

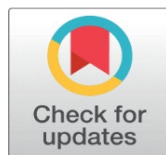
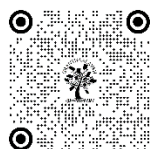
# JANE AUSTEN'S SPECTRUM OF IDEAS

Bhupendra Kumar Singh<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Kanupriya Verma<sup>2</sup>, Dr. Pratima Singh<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, Department of English, Maharishi University of Information Technology, Lucknow. U. P.

<sup>2</sup>Research Supervisor, Assistant Professor Department of English, Maharishi University of Information Technology, Lucknow. U. P.

<sup>3</sup>Associate Professor, Raja Balwant Singh Engineering Technical Campus, Agra



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## ABSTRACT

Austen sought to focus on key themes that divide a particular class, such as money, political position, and descent. In addition, the author considered how these social issues determined the fate of the protagonist of her novel. For example, in *Pride and Prejudice*, Austen tried to explain the entire system of primogeniture, which was one of Bennett's family's major problems. The most important issue was the marital issue of the daughters. Primogeniture was a low rank that gave the firstborn the right to inherit property. Another feature of Austen's work was the exposure of attempts to interact with the class. In addition, the author tried to explain what the results would be. Austen introduced different classes of people and had different needs and problems. Groups of these people should reflect their social status and their opportunities. It was a society where Austen grew up and could be observed for a lifetime.

**Keywords:** Jane Austen's Spectrum of Ideas, Characters in Action

## 1. HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL BACKGROUND IN JANE AUSTEN'S NOVEL

Jane Austen wasn't interested in historical events. She completely skipped Austen's political issues in the 18th and 19th centuries, and wars and political events did not affect the storyline of her novel. She focused only on social issues and the position of women in society. The most important task for rich men was to hunt and improve their lands, but women's lifestyles were more boring and depressing. Her biggest and most coveted pastime was her visit to London in the winter. London was commonly known as the city of balls. London also offered the best opportunity to meet wealthy, wealthy and lonely men. Therefore, many young girls dreamed of spending some time in London. London, on the other hand, was also very important because of the opportunity to make political contacts that could enhance its social status.

The English countryside has changed more than the cities of the 18th century. Improvements in agriculture have made agriculture more efficient. Landowners wanted to invest their money in the estate. Farmers have begun to use new machines and more effective farming methods. From time to time, the villagers were unaware of the land enclosure (McDowall 2002: 116-117). Many have been forced to leave the country and look for jobs in the city. The casing was used to mix grain and animal farms. People with money dominated the commons and locked them in. And later they were able to make a large investment in agriculture.

When it comes to family life, McDonald's claims that people are beginning to express their love more openly. Children were also seen as a group of special needs, rather than as small adults as they used to be. The girl living a lonely life was the worst. Women must be beautiful both mentally and physically. Young girls need to have a unique beauty that cannot be denied. Of course, the appearance of the girl increased the chances of finding a wealthy man. In the 19th century, parents decided on a proper marriage. It was not uncommon for people to get married for love. But my wife and husband were not equal. The husband was still considered a caretaker. The wife was still the property of her husband (Chwalba2007).

In the 19th century, it was still common for older men to marry younger women. As Chwalba pointed out, this idea was triggered by the fact that the main function of the family was reproduction (Chwalba2007). It was possible for older men to have young women and children. In addition, Napoleon's Code was widely accepted in most European countries. It changed people's way of thinking about human rights, but unfortunately it wasn't for women. According to this norm, men were legally superior to women. They also determined the family's finances and signed the deal. Without her husband's permission, the wife could not rule a legal matter unless she was acting for her husband. Also, the divorced wife did not have the right to claim maintenance or financial support from her ex-husband. In addition, it was common for women to be unable to write wills and therefore not appoint her child as an adoptive father (Chwalba2007).

By law and tradition, men were usually respected. The status of a woman in the family depended on him. The best wife was a humble and religious woman. She had to be obedient to her too. Chwalba stated that it is very important to recognize the different roles of women (Chwalba2007). Their work depended on their social status. In aristocratic families, women had to be women. She had to be present whenever her husband greeted guests, or when they ate. Women in the nation-state had more jobs and were more important in family life. That is why they are more respected. Working-class families demanded more diligence from women. In this class, the difference between men and women was the smallest. Women and men did almost the same job because it was common to work in the same place, such as a mine or factory. In addition, both women and men were responsible for making money in working-class families (Chwalba 2007: 41). In the countryside, women's status was slightly better than that of urban women. They also had to be diligent, but they were more respected.

## **2. DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SOCIAL CLASSES IN PRIDE AND PREJUDICE**

### **A) FLEXIBILITY IN ENGLISH CLASSES BETWEEN THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURY**

Jane Austen's novel is like a book about love. But apart from romance, Austen tried to imagine something more. According to Burgess, the reader can agree that the writer wanted to follow her classic and romantic movements. Austen also wanted to draw an accurate picture of British society (Burgess 2003: 170). The author sought to express how people in the 18th and 19th centuries perceived the potential for social division and class mixing.

Austen sought to focus on key themes that divide a particular class, such as money, political position, and descent. In addition, the author considered how these social issues determined the fate of the protagonist of her novel. For example, in *Pride and Prejudice*, Austen tried to explain the entire system of primogeniture, which was one of Bennett's family's major problems. The most important issue was the marital issue of the daughters. Primogeniture was a low rank that gave the firstborn the right to inherit property. Another feature of Austen's work was the exposure of attempts to interact with the class. In addition, the author tried to explain what the results would be. Austen introduced different classes of people and had different needs and problems. Groups of these people should reflect their social status and their opportunities. It was a society where Austen grew up and could be observed for a lifetime.

In addition, Austen gave her own view of Britain's particular class and general social division. In addition, she focused primarily on the English middle class with which she was involved. Austen wanted to explain the difference in her position in her society. It was difficult to move up to the upper class, but it was possible. Of course, most of the time it was related to charitable marriage. At the end of the 19th century, such marriages attracted a lot of general criticism. Another way to be raised by aristocrats was death, wills, and inheritance by gifts from relatives. It is worth noting that Austen proved not only the potential for social progress, but also the general curse of being humiliated. This demotion to the lower class can result from loss of property, exclusion from the family, or marriage to someone without reasonable means or good family relationships.

### **B) GENTRY**

Austen has created an impressive character to represent a class in British society. It connected people with the English social class. Therefore, all social groups were clearly mapped and could reflect the reality of everyday life. Austin described the ranks of British aristocrats by creating two different worlds. One of them represents the upper layers of the aristocrat and the other represents the lower layers of the class. According to McDowall, gentlemen were a class of gentlemen who owned vast lands and improved their farming practices, or landed gentlemen (McDowall2002).

In pride and prejudice, aristocrats were divided into middle class and middle class. This department was dependent on wealth. The upper middle class was represented by Mrs. Catherine, his daughter Miss de Burf, Fitzwilliam Darcy, his cousin Colonel Fitzwilliam, and Darcy's sister Georgiana. It was difficult to classify Charles Bingley and his family, his sisters Caroline and Hurst. As a rule, they need to have land to become a member of the upper middle class. They owned a huge fortune, but still had no land. The lower middle class was represented by the Bennett and Lucas families. Austin skillfully blended these two middle-class groups through romance, demonstrating the manners, behaviors, traditions and unique ideas of each group. Each of these groups had its own unique characteristics and had barriers that were usually insurmountable. The lower middle class and the upper middle class were very clearly separated. To emphasize these differences more strongly, the characters in Austin's novels were very attached to the classes and groups. In addition, people belonging to one of these groups have shown their meaning and benefits to their ancestors. In addition, Austin sought to create a character that also portrayed the shortcomings of belonging to a particular class. For example, Mrs. Bennett has always complained about her poor social status and the future outlook for primogeniture in her family. She was also afraid that her daughters would be robbed of her family's property. In the 19th century, unmarried women were allowed to become Governess, which was considered a social decline. Marriage was the only chance to change her destiny. Moreover, being single did not provide an opportunity to lead an interesting social life. Austin presented all the key characteristics of the individual associated with this group. Women were fascinated by their astute sense of humor. In addition, the author also wanted to point out the importance of education in this upper middle class. Girls should read a lot and also use their knowledge during intellectual conversations with men. Education for upper middle class girls had to include reading, singing and playing games. Moreover, it was unacceptable not to hire a governor to educate the girl and prepare for the role of wife. In a conversation between Elizabeth and Lady Catherine, Elizabeth admitted that she and her sister had Governess, and as a result they were unable to play the piano or sing like upper class girls. did. In addition, Elizabeth said that Bennett's daughters who wanted to study could find time for it, and those who wanted to do more interesting and those who wanted to spend lazy time had the opportunity to do it. Added. These views and methods of raising young girls shocked Mrs. Catherine. She couldn't believe her parents could be so irresponsible and didn't see any adverse effects this could have on these young girls in the future (Austen 2010). Lady Catherine compared her daughter to Elizabeth. Elizabeth was a simple girl with no social status and no decent fortune, and her family had no real ancestors (Austen2010: 343). Elizabeth replied that she was the daughter of a gentleman, but Mrs. Catherine immediately turned her attention to the background of Elizabeth's mother and others in her family. Mrs. Bennet's brother, Mr. Gardiner, was a businessman, and her sister, Mr. Phillips, was a lawyer. These connections were not good enough for Lady Catherine.

Both Darcy and Elizabeth belonged to gentlemen who were divided into several groups. Bennett was a landowner in Long Barn, so he and his family belong to the upper middle class. Between the 18th and 19th centuries, who belonged to a group was determined by social connections. Bennett had no more connections or wealthy relatives, so he and his family were certainly lovers, not as high in social status as Mr. Darcy and Lady Catherine.

It's worth noting how Bingley was lucky compared to Bennett's family. Bingley could not be considered a member of the upper middle class, not a landowner, as his family enriched himself through trade. Nevertheless, Bingley raised about £ 4,000 a year. As long as Bingley had no property of his own and his property came only from trade, he could not be promoted to a higher group. Therefore, Bingley was in the same social status as his wife. Bennett and her brother. Meanwhile, Bingley's father wanted to buy real estate for his family, but unfortunately he died. Only social contact and proper relatives made Bingley more impressive and interesting.

## C) THE CLASSES OF CLERGYMEN AND OFFICERS

One of the opportunities for career advancement when I came from the middle class was getting a job as a minister. Austin focused primarily on the British aristocratic class. In addition, in *Pride and Prejudice*, the author portrayed other social classes. The priesthood class was represented by Bennett's cousin Collins, who, thanks to his primogeniture, was the heir to Bennett's property. Therefore, at the beginning of the novel, he was not considered a welcome and entertaining person. Mrs. Bennet hates her husband's cousin because he sees him as a thief in family property.

When Collins visited his cousin because he was looking for a good wife, in his opinion, the best candidate might be one of Bennett's daughters. His first choice was Jane, but fortunately her mother thought she should marry Bingley. Collins then tried to get Elizabeth to say "yes", but as I wrote earlier, Elizabeth felt she couldn't fall in love with such a man, and worse, she is a boring character who was actually difficult to get along with. Finally, Collins found a real woman for himself. Through the character of Collins, Austin sought to show a part of the lives of church members, their obligations, and their social status. No one seemed to take Collins seriously, and in most cases people couldn't be with Collins for more than a few minutes.

Collins was in full control of Mrs. Catherine. She was the one who recommended him to marry a wise and wise girl quickly. Despite being educated, Collins did not make him an interesting person because of his personality and lifestyle. His happy days began the day he accepted the ministerial position in Handsford. Soon he also got a nice house and a good income. For Collins, the pastor's salary was sufficient. On the contrary, Mrs. Catherine said the good luck that Collins might accumulate would not be that great. In the meantime, Collins needed only his wife. In one of the conversations with Elizabeth, Collins showed the benefits of the ministry.

Indeed Mr. Collins was a good candidate for husband because in the future he could gather a proper asset. Moreover, his position and social connection, especially with Lady Catherine, were his biggest advantages. Unfortunately Mr. Collins dared to remind Elizabeth her poor social connection (Austin 2010: 105). In his opinion, he was the perfect and the only candidate for Elizabeth's husband.

Collins thanked Lady Catherine for appointing him a minister in one of her parishes. Lady Catherine had the authority to appoint a local church member as a local landlord. She was sponsored by Mr. Collins, and she was able to buy the church office herself. In this profession, church members most often received free rent farmland. Collins explained his characteristics very accurately, especially when Elizabeth visited him and his wife.

Collins had to seek the support of his employer. Collins spoke on every occasion with a compliment about Lady Catherine, her kindness, her luck, and her family. To him she was like an ideal woman. Second, Austin created a mysterious story about a man who would also be a minister. Wickham was supposed to be his parish Darcy's father. Old Darcy appreciated Wickham and his father was a servant. As a prize and a little inheritance, Wickham got a ward, but he changed his mind and demanded money despite the ward. Mr Darcy accepted his request. Unfortunately, Wickham lived a luxurious life and lost all his money. This situation caused great resistance between the two men. Collins' example was intended to show the life of an idyllic, quiet and peaceful priest between the 18th and 19th centuries, and to compare it with the troubled life of other estates in England.

### 3. CHARACTERS IN ACTION

#### A) MALE CHARACTERS - BAD BOYS AND GOOD GUYS

Austen's novels in one way or the other contribute to the display of her true study of characters. There are galaxy of fine and illustrious personages in the novels. Her concern is with both men and women. They belong to middle class families. They form an integral part of her fictional design and setting. The three pairs are: Mr Bingley and Edward Ferrars, Mr Darcy and Colonel Brandon, and Wickham and Willoughby.

#### 1. COLONEL BRANDON / MR DARCY

The first impressions of Darcy's landscape are unfavorable, and unfortunately, when Elizabeth Bennett is listening, he does not express them well to Bingley. Lizzie isn't impressed with what she hears, which increases her dislike of Darcy. Now he feels more and more attracted to her. Colonel Brandon immediately thanks Marianne, but because of his personality, courts her very slowly and carefully. Darcy is positive about her when they spend time together while she takes care of her sick sister, after insulting Elizabeth and all her friends and family. I have a feeling. Neither man overtly shows his charm or appreciation for their heroine, but as men whose emotions grow and they can choose to marry, they consider Elizabeth and Marianne to be good partners. It is clear that there is. Colonel Brandon of Sense



and Sensitivity and Mr. Darcy of *Pride and Prejudice* are serious men with many responsibilities. They are both landowners, and therefore also employers, as well as both of them having wards (in the case of Darcy, it is his sister Georgiana, and in Brandon's it is a young woman called Eliza, the daughter of his first love). Being responsible and mature men, they take more into account than lust at first sight, an agreeable exterior, and the wealth of the women they are interested in.

Both Brandon and Darcy feel obligated to inform their love interests about the previous lives of their previous suitors, and thus tell the women their wards' stories. When Marianne has been deemed unsuitable by Willoughby's relatives and he is threatened with disinheritance, he leaves and marries someone with more money. As a result, Marianne is heartbroken. It is at this point that Colonel Brandon avows to Elinor, that as a young man he too was in love with someone who was deemed unsuitable, a woman whose life ended tragically, and that Brandon was made the guardian of this woman's daughter. Colonel Brandon, who is a very private man, chooses to tell Elinor about his ward and her tragic destiny when it is clear to him that Marianne needs to be informed of the mentality of her ex-lover. Willoughby has seduced Brandon's ward, who has been protected and cared for by Colonel Brandon, after Willoughby abandoned her, while she was pregnant. He recounts this to Elinor, so that the Dashwood-sisters will know who Willoughby really is, which may make it easier for Marianne to get over her infatuation and heart-break.

## 2. WILLOUGHBY / WICKHAM

Considering Mr. Darcy and Colonel Brandon as mature characters, Willoughby and Wickham are examples of men who are not yet mature, if any. From their selfishness, their priorities, and the way they treat others, it is clear that these two men are not yet mature. But this does not mean that they are portrayed in a completely negative way, but the benefit of the heroine's first love. When featured in *Sense and Sensibility*, Willoughby is a hero who saves Marianne when she injures her ankle. He makes a very benevolent impression and immediately shows her love for Marianne very frankly. Wickham's entrance in *Pride and Prejudice* is also quite heroic, since he is part of a regiment that settles at Meryton, the town near where the Bennets live. He too gives a positive impression at first, and charms Elizabeth. Both Wickham and Willoughby are, on the surface, interesting and attractive, not afraid of complimenting their love-interest of the moment. However, they both show their immoral characters in seducing, or trying to seduce, Brandon's and Darcy's wards. When Darcy reveals the true story of Wickham to Elizabeth, he tells her that Wickham had planned to elope with the innocent Georgiana Darcy, and there are allusions to Wickham having "improper" relationships in the novel. Wickham is presented as a cad with, in the end, few forgiving qualities. On parallel lines, Willoughby has seduced, with a child as the result, Colonel Brandon's young ward. The importance of money is essential in the cases of Wickham and Willoughby, as they both aim to marry someone with a considerable wealth. Instead of marrying the woman he truly loved, Marianne, Willoughby chooses to marry for money.

## 3. EDWARD FERRARS / MR BINGLEY

After introducing mature parallels to the immature characters of Darcy and Brandon, and Wickham and Willoughby, we move on to the last male parallels. *Sense and sensibility* by Edward Fellers and *pride and prejudice* by Mr. Bingley. In parallel with this, find a character that shows maturity, but may not be fully mature at the beginning of each novel. Just as both Feller and Bingley were aimed at young men, especially in romantic issues, we see this "lack" of maturity in which the family dominates them.

Edward Fellers meets Dashwood's sister through his sister-in-law, his sister-in-law. He is a gentle and wise character who makes friends with Eleanor Dashwood and falls in love. Due to his cautious nature, his family tends to dominate him, especially at the beginning of the novel where his mother and sister have a great influence on him. She took the first opportunity of affronting her mother-in-law on the occasion, talking to her so expressively of her brother's great expectations, of Mrs. Ferrar's resolution that both her sons should marry well, and of the danger attending any young woman who attempted to draw him in [...] (*Sense and Sensibility*). In *Pride and Prejudice*, Mr Bingley arrives at Netherfield in the company of his friend Darcy, his two sisters and his brother-in-law. Bingley, like Edward Ferrars, is mild-mannered and kind, and is taken in by Jane, the older Bennet-sister. Bingley, like Edward, is initially influenced by the people surrounding him. "Miss Bennet was therefore established as a sweet girl, and their brother felt authorised by such commendation to think of her as he chose." (*Pride and Prejudice*), shows the influence his sisters and friend had over his romantic choices. Furthermore, it is Darcy and Bingley's sisters who convince him to leave Netherfield for London, thus leaving Jane. "Bingley has great natural modesty, with a stronger dependence on my judgement than on his own. To convince him, therefore, that he had deceived himself, was no very difficult point." (*Pride and Prejudice*), again

shows their influence on him. Since both Edward and Bingley are modest men, careful and slightly shy, and Elinor and Jane are sensible, no promises are made, and when Bingley leaves for London, and Edward too, there is nothing that speaks of any type of commitment between them. Both Bingley and Edward Ferrars have been romantically involved previously; as is shown in Darcy's comment to Lizzy "I had often seen him in love before." (*Pride and Prejudice*, 153). However, the reader discovers more of Edward's background, than Bingley's. Edward turns out to be engaged to a young woman in secret, but this proves to be a youthful indiscretion, and instead of being negative, it shows Edward's strength of character.

#### 4. FEMALE CHARACTERS: SENSIBLE OR SENSITIVE

Through the use of archetypes in her stories, Austen shows her preference for a certain type of the romantic relationship, one that Hazel Jones describes as "the very best kind of union, based on compatibility, affection and respect" (1). The theory that Austen promotes a certain kind of romantic relationship is further supported by Jones who writes "one certainty emerged: that marriages based on love and esteem were more likely to endure the test of time than those contracted for material gain" (1). Jones further states that "Friendship within marriage, first cultivated over a long period of courtship, was lasting rather than fleeting" (1). Further evidence for Austen's promotion of relationships based on a longer acquaintance can be found in *101 Things You Didn't Know about Jane Austen*, in which Patrice Hannon states that Elizabeth and Marianne are "saved from marrying their first favourites and in that regard are much luckier than the men and women who pick spouses based on superficial criteria without real knowledge of their characters and live to regret their bad decisions."

#### 5. MARIANNE/ELIZABETH

Marianne Dashwood and Elizabeth, or Lizzie Bennett, are the second-born daughters in their family. Both are young intelligent women with wit and musical talent. In *Jane Austen A Life*, Clare Tomalin states "she (Lizzy) resembles Marianne Dashwood in energy and wit." (p. 160) Both Marianne and Lizzy have romantic and idealistic views on life, and the first impressions they get from people are essential to them, which means that they could be perceived to be slightly shallow. Elizabeth's first impression of Wickham can be seen as representative of a slightly superficial, initial attitude: "His appearance was greatly in his favour; he had all the best part of beauty, a fine countenance, a good figure, and a very pleasing address." (*Pride and Prejudice*, p. 59) and after having shown disinterest in Colonel Brandon, Marianne forms a positive opinion of Willoughby without knowing very much about him. In their rapidly formed impressions of their initial love interests, we see a certain impetuosity in both Marianne's and Elizabeth's actions. Marianne falls in love with Willoughby at first sight, and Elizabeth is impressed by Wickham at their initial contact. Both women listen to their love interests, and accept what they think of Brandon and Darcy. Wickham's interest for Elizabeth, and hers for him, fades relatively quickly (in comparison to Marianne and Willoughby's relationship) and his sights are instead set on a woman of more considerable wealth, a situation which Elizabeth accepts. Marianne falls more deeply for Willoughby and he in return for her, but at the threat of losing his inheritance, he opts to court a young woman with a considerable fortune, leaving Marianne heartbroken. Lizzy learns more and more about Mr Darcy, especially when he makes an important contribution in the search for her youngest sister Lydia, who has eloped with Wickham, and she learns how he is essential in saving Lydia's and their family's pride, through enforcing a marriage, instead of letting Lydia be lost to a life in sin. Marianne's opinion of Colonel Brandon is altered as he proves to be reliable and trustworthy even in times of need, as she falls ill, and he is the one to fetch her mother and bring her to her daughter's sickbed. Over time, both Marianne and Elizabeth have discovered positive qualities for their heroes, especially in the assistance and commitment of men when needed. This makes both women aware of the potential for a loving and healthy relationship in the future. It is this perception that she will eventually fall in love with Brandon and Darcy respectively.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This Paper has tried to deal with the study of ideological study of Austen and her times. Jane Austen promotes a certain type of behaviour and makes a statement about how the personality of characters decides what their romantic relationships are going to be like. If a character is sensible and responsible – considered to be mature personality traits – they are bound to have a long-lasting, happy marriage, whereas if he or she is governed by passion and superficiality, which can be considered immature traits, the character is destined to find himself in relationships for the wrong reasons, in which there is little or no happiness. This is easily exemplified by the main characters in the two novels; Jane Bennet and Mr Bingley in *Pride and Prejudice* and Elinor Dashwood and Edward Ferrars in *Sense and Sensibility*, who find

happiness in their matches that are based on sensible thinking and logic, as well as a longer courtship during which they get to know each other and become friendly. Elizabeth Bennet and Marianne Dashwood cannot find happiness with Mr Wickham and Mr Willoughby respectively, as their relationships are based on the impassioned first impressions they receive, based on appearance and superficial qualities; instead these women find true happiness with Mr Darcy and Colonel Brandon, men they did not appreciate at first, but as they got to know them better and found mutual respect and intellectual interests, they grew to love.

Thus, in brief, we can say that Jane Austen made use of a certain type of character traits that can be found in the parallel characters, to prove and promote her vision of a happy, long-lasting romantic relationship. The spectrum of English society through different characters which Austen portrays shows her craftsmanship but as realist novelist of her times she made an attempt to highlight the dilemma of human relationships and how men and women fall in this trap to solve the mystery of life.

## **CONFLICT OF INTERESTS**

None

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

None

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