

Critical Notes on Jane Austen's novels

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**ABSTRACT :**

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Here I would like to mention my ways towards Jane Austen's novels. Also I have influence towards her thoughts. She mentioned male dominant society in which we live. From that time to current time some things never changed. That's why I have fond of her ideas and works. I just want to change my perspectives of our society towards female. All females are sensible and that is why they tolerate anything very easily.

In our society patriarchy, male dominance is going smoothly from very early time. In ancient time not have any importance to female for express their views ideas even writing and don't have any choice to leave their life in their own way. Jane Austin emphasized on sense, sensibility, Pride, prejudice and so on. She covered all things that was running at that time.

She emphasized how women are dependent on men at that time. In the context of financially women are not able to do anything that's why women have to accept anything. The reason behind this they were not able to leave their life freely. Women passed through critical condition just because of this reason. She focused on women empowerment strongly because it is the only reason behind women where they became weak. In the comparison of men, women have too much ability to tolerate anything or they have stability to stand in any situation.

At that time women's life is dependent on marriage. The craze of married life became important because every woman wanted the life peaceful and luxuries. Materialism is also seen at the time but they can live materialistic life when they married to a rich man.

Jane Austen portrait the real picture of England in the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century her plots often explore the dependence of women on marriage for the pursuit of favourable social standing and economical security. At the end in Austen's novel female have only way of marriage and they accept and be happy.

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## INTRODUCTION :

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- ***Jane Austen :***

***Born:*** 1775 ,UK

***Died :*** 1817 ,UK

***Occupation :*** novelist, author

***Literary period :*** Romantic period

***Genre :*** Romantic literature .

Jane Austen was an English novelist known primarily for her six novels, which implicitly interpret, critic, and comment upon the British landed gentry at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Her works implicitly critic the sentimental novel of the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. And are the part of the transition to 19<sup>th</sup> century literary realism.

- ***Criticism on Austen:***

In the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century literary critics FR levis and Ian watt placed her in the tradition of Richardson and fielding both believe that she used that tradition of " irony realism and satire to form an author superior to both."

The French critic **Philarete Chasles** said she was,

- ***"a boring imitative writer with no substance."***

**Rudyard Kipling** wrote a poem to on her,

***' Jane lies in Winchester - blessed be her shade .'***

She is one of the world's most widely read authors many of Austen's works are frequently adapted for screen and stage. She has played a profound role in shaping the literary culture.

Jane Austen herself never married and spend a large part of her life relying on her mail relatives to support her. The reason for popularity of Austen's novel is because of they are intricate social criticism of the world of the rich.

- ***Features of Austin's novels :***

She portrays small groups of people in unlimited environment. She highlights the social hypocrisy through irony. Austin employed domestic realism. Her characters are middle class and provincial. The apparently trivial incidents of everyday lives are moulded into comedy of manners. She contains elements of fairy tales. In her novel heroines are undergo a process of education and self realization. She used delicate economy, subtle irony ,underline moral commentary.

Austin's writing stands out for it's comedy self awareness and realistic detailed portrayals of characters and their relationships. Overall she covers the reality in fairy tale through her characters specially female characters that in the last only way for them is marriage due to economically weakness.

She Paradise the sentimental novel. More emphasize on dialogues than on scenic descriptions. She had an illusion to contemporary fiction. She revealed domestic realism through a traditional style of fiction prevalent throughout the 19th century.

Austen's famous six novels for she is known:

- 1. sense and sensibility (1811)***
- 2. Pride and prejudice (1813)***
- 3. Mansfield park(1814)***
- 4. Emma (1815)***
- 5. Persuasion (1817)***
- 6. Northanger Abbey(1817)***

Here first three works discussed with the women point of views. In this all novels women characters by Austen gives a real situation of women in the society at the time.

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## ABOUT AUSTEN'S WORK IN DETAIL :

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- ***Sense and sensibility:***

Here I want to start with one of Austen's famous quote from sense and sensibility,

***"it is not what we say or think that define us, but what we do."***

This novel is Epistolary novel. It appeared in 1811 under the pseudonym '**A lady**'. Here, sense in the book means good judgement and sensibility means sensitivity or emotionality. Elinor as a sense or Marianne is sensibility.

The story is about the romantic attachments heart breaks in marriage of sister Elinor and Marianne Dashwood. The theme of the novel is the need to balance emotion and thought.

In the historical context the rationalism of the Augustan age was being replaced by romantic sensibility at this time. This novel emphasizes is the folly in failing to temper emotion with good sense.

***" know your own happiness***

***You want nothing but***

***Patience or give it a more***

***Fascinating name call it hope."***

The satirical comic novel criticizes the 19th century middle class society specially for sentimentality and sensibility. Austen's novel asserts the value of a rational judgement of affairs called sense or common sense in the novel.

She presented a male dominated world where women have limited opportunities and their lives depend entirely on the men they marry.

As a typical in domestic realism Elinor and Marianne both find love and happiness by overcoming the struggles and learning from their mistakes.

However the subtle power of Austin women lies in the fact that Austin they are depicted as thoughtful clever ambitious and even manipulative. Another thing in this novel is of course inheritance of wealth.

***" I wish as well as everybody else***

***To be perfectly happy but***

***Like everybody else it must***

***Be in my own way."***

- ***Pride and prejudice :***

Pride and prejudice written by Austin is one of the most well known love stories in literature. It is set during the Georgian period in Britain.

In this novel Elizabeth is Austen's most beloved heroine and most modern girl on faced by wealth and status and Frank and fearless in her opinions. One of her quiet from this novel,

***"there is a stubbornness about***

***Me that never can bear to be***

***Frightened at the wheel of others.***

***My courage always rises at***

***Every attempt to intermedate me."***

The theme of the novel is Pride marriage and love money and property. This story is much more than just captivating its human global and captures the every essence of human nature.

***" happiness in marriage is entirely a matter of chance."***

Jane Austen gives the title of the novel borrowed from the novel **Cecilia : Memoirs of an heiress (1782) by Frances Burney.**

This novel set in the fictional town of Meryton in the century of Hertfordshire outside of London.

Famous opening line :

***" it is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife."***

Here Charles Bingley a rich single man moves to the state of Bennets. Mrs. Bennet a foolish and self absorbed woman is thrilled. The five sisters are Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, Catherine and Lydia.

Here through this five sisters Austen presented women at the time. Jane is extremely sweet and beautiful. Elizabeth is witty satirical and intelligent. Mary toys at on inspired reading and piano practice. Kitty and Lydia are immature and fascinated by regiment of soldiers.

This novel is considered as classic for the economy of narrative and elegance of style. She cleverly used gentle irony starting from the opening sentence.

Her thoughts are against snobbery class consciousness, social of gender, various kinds of foolishness. The capacity of people in the novel to change and reform themselves highlighted.

The class conflict and social prejudice are criticized. These are overcome by love and genuine goodness.

Marriage is the central issue in the novels of Jane Austen. The juxtaposition of good and bad marriage. In her novels marriage as a means of improving a social status.

***"you showed me how insufficient were all my pretentions to please a woman worthy of being pleased."***

**-Darcy**

- ***Mansfield park :***

This is the third novel of Austen. It is a Pygmalion morality epic. In many ways unlike the other Austen novels are highly complicated in themes.

In these novel Fenny price is unlike her other heroines. She is shy, weak and always right. Her love and marriage are not the focus of the novel. The theme is her trying to find a place within the social order. In the end of Fanny's patience became her reward because Edmund marries her.

There is colonial theme in this novel. Sir Bertram owns slaves in his sugar plantation. full fanny questions him on the slave trade and is met with 'dead silence'. **Edward said** discusses the novel in ***culture and imperialism (1993)***.

***"life Seems but a quick succession  
of busy nothing."***

Mansfield park focusses on the life of FennyPrice and her experience leaving at Mansfield Park where she's been sent due to her family's financial problems. The main themes of the novel are the development and collapse of social relationships, slavery, big topic during Austen's life time and morality.

***"there is nothing like employment active indispensable employment for relieving sorrow."***

Mansfield park is a social commentary by Jane Austen and English writer known for her novels in early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The novel seems to be saying that sticking to your values is an important virtue.

Austin's views about theoretical performance and the centrality or otherwise of ordination and religion and on the question of slavery.

This novel indicates in the following sections about critical discussion of important themes. Her actual observation of human behaviour in forms the development of all the characters.

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## **CONCLUSION :**

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The study of JaneAusten's novels introduced us about women life. How they lived ,how they tolerate, manage in every situation. How they faced problem due to financial situation.They dependent on male dominance and in Austen's work all her heroines strongly give their ways and thoughts as per situation.

I have heard somewhere about women that someone observed a lady without jewellery or ornaments or blank forehead of a lady and thought,

***" Why God has made Amavasya ?"***

So, through this line we can understand that what people are thinking about women without men.This types of comments make female weak.

We should know the reality of equality between men and women. Women are as strong as man. I feel this thing through Austen's novel.

The place of women in Jane Austen's novels is always independent well educated and Brave which was the opposite of reality.

***" feminism isn't about making***

***Women stronger. Women are***

***already strong it's about***



***Changing the way of the world  
Perceives that strength.”***

**-G.D.Anderson**

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