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Concept of Family in the Novels of Jane Austen

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Abstract

Aims: The paper entitled “Concept of Family in the Novels of Jane Austen” brings out the novels deal with the position of women and their social and cultural possibilities, most of which are connected to marriage. The motive behind this research is to highlight the gender inequalities and the discriminations among family members and how these things affects the life of women. It helps to understand the impacts of society and men’s stereotypical mind set on women’s life.

Methodology and Approaches: The research design for this study is qualitative and based on textual analysis of primary and secondary sources. The research is based on correlation study. Subjective and interpretivist perspective have been taken. George Herbert Mead’s theory “Symbolic Interaction” is studied for focusing on changing roles and symbols affect the ways family members interact with each other and with society.

Outcome: It has been explored in the research that women have been dependent on men mentally as well as emotionally. The condition of these female characters are quite matching with our own practical life and the plenty of interpersonal relationship problems can be resolved. The relevance of this research is undoubtedly worth is as many people in today’s life are suffering from a relationship crisis in families.

Conclusion and Suggestions: The work of Jane Austen is part of a broad cultural process that has resulted in the evolution of a woman’s voice as the voice of diligence and good sense. Marriage is considered to be all and end all of life. Question is raised why women should marry. Would she not able to be self-depend? Why does she not have equal opportunities as man? Why should marriage be the last and only surviving option for living a happy life? Women are not inferior or less to any other members in family. Somehow it is because they lack enough education.

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Jane Austen (16 Dec 1775 – 18 Jul 1817) was an English novelist. She is the best known for her major novels which are interpreted, criticized and commented upon by the British landed gentry. The plots of her works explore the dependence of women on marriage in the quest of favorable social standing with economic reliability. Her works comment on the novels of sensibility and affection of the second half of the 18th century and are the part of the transition to 19th century literary realism. She used biting irony, along with her realism, human and social commentary and has long earned her acclaim among critics, scholars and popular audiences alike.

She is a famous English writer who first introduced the novel and its distinctly modern characters by her treatment of common people in everyday life. She published her four novels during her lifetime: *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), and *Emma* (1815). Her two novels, *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey* were published posthumously in 1817. In all her novels she clearly depicted English upper middle class life during the early 19th century. The era's novel of manners was defined by her novels, but that also became enduring classes that remained crucial and current successes.

Jane Austen restricts herself in her works to “the two inches of ivory”, the limited country life of the southern part of England and describes the everyday common life of people to be associated with the lower middle class society. Her greatness lies in the beautiful delineation of the lives of that society. In Jane Austen's novels *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Emma*, she narrates how a woman's fate is chiefly dependent on social status. She had a deep sense of inspection and was able to present, throughout all works. She tried to express how intricately intertwined a woman's life was with the social customs and society's views on the woman's proper place. Austen was born into an upper middle class family. She had a limited school education but she was later educated by home. The women of the high class were also confined not only by educational means, but also by the societal view on what a woman could do.

Love and marriage are key concepts in the novels of Jane Austen. She describes the social consciousness in the society of her novels. She showed the depiction of social activities of the people of rural England. People made the most of their time cherishing in parties and dances which used to bring young men and women then they created effective surroundings for love and marriage to take place. Mostly people loved to be outdoors and would enjoy spending times in the

parks and gardens. Lovers find privacy there to “soothe their love-laden soul” They loved to spend time with one another for lunch and dinner. Love and marriage are interlarded with elopement. She has happy ending in her novels with “all’s well that ends’ well”.

The novels of Jane Austen have been approached from various viewpoints. Her novels have been examined in terms of social contact and social vision, their religious dimension. They have been analyzed in relation to the question of women’s education and province of womanhood while many critics have evaluated them from the perspective of politics and French Revolution. There are still some features in her novels which have not received their due critical attention. It is now being increasingly felt that Austen is an ironist in a more subtle way earlier perceived and her novels provide an interesting subject of study in this direction. She has been appreciated for the remarkable artistic power and exercise over her medium for an almost faultless adjustment of meaningfulness. Her art has been researched from various points of view, all yields rich critical harvest.

She is one of the most popular women novelists of the nineteenth century. Her novels deal with the place of women and their social expectations and most of which are connected to marriage. The protagonists portray a special reply to those confluences as it is a product of their way of thinking. In the nineteenth century, Women didn’t have enough alternatives to lead to their future. They could married otherwise became governesses. They didn’t have much right to live their life. Their families shaped their life and they tried to find them a suitable person for marriage to support them. Austen’s heroines are self-reliant and individualistic women who marry the men they love. She also represents the women characters whose ultimate aim in life is connected to marriage. We can say that she mentions all those women representing different female responses to social norms and to their own place in the social circumstances. She challenged patriarchal conventions and assumptions by reconsidering womanhood and marriage in their

novels, especially by breaking from the traditional marriage ending. Mostly novels represents womanhood and marriage and questions whether the novel presents a realistic choice for women struggling to obtain independence in an oppressive society.

Jane Austen's families debate the fictional families such as the Bennets and the Bertrams. Their dynamics are critical both to her plots and to her expeditions of ethical convolution. Their study focuses upon the central characters' interactions with their own families and with other family groups in an expedition of how emotional and moral development is hindered as well as by these interactions. Significantly, Austen cherished neglects to mention about the orphaned heroines so often liked most by novelists of the period; rather. For a writer who cares profoundly for what is pure and probable in novel, the most popular experience of surviving the suffering an pleasure of family life afford the richest material for her work.

Austen's conception of ideal family part reflects the process of social reforming that happened during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. The stage of alternation was led by writers who admitted that the quality of family life was critical to the quality of life largely to the happiness of all individual, to the raising of children and to prosperous functioning of society as a whole. Her novels delineate the period of transition between the two value systems and her viewpoint harmonizes to the enlightened notions of the social reformers.

The novels of Jane Austen deal around wholly with the restrained circle of family life. All social interests are gathered around the family life. She worked smoothly and restrained her scope deliberately therefore her intention was microcosmic to create a perfectly adjusted small world. Her each novel portrays a group of human beings, their connections with one another and their arguments. Her novels are so complex that they allow a merely didactic solution and so serious that they would be dismissed as simply light hearted. Her characters are

lively as well as dynamic. She discloses beneath the surface to the principles of personality and lays bare the processes of the characters' mind as well as those of the heart. The late eighteenth-century England's families mostly engaged as economic units and marriage granted ways of securing fortune. It was parents' duty to secure accurate husbands for their daughters. Otherwise daughters were not provided parental inheritance. She involved flawed parents child relationships in around of her novels.

Jane Austen's distinctive literary style relies on the association of parody, burlesque, irony and a degree of realism. She practices parody and burlesque for humourist affect and to critique the presentation of the women in 18th century with emotional and gothic fictions. Her critique is extended by her with highlighting social deceptions through sarcasm; she often originates an ironic tone through straight forward speech in which the thoughts and words of the characters combination with the voice of the narrator. Some scholars discuss that Austen falls into a convention of realism because of her finally beheaded portrayal of different characters and her intensity on "The Everyday" while other argue that her characters have lack of depth of feeling.

Austen's novels also involve Fairy Tale elements. They have not more narrative or scenic description but have much more dialogue than other early 19th novels. She creates an extraordinary and subtly constructed voice for each characters. Education is mentioned in her plots; her female protagonists come to see themselves and their conduct clearly and become better and moral people. The central theme of her works is morality-characterized by manners, duty to society and religious seriousness. Throughout her novels, we see serious reading with intellectual and moral development. Her novels have also been portrayed as politically conservative and progressive. She also addresses issues relating to both money and property, especially the arbitrary quality of property inheritance and the insecure economic position of women. Throughout her work, we see stiffness

between the claims of surroundings and the claims of individual. Austen is often attended as one of the developers of modern, internalized novel characters.

The novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, portrays the Bennet family of five sisters. It concentrates on the life of one sister, Elizabeth, the main protagonist of the story. This Bennet family comes from the middle class. Mr. Bennet does not have a son, male heir of family:

Very few people nowadays have any reason to understand the meaning of an estate's being entailed – it is, or was, a legal arrangement whereby the property could descend only to a male heir. If there was no direct male heir, as in the Bennet's case, then the next nearest male collateral descendant of the owner who had originally created the entail would inherit – in this case, Mr. Bennet's distant cousin Mr. Collins. (La Faye 184)

Mrs. Bennet fears that her daughters will be left with nothing after the death of their father, and they will have to bank on good will of his cousin, Mr. Collins, therefore, she dedicates her life to finding suitable husbands for the marriage of her daughters. Being a caring and loving mother, Mrs. Bennet wishes the best for her daughters.

The relationship of Mr. Bennet and his wife, Mrs. Bennet is discussed here to show their unsuitable characters which affect their children. Their marriage was the result of physical attraction not more than that. In the novel, it has been disclosed that Mr. Bennet has been “captivated by youth and beauty, and that appearance of good humour, which youth and beauty generally give, married a woman whose weak understanding and illiberal mind, had very early in their marriage put an end to all real affection for her.” (201) Mrs. Bennet has flourished in using her youth and beauty to seize Mr. Bennet. As she is a woman of “mean understanding, little information, and uncertain temper” (4) She is not able to understand her husband's nature. They both cannot create a pure cooperation in their life. Their elder two daughters, Jane and Elizabeth, are

fortunately above reproof due to their intellect to maintain propriety in family and society, and are over the unbridled control of their mother's foolishly supervision.

The universal truth "that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of wife" is very eagerly held by Mrs. Bennet that her captivation is towards the marrying off of her daughters, Jane and Elizabeth who have come to age. Both sisters have beauty and youth but inconsiderable estate as dowry. Mrs. Bennet is troubled with seeing the well-settlement with good income of her daughters. Both Mr. Bennet and Mrs. Bennet differ in their views regarding the whole outgrowth of things in life. Mrs. Bennet stimulates her younger daughters in their fascination with military officers which Mr. Bennet doesn't like but not strong enough to hinder them. Elizabeth raises her voice regarding the younger sister, Lydia's venture and cautions her father to reprimand her. Just as Elizabeth fears with the situation, a shocking realization is brought to both Mr. and Mrs. Bennet with the news of Lydia's elopement with Wickham. Mr. Bennet is rudely shocked and goes in search of them whereas Mrs. Bennet blames everyone except Lydia for this.

The animosity in married life has its consequences. If Mr. Bennet had cultivated his parental strictness over his incautious younger daughter, reproach of Lydia would have been prevented. His spiritual qualities are possessed only by his elder two daughters. Mrs. Bennet cannot be collectively reproofed for her actions. Knowing the outcome of the entangle and not certifying any future adjustment is quite a dissimilarity to another parent who wishes to improve but does not live long enough to do so.

Darcy has no fault to oversee this opportunity as everything is arranged for by the parents in his society. He has to either choose Miss Bingley or Miss de Bourgh, his cousin or any other lady of his circle for marriage. The aristocratic marriage is based on the system of heritage in turn supported or sanctioned by the family. Lady Catherine de Bourgh, his aunt, has arranged his marriage with her

daughter from their early age. She clearly gives sounding message of an aristocracy aunt to a gentry, Elizabeth, to stay away from Darcy.

The proposal of Darcy is so unforeseen that it astonishes Elizabeth into temporary silence. This receiving compliment might have gratified her pride and it was from such a man of his status but for the very mention the inferiority of the family. This thing suggests Elizabeth of his interference in Bingley and Jane's unfulfilled affair. Moreover his confident proposal makes her angrier. After insisting on reason by Darcy for her refusal, Elizabeth declares his role in the separation of Jane and Bingley, the inclination of Wickham and his dissatisfaction with the inferiority of her family. She is equally proud of her gentry as he is of his aristocracy. The next day, she finds Darcy's letter of explanation which brings to light all her misapprehensions and reveals his own true character. Reading his letter she realizes how foolishly she has treated him and grows ashamed of herself:

How despicably have I acted! She cried – 'I, who have prided myself on my discernment! – I, who have valued myself on my abilities! Who have often disdained the generous candour of my sister, and gratified my vanity, in useless or blameless distrust, - How humiliating is this discovery! How I been in love, I could not have been more wretchedly blind. But vanity, not love, has been my folly. – Pleased with the preference of one, and offered by the neglect of the other, on the very beginning of our acquaintance, I have courted prepossession and ignorance, and driven reason away, where either were concerned. Till this moment, I never knew myself. (177)

After facing this kind of situation Darcy realized his fault to act wrongly with proud and to place so much emphasis on class differences. Elizabeth also realized her fault to judge Darcy prematurely and to allow her perception to be affected by her vanity. Both couples, Elizabeth and Darcy, Jane and Bingley marry. The

whole family is happy to see their marriage and their intellect to manage all the ups and downs in familial relationship.

The marriage of Elizabeth and Darcy is the completion of love, respect, intelligence and a gradual outgrowth from hatred to admiration and love after a long process of extinguishing misinterpretation elevating from pride and prejudice. Moreover the unlikeness in their social status makes the two protagonists begin off on a very inaccurate note right from their first meeting at Maryton Ball. The ball is regarded relevant as “The society described is one in which relationships, particularly those between men and women can have little opportunity for development save in the setting of the formal and semi-formal social occasion – the ball, the dinner-party or the morning visits” (12) Unless companionships in these social gatherings are arranged, there is no ways to have suitable young men or ladies to meet to each other and thereby extract visits to their homes.

The main character of this novel, Elizabeth deviates from the admitted role of a woman and tastes that women do not have to conform to their roles to take a husband. She is an out-spoken, resistive and commanding woman who estranges from the stereotypical female of her time. She has a major role to maintain her family. She helps and supports her elder sister to marry Mr. Bingley and Lydia to return from elopement with Wickham as he was not an eligible man to marry and to live life happily.

The next novel to be argued is *Sense and Sensibility*, which was the first published novel that brought Jane Austen’s reputation. This novel is an entirely contrasting familial status from the other novels of her. It is a matriarchal family world where mothers direct in the absence of living fathers. There are two widows in the novel who are separate parents to our heroine, Elinor and hero Edward in harmony to the heritage system which doesn’t assign women to occupy property except when they befit widows of aristocrat gentleman whose children are not of coming of age. Mrs. Dashwood is left exhausted while Mrs. Ferrars is amply

provided for according to their relevant husbands' resources. They both are widows with disparate destiny within the existing tradition.

Mr. and Mrs. Dashwood are the parents of the female protagonist, Elinor. They were married in their early days out of both infatuation and authentic love but without sound allowance to live agreeably well. They have three daughters but has no son to inherit the property. Mr. Dashwood had a son from his previous marriage whose name is John Dashwood, a quite wealthy form both his late mother's and as from his wife's dowries. After the death of old Dashwood, his will estate is bequeathed to Mr. Dashwood's son's son, Harry a baby boy of four years and had nothing for the three daughters and his wife. With this, Mr. Dashwood has requested his son John to look after his step-mother and sisters. Unfortunately, he has survived his forerunner by only for a short time.

Mrs. Dashwood is a romantic woman who gives more to emotion than to reason in taste and organization. As their home is captured by her step-son and his wife, Fanny, she unites her second daughter Marianne in distress. They encourage each other now in the violence of their affliction. The agony of grief which empowered them at first, was voluntarily renewed, was sought for, and was created again and again..... (326).

As a responsible parent she cannot move judiciously with her step son upon whom the whole condition of her daughters' future for material and economic security depends. Unlike the present day mothers who would look out for rich man for their moderate daughters in marriage, Mrs. Dashwood seems to be entirely luke-warm to her daughters' wealthy suitors, Edward and Willoughby are two eventual gentlemen, got interest in her two elder daughters. Elinor is pursued by Edward who is the brother of Fanny.

The estate of Edward is not as significant to Mrs. Dashwood as he wants her daughter Elinor and she interchanges it. A very realistic view of women rivalry between the in-laws is given by Jane Austen, in the Dashwood household. Fanny was never considered as a favourite being with any of her husband's

family, whom she treats as half-blood relation and has not avoided the opportunity of avenging them at the most precarious time which to Mrs. Dashwood is very humiliating and inhuman in the view of the society. Mrs. Dashwood's approbation of Willoughby, another suitor of her second daughter Marianne, opposed from his courteous act of recapturing her when she has sprained her leg. Mrs. Dashwood is not a mentally strong woman and quite slight in her perception of things around her. She is described as:

A matured and light-hearted version of Marianne..... her only real mistake is to fail to exercise her proper authority over Marianne. Her Foibles are attractive and confined to a few topics: carelessness about money, embarrassing and unconventional expression of kindness, and unrealistic plans for the future. (Craik 45)

The problem of conserving their expenses gets downsized by Elinor, she seems to be gratuitous of her new status of life. The horses and the carriage have been disposed of at the advice of Elinor and servants are restricted to three in order to diminish their maintenance after the termination of her husband. Mrs. Dashwood only once voices out her vexation of her thoughtless marriage when she reprimands Marianne for getting afraid of that she might not confront her fabulous hero. On the other hands, there is Mrs. Ferrars, the mother of Edward who is the character of the old generation, seems to sustain the notion, that, "beauty is a negotiable and variable factor.....and can be compensated for by money". (37)

As a head of an aristocratic family, Mrs. Ferrars wishes to flourish his son as a manifest figure in society as an orator, a politician, connected with some of the great men of the time, and to see him driving a barouche and marry an heiress to replenish his fortune. This is the customary of the aristocrats' family way of indulging the first son who would be possessing the family legacy, repugnant to his mother's expectation, Edward has turn to neither become a numerous man or drive barouche nor desire to marry an heiress but only wishes for domestic convenience and the quietness of private life. Both mother and son have different

enthusiastic and so the controversy of opinions elevates leading to Edward's indecisive and introvert nature. He is rendered inactive by the mother's strong hold on him.

Within the relationship of Elinor and Edward, we notice how love indicates the steadfast loyalty of the lovers in spite of the many restrictions imposed on them to break their marriage. Dissimilarity in fortune and class standard is the reason why Edward and Elinor's marriage is opposed by Mrs. Ferrars. From the starting period Elinor is outweighed with gloom as she has to buffer her family from overindulgence of sensibility over the capture of their home. She also has to defend her love for her lover, Edward against the intimidating mother. As Elinor is the eldest daughter of her family, her mother Mrs. Dashwood, depends on her advice and coolness of adjustment. After the death of her father, she acts like the instructor of her mother to support her family.

The novel finally turns to a happily ending. The different characters portray separate personalities in social life. Jane Austen's novel, *Mansfield Park*, is very complex novel. This novel stands out differently from her other novels as the heroine's story begins from her early age as an outsider in foster home. She is brought to Mansfield Park where she was as a stranger, a poverty-stricken child and sickly to become the concubine of the estate in the last. The heroine of the novel, Fanny Price is the daughter of the youngest sister of Mrs. Norris and lady Bertram. Sir Thomas Bertram adopts Fanny at the insistence of Mrs. Norris. At the end, she takes over the property as a worthy member while the original members are not located or exiled from it. In the alteration of Fanny's fortune, it is advantageous to study her relationship with Edward, the cousin whom she wants and eventually marries. The parents of the main female character would be absorbed the highest pursued by that of the children to reveal parental supervision develops the mental as the emotional attitude of the off-springs.

The relationship of Sir Thomas Bertram and lady Bertram is an outgrowth of marriage of physical attraction or attachment. They are the foster parents of the

female protagonist, Fanny Price and the parents of the hero Edmund. They have chosen Fanny as her mother, Mrs. Price, the youngest sister lady Bertram. Lady Bertram is a pretty lady but with a small fortune. Their relationship is described by the author as:

About thirty years ago, Miss Maria Ward, of Huntington, with only seven thousand pounds, had the good luck to captivate Sir Thomas Bertram, of Mansfield Park, in the country of Northampton, and to be raised to the rank of a baronet's lady, with all the comforts and consequences of an handsome house and large income...(5)

Sir Thomas's marriage to lady Bertram is like a cooperation of appliance and material obtain. She has no responsibility towards her children's welfare which fits the role of the aristocrat wives who are self-content with what they have achieved in marrying wealthy men. Lady Bertram seems to have accomplished her duty as a wife after giving birth to Tom, Edmund, Maria and Julia. She doesn't give any concern for the bigger responsibility of nurturing them. They all siblings are deprived of her maternal and feminine worth which their education and discipline by the father cannot compensate for.

As a defensive father, Sir Thomas's difference for his maturing daughters is very appreciative. He could not rely on lady Bertram to act what should have been her own. Then he leaves them to Mrs. Norris's observation and his faith in Edmund's intuition only to be mortified with the outcome later. The defended and cherished Mansfield Park is invaded just as Sir Thomas has feared.

Mrs. Norris's desire to promote her favourite niece's future has started her relationship with Mr. Rushworth, a pompous rich young man. She maintained to send her reckless sister, lady Bertram to visit. The mother of Rushworth and has arrogance of having brought the cooperation, Maria's affair with Rushworth is encouraged by both lady Bertram and Mrs. Norris because he is of some fortune and nothing noble than that yet for all her enterprise to advance the welfare of her protection, Mrs. Norris, is defective as a mentor. She cannot prevent Maria's

honour, as an intended lady, when she flirts or acts with Henry in front of Rushworth. Both Maria and Julia are not capable to resist Henry.

The indecency of an engaged lady to take freedom with another man does not seem to concern much to Maria as she is not repulsed by any of the senior ladies. Then Maria and Julia are envious to each other in strive for Henry's attention and fight for him. Fanny's love for Edmund begins from the period he reveals his concern for her. Edmund is the second son and the wellborn member of the Bartrams. He is very genuine in his desire to be ordained, a profession for all second sons who would not be occupying the father's possession in the British society.

Jane Austen's antipathy for inadvertent parents in family is revealed with that Fanny wants to write to her brother not to her mother or father. A child of ten years only is missing her brother instead of her parents and it shows a tell-tale of family disharmony. Fanny has come to love Mansfield Park as she treats it like her home for last five years. Fanny has been relieved and conciliated from her foremost anxiety with Edmund's appreciation that she would always be a friend to him as she has sweet temper and a grateful heart. It is agreeable with the critic's observation how Fanny has observed Edmund and the estate.

Fanny's childhood devotion of Edmund has led to love in her matured state but she manages to hide her emotions from being definite. She becomes sick and weak because of her feeling neglected and struggling against discontent and envy for some days previous. Her sickness is psychological as Karl Kroeber quotes from the American College Dictionary where, the sort of her sickness is diagnosed as "psychoneurosis" means "an emotional disorder in which feelings of anxiety, obsessional thoughts.....and physical complaints without objective evidence of disease.....dominates the personality".....(Kroeber 73)

Finally the marriage of Fanny and Edmund decided on account of the misadventures of Maria and Henry, Edmund has been waiting for the response of Mary to marry him as a clergy. Fanny and Edmund are at last summoned to

Mansfield Park. Then Sir Thomas has sent Edmund to fetch his wife after his break-off with Mary. We see a union of merit rather than of rank in the marriage of Fanny and Edmund, which have been caused of the failure in Maria and Rushworth's marriage. Then Maria has married Rushworth.

Jane Austen's second last novel, Emma is said to be the greatest novel. This novel shows her strength of writing in education and improving a heroine from sophistry brought on by the shutters of arrogance into the condition of perception when that pride had been obscured through the exposure of the fallacies of judgment into which it has led her. Emma is a main character who is not hanging financially coming from an aristocratic background and so has an air of assumption. The self-reliance, fortune and the great handedness of Emma might have interspaced herself from the heroine of Jane Austen's other novels. The fascination to get married, seen in her previous heroines, is no more the enthusiasm of the confident and rich Emma. In a way, some of the autobiographical traces of Emma's real life achievements and views are reflected by the novel.

The novel reveals the hazardous condition of what riches and dignity can bring about in a marriage or family. It also studies how wrong parenting nourishes the intellect of the mind besides mirroring the condition of nobility and its deficiency in brutalizing people of lower status and fortune. It also shows the condition and role of family getting different kinds of circumstances in the society. It brings to light the whole condescending attitude of the gentry's family which need to be amended through the kind hearted nobleman like Mr. Knightley.

Here, we have Mr. Woodhouse, a spouseless father who would prefer her daughter, Emma to remain unmarried and stay with him ever. His elder daughter, Isabella is already married so Emma invites no sibling-conflict. Mr. Woodhouse doesn't like marriage as being the main cause of transformation in his life. Isabella has five children but he has not harmonized with his ideas. The marriage of Miss Taylor, who is a governess and a companion to Emma, has become

another concern to his already anxious nature. The obsessive old man has mourned at her marriage and thinks that, “Miss Taylor had done as sad a thing for herself as for them” and mourned why “Mr. Weston ever thought of her (3).....Mr. Woodhouse mentions about marriage as a change or changes - changes of identity, place and relationship – which he denounces as he wishes to retain everything in his ambit, though his wish is accomplished in the end. As a landowner, Mr. Woodhouse’s essence and the plight of his estate are miserable.

Being a wealthy landowner, Mr. Woodhouse is awaited to grant charity to the needy person, reform and nurture young tenants in society as it was the practice of the day but he was totally tenuous. His most offensive nature can be noticed at best when these friends are entertained by him:

Mrs. Bates, let me propose your venturing on one of these eggs. An egg boiled very soft is not unwholesome..... But you need not be afraid, they are very small, you see – one of our small eggs will not hurt you. Miss Bates, let Emma help you to a little tart – a very little bit. Ours are all apple-tarts. You need not to be afraid of preserve here, I do not advice the custard. Mrs. Goddard, what say you to half a glass of wine? A small half-glass, put into a tumbler of water? I do not think it could disagree with you..... (17)

Emma and Knightley’s relationship is fairly preordained from the beginning of the novel. His aim is to fill in the void generated by the loss of a member in the Hartsfield household are evening Miss Taylor is married to Mr. Weston. Just as he comes to the Wood-houses, he is a fairly omnipresent throughout the novel and ends up taking residence in the last when he marries his love, Emma. He is definitely right person to marry her. Jane Austen praises man like Darcy and Knightley as sound freeholders who therefore are great eligible men as coming husbands to aspire for. They occupy the attributes of good landlords as well as fulfil the expectations of patrons to their assistants.

Emma and Knightley have a strong bond of friendship or companionship which is one of the grounds of a good foundation of marriage to make a good family. They often express frankly their ideas at each other without any fear of retribution. Being a handsome, clever and wealthy with a comfortable home, Emma is not confused or distressed throughout her twenty-one years of life. She confidently announced that she must find somebody superior to anyone she has seen yet, to allure her to change her marital status. Her resolution to remain single is:

I have none of the usual inducement of women to marry. Were I to fall in love, indeed, it would be a different thing; but I never have been in love; it is not my way, or my nature; and I do not think ever shall. And, without love, I am sure I should be a fool to change such a situation as mine. Fortune I do not want; employment I do not want; consequence I do not want; I believe few married women are half as much mistress of their husband's house as I am of Hartfield and never, never could I expect to be so truly beloved and important; so always first and always right in any man's eyes as I am in my father's..... (67)

Emma's this stand to remain single is clearly because of her possessive father who gave her enough space for her willing activities and freedom from any restraints. It takes a situation like this to impact her out of her dissonance towards Knightley and accept her love for him. She finally is ready to marry him and brings him into her own domiciliary where his role is to fortify.

Here we discuss about the family relationship and family's important in Jane Austen's next novel, Persuasion. Anne Elliot is the main character of this novel. She is the second daughter of Mr. Elliot who is a gentleman and his lifestyle compels him to sell his possession and move to Bath. Being of 28 years, Anne is considered to be a spinster and a burden for her family. She has two elder sisters with their unsympathic nature towards her and an egotistic father who does not care about Anne because of not pretty enough.

She had been disciplined by Lady Russell, her best friend Anne is very modest girl and completely alienated psychologically often segregated physically and very astonishing from the pen which also created the likes of Elizabeth Bennet, quite in crowded and confined spaces. Life has influenced her in that way. Her mother died when she was fourteen. Then at the age of nineteen, she fell in love with Mr. Wentworth, who is a poor but intellectual person and loved her more than anything else. They got engaged but she was convinced to give up him because her father, thought is a very degrading alliance, and Lady Russell, though with more tempered and pardoned pride, received it as a most unfortunate one (13).

Anne Elliot, when she was young, has paid heed to her friend and mentor whose concern is priceless as that of a mother's love and right for her coming days. She would have ability to resist or challenge her own father's resistance and married Wentworth but for the prudence of Lady Russell's advice.

Wentworth has disapproved Anne not to rely on him and left the country in anger. She allotted herself to be employed and she regrets it even eight years later, chiefly now that Wentworth is ready to back. She reflected Charlies Musgrave's marriage proposal even though her family had advised her to admit him. Hence she proves to a self-reliant woman who determine that she will never be persuaded again into something she does not want to do. She begins to love him now more than ever. Yet, she believes him to be in love with Louisa Musgrave, a young girl whose brother is married to Anne's sister Mary. Anne is a big-hearted and kind; she doesn't abhor Louisa for this. She is unselfish girl who always puts other's happiness in front of her own. Once, Louisa Musgrave is injured, Anne manipulated to relieve everyone while nursing her.

Anne has proved that a loving and reasonable woman can find her place anywhere. Moreover there are some instances in which Anne proves to be a shrewd woman. Her cousin, Mr. Elliot, remaining on good terms with her family for many years, reveals a sudden interest in them, Anne doubts that something is

not good. Anne neglects her father's opinion; she is grateful to Mrs. Smith for refreshing her when she was at her least condition after the death of her mother. This kind of spirit and intelligence of Anne make Captain Wentworth exhibit his love for Anne even more than ever. They got married: even Lady Russell can do nothing about it. Anne Finally takes her destiny in her own hands. Mrs. Smith is portrayed as very cheerful and high spirited woman in spite of all difficulties that occurs with her. She wants to be beneficial and to establish that she is capable of living on her own. Finally, she is helped by Captain Wentworth to regain her husband's possession in the West Indies.

This novel, *Northanger Abbey*, reflects the unsophisticated and facetious attitude to life. In the introduction of the novel, it is mentioned that the novel is in some regards the Cinderella among the novels of Jane Austen. It is shown right because of suffering of the heroine at the hands of tyrannical parents (though different), perseverance of her fate patiently and reward by the happy marriage with the hero and some of the similar elements of a fairy tale.

Here we can see the novel's family background and family's impact on the main characters of the novel. General Tilney and Mrs. Tilney are the parents of the hero, Henry and Mr. and Mrs. Morland are the parents of the heroine, Catherine. These parents are basic in shaping the mind and behaviour of their children. Parental dictatorial nature can prompt good children to retaliate their parents in stubbornness while the moderate and liberal parents would often hearten discreet but irresolute personalities. The utmost inequality of the two parents in the family and their relationship to each other and their children will be our concentration.

The marriage of General Tilney and Mrs. Tilney would be portrayed as incompetent couple who make incompetent parents. General Tilney has been fascinated not by her outer beauty but by the fortune of Mrs. Tilney and she has been attracted by his generous aspect and not so much by his prosperity. One can assume that General Tilney has married her for her fortune only. Mrs. Tilney was

a Miss Drummond, and she and Mrs. Hughes were school-fellows; and Miss Drummond had a very large fortune; and when she married, her father gave her twenty thousand pounds, and five hundred to buy wedding-clothes..... (47)

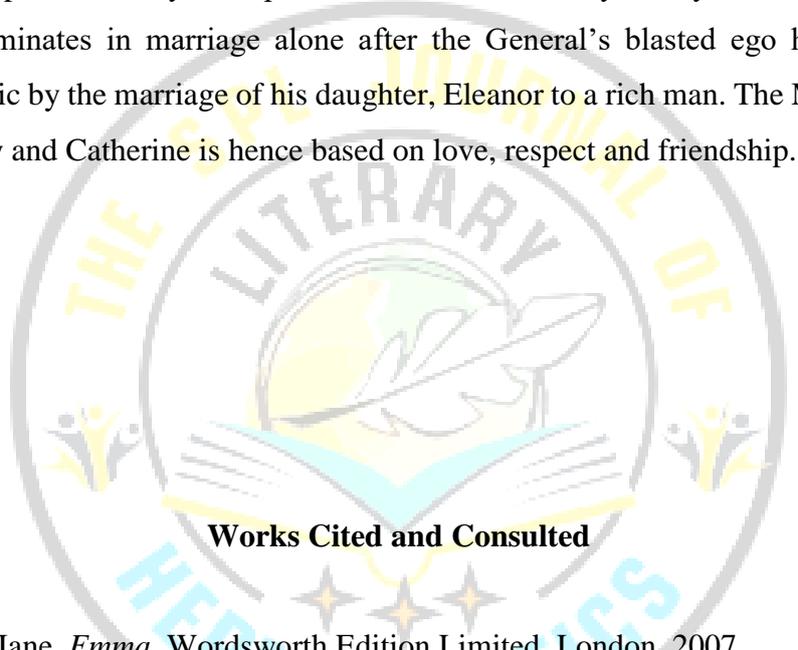
The harmony of the children's mind and inclination for their partner has no place in the project of General for their marriage. His is wealthy but arrogant and greedy. The General's belief of Catherine's fortune delights him exceedingly. The indiscreet manners of General create confusion to Catherine who blushes from the fear of something not good in her semblance.

Love and affection is completely unimportance in General Tilney's relationship to his children. He has put everything at his command and wishes which sometimes cause much embarrassment and difficulty to his children. In contrariety to the General's rudeness as parents, we see a moderate and liberal treatment of the Morlands as parents to Catherine and James Morland. Their marriage had love and understanding. The personality of their children, James and Catherine reveal how well they have been grown up notwithstanding the financial calamities due to a large family. They have maintained to enforce good moral principles which support them to adjust in family and society and there is no vice in their behaviors. As loving and careful parents, Mr. and Mrs. Morland are not aware at all of the dangers that might await their daughter at Bath. Before Catherine's departure for her entrance to public ball, Mrs. Morland, in reverse cautioning Catherine against the coming dangers outside.

Whatever Mr. and Mrs. Morland might have forecasted by the association of their daughter with the Tilney siblings is frustrated when they see their daughter coming her home unescorted on a post-chaise one fine day. Catherine's parents feel deeply the rude behavior of the General as a parent. The period is renowned for the sustenance of moral and social code of boring of which the General is guilty of disturbing. The Morlands are highly affected by his behaviors. The marriage of Catherine and Henry is compared to a fairy tale love story in which the heroine begins to love with the hero without knowing his

identity but simply because he happens to be the first man who addresses to her and the marriage brought about of both physical and love.

Catherine and Henry's relationship comes to a close due to the inspection of Catherine's instinctive venture to his mother's room alone. Constraint to enter the rooms of Mrs. Tilney by the Mr. Tilney, is the major reason for her intensified imagination to the Abbots. Her annoyance leads her to be thus disgraced when Henry, reaching home a day before, finds her separate near his mother's room unaccompanied. Henry has reprimanded her of such fancy. Henry and Catherine's love terminates in marriage alone after the General's blasted ego has been bombastic by the marriage of his daughter, Eleanor to a rich man. The Marriage of Henry and Catherine is hence based on love, respect and friendship.



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