

Research Article

“Did Feminism Become the Mainstream in Jane Austen’s Work?” “Does Feminism Lies In Jane Austen Emma?”

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ABSTRACT

Feminism is about the equality of every women in the independent society. Feminism has many types on it but it is mainly classified as three major categories they are, i) Main stream/Liberal ii) Radical iii) Cultural. The plot line of Jane Austen’s Emma does not come under feminism because this play is about the mismatching of pairs which is guessed by Emma. In this novel we cannot see the dominance of male gender towards women. Women also gave rights to make their own decision. Emma was the last published novel of Jane Austen; novel of manner genre has been used in this novel. Jane Austen used novel of sensibility in her work. She used irony, indirect speech style and realism. All Jane Austen’s novel female characters were brave, bold, strong. The characters are not distorted. They live in every incident of the novel. In her novel women play a leading role rather than men, they are given major preference. In 1973, According to “EDNA STEEVES” Jane Austen was not a bold woman because she never closely examined the social situation.

Key words: Liberal, Radical, Mismatching, dominance, Irony, Distorted

INTRODUCTION

Jane Austen belongs to Georgian era, she is an English novelist, she was born on 16 December 1775, Steveston, Rectory, Hampshire, England and died on 18 July 1817, Winchester, Hampshire, England. She has written six novels, from around 1795 she begins to write works after she returned from boarding house. Among all six-novel heroines Elizabeth Bennet is the favourite to Jane Austen. She published her books anonymously. Her major influences were Samuel Richardson and Frances Burney. *Sense and Sensibility* was the first novel written by Jane Austen in 1811, *Pride and Prejudice* in 1813, *Mansfield Park* in 1814, *Emma* in 1815, *Northanger Abbey* in 1818 and *Persuasion* in 1818. From these 6 novels *Pride and Prejudice* was the most popular novel which was written by her, its earning is nearly 2 million. Her style of writing is sentimental. She used irony, indirect speech style and, she used a mix of neoclassicism and romanticism. Jane Austen popularity is mainly based on her anonymously publication. Jane Austen use indirect discourse to give vivid insight into the inner worlds of her character to readers. Many say that Jane Austen is a Feminist because of challenged notion that unmarried women could not support themselves. By only publishing female-based novels on her own name cannot be considered that she is feminist writer. In all her works women have been given equal rights as men get. In all her novels women will be playing the leading character (Austen, 2004). *Emma* is a novel of youthful hubris and romantic misunderstanding. This novel *Emma* has a third person narration by the narrator who will tell about the feelings and thoughts of every individual. The main theme of

Emma is Love, Marriage, sex, age, social status and, comedy of manners. *Emma* is acknowledged as the masterpiece of Jane Austen. *Emma* is being liked by the readers is because of the believability of the characters. The setting of *Emma* is at Highbury, England. *Emma* is been published by John Murray.

Objectives of the study

- To find out feminism lies in *Emma* novel by Jane Austen.
- To evaluate about female character and their dominance which is been accused in this novel.

Research methodology

This paper deals with Jane Austen’s view on feminism as a theme in her novel. Mainly in this novel the main protagonist is *Emma*, she is the main lead throughout the novel. She is dominating character (Raina, 2017). This novel might be thought of harmonizing the two voice which we heard in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Mansfield Park*. The novel is in the format of adapted descriptive method to promote the views towards Jane Austen novels. This novel undergoes Comedy of Manners, which is the comment on higher class people.

Literature reviews

Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich young girl, she is the second daughter of Mr. Woodhouse. The views of *Emma* are a headstrong girl who is always strong in her decision making even though she is right or wrong she is not willing to listen to anyone. She is been rejecting

her advice. As a reference of this the conversation of the characters like Emma Woodhouse and George Knightley and, in the case of Harriet Smith and Robert Martin's proposal of love.

"Nonsense! A man does not imagine any things. But what is the meaning of this? Harriet Smith and Robert Martin? Madness, if it is so; but I hope you are mistaken."

"I saw her answer! ---- nothing could be clever"

"You say her answer! ---- you wrote her answer too. Emma, this is your doing. You persuaded her to refuse him"

"And if I did, (which, however, I am far from allowing) I should not feel that I had done wrong. Mr. Martin is a very respectable young man, but I cannot admit him to be Harriet's equal; and am rather surprized indeed that he should have ventured to address her. By your account, he does seem to have had some scruples. It is a pity that they were ever got over."

This was the conversation between them that Emma was headstrong as referred before, she planned Harriet Smith's life instead her. In the letter she writes her wish rather Harriet Smith's wish.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

As a feminist Emma's mother is shown in a unique way as a first female lead but she is no more. She wants her father to accompany her throughout the novel. As a feminist writer she objects the character of her mother rather support the male characters. Emma plays a dual role both positively and negatively.

Jane Fairfax was a daughter of Lieutenant Fairfax; she is an orphan. She is one of the major characters. She is the only person Emma always feels envy because of her beauty and talent. She is a beautiful, bright, and elegant woman, with

good manner and morality. She is a Governess; she is talented in singing and playing the piano.

As a head strong woman Emma fix Mr. Elton to marry Harriet Smith which is her wrong decision but Elton falls for Emma (Kalpana & Nehere, 2016). Emma has crush on Frank Churchill and so she envies Jane Fairfax.

The play ends with in a different manner from other novels because the main characters are portrayed in a varied form like in the situation of MR. Woodhouse and MR. George Knightley who decides to stay with him after the marriage. All through the novel MR. George Knightley's character is the best supporting one than other characters. He cares and advises Emma Woodhouse.

CONCLUSION

Feminism is not only based on gender it is a social political movement based on political, economic, personal and social equalities. Throughout this novel we can see that female is been a dominating character towards men. The people have conflict between them because of their social status and their economic background. Apart from anything Emma is been care taken, advised, protected and safeguarded by the men like MR. Woodhouse, MR. George Knightley. All the female characters of Jane Austen were brave, strong, beautiful and intelligent. Main themes used by Jane Austen are Morality, Religion and Duty. Her Literary Style of writing is technically simple and easy.

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