

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

In this thesis the writer analyzes the social class gap between two major characters Elizabeth and Darcy in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Based on data analysis in previous chapter, it can be concluded that in this novel there is a social class gap between two characters.

The social class gap is caused by the some factors from two characters. Elizabeth's family and Mr. Darcy's family are from different social class. Based on the story, attitude and behaviour of Elizabeth's family looks lower than Mr. Darcy's family.

Feminist is clearly reflected through the two characters in this novel. The different social class between two characters are shows that the social class have a power. The upper class is the highest class among the other class in Great Britain around that time. From the explanation of Mr. Darcy family in this novel it is quite apparent that Mr. Darcy is a member of the upper class. He is the owner of a vast estate in Derbyshire called Pemberley. His estate earned him 10.000 pounds per year. The Darcy family is member of the landed gentry for generations, a traditional British social class consisting of gentlemen in the original sense. In other words, those who own land in the form of country estates they are not required to work. The estates is often, but not always, make up of tenant farms, in which the gentleman could live entirely off rent income. The landed gentry among the untitled members of the upper class. Mr. Bennet, Elizabeth's father, is an

English gentleman who owns the estate, Longbourn. His estate earns him at least 2,000 pounds per year. Their income is derived from the tenant farmers who work their land. This makes Mr. Bennet a gentleman. He does not have to work for a living, as his income comes from the rents paid by his tenants. His status as a gentleman places him firmly higher on the society.

Mr. Bennet marries with Mrs. Bennet who is from the middle class. Her father is an attorney in Meryton, and had left her four thousand pounds. That makes the difference between the two families. Lady Catherine who is the member of Landed Gentry and also families of Mr. Darcy expresses contempt at Mrs. Bennet's social origins, not Mr. Bennet's. Because of class social from Mrs. Bennet is lower than Mr. Darcy family. It makes two of them have a gap.

The social class gaps between Elizabeth's family and Mr. Darcy's family causes an effect for both. Those who love each other are hindered by social class position. Although marriage is a dream and a source of life for every woman in that time, Elizabeth wants a wedding where she can be happy with her beloved husband, not only for provision. The burden and obstacles are given by Lady Catherine to Elizabeth because the social status of her mother does not make her give up, and she struggle to fight the social class gap between she and Mr. Darcy to get a happiness. Mr. Darcy survives with his feelings despite the social class gap between him and Elizabeth's family.

In short, it comes to a conclusion that, Jane Austen shows a different picture of what people's views and expectations about women. Woman seeks the rich and the noble for the happiness of her lives. Elizabeth proves that she can

gain happiness in her life from her struggle to fight the social class gap. She can live with her husband, Mr. Darcy happily although Lady Catherine, the member of landed gentry, has insult and hinder their marriage because of her mother's social class. In other hand, Jane Austen shows that marriage is not only seen as a social contract, or have mostly nothing to do with love and only a way to survive. The woman also has a pride.

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APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1

SHORT SUMMARY (SYNOPSIS)

Pride and Prejudice told about Bennet family including Mr. Bennet, Mrs. Bennet, and their five unmarried daughters. They were Jane, Elizabeth (Lizzy), Mary, Catherine (Kitty), and Lydia. They lived in the estate of Longbourn in Hertfordshire, thirty miles from London. At the beginning, Mrs. Bennet urged her husband to visit a new neighbor. The residents of Hertfordshire country were excited by the news that a single man of large fortune, having four or five thousand a year named Mr. Charles Bingley has rented Netherfield Park. She wants her husband to go meet with Mr. Bingley when he arrives before the other neighbors visited him. She hope that Mr. Bingley will marry one of her daughters. In first Mr. Bennet say that he does not want to comply his wife for visit Mr. Charles Bingley, but he already came to Netherfield Park, that is automatically makes his wife and also five children surprised.

Mr. Bingley returned Mr. Bennet's visits a few days later, but he sees only the father. Mrs. Bennet invited Mr. Bingley to dinner but he must in town in the next day and unable to accept her invitation. Mr. Bingley comes to the town to pick up some people to get a large party for the ball in Netherfield Park.

On the night of Meryton ball Mr. Bingley brought five with him from London, his two sisters, the husband of the oldest, and another young man. The Bennet ladies finally met Mr. Bingley, his sisters Caroline and Mrs. Hurst, Mr. Bingley brother-in-law, Mr. Hurst, and his closest friend Mr. Darcy. Mr. Bingley

impressed everyone with his outgoing and likable personality, but Mr. Darcy in contrast to Bingley, Bennet girls quickly judged Mr. Darcy to be the proudest, most disagreeable man in the world, and cold. She especially offended Elizabeth when she heard her reject Bingley's suggestion to dance.

After the Ball, Jane and Elizabeth discussed Mr. Bingley, Jane admitted her feeling for Mr. Bingley. Elizabeth approved of Bingley, but cautioned Jane to be certain of the nature of her feelings because the older Bennet daughter never saw fault in anyone. They also discussed Caroline and Bingley's other sisters. Elizabeth found them to be snobbish, but Jane described them as charming.

Jane and Bingley continued to be attracted to another. Caroline Bingley invited Jane to Netherfield. While in Netherfield, Jane got ill and Elizabeth came to check her sister. There, Elizabeth was forced to confront Darcy. She approached him with wit and sarcasm. Since Darcy had known only flattery from others, he was charmed by Elizabeth's frankness. During her several days stayed at Netherfield, Elizabeth realized that Caroline was very affront of her family. Its social status and Mrs. Bennet's vulgarity. Elizabeth concluded that Caroline's friendship and friendliness toward Jane were just a pretense.

Soon, Mr. Collins came to visit the Bennets at their estate. A distant cousin, Mr. Collins would inherit Longbourne when Mr. Bennet died because it was the nearest male relative. Mr. Collins had come with the intention of wedding one of the Bennet daughters. Mr. Collins was attracted to Jane, but Mrs. Bennet informed him that she was about to be engaged.

Lidya and Kitty often visited their aunt Mrs. Phillips in nearby Meryton. They increased the frequency of their visits after the arrival of a militia regiment because they enjoy with soldiers. The Bennet daughters had been acquainted with a militiaman, a certain Mr. Wickham. Soon after that, Elizabeth was a little enamored of him. She was very surprise to hear that Mr. Wickham had a history with Mr. Darcy. Wickham claimed that he and Darcy grew up together. Wickham should have received a legacy from Mr. Darcy's father, but according to Wichkam, Darcy cheated him out of the money. The story succedd to grow the dislike of Mr. Darcy more and more.

The night of the Netherfield ball arrived, Elizabeth had a dance with Mr. Darcy. She told that she knew about the extent of Darcy's poor behavior from Mr. Wickham. After they danced, Elizabeth received an equally unpleasant marriage proposal from Mr. Collins. He listed several reasons for marriage and interestingly enough moreover none of the reasons was love. Mr. Collin had failed to apply Jane to married then he turned his attention to Elizabeth. Completely surprised, she turned him down. She wounded his pride. Not long after Elizabeth's refusal, Mr. Collins proposed to Charlotte Lucas. She was Elizabeth's best friend and the poor daughter of a local knight. Charlotte explained to Elizabeth that she was getting older and needed the match for financial reasons. Charlotte and Mr. Collins got married and Elizabeth promised to visit them at their new home.

At the beginning of winter, the Bingley, despite his clear interest in Jane, had gone away to London with Mr. Darcy. Jane heard about it through a letter

from Caroline Bingley. Elizabeth suspected Caroline had something to do with her leaving. Despite her broken heart, Jane pretended not to be.

An aunt and uncle to the Bennet girls soon came by for a visit. Sensing Jane's upset state, they offered to take her away to London for a vacation. She was agree. Meanwhile, Elizabeth went to visit Charlotte at her new home with Mr. Collins in Hunsford. Elizabeth got the chance to meet Lady Catherine, and found her overbearing, proud, and entirely too judgmental. Surprisingly, Elizabeth also met with Mr. Darcy while she was visiting Lady Catherine. He was Lady Catherine's nephew. Mr. Darcy's cousin, Colonel Fitzwilliam, was also visiting. Elizabeth spent some time with the both of them, and was surprised to learn from Colonel Fitzwilliam that Darcy had recently bragged to him about saving one of his friends from an imprudent marriage. Elizabeth knows, immediately, that Darcy was referring to Jane and Bingley. Her dislike of him grew stronger than ever.

She was more surprised when he suddenly proposed marriage to Elizabeth. Though his proposal was heartfelt and he mentioned his deep feelings for her, Elizabeth can not help but be offended by his proposal as well. She asked him how he dared to propose to her after separating Jane and Bingley, and after victimizing Wickham. With that, Darcy left.

In the next morning Mr. Darcy gave Elizabeth a letter. The letter explained everything. It answered about all accusations of Elizabeth to Mr. Darcy. He admitted to separate Jane and Bingley because he thought Jane did not love Bingley, and Mr. Darcy wanted to save his friend from an imprudent marriage.

Mr. Darcy told Elizabeth the truth about Wickham who even tried to elope with his young sister, Georgiana Darcy. Elizabeth did not expect that she misjudged Mr. Darcy. She was very shocked by Mr. Darcy's answer and realized that she was wrong. Her prejudice against Darcy completely got in the way of saw him for who he really was.

Elizabeth returned home, her youngest sister, Lydia, received an invitation from young officer's wife to stay in Brighton where the militia will be stay. Elizabeth told her father that it was a bad idea to allow Lydia to go to Brighton. But her father did not listening to what Elizabeth said, and let Lydia left.

In the summer, Elizabeth agreed to go travel with Gardiners. They left in July and shorthen the trip by visiting only Derbyshire country, where Mrs. Gardiner grew up. Derbyshire was also where Mr. Darcy's estate, Pemberley. Mr. Darcy was not supposed to be home, but when Elizabeth looked around the house suddenly Mr. Darcy showed up and made Elizabeth embarrassed. He was polite to her and the Gardiners, and Elizabeth noticed that there was no trace of pride in him. Just as she was beginning to wonder if she might had a future with Darcy, Elizabeth received terrible news from home. Lydia had run away with Wickham. Elizabeth was devastated and Mr. Darcy could not bear to see Elizabeth's concern and sadness about her sister and her family's reputation on the matter of Lydia. Her father and Mr. Gardiner searched for Lydia for several days. Mr. Bennet returned home, and a letter from Mr. Gardiner arrived soon after, explained that Lydia had been found. She returned home, but she did not realize that she had made a mistake at all. She accidentally revealed that Darcy was attending her

wedding. After writing a letter to Mrs. Gardiner, Elizabeth knew that Darcy had paid Lydia to marry Wickham.

Bingley made an unannounced reappearance at Netherfield Park with Mr. Darcy. However, Bingley came to Jane after a few days, apologizing for having left her so suddenly before. And renewed his relationship with Jane. Until finally they soon engaged. A few days later, Elizabeth received an unexpected visit Lady Catherine de Bourgh to visit to Longbourn. She was Elizabeth's enemy and said that she had heard that Darcy, her nephew, was planning to marry her. Elizabeth was a little surprised, but it was a sign that Darcy still had feelings for her. Because she thought the Bennett family was not comparable and inappropriate for side with a Darcy, Lady Catherine demanded that Elizabeth promised to refuse him. But Elizabeth refused to promise that she would not accept a proposal from Mr. Darcy. Moments later, Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy went out walked together and he told her that his feelings did not change since the spring. Elizabeth very touched and flattered by the feeling of Mr. Darcy, finally Elizabeth admitted that she also loved Mr. Darcy and accepted his proposal, they agreed to be married. He thanked Elizabeth for teaching him the lesson of humility.

APPENDIX 2

BIOGRAPHY OF JANE AUSTEN

Jane Austen was a Georgian era author, best known for her social commentary in novels including *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Emma*.

Jane Austen was born at the Rectory in Steventon, a little village in north-east Hampshire, on 16th December 1775. The family was close and the children grew up in an environment that stressed learning and creative thinking. When Jane was young, she and her siblings were encouraged to read from their father's extensive library. The children also authored and put on plays and charades. She was the seventh child and second daughter of the rector, the Revd George Austen, and his wife Cassandra Leigh. Of her brothers, two were clergymen, one inherited rich estates in Kent and Hampshire from a distant cousin and the two youngest became Admirals in the Royal Navy, her only sister, like Jane herself, never married. Steventon Rectory was Jane Austen's home for the first 25 years of her life.

Ever fascinated by the world of stories, Jane began to write in bound notebooks. In the 1790s, during her adolescence, she started to craft her own novels and wrote *Love and Freindship*, a parody of romantic fiction organized as a series of love letters. Using that framework, she unveiled her wit and dislike of sensibility, or romantic hysteria, a distinct perspective that would eventually characterize much of her later writing. The next year she wrote *The History of*

England, a 34-page parody of historical writing that included illustrations drawn by Cassandra. These notebooks, encompassing the novels as well as short stories, poems and plays, are now referred to as Jane's Juvenilia.

She continued to write, developing her style in more ambitious works such as *Lady Susan*, another epistolary story about a manipulative woman who uses her sexuality, intelligence and charm to have her way with others. Jane also started to write some of her future major works, the first called *Elinor and Marianne*, another story told as a series of letters, which would eventually be published as *Sense and Sensibility*. She began drafts of *First Impressions*, which would later be published as *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Susan*, later published as *Northanger Abbey* by Jane's brother, Henry, following Jane's death.

In 1801, Jane moved to Bath with her father, mother and Cassandra. Then, in 1805, her father died after a short illness. As a result, the family was thrust into financial straits, the three women moved from place to place, skipping between the homes of various family members to rented flats. It was not until 1809 that they were able to settle into a stable living situation at Jane's brother Edward's cottage in Chawton.

Now in her 30s, Jane started to anonymously publish her works. In the period spanning 1811-16, she pseudonymously published *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice* (a work she referred to as her "darling child," which also received critical acclaim), *Mansfield Park* and *Emma*.

In 1816, at the age of 41, Jane started to become ill with what some say might have been Addison's disease. She made impressive efforts to continue working at a normal pace, editing older works as well as starting a new novel called *The Brothers*, which would be published after her death as *Sanditon*. Another novel, *Persuasion*, would also be published posthumously. At some point, Jane's condition deteriorated to such a degree that she ceased writing. She died on July 18, 1817, in Winchester, Hampshire, England.

Today, Austen is considered one of the greatest writers in English history, both by academics and the general public. In 2002, as part of a BBC poll, the British public voted her No. 70 on a list of "100 Most Famous Britons of All Time." Austen's transformation from little-known to internationally renowned author began in the 1920s, when scholars began to recognize her works as masterpieces, thus increasing her general popularity. The Janeites, a Jane Austen fan club, eventually began to take on wider significance, similar to the Trekkie phenomenon that characterizes fans of the Star Trek franchise. The popularity of her work is also evident in the many film and TV adaptations of *Emma*, *Mansfield Park*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Sense and Sensibility*, as well as

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