanding Vindication of the Rights of Woman* who took the attention of the world by her writings, in her book *Men and the Making of Modern British Feminism*, Arianne Chernock describes Wollstonecraft as the woman who “spoke up, quite loudly, for what had been until then a largely silent section of the human race” (2). Even today, scholars think about Mary Wollstonecraft to be an

establishing mother of the British feminism and her *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* can be considered as a first unambiguous feminist work. In addition, one of the main social reformers of early 19th century was also Florence Nightingale, who was convicted that women had “all the potential of men but none of the opportunities” (Nightingale 125).

She pioneered the importance of nursing schools and also advocated better education for women. Nonetheless, not only women tried to establish equal opportunities for both sexes, feminist men also helped advance women’s liberation, although there were not many of them. One of them was an English philosopher, political economist and a feminist John Stuart Mill, who was inspired by his wife women’s right advocate Harriet Taylor Mill, Mill once declared: “the principle which regulates the existing social relations between the two sexes—the legal subordination of one sex to the other—is wrong itself, and now one of the chief hindrances to human improvement; and that it ought to be replaced by a principle of perfect equality, admitting no power or privilege on the one side, nor disability on the other.” (Pankhurst 97). Mill also became the first British Member of Parliament to introduce a bill calling for women to receive the vote.

People usually wonder about how Feminism was able to pave the way for woman in the entire world to become an important creature after painful raping, killing and suffering for ages. Feminists and scholars have divided the movement into three separate waves and each of the waves is significant for the movement in accomplishing distinctive objectives. Equality in legal and political rights and formal equality of opportunity are the central issues of the first wave which took place in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The aim of feminists at that time was to achieve the opportunity to vote, to hold public offices, to gain more official jobs and education. In addition to legal rights in marriage such as sue for divorce, keeping children after divorce, and legal protection against husbands’ physical abuse. As Margaret

Waters claims in her book called *Feminism: A Very Short Introduction*, “for a married woman, her home becomes a prison-house. The house itself, as well as everything in it, belongs to the husband, and of all fixtures the most abject is his breeding machine, the wife. Married women are in fact slaves, their situation no better than that of Negroes in the West Indies (44)”.

Girls were often considered as less important than boys, thus women acquired their inferior status from youth. The novel *Persuasion* by the British author Jane Austen tackled the issue and serves as an example in this situation. In the novel Jane Austen blamed such unfair practices towards women saying “but I hate to hear you talking so like a gentleman, and as if women were all fine ladies, instead of rational creation” (68). Marion Reid in her essay *A Plea for Women*, which has been described as the most thorough and effective statement by a woman since Wollstonecraft’s *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, argues “if women’s rights are not the same as those of man, what are they?” in one sense, she admits, “woman was made for man, yet in another and higher she was also made for herself.” (Walters 42). Reid focuses on reasons why women should not be limited only by domesticity and that taking care of household and children should be in interest of both, the wife as well as the husband.

One of the nineteenth century American Suffragist is Elizabeth Cady Stanton. She clarified the sense of women's role and responsibilities and argued that we need women’s thought in national affairs to make safe and stable government because man and woman complement each other. Other female writers and feminists argued that what they needed was recognition of what women need to fulfill their potential and their own natures and not only equality. Virginia Woolf, in probably the most notable pages of *A Room of One’s Own*, states her argument about how women’s talents have been wasted. Walters supports Woolf’s

argument and comments on it: “She contemplates a number of greatly talented women from the past, from the Duchess of Newcastle to George Eliot and Charlotte Brontë – who were deprived of experience, intercourse and travel and that is the reason they never wrote quite as powerfully and generously as they might have. Woolf also reasoned that a woman needs money and a room of her own to be able to write”. (96)

By the end of the 19th century, the activism was aiming to gain a political power especially the right of women’s suffrage , suffragist organized a big campaign for women's vote in Britain which was severely criticized by some anti-feminists who refused the total idea. However, suffragist continued fighting for their goal because they believed that women's vote will bring more right for women not only the acceptance in society, they had a vision of a society where women are liberated and sex role stereotypes are no more. so they tried by all the means to make people feel women's suffering, they wanted to convince them that oppression of women is a contradiction in society. Women feminists fought for their right to not be property, rights to their inheritance, rights to an education and to a religion that was not patriarchal, and each time they were producing a new concept such as “equal-opportunities feminism” or “equity feminism”. The leader of those activities played a big role in paving the way for the second wave to appear.

The term second-wave feminism referred mostly to the radical feminism and mainly to Women’s liberation movement after the World War II. This activity considered as the continuation of the previous one, and the term 'first wave' was coined after the second wave emerged. Since the second wave had slightly different objectives it required another term. Second wave feminists saw women’s cultural and political inequalities as “inextricably linked and encouraged women to understand aspects of their personal lives as deeply politicized and as reflecting sexist power structures”. (Feminism.com)

They wanted to prove to the world that woman is an equal creature the same as man, not just a puppet or a marionette in the hands of man. They made strikes and walks against the competitions in particular and the image of women in general. They carried posters in their hands like “Cattle Parades Are Degrading and humiliating to Human Beings,” “Boring Job: Woman Wanted,” and “Low Pay: Woman Wanted,” “Women’s Liberation,” “Freedom for Women”.

This time feminists made their message loud and clear: Women were victims of a patriarchal, commercialized oppressive and unfair beauty culture. After all those events, the idea of woman rights and equality started to become a world interest and the media (TV, journals...) started to speak about it. One of the most influential feminists of the early 20th century was Simone de Beauvoir, who is also the author of *The Second Sex* and of the very famous statement “one is not born, but rather becomes, a woman” (Butler 72). De Beauvoir distinguishes sex from gender and suggests that gender is “an aspect of identity gradually acquired. She states that gender is the cultural meaning and form that body acquires, the variable modes of that body’s acculturation” (35).

Feminist of the second wave claimed that patriarchy and women oppression are old ideas and they are related to bourgeois societies showing that the sexual differences are important to those societies more than race, class and religion of women. Feminists in that period were not only looking for women right to vote or to be equal to man but they wanted her to be dependent in everything including her body and feelings. They started to discuss the right of women to marry and to be with the person she likes taking no consideration to his or her sex. This why those new ideas of Lesbian, homosexual and heterosexual people were considered as sins for some anti-feminism. On the other hand, Feminists and leaders of those activities and ideas tried to show to anti-feminism in particular, and to the whole world that

they have strong relationships with each other despite the differences among them and to show their unity as well.

After a long period of struggles, strikes and events woman started to go deeper in looking for her rights. From asking only for the right to vote, the right to marry, she finally wanted her total freedom in almost everything: economical, political, social and religious fields. Writers and feminists believed that women do not have any political or social right and they have no power or decision in their lives. This is why they tried to give proposals and solutions for woman situation. In addition to that, they start to ask about the right of woman to be paid even when working in her own house (housewife) as a kind of citizen income.

Moreover, People should respect woman for doing this job since it is the best, hardest and the most important job in all the society and because woman is able to build or destroy any society if she wanted to. Those leaders worked hardly to influence the society by rising awareness between people. In addition to that, they tried to convince them by giving women an appropriate place in society not just by calling her women (or as a wife of or a daughter).

After a long trip of looking for the lost identity and the neglected dreams, woman in some places in the world started to gave up this why many feminists, researchers and scholars started to look for other means to achieve their goals since the previous activities were not enough. Julia Wood for example was among those scholars who wanted to make people believe that the question is not whether you are a feminist or not but rather which kind of feminism you are. This question was the main reason behind the emergence of the third-wave feminism, and its appearance not because the previous ones failed but because they were the first steps in the ladder of feminism.

1.3 Perception of feminism today

This wave of feminism referred to a group of feminist activity. They were appeared in the early 1990s and continuing to the present. Rebecca Walker is the symbol of this wave. She used this term „third wave feminism“ at the first time in 1992. This wave came as a reaction of the second wave ideas and activities like women in pornography, sex work, and prostitution.

The third wave feminists generally consider themselves as the most powerful, the effective and the stronger group between all the other previous activities of feminism. Schneiders describes the third wave feminism as a movement of liberation: “This movement is concerned not simply with the social, political, and economic equality of women with men but with a fundamental reimagination of the whole of humanity in relation to whole of reality, including non-human creation” (98).

These new generations of feminists believed that the best way to make this third wave effective more than the last ones is by developing and changing the ways and the methods of looking for the rights of women. They started by using terms, which were simple and strong like instead of saying women they were saying „girl“ to attract the new generation to the importance of feminism mainly in the last decades in which the world noticed huge development in Technology and Science. They started to prepare some events and parties about girls and young women interests like fashion and clothes. By doing that, they wanted to make women love herself (from inside and outside) and believed in her abilities to change the world in a positive way. They used expressions like “Do it yourself” but on the other hand, not all girls understood those words correctly and they did not reach the goals of this wave like the improvement of women and the development of society.

Over the several decades, the feminist movement has helped women to stand for their own and to be acknowledged. However, feminism today cannot be easily defined anymore; it is not as visible as it used to be during the first wave. Globalization was also a related topic to feminism in that period. Feminists wanted to reorganize power that challenged feminist theory and politics and wanted to discover women's interests and perspectives i.e. all groups of women with no exception. Those feminists seek to be inclusive of the many diverse relationships and roles women fulfill. This is why many feminists starting from 1990s until now were trying to prove that those feminists' theories and activities deserved respect and awards in the different manifestations.

They tried also to gather the biggest number of participants from different places, races and religions. They wanted to convince people by the importance of helping each other to overcome the segregation against woman. According to some points of view, the third wave of feminism was not strong enough to speak about women rights since it lacked to a cohesive goal, and it is usually seen as an extension of the second wave. More importantly, it does not have a set definition that can distinguish itself and its different goals from second-wave feminism. (Feminism.com)

Finally, each of the feminist waves discussed before has played an important role in feminist theories and politics starting from the 1960s until now. They paved the way to other waves and activities to appear and help woman to get her social, political, cultural, religious and sexual rights each one in its own different way.

1.4 Main types of Feminism

Feminists around the time did and still doing their best trying to end sexism in all its forms and to achieve justice for woman. There are many kinds of feminism in which sometimes each one of them gives principles and conditions to give the woman her rights.

1.4.1 Radical feminism

Radical feminists believe that sexism is so deeply rooted in society that the only cure is to eliminate the concept of gender. It began to appear in the late 1960s by the famous leaders *T. Grace Atkinson* and *Shulamith Firestone*. It denies the liberal claim that the lack of political or civil rights causes women's oppression. It is a perspective within feminism that focuses on the hypothesis of patriarchy as a system of power that organizes society into a complex of relationships based on the assertion that male supremacy oppresses women. Radical feminism aims to challenge and overthrow patriarchy by opposing standard gender roles and oppression of women and calls for a radical reordering of society. The reason this group gets the radical label is that they view the oppression of women as the most fundamental form of man's domination, one that cuts across boundaries of race, culture, and economic class. In fact, this is a movement intent on social change, change of rather revolutionary proportions.

This group of feminists claims that the root of women's oppression is biological. They believe that the physical subordination of women by men is the primary form of oppression and others are secondary. Therefore, radical feminism believes that woman's liberation requires a biological revolution. They raise the demand for the destruction of patriarchy. There is a shift in emphasis from struggle for role and legal reforms to the destruction of patriarchy. The chief institution of patriarchy is the family and the family promotes patriarchy

in the society. Moreover, they believe that the whole system must be abolished even, its biological aspects.

Radical feminism principles contain many interesting claims such as pregnancy and child birth in which they consider them as the most painful and unpleasant experiences that can person pass through. They believe that the technology should be used to eliminate all kinds of pain particularly from the fundamental inequality of the bearing and rising of the children. This must be the basic achievement because they believe that the heart of women's oppression is their childbearing and childrearing roles (landfield.com).

Radical feminists believe that the male psychology or biology is the source of women's oppression and pain. This is why they call for separatism and the independence from men. By posing an all-inclusive sisterhood as the solution to patriarchy, radical feminists overlook the class differences that prevent women as a whole from having the same interests. They often minimize the importance of solidarity between women and men of color in the fight against racism. They tend to ignore issues that do not relate directly to a narrowly defined female experience.

Radical feminism questions why women must adopt certain roles based on their biology, just as it questions why men adopt certain other roles based on gender. They attempt to draw lines between biologically determined behavior and culturally determined behavior in order to free both men and women as much as possible from their previous narrow gender roles.

1.4.2 Socialist feminism

Socialist feminism also known as Marxist feminism or Materialist feminism is an important movement of feminism. It calls for an end to capitalism through a socialist

reformation of economy. Socialist feminists view gender inequalities as intrinsic to the capitalist system, which makes vast profits off women's unpaid labor in the home and underpaid labor in the workforce. Socialist feminism argues that capitalism strengthens and supports the sexist status because men are the ones who currently have power and money.

Those men are more willing to share their power and money with other man, which means that women have fewer opportunities and resources. Therefore, they tried to eliminate the capitalist system and replace it with socialism, which collectively shares the wealth created by human labor and has no economic stake in maintaining exploitation. Sexism benefits the capitalism, by providing a supply of cheap labor for industry. Women are in low paid, low status or even no paid work. It means that, Socialist feminists reject the idea that liberation for women requires the abolition of childbirth. They seek to analyze the subordination of women as linked with other forms of oppression, and attempt to unite the fights for socialism with that for women's liberation.

Marxist feminism believes that the restoration of women to autonomy is possible. Modern industrialization was, in fact beginning this liberation of women by forcing working class women into wage labor. Having equal salary for both man and woman was in the top of Socialist feminists' aims and demands.

1.4.3 Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism is a particular approach to achieving equality between men and women. It emphasizes on the power of an individual Person to alter discriminatory practices against women. It is considered the most important kinds of feminism, which works within the structure of society to integrate women into it. Its roots stretch back to the social contract theory of government instituted by the American Revolution.

Liberal feminism aims for individuals to use their own abilities and the democratic process to help women and men to become equal in the eyes of the law and in society. By organizing women into larger groups that can speak at a higher level, push for legislation, and raise awareness of issues, those taking a liberal feminist approach will use the resources and tools available in our society to advocate for change (sociology.org.uk).

Liberal feminism witnessed several waves of changes that contributed in its development and its power throughout the history. By the beginning of the 1960s, a particular resurgence in energy followed the civil rights movement in the United State, which led to The Famous March on Washington. This march was able to move the ideas and principle of liberal feminists to another level. The spirit and the importance of their ideas were able to move to other civil rights movements who adopted it as a form of realization and awareness of the importance of speaking and expressing their problems and ideas. Raising consciousness included ensuring that personal experiences and information passed from person to person about the issues of the day that affected the group. This helped people in the movement to stay conscious of the need for their individual contribution to the movement to improve conditions.

The main thrust of liberal feminism is that an individual woman should be able to determine her social role with as great freedom as does a man. Feminism therefore has required removing the historic structure of patriarchal law that denied women's civil rights. The major emphasis is that equality of women before the law, in educational and professional opportunities, changes in marriage laws, property rights, inequitable divorce, equal pay for equal work, protection from rape, wife battering in the home and liberation from all dehumanizing forces. In short, it aims at bringing equality between women and men in the

framework of the existing social systems do not question the underlying basis of women's subordination.

2 The Victorian Age Britain

The Victorian period formally begins in 1837 (the year Victoria has become a queen of Britain) and ends in 1901 (the year of her death). As a matter of expediency, these dates are sometimes modified slightly. 1830 is usually considered the end of the Romantic period in Britain, and thus makes a convenient starting date for Victorianism. Similarly, since Queen Victoria's death occurred so soon in the beginning of a new century, the end of the previous century provides a useful closing date for the period. The common perception of the period is the Victorians are "prudish, hypocritical, stuffy, [and] narrow-minded" (Murfin 496). This perception is (as most periodic generalizations are) not universally accurate, and it is thus a grievous error to jump to the conclusion that a writer or artist fits that description merely because he or she wrote during the mid to late 19th century. However, it is also true that this description applies to some large segments of Victorian English society, particularly amongst the middle-class, which at the time was increasing both in number and power. Many members of this middle-class aspire to join the ranks of the nobles, and have felt that acting "properly," according to the conventions and values of the time, was an important step in that direction (The Victorian Period).

Along similar lines, *William Ralph Inge* in his book *The Victorian Age* argued that "one great interest of the Victorian age is that it was the time when a new social order was being built up and entirely new problems were being solved" (5). This quote means that this period saw great developments and wide spread of technology. Moreover, it was the period of

the Industrial Revolution; this revolution was fundamentally a technological revolution which focused on the sources of inventions (Allen 02). But, women remained at all suppressed, suffering from bad treatment of both men and society who neglected their importance. They faced many restrictions; like the inability to vote or to own property exercising accomplishments (drawing and learning piano) or factory and agricultural labor which reduced women to the eternal positions of housekeepers or housewives (ibid).

2.1 The Victorian Age Literature

Defining the Victorian literature in any satisfactory and comprehensive manner has proven troublesome for critics ever since the nineteenth century comes to a close. The movement roughly comprises the years from 1830 to 1900, though there is ample disagreement regarding even this simple point. The name given to the period is borrowed from the royal matriarch of England, Queen Victoria, who sat on throne from 1837 to 1901. One has difficulty determining with any accuracy where the Romantic Movement of the early nineteenth century leaves off and the Victorian Period begins because these traditions have so many aspects in common. Likewise, identifying the point where Victorianism gives way completely to Modernism is no easy task. Literary periods are never the discrete, self-contained realms which the anthologies so suggest. Rather, a literary period more closely resembles a rope that is frayed at both ends. Many threads make up the rope and work together to form the whole artistic and cultural milieu.

The Victorian writers exhibited some well-established habits from previous eras, while at the same time pushing arts and letters in new and interesting directions. Indeed, some of the later Victorian novelists and poets are nearly indistinguishable from the Modernists who have followed shortly thereafter. In spite of the uncertainty of terminology, there are some concrete statements that one can make regarding the nature of Victorian

literature, and the intellectual world which nurtures that literature. The Victorian writers have created the literature that portrays and comments on the religious, economic, social and philosophical ideas of that time. Victorian stories, however, have been written as messages to teach the readers moral lessons.

The Victorian Age entered in a new period after the romantic revival. The literature of this era expressed the fusion of pure romance to gross realism. Though, the Victorian Age produced great poets, the age is also remarkable for the excellence of its prose. Literature of this age tends to come closer to daily life which reflects its practical problems and interests. It becomes a powerful instrument for human progress.

Socially & economically, Industrialism was on the rise and various reform movements like emancipation, child labor, women's rights, and evolution. It seems to deviate from "art for art's sake" and asserts its moral purpose. Tennyson, Browning, Carlyle, Ruskin - all were the teachers of England with the faith in their moral message to instruct the world. It is also considered as an age of doubt and pessimism. The influence of science is felt here. The whole age seems to be caught in the conception of man in relation to the universe with the idea of evolution. Though, the age is characterized as practical and materialistic, most of the writers exalt a purely ideal life. It is an idealistic age where the great ideals like truth, justice, love, brotherhood are emphasized by poets, essayists and novelists of the age (Victorian literature 01).

2.2 The Status of Women in the 19th Century

During the nineteenth Century, women had few opportunities in many fields, like education, works, and votes. The ideal of Victorian woman was supposed to be domestic and their rights were limited. When the Victorian man and woman got married, the rights of the

wife might be given over to her husband; because the married couple had become one under the law, so the only one who had the right to represent this entity was the man. When the woman became married, she must give her husband rights to what her body produced; as sex, bring children, and domestic works. She was considered as machine just to do the domestic affairs.

Maybe the existence of conduct rules in Victorian society was the most important aspect that restricted the freedom of women. Woman was judged in social gatherings based on her behaviours according to social norms. However, men had bigger advantages in being the privileged gender (Gran 1). The author *Guen* mentioned that: “feminist theory considers that woman was morally and politically opposed to marriage among the rich husbands to provide a secure financial life, family wealth automatically passed down the male line” (14). This supposed that woman was politically and morally conflicted to marriage among the wealthy husbands to grant a stable financial life, and the wealth of the family would be passed to the male because in this society, woman was not able to inherit her family’s wealth only in case that she came from very rich family, she could inherit very small percentage.

In the mid-nineteenth century, England witnessed important challenges and developments about the Women Question, where many women called-for more rights, and were emphasized on the need of ownership of greater economic, political, social and educational opportunities (Women in The Victorian Era).

2.3 Victorian Women Writers

Many women writers emerged and fought against injustice and the bad situation of women during the Victorian era through their novels. They challenged the structure of the male who dominated society they lived in. It was also impossible to give the right and exact

number of these women writers. For instance, Elaine Showalter (1977) claimed that the nineteenth century was the time of the female writers like Jane Austen, Mary Wollstonecraft, Charlotte Bronte, George Eliot and others (Salinovic 219). He said that the situation of women writers was very difficult but their novels were the only way to escape from the patriarchal society and to criticize women's oppression (219). In fact, these female writers used their novels to express their voices demanding equality between men and women and avoiding oppression and suffering. From this bulk of writers, one may call:

2.3.1 Mary Wollstonecraft

Mary Wollstonecraft was one of the famous female voices who fought against the dangers and social discrimination against women during the nineteenth century. She was influenced by the ideas of American and French Revolutions focusing on the necessity of women's participation in all fundamental rights as equal to man, in addition to the right to vote and owning property (Jenainati and Groves 24). The publication of Mary Wollstonecraft's *The Vindication of the Rights of Women* is her main novel in which she depicts women's submission and stereotypes. She emphasizes on education as the best way to constitute identity and an individual personality (ibid 27).

2.3.2 Elizabeth Gaskell

Accordingly, Ruth is a good example of women in Victorian society in which the main heroine, Ruth, suffers from the loss of her parents. With the moving events, Ruth becomes a mother, and her child is illegitimate. In the very fact, Elizabeth Gaskell writes about the "fallen women" who are rejected by people, because Victorian society does not accept women with illegitimate children (Gaskell 308). Analogously, *North and South* is an industrial novel as well as romantic in which Gaskell uses Margaret as heroine who faces a

big change in her life when her family moves from the south to the north of England. Thus, this remarkable novel has fast gained a wide readership globally by being the mirror that refracts the reality of her time (ibid).

Finally, Elizabeth was a friend of Charlotte Bronte, Jane Austen and other women writers who called for equality between men and women in all fields of life (Showalter 27). An instance in the case is Charlotte Bronte who has a special way of writing characterized clearly in her literary works.

2.3.3 Charlotte Bronte

Charlotte Bronte is an English novelist who challenges the norms and conventions of her society during the Victorian era. As a feminist writer, she has used her own experience in most of her novels as in *Jane Eyre*. It is also her famous and influential work at that time, in which the main character challenges men's authority with the courage she possesses to fight for her rights and love (Wang 1830).

As a conclusion, these women are just a few from all women writers who fought against the inferior position of women and criticized the nineteenth century's social structure. As a result, they wanted to change the position of women in the Victorian society and the world despite of all the difficulties and obstacles (ibid).

2.3.4 Jane Austen

Jane Austen is one of the most famous women novelists of the nineteenth Century and the most feminist writer who gains a place in the history of English Literature, and uses her works as a tool to voice her issue about women role and gender in society especially the middle class and the upper –middle class. So, most of her novels are about women in society

(Alka 134). The important themes in her novels are marriage and male dominance in all fields of life. In addition, Jane Austen has dealt with the subject of marriage as the only solution for women in the Victorian age by using her own social critical attitudes in *Pride and Prejudice* translation Studies (ibid).

In her most novels, Jane Austen portrayed the oppression of women in the nineteenth Century and explained to the reader her personal view about this dire situation. She also rebelled against the dominance of males towards women because they were treated as “second class citizens” (Alka 135). As a feminist writer, Austen explained and condemned the oppression of women. It is clear that Austen’s heroines convey her opinion that women should resist oppression and injustice in their life and search for happiness. She created female figures in order to prove that women are also capable of being reasonable and rational (Alka 135).

In her writings, Jane Austen was influenced by Mary Wollstonecraft’s *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, and her ideas about the situation of women in society. Most of Austen’s characters want to marry and always marry for love which was impossible during Austen’s time (Shring 103-105).

Jane Austen’s most famous novel *Pride and Prejudice* describes the life of young ladies. Then, the main issue in this novel is a woman who could not inherit land so for this reason the mother Mrs. Bennet searches for a wealthy husband to her daughters (Shogskola 17)

2.3.4.1 Jane Austen the Woman

Jane Austen was born on December 16th, 1775 in Steventon, Hampshire in Countryside. She was the seventh child of a family of eight, six brothers; James, George,

Edward, Henry, Frank, Charles, and one sister, Cassandra Elizabeth. Her father was the Oxford-educated country person, George Austen, and her mother, Cassandra Austen (Bloom 10). Her father taught two of his sons and few students of Oxford. He had a good library and Jane benefitted from it. There was a decent arrangement of reading aloud in the family: Sonnet plays, and novels were delighted in, and the family went in for novice theatricals, organizing plays in Mr. Austen's animal barn. The parents obviously created a cultured atmosphere for the children to grow up in, and Jane knew French and Italian, could play the piano, sew, draw, dance, embroider, and clearly, converse very well indeed (Austen VI).

Jane and her sister Cassandra were very close, as evidenced by the many letters from Jane to Cassandra that had survived a considerable time. In 1785, Jane and Cassandra went to the Abbey boarding school for reading. More than this, the Austen girls had little formal education outside their family, and Jane left it at the age of nine, but her education continued effectively at home; nonetheless, this was uncommon for the times (Bloom 10).

Austen girls never got married. Jane proved to have been involved in a few amorous relationships. In 1802, she accepted an offer of marriage from wealthy landowner Harris Bigg-Wither, who had the resources to provide for her entire family, but she changed her mind only a day later, and decided to revoke her acceptance. She resolved never to marry for money over love. Thus, Austen remained unmarried until she died. Also, Cassandra never engaged again after the death of her fiancé Thomas Fowle (Bloom 11).

Though Jane was born during the French revolution and the rise of Napoleon war which was up to turn upside down most people's ideas of social stability and the class system. But nothing of these events, which were to change England so completely in the imminent years, really touched the family of Jane Austen's nature, and conventions (qtd. in Guen 27-28).

Austen's family moved several times during her later life. In 1801, Jane, her sister, and her parents moved from Stevenson to Bath. In 1805, her father died. In 1806, they moved from Bath to Clifton, and then to Southampton. However, between 1801 and 1809, Austen did very little serious writings, leading many critics to suppose she was unhappy with her surroundings during this period (Bloom 11).

As she was surrounded by a lively and affectionate family, she divided her time between domestic chores and writing. Nothing much happened during her youth: she attended various social activities such as visiting friends and going to fashionable balls in the vicinity. On the whole, her life was relatively uneventful (Jane Austen's life 13). Austen became mildly ill, she had Addison's disease in 1816, and she was forced to move to Winchester for medical reasons, although she continued writing. She died on 18 July 1817 (Austen VII).

2.3.4.2 Jane Austen the Novelist

The first major woman novelist, Jane Austen did not have a place with any of the scholarly developments of her time. She mocked sentiment and nostalgia in the majority of her novels and satires the Gothic fashion in *Northanger Abbey* (1803). Her scope of vision is limited, for she demonstrated the connection between people in little commonplace groups, generally concentrated around the heroine's finding a husband and her discovery in the process. But the form had been always perfect, the dialogue was witty and the light cast upon the character was ruthlessly searching. Jane Austen was a comedian interested in behaviour in so far as they reflected ethics (Grellet and Valentin 190).

Moreover, Austen made a lot of contributions to comic drama of conduct of middle-class English life in her time. Her written work was noted by her plausibility, smart

sensitivity, authenticity, and splendid prose style. Through her treatment of common individuals in regular life, she was the first to give the novel its uniquely modern character (Attia 128). The famous novel of Jane Austen “Sense and Sensibility” was published in 1811, which distinguished the personalities of the two sisters; Elinor who governed her life by sense and reasonableness, while her sister Marianne was ruled by her feelings and sensibility.

“Mansfield Park” was published in 1814. The novel traced the career of a Cinderella-like heroine, who was brought from a poor home to “Mansfield Park”, the country estate of her relative. She was raised with some of the comforts of her cousins, but her social level was maintained at a lower rank. Two years later, the novel “Emma” was published gaining unprecedented success among all literary works of the time. The plot of the story revolved around the heroine “Emma,” who was a girl of high intelligence, vivid imagination, and a robust desire to control others’ life. She was almost influenced by her old boyfriend who was her role-model in intelligence. In 1818, “Persuasion” was crafted as a well-embellished novel that was directly expressive of Jane Austen’s feelings of her own life.

2.3.4.3 Jane Austen’s Major Works

Jane Austen's first major novel was written in 1798-99, when she was in her early twenties. It was a comic love story set in Bath about a young reader who must learn how to separate fantasy from reality. Miss Austen sold the novel (then entitled Susan) to a publisher in 1803, and the work was advertised but never published. She bought it back many years later, and her brother Henry Austen published the novel as *Northanger Abbey* after her death in 1817. Interestingly enough, Austen was the polished gem of English literature reminiscent by some memorable works from which one may recall:

Sense and Sensibility

Sense and Sensibility was the first of Jane Austen's novels to be published. She began to write it sometime around 1797, and she worked on it for many years before its publication in 1811. The title page said to be written "By a Lady", and only her immediate family knew that Jane Austen was the author. Impetuous Marianne Dashwood tumbled into a fairytale romance that went sour, and her practical older sister Elinor coped with the family's financial problems while she was hiding her own frustrated romantic hopes. The book was a success, and it had even earned a great profit. (The Works of Jane Austen) .

Mansfield Park

Mansfield Park was written between February 1811 and the summer of 1813. It was the third novel of Jane Austen that had been published, and it first appeared on May 4, 1814. During her lifetime, it was attributed only to the author of "*Sense and Sensibility and Pride and Prejudice*", and the author's identity was unknown beyond her family and friends. It was Jane Austen's most complex novel that dealt with many different themes, from the education of children, to the differences between appearances and reality.

Emma

Emma was written in 1814-1815, and while Jane Austen was writing it, it was suggested to her by a member of the Prince Regent's household that she dedicated it to his Royal Highness. Austen took the suggestion as it was intended--as a command-- and *Emma* was thus dedicated, but the dedication itself was rather slyly worded. Emma, however, deals with a young woman's maturation into adulthood and the trouble she gets herself into along the way.

Pride and Prejudice

Pride and Prejudice was first written in the late 1700's, then rewritten in 1811- 1812 and finally published in the early 1813. It was probably the most-read of all of Jane Austen's novels and was a popular favorite among many. Originally entitled *First Impressions*, the novel had dealt with the misjudgments that often occurred at the beginning of an acquaintance.

2.3.4.4 Should we call Austen a Feminist or a Proto-Feminist

According to the Cambridge online lexicon proto-feminism is “ a philosophical tradition that anticipates modern feminism in an era when the concept of feminism was still unknown, i.e. before the 20th century but The precise use of the term is disputed.” And proto-feminist is the person who “ Preceding but anticipating or laying the groundwork for feminism.”

Some western feminist historians assert that all movements that work to obtain women's rights should be considered feminist movements, even when they did not (or do not) apply the term to or on themselves. Other historians and observers assert that the term should be limited to the actual feminist movement, which rose to exist at the beginning of the 20th century, and its descendants. Those historians use the label “proto-feminism” to describe earlier movements, and “proto-feminists” in referring to pioneers of feminist thoughts before the actual phrasing of the terms (feminism and feminist). From reading both definitions of the terms (feminism and proto-feminism) we can see that feminists of the eighteenth and nineteenth century are better labeled under proto-feminist term since the term feminist did not gain widespread meaning use until the 1970s.

In a website named “Outtake.com”, a writer named Cammila Collar discussed the issue around calling Jane Austen a feminist or a proto-feminist. Collar mentioned that austen's

works did not reach the meaning use in which feminism is today, she claims that Austen's works are talking about justice and injustice instead of calling for equality which is centred in the modern feminism concept. Cammila said “Feminism—the wild and controversial notion that women should have the same rights and opportunities as men—is at the moral center of her novels, raw and unformed and not yet developed as a social movement, just an interminably reasonable perspective on society that was bound to one day catch on.”

Cammila added “And anyway, the thing is, it’s the same for Jane Austen as it is for probably a sizeable chunk of the people walking around today. Whether or not she would use the word “feminist” to describe herself is indeed totally semantic—that’s a question about how much or how little baggage she would bring to the word. The question we’re actually asking is whether or not, by definition, she was a feminist (insofar as we can extrapolate from her writing). Did she believe, at least to an impressive degree for her time and place, that women should be afforded the same rights and opportunities as men?”. Cammila said that no one can know if Austen would call herself a feminist if she lived in our time, however, at that time it was impossible to ask for the same demands of the modern feminism, she added that it is unfair to describe Austen as a feminist because when her novels were first published, they were enjoyed by men of that time who found them totally harmless, in addition, that will decrease her value as a writer and as a contributor in paving the way for modern feminism to appear.

CHAPTER TWO: FEMINISM IN AUSTEN'S PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

1 Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

In Jane Austen's novel "Pride and Prejudice", there was an examination of the lives of women living in the late 18th to the early 19th-Century. During this period in time, women had a very specific role in society and were expected to be both subservient and innocent. Their primary role was to get married, have children and maintain a household for their husband. Rarely were women acknowledged for their intelligence or for having an opinion. In the novel, the heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, was in contrast to this definition an epitome of an ideal woman. She was clever and opinionated, but, in the end, chooses the life of a 19th century wife. However, there did seem to be a message portrayed by Austen in this story. Women during this period often deferred to decisions made by men, regardless of their own feelings. In "Pride and Prejudice," although they were often treated as inferior to their male counterparts, the women in this story represented different characteristics to demonstrate how the ideal was not necessarily the most desirable. This novel might start off with the anonymous figure of a rich, single man, but the novel was actually concerned with the plight of the poor, single woman.

1.2 Summary of "Pride and Prejudice"

"*Pride and Prejudice*" tells the story of a big and middle-class family, Mr. Bennet, Mrs. Bennet, and their five unmarried daughters; Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, Lydia, and Katherine. They all live in a small country called Hertfordshire. The mother looks all the time for finding a suitable husband for her daughters. When a single rich man with a good fortune, Charles Bingley comes to the country with his two sisters Louisa and Caroline Bingley, and his friend Fitzwilliam Darcy, Mrs. Bennet wants to marry one of her daughters to him .

The Bennet's daughters met the visitors in the first Ball, and their father introduced them. Everyone liked Mr. Bingley, he and Jane started to flirt, and they danced with each other all the party, while his friend Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy refused the proposal of Elizabeth to dance with him. Then he said to Bingley: "She is tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt me"(Austen 15), and he thinks that there would be other girls, who were more interesting than her. When Elizabeth heard those words, she had no doubts that he was proud with a hard heart, cold, serious, and strange personality. Mr. Bingley's sisters and Mr. Darcy, concerned that this affection for Jane developed very quickly, and they could not tolerate her lower status, and the manner of her family especially her mother. Mr. Darcy, in spite of his better wisdom he became obsessed and attracted to the charm and intelligence of Elizabeth.

Jane was invited to Nether field by the sisters of Mr. Bingley, and on her way, she caught in the rain; she came down with a bad cold. Mrs. Bennet was delighted because this put Jane near to Mr. Bingley and his wealth. Jane became in a poor health, and her sister Elizabeth went to Nether field to nurse her. Mr. Darcy liked the concern for her sister and the strength of her character, but he was afraid of his obsession with someone who was economically inferior. Then the girls returned home when Jane's health improved.

When they returned home, they found Mr. Collins at their house visiting their family. Mr. Collins was a young clergyman who stood to inherit the property of Mr. Bennet which had been entailed, meaning that it could only be passed down to male heirs, because Mr. Bennet had only daughters. Shortly after his arrival, he made a proposal of marriage to Elizabeth. However, Elizabeth refused his proposal. Meanwhile, the Bennet girls had become friendly with a handsome young soldier Sir. Wickham who was close to toward Elizabeth told her how Darcy cheated cruelly him out of an inheritance .

The Bingleys and Mr. Darcy leave Nether field for London and Caroline Bingley writes to Jane to inform her that they will not return until winter. She hints in her letter that Mr. Bingley intends to marry Darcy's sister. Elizabeth correctly recognizes that Bingley's

sisters and his friend are trying to keep him from the Bennets because her family is not outstanding enough for their aspirations. Another shock comes with the news that Mr. Collins has become engaged to Charlotte Lucas; the best friend of Elizabeth, and the poor daughter of a local man. Charlotte explains to Elizabeth that she is getting older and needs the match for financial reasons. Charlotte and Mr. Collins get married and Elizabeth promises to visit them at their new home. As winter progresses, Jane visits the city to see her friends, also she hopes to see Mr. Bingley. Though Bingley's sister visits her and behaves impolitely, Mr. Bingley fails to visit her at all.

When spring comes, Elizabeth visits Charlotte and Collins's home; which is near the home of patron of Mr. Collins, Lady Catherine de Bourgh. Catherine is also Darcy's aunt. Darcy goes to Lady Catherine's home and encounters Elizabeth; her presence leads him to make a number of visits to the home of Collins where she is staying just to meet her. One day, he makes a shocking proposal of marriage to her, which Elizabeth quickly refuses. She tells Darcy that she considers him selfish and unlikable, then scolds him for steering Bingley away from Jane, and treating Wickham poorly. Darcy leaves her, but soon after that, he sends her a letter. He confesses in the letter that he supported Bingley to distance himself from Jane, because he thought that their romance was not serious. As for Wickham, he informs Elizabeth that Wickham is a liar, and the real cause of their disagreement is the attempt of Wickham to escape with his sister, Georgiana Darcy.

Shortly, Elizabeth receives a letter from Jane, in which she tells her that Lydia and Wickham have eloped, and they live together without marriage. In a shock, Elizabeth informs Darcy about what Wickham has done. Meanwhile, Mr. Gardiner sends a letter, saying that the couple has been found and that Wickham has agreed to marry Lydia. The Bennets are thought that Mr. Gardiner has paid off Wickham. Later on, they realize that it has been Darcy's work.

Bingley and Darcy return to Nether field and call on the Bennets. Bingley displays genuine affection to Jane and asks for her hand. Darcy remains distant until her aunt; Lady

Catherine visits the Bennets and demands that Elizabeth denies any connection between her and Darcy. Elizabeth refuses his proposal. A little later, Elizabeth and Darcy go out walking together and he tells her that his feelings have not altered since the spring. She gently accepts his proposal, and both sisters, Jane and Elizabeth are married at the end .

1.3 The Status of Women in "Pride and Prejudice"

In Jane Austen's novel, "Pride and Prejudice," there was an examination of the lives of women living in the late 18th and early 19th century. During this period in time, women had a very specific role in society and were expected to be both subservient and innocent. With the imposition of entailment in the novel, women were forced to marry and search for a husband to attain a better life (Austen 91). In the very fact, the novel projects on the status of women from different angle to which one can recall:

Sisterhood

The theme of sisterhood or female friendship is visualized in scenes involving Elizabeth and her sister Jane (Sales 20). This status has been delineated by the two sisters sleeping together in the same bed, discussing their evening, and also in the blind confidence of Jane in her sister when she confesses her secret admiration to Mr. Bingley. For instance, Bingley said that "he is just what a young man ought to be", she said "sensible, good-humored, lively; and I never saw much happy manners! So much ease with such perfect good breeding" (Austen 18). The aforementioned quote proves the close relationship of those sisters, Jane is so confident in her sister that why she tells her the secret of her great admiration to Mr. Bingley.

The close relationship between Elizabeth and Jane is very similar to Jane Austen and her sister Cassandra. They have been confidant to each other, especially because they are the

only two girls in the family, and the two are described as inseparable. Also, Jane Bennet and Cassandra Austen were the two older sisters as the Bennets. In the eyes of Austen, Jane is like Cassandra generous and kind and she always thinks the best of everyone as it is mentioned in the novel "to take the good of everybody's character and make it still better and say nothing of the bad" (Austen 19). Elizabeth claims that Jane likes to take only the good things of what characterize everybody, and she does not say anything bad about others (Bloom 23).

Pride

Pride is a prominent feature in the characters of "Pride and Prejudice." First, that is significantly noticeable in Mr. Darcy's behaviors at the assembly party when he arrogantly ignores the Bennets when they have been introduced to him by Mr. Bingley. On the other hand, Elizabeth behaves in the same manner when she refuses Mr. Darcy's proposal to dance replying "indeed, sir, I have not the least intention of dancing. I entreat you not to suppose that I moved this way in order to beg for a partner" (Austen 32). Yet, the author makes it a statement that "first impressions" could be no more than prejudices that lead to feuds and miscomprehensions which become clearer through the stages of the story when things got explicit mainly between the major couple Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy. This could be scrutinized in the quote: "I certainly have not the talent which some people possess," said Darcy, "of conversing easily with those I have never seen before. I cannot catch their tone of the conversation, or appear interested in their concerns, as I often see done" (ibid 42). At last, the author successfully conveys a life lesson of morals and manners throughout the confrontations between the characters of the story.

Love

"Pride and Prejudice" is a story about romantic love, because love is so central theme in

the story. It contains one of the most cherished love stories in English literature; the courtship between Darcy and Elizabeth. As in any good love story, the lovers must elude and overcome numerous stumbling blocks, beginning with the tensions caused by the lovers' own personal qualities. Elizabeth's pride makes her misjudge Darcy on the basis of a poor first impression, while Darcy's prejudice against Elizabeth's poor social standing blinds him, for a time, to her many virtues. Austen, meanwhile, poses countless smaller obstacles to the realization of love between Elizabeth and Darcy, including Lady Catherine's attempt to control her nephew, Miss Bingley's snobbery, Mrs. Bennet's idiocy, and Wickham's deceit. In each case, anxieties about social connections, or the desire for better social connections, interfere with the workings of love. Darcy and Elizabeth's realization of a mutual and tender love seems to imply that Austen views love as something independent of these social forces, as something that can be captured if only an individual is able to escape the warping effects of hierarchical society. Austen does sound some more realistic notes about love, using the character of Charlotte Lucas, who marries the buffoon Mr. Collins for his money, to demonstrate that the heart does not always dictate marriage. Yet, with her central characters, Austen suggests that true love is a force separate from society and one that can conquer even the most difficult of circumstances (SparkNotes Editors).

Education

Nandana defines education in his article "Emphasis on education in Jane Austen's Novels" as:

The largest sense is any act or experience that has a formative effect on the mind, character or physical ability of an individual. In its technical sense, education is the process by which society deliberately transmits its accumulated knowledge, skills, and values from one generation to another (1)

Jane Austen was very interested in education and reading, as she largely stresses this in her characters, Elizabeth and Marry. An essential part of this education is on the other hand

to obtain the ability to read (Sales xvii). Also the novel "Pride and Prejudice" focuses around this idea of an educated woman, and how she plays a great role in society by her education (Austen 306).

Women in the beginning of 19th Century in Britain were not allowed to continue their higher education, so private tutors, governesses, and private schools were the extent of structured education open to them. For example, a clever woman as Elizabeth Bennet with an energetic mind is always able to get her education independently through reading (Benrabé 330). Jane Austen's father had a library around fifty hundred books, she did a fair amount of reading, and she wrote that she and her family were very interested in reading novels, and not ashamed of being so. However, in a proper way, she chose to be in her own novel "Pride and Prejudice" ("Biography: Life and Family" (1775-1817). She said in the novel: "What say you, Mary? For you are a lady of deep reflection I know, and read great books, and make extracts" (Austen 10). This quote shows that Mary is book smart and she is deep thinker, and Austen compares herself to Mary Bennet's self-independence and intellectual ambition (Todd 23). Also, Marry reflects Austen's admiration for education and reading, because she has spent her life reading books and creating her own creative writings.

Women and Marriage

"It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife" (Austen 01). From these opening lines, it is clear that marriage is the main theme of Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" which depends on economic basis providing social as well as financial stability (Gast 5). Furthermore, David Owen claims in his book "Reading Between The Lines" that the first sentence of "Pride and Prejudice" gathers marriage as the main theme, and irony as the tone in a romantic novel (72). Thus, marriage is the ultimate goal of most young girls, because women have been generally limited to home and family, and females have little opportunity for employment (Chin-Yi

933).

Also, marriage at the time of Jane Austen was basically a synonym for economic security within society (ibid). As a result, wives had a special place and a decent position while daughters or unmarried women remained neglected and ignorant (Gast4). For instance, Lydia confirmed that: "Ah, Jane, I take your place now and you must go lower because I am a married woman (Austen265). This means that Lydia is secured after marriage. Moreover, Mrs. Bennet insists to marry her daughters, particularly Elizabeth, to a wealthy man because she is worried about her daughters' future and considers marriage as an appropriate solution to get wealthy and secured(99). Accordingly, in her article "The Feminist Bias of *Pride and Prejudice*", Marian Fowler deems marriage as the only available career for women as its chief aim (48). In fact, Jane Austen insists on marriage and family as the essential framework of moral life (Pearce ix). On the other hand, Elizabeth is convinced that her future happiness must rest in large part upon the character of her husband as a matter of chance (Austen 24). For her, the character of husband is more important than wealth or prestige.

In short, women have to depend on their husbands for living; this kind of dependence has forced them to take marriage as a career. Moreover, Austen has learned from her experience as unmarried woman that marriage and building a family are the most important things in life (Pearce IX). In fact, marriage is essential at that period as Mary Wollstonecraft declares in her book "Thoughts on the Education of Daughters": "so if a woman did not marry nor was from a wealthy family that could support her financially, she did not have an easy existence ahead of her"(110-112). Marriage in the Nineteenth Century has been related to the class the woman comes from which leads her to be domestic and oppressed.

Wealth

Jane Austen expresses the ideas of the influence of wealth and money on marriage

instead of real love through the character Mrs. Bennet, and this can be seen in the following quotation: "Oh! Single, my dear, to be sure! A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girls!" (Austen 06). Mrs. Bennet recurrently presses her daughters, especially Elizabeth and Jane the idea of marriage from a wealthy man. Jane Austen and Elizabeth Bennet, the two recognize that the ideas of the mother are wrong and the truth is to find a suitable love. An instance from the novel, "Mr. Bennet had very often wished, before this period of his life, that, instead of spending his whole income, he had laid by an annual sum, for the better provision of his children, and of his wife, if she survived him" (Austen 336). Jane Austen has experienced childhood in a town in a family not exactly well off in society; Mr. Bennet and his wife are excited to have their girls wed those that are richer so that some inheritance can go to the family (Dickie 04). This is what Austen has been struggling within her own time when she has accepted the proposal of a rich man with a large wealth.

Deception and Prejudices

Along the story, Jane Austen has made it clear more than once that appearance can be deceiving, and this is probably the major theme of the whole novel. In fact, that is noticeable from the beginning of the story in the tense relationship between Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth. In detail, Elizabeth recklessly judges Mr. Darcy out of his attitude and appearance considering him as an arrogant and conceited person saying "how strange!" cried Elizabeth. "How abominable! I wonder that the very pride of this Mr. Darcy has not made him just to you! If from no better motive, that he should not have been too proud to be dishonest—for dishonesty I must call it" (50).

However, Elizabeth realizes by the end of the story how mistaken she has been in her judgment of Mr. Darcy. By the mid of the story, Mr. Wickham comes out as a devil in the disguise of a handsome gentleman for nothing but to hurt. The first one to fall in his trap was

Elisabeth Bennet when she has been attracted by his appealing look and manipulative manners. Wickedly, the former instantly tries to ruin Mr. Darcy's reputation weaving and telling Elizabeth lies and stories about him for the sake of keeping them apart. Although Elizabeth falls delicately in his net, she has been smart to survive and start second-guessing his credibility. Searching for a more vulnerable prey, wicked Wickham turns his eye to Elizabeth's little sister Lydia to sculpturally manipulate and take her away to make profits out of her (Alka254).

All in all, "Pride and Prejudice" is a story of self-deception and the problem of Elizabeth is to undeceive herself, and absolutely, her main problem is that she idealizes and generalizes things. She is a very independent thinker, as she is a woman who does not accept the conventions and expectations of her time as decisive rules by which she would lead her life.

2 Issues of Feminism Reflected in the novel

This part discusses the asymmetries between man and woman in the Pride and Prejudice novel. It covers social, economic, and education asymmetries.

2.1 Social Asymmetry

2.1.1 The effect of patriarchy culture

The social asymmetry in Pride and Prejudice novel shows the distribution system or the social order of English society which put into effect Primogeniture system. Primogeniture is a legacy of the Norwandia feudal system, in which the distribution of inheritance is given to the elder son only, to the first male child. The position of women in the distribution of the inheritance is weak; they do not have a right to get the inheritance. The distribution of inheritance based on Primogeniture causes discrimination between men and women. Besides,

Pride and Prejudice novel also photographs the style satire, how the mother is afraid if her five daughters do not get a commensurate mate. In addition, the writer tries to bring the atmosphere of Europe in the nineteenth century to the present day. She complete describes the social conditions, the complete culture with its sample, as well as the natural situation of the period through the literary form of romance.

2.1.2 The limitations of women's rights

In Pride and Prejudice novel, in the beginning, Elizabeth does not have the right to choose a husband. In this novel also clearly too many events revealed a social phenomenon at that time. For instance, a woman is considered to be inappropriate if traveling alone, the annual allowance for girls who have been married while their male figure William Darcy often used as an ideal figure of a man's dream for many fans of the story as well as a women character in this novel. British atmosphere as seen from the story is that they often hold the ball (ball dance) to entertain guests and make it a soul mate search event and acquaintances. This explanation relates to the quotation below.

“To walk three miles, or four miles, or five miles, or whatever it is, above her ankles in dirt, and alone, quite alone! What could she mean by it? It seems to me to show an abominable sort of conceited independence, a most country-town indifference to decorum.” (Page: 43).

The quotation above talks about Elizabeth which is walking alone for some miles to see her sister condition and to guard her sister who was sick in Mr. Bingley's house. She decides to go to etherfield by foot whereas the road in there still muddy because of the heavy rain last night. She arrives in Mr. Bingley's house with dirty clothes as a result of the road splash which wet and at the times. Mr. Bingley politely accepts the arrival of Elizabeth but in the other hand, the attitude of Mr. Bingley is different with his sister wherein they are deriding of the Elizabeth behavior and according to them a woman is considered to be inappropriate if traveling alone and it is abominable. Their attitudes also differently with Mr.

Darcy did not care of Elizabeth who was willing to walk alone as far as 5 miles. Elizabeth exactly got discriminated from Mr. Darcy because she arrived with a dirty dress. Therefore, it is very clear here the limitation of women's rights that everything is done by women always get insulted by men. Other events related to this data as below.

“Elizabeth was really anxious to see her sister. The carriage was being used and she decided to walk. ‘How silly you are!’ cried her mother. ‘You will be covered with mud when you get there. You will not be fit to be seen. ‘I shall be fit to see Jane – which is all I want. It is only three miles. I shall be back for dinner.’ She went alone, quickly crossing field after field.” (Page: 24).

The above quotation is about Elizabeth’s courage and strength that can be equated with men. She dares to do something that maybe men are rarely willing to do. She can stand by herself without a man’s help. She decides to walk and goes alone crossing field after field. In this case, Elizabeth struggles alone. and decides to walk because it is her right without limitation.

2.2 Economic Asymmetry

The author tries to portray human nature as a matter of looking at a glorious thing that makes them happy. In this novel, Jane Austen describes society which has materialistic nature and always obsessed with money and position. These problems are because of the patriarchal culture so that Elizabeth is getting pressure from her mother to have a rich husband, no matter she loves or not. The condition of the society depicted by Jane Austen is a materialistic society, where everything is measured by money. It can be seen how the girls of Longbourn are trying to attract the attention of a rich man who came to their place. This was illustrated by Elizabeth’s sister who tries to draw the attention of Mr. Bingley. The explanation above is portrayed in the quotation below.

But the fact is, that being, as I am, to inherit this estate after the death of your honored father (who, however, may live many years longer), I could not satisfy myself without resolving to choose a wife from among his daughters, that the loss to them might be as

little as possible, when the melancholy event takes place—which, however, as I have already said, may not be for several years. (Page: 133).

The above quotation illustrates about Mr. Collins who will inherit the property from Mr. Bennet. In this case, Mr. Collins senses pride upon all of the property and his position. So, Mr. Bennet's wife feels that her daughters will be poor because she will not get an inheritance from Mr. Bennet. In the nineteenth century of British society, if a family does not have boys, their property will be descended to their nephew because this is the effect of patriarchy culture.

2.3 Education Asymmetry

This part will discuss the problem of educational inequality over the gap between social statuses class in society.

The Pride and Prejudice novel describes the social classes in British society at the time, where there is some lameness between the upper classes with the middle-class society. The delineation can be seen when Lady Catherine is surprised to hear Elizabeth and her sisters grow up without a governess (tutor) in which it is then assumed that Elizabeth's family does not prioritize education. This issue is portrayed in the following quotation.

“Then, who taught you? Who attended to you? Without a governess, you must have been neglected.”. “Compared with some families, I believe we were; but such of us as wished to learn never wanted the means. We were always encouraged to read and had all the masters that were necessary. Those who chose to be idle certainly might” (Page: 207).

The above quotation is when Lady Catherine is surprised to hear Elizabeth and her sisters grow up without a governess (tutor) in which it is then assumed that Elizabeth's family does not prioritize education. Lady Catherine asks about the education of Elizabeth's family. This question makes Elizabeth silent and pensive. In this case, Lady Catherine is from high social status disparage Elizabeth's education with her family who come from low social

status. The educational asymmetry between Elizabeth and Lady Catherine happens because of the difference in social status.

“Every person, I believe, has some special fault of character which even the best education cannot entirely cure.”, “And your fault is a tendency to hate everybody” (Page: 340).

The quotation above is Elizabeth’s conversation with Mr. Darcy in Mr. Bingley’s house. The conversation shows that feminism is owned by Elizabeth. She has the same opportunity with Mr. Darcy to argue or defend herself. Elizabeth is very good at arguing and her way of thinking is equal to men at that time. They argue that the number of women who get a high education is low. Only the rich and noble families who send their daughters while most women were self-educated at home.

2.4 Woman as Commodity Matter

In the nineteenth century, the view of the position of community-owned social status illustrates that the difference lies in the conditions of life about economic and education. The *Pride and Prejudice* novel describes people who live depending on economic conditions. The family in the nineteenth century who has a daughter is usually looking for a rich man to marry that daughter in order to get a decent life and be able to guarantee the entire life of other family members. This is done for the happiness of her parents and her family because a parent in the nineteenth century is willing to make his daughter a means to obtain the happiness that is expected. After that male dominance is very influential in the social conditions of women in the century. In the *Pride and Prejudice* novel, there are quotations relating to the above statement as follow.

“You are very kind, I am sure; and I wish with all my heart it may prove so, for else they will be destitute enough. Things are settled so oddly.” “You allude, perhaps, to the entail of this estate.”

“Ah! sir, I do indeed. It is a grievous affair to my poor girls, you must confess. Not that I mean to find fault with YOU, for such things I know are all chance in this world. There is no knowing how estates will go when once they come to be entailed.” (Page: 80)

The quotation above is Mrs. Bennet's statement to Mr. Collins who discusses the fate of her children when the hereditary law says that when she dies Mr. Collins who is also a cousin of the Bennet family will fully inherit from Bennet family. The laws of inheritance at the time say that family that does not have boys is not entitled to bequeath property to her daughter.

This sentence shows that the family (Bennet family) would be miserable if later the inheritance law is established. It illustrates that Mrs. Bennet is a materialistic person and would do anything for the happiness of her daughters, so Mrs. Bennet wants to marry one of her daughter with Mr. Collins with the hope of inheritance that would fall to Mr. Collins can be enjoyed with her daughter. One can conclude that children of Mrs. Bennet will be made as a means of reciprocation against Mr. Collins by marrying his daughter to him.

3 The Dominant Roles of Woman Described in the Novel

3.1 Women Resistance to Patriarchy Culture

In the nineteenth century of British society, it is not explained specifically how the forms of resistance carried out by women in rearranging the living systems that have been dominated by men. Streams are just outlining what causes oppression of women over the years, how it is instituted, and the ideals of an equal society that no longer exists and discriminatory treatment among the two sides.

In line with the description in the above paragraph, one can observe and understand the way of thinking, attitudes, and actions of the main character to find forms of resistance which are carried out by Elizabeth against discriminatory treatment that she receives as a consequence of men's domination over the years. The explanation above relates to the quotation below.

“Upon my word, sir,” cried Elizabeth, “your hope is a rather extraordinary

one after my declaration. I do assure you that I am not one of those young ladies (if such young ladies there are) who are so daring as to risk their happiness on the chance of being asked a second time. I am perfectly serious in my refusal. You could not make ME happy, and I am convinced that I am the last woman in the world who could make you so. Nay were your friend Lady Catherine to know me, I am persuaded she would find me in every respect ill qualified for the situation. (Page: 134).

The quotation above is from Elizabeth who shows the different images of what society view and the expectation of woman. Women are described as desirous for rich and noble men for happiness in their lives. Elizabeth dares to reject Mr. Collins who is her father’s heir. It is because of the legal heir who organizes the family wealth will be passed on sons or brothers. If she accepts Mr. Collins proposal, she will be happy materially. Elizabeth does not think about that, there is no love for Mr. Collins. This quotation related to the data below.

3.2 Women as Second Person

Women are considered as a second person who is weak in many aspects of life such in the economy, socially, and education. Men in that society are illustrated as creatures that excel women in all aspects of life. Therefore, discrimination against women is a common thing happened. This problem makes women as a second person after men. The explanation above relates to the quotation below.

“I’m thinking about story,” replied Elizabeth. “Behavior cousin hurt my feelings. What underlies Vigilante attitude itself is it?” (Page: 276).

The quotation above is when Elizabeth gets an unpleasant treatment from Mr. Darcy. In this case, she gets insulted and it makes her offended. It is because she is not a perfect woman. Therefore, Elizabeth feels that she is as a second person who can be easily hurt and despised. This statement illustrates that woman is seen as a second person by a man who can be easily hurt and even intimidate her. One can concludes that women in that British

society are considered as weak in all aspects and they can be easily hurt even intimidated by men. The following quotation also illustrates the position of woman as a second person.

“I certainly shall not. You know how I detest it, unless I am particularly acquainted with my partner. At such an assembly as this it would be insupportable. Your sisters are engaged, and there is not another woman in the room whom it would not be a punishment to me to stand up with.” (Page: 13).

The quotation above is Mr. Darcy’s statement which rejects Mr. Bingley’s offer to choose a woman to dance with him. On the other hand, Mr. Darcy thinks that the women in the party do not fit his criteria. In the nineteenth century of British society, the dance party is one way and an opportunity for communication between men and women. Actually, Mr. Darcy does not want to dance with the woman who is not from his class of social status. one can concludes that Mr. Darcy commits discrimination against Elizabeth because she is from low social status. This is a kind of discrimination from men to women in social context.

3.3 Woman to change society's view

In the nineteenth century of British society, people lived in a materialistic society. Parents were exploiting their daughters as a means to get happiness. Therefore, parents were thinking that marriage is a good way to achieve a goal. It is because of the roles of parents who were willing to seek rich and noble men for their daughters. These parents hoped that their daughters could marry a great person and then she can get true happiness.

Pride and Prejudice novel describes society’s life. Parents always want their children to marry a rich man. Therefore, society’s view is changed by Elizabeth Bennet, as the main character in the novel. Elizabeth is explicitly changing society’s view, especially parents. Marriage is not a good way to change the social status in the society. The statement is supported in the following quotation.

“I never considered the distance as the reason for a wedding, ‘said Elizabeth.’ I would never say that Mrs. Collins took the decision because he would live adjacent to the family.” (Page: 264).

The quotation above explains that the woman (Elizabeth) has a dream to find a partner who has abundant treasures who can protect and guarantee her life. Therefore, the long distance relationship will not be influential to women. Besides, the parents always support their daughter to look for a husband from high social status. because wealth will become a prominent aim. Therefore, Elizabeth changes society’s view that marriage with man who is from high social status and has abundant wealth can be guarantees their happiness.

CONCLUSION

During a long period in history, woman was not considered as an equal citizen, she suffered from bad treatments, discrimination, and racism under man domination and rules. In spite of these problems, they could challenge them and prove themselves over society.

Woman in the past was living unequal and unfair life. She was prevented from doing any political, social and economical activities and her only job was to be a housewife who takes care of home and children. At that time, woman was under the control of man who dominates all the fields in which he represents the symbol of power.

After all this, suffering women in the entire world started to find ways to improve themselves and to change their position in life. They tried also to join their efforts, dreams and wishes to form a universal idea that speaks about all women in any place in the world what leads to the appearance of Feminism.

By the coming of Feminism, woman was able to take back her rights and changed her position in society. Feminism proves that woman is capable to play important roles the same as man. Moreover, the most important goals of Feminism were giving woman her total freedom in addition to equal opportunities in the representation of political and social events.

This modest work tries to give an overview of Feminism and how it developed over time from being an idea or a belief to become a theory with standard goals and principles. The first chapter of this work was theoretical, in which we presented the definition of Feminism in addition to its origin and its main different types. It presents also some famous waves of Feminism in which it tackled the famous leaders and writers of each one of them and more importantly, it gives its principles and goals. specifically, Jane Austen's life, her relation with feminism, and the contribution of her works such as *Pride and Prejudice* in

inspiring writers and feminism activists. This chapter speaks also about the dispute over the use of term Feminism to describe early writers who tackled women issues, it includes Proto-Feminism definition and some views trying to prove what is the suitable terminology we should use.

Chapter two dealt the great and unique novel or as has been sometimes described the work 'ahead of its time', which is *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. this chapter presents brief background information about the novel and analysis of the work in order to respond to the research questions, those analyses aim to extract feminism features deserted in the novel such as the role of a woman and the asymmetries between the two genders at that time.

WORKS CITED

A- Primary Sources

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. Algeria: Flites Editions, 2011.

B- Secondary sources

1. Books and Articles

-Alka, Dutt. "Expressing Through Words." *International Journal of English Language, Literature and Translation Studies*. S1 2015.

-Austen, Jane. *Mansfield Park*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1988. Print. Bas du formulaire

— . *Persuasion*. London: Penguin Popular Classics, 1818. Print

- Bloom, Harold. *Bloom's Guides Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*. USA: Chelsea House, 2005.

- Butler, Judith. "Sex and Gender in Simone de Beauvoir's *Second Sex*." *Yale French Studies* No. 72 (1986): 35-49. JSTOR (2930225.)

- Chin-Yi, Chung. "Gender and Class Oppression in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*." *The Dawn Journal* July- December 2014.

- Guen, Soumia. *Puppet Woman Vs New Woman: Quest for Identity in Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*. Algeria: University of Ouargla, 2013.

-Merizig, Fatima. *The Status of Women in The Nineteenth Century Victorian England: Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre*. Algeria: University of Ouargla, 2013.

- Nandana, G. "Emphasis on Education in Jane Austen's Novels." *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications*. V2.3 (2012): 1-2.

- Nightingale, Florence. "On Family Life." In *Suggestions for Thought*, edited by Michael D. Calabria, Janet A. Macrae, 97-115. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1994.

- Pankhurst, Emmeline. "Freedom or Death." In *Political Dissent: A Global Reader: Modern Sources*, edited by Derek Malone-France, 121-146. Maryland: Lexington Books, 2012.

- Pei, Feifei, et al. Jane Austen's Views on Marriage in *Pride and Prejudice*. China: Authors and Scientific Research Publishing, 2014.
- Ralph, I. William. *The Victorian Age*. UK: Cambridge University Press, 1922.
- Schneider S.M. "With Oil in Their Lamps: Faith, Feminism, and the Future". (New York: Paulist Press, 2000)
- Todd, Janet. *The Cambridge Introduction to Jane Austen*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Walker, Rebecca. *To Be Real Telling the True and Changing the Face of Feminism*. New York: Anchor Books, 1995.
- Walters, Margaret. *Feminism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Wang, Xueqing, and Yan Liu. "Analysis of Feminism in *Pride and Prejudice*." *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*. Ed. Finland: Academy Publisher, 2011: 1827-1830.
- Wollstonecraft, Mary. *Thoughts on the Education of Daughters: Women in the Eighteenth Century*. London: Rutledge, 1990.
- Woolf, V. (1929). *A Room of One's Own*. 17/10/2015 < [http:// Gutenberg. Org](http://Gutenberg.Org)>.

2. Electronic Sources

- "Autobiographical Elements in *Pride & Prejudice*." *Literatureatuwccr* -. N.p., n.d. Web. Accessed July 16, 2018.
<http://literatureatuwccr.wikispaces.com/Autobiographical+Elements+in+Pride+%26+Prejudice>
- "Biography: Life (1775-1817) and Family." *Jane Austen's*. N.p., n.d. Web. Accessed July 18, 2018.

<http://www.pemberley.com/janeinfo/janelife.html>

- Cambridge Dictionaries Online. "feminism." Accessed June 29, 2018.

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/feminism>.

- Chernock, Arianne. Men and the Making of Modern British Feminism. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2010. Accessed June 30, 2018.

https://books.google.cz/books?id=x9YqmQEACAAJ&dq=editions:e7o86O8GPvQC&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj-wq7G_eDKAhVCo3IKHefFA88Q6AEIJTAB.

- "History of feminism" Feminism.com. Accessed August 5, 2018.

<https://www.feminism.com/topics/womens-history/feminism-womens-history>

- "Love in pride and prejudice" Spark Notes. Accessed August 5, 2018.

<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/pride/themes.html>

- Parpart, Jane L. et al. Theoretical Perspectives on Gender and Development. Ottawa: International Development Research Center, 2000. Accessed August 2, 2018.

https://books.google.cz/books/about/Theoretical_Perspectives_on_Gender_and_D.html?id=6xunfW2ShQkC&redir_esc=y.

- "Pride and Prejudice: Summary & Character Guide." Accessed August 17, 2018.

<https://prezi.com/kum3l1y-c7m1/economic-status-in-pride-and-prejudice/>

- <http://www.landfield.com/faqs/feminism> . Accessed July 10, 2018.

- <http://www.sociology.org.uk> 2005. Accessed July 23, 2018.

- <http://www.landfield.com/faqs/feminism> . Accessed September 2, 2018.

ملخص

يهدف هذا العمل إلى دراسة رواية كبرياء وتحامل للكاتبة الإنجليزية جاين أوستن التي تعتبر أحد أشهر الأدباء الإنجليز، الذين تطرقوا إلى المشاكل التي كانت تواجهها المرأة قبل ظهور الحركة النسوية الحديثة في بدايات القرن التاسع عشر، حين لم يكن للمرأة صوت صريح يدافع عن حقوقها المسلوبة، إذ لم يكن للمرأة في ذلك الوقت أي حقوق تحفظها فقد كنت تعاني من التهميش والظلم و الحرمان من التعليم والاضطهاد، فضلا عن عدم اعتبارها شخصا له الحق في المساهمة في بناء المجتمع وتطويره، في ظل مجتمع يحكمه الرجل في جميع مجالات الحياة. تفاعل الكثير من الكتاب مع الوضعية المزرية وغير العادلة التي كانت تعيشها المرأة ، وتمثلت تفاعلاتهم في الكثير من الإبداعات الأدبية الناقدة على هذا الوضع، غير أن أعمالهم لم تكن صريحة ومباشرة بل كانت عبارة عن محاولات محتشمة هدفها إسماع صوت المرأة المظلومة والذي كان يعتبر إنجازا جريئا شارك في تمهيد الطريق لظهور الحركة النسوية الحديثة . جاين أوستن، في كتابها الخالد والسابق لأوانه تناولت موضوع المرأة عاكسة واقع مجتمعتها، في هذه الدراسة حاولنا تسليط الضوء على الأفكار المدسوسة في الرواية والتي تصب في مصلحة المرأة وتهدف إلى تغيير وضعيتها.