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## **The Role of Family in Jane Austen's Novel Pride and Prejudice (1813)**

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## Dedication

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I am extremely grateful to my parents for their love, prayers, caring and sacrifices for educating and preparing me for my future. Special thanks to my father, the one who gave me the freedom of choice and to my mother, the one who believed in my choices. I am here today to make you proud and also to say sorry for waking you up every morning because you have such a lazy daughter. I am so thankful to my husband, my Ali, for his love, patience and especially his understanding because I found my research as a fine excuse to stop cooking. Also, I express my thanks to my family, my brothers, my sisters especially my two sisters Fatima and Amina who are the apple of my eye. And not to forget my niece Djomana. I thank my family in law for their help and the keen interest shown to complete this thesis successfully. The best to the last, I am extending my thanks to my colleague, a huge gratitude for Nazim who I have shared with him the most enjoyable times.

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## Abstract

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When it comes to Jane Austen, the critics consider her as a pure feminist; she is a woman with strong personality who is born to break the rules. However, both Jane Austen and her protagonist Elizabeth Bennet share the same traits and similarities besides the similar vision of man and success. Elizabeth's happy ending was by marriage and Jane Austen's was by publishing her stories. These traits in both lives lead to question the feminism and the autofictionality of Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice*(1813). In this light, the aim of this dissertation was to examine the reflection and the impact of Jane Austen's family and society on her novel *Pride and Prejudice* (1813). This dissertation, then, examines the hidden details that clarified the role of family and society in Jane Austen's novel, and also to clarify the similarities between Jane Austen and her protagonist Elizabeth Bennet. To achieve this aim, this research adopted the comparative approach and the autofiction theory that is a work where the author is the protagonist, in which the author's biographical background and life experiences inform the nonfictionality of the work, and in which the author combines fictionality and nonfictionality at length for his or her purposes. As a result, a number of arguments were presented in favor of the autofictionality of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) where Jane Austen used her protagonist as a tool to transfer her reality into fiction.

**Key-words:** autofiction, feminism, society, family, fiction/ non-fiction

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# General Introduction



## **General Introduction**

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Literature is considered as the mirror of society. This research attempts to handle all the faces that appear in this mirror; the reason why it is trying to go deep in the life of the author and figure out the reflection of her personal life and even the society she was surrounded by on her works (Theneo. 2003. in WriteWork.com.) Retrieved May 07<sup>th</sup>, 2021, from (<https://www.writework.com/essay/literature-mirror-society-french-revolution>)

The intended novelist for this research is Jane Austen. The French critic Philarète Chasles said she was ‘A boring, imitative writer with no substance’, while his countrywoman Madame Anne Louise Germaine De Staël simply said *Pride and Prejudice* was ‘vulgarize’. On the other hand, Arnold Bennett considers that ‘She was a great little novelist. But her world is a tiny one; she did not know enough of the world to be a great novelist. She had not the ambition to be a great novelist. She knew her place.’(Luke Dean, 2020) Retrieved March26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, from (<https://www.writerswrite.co.za/what-did-they-say-about-jane-austen/> )

However, according to many critics, Jane Austen was mainly loved as a guide to fashionable life in the Regency period. According to her heroines, Jane Austen was a strict especially when it comes to moralities. She was a realist, which allowed her to depict England middle-class life during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century accurately in her novels as a fine example *Pride and Prejudice*.

There are several obstacles that may be hampering this study especially when it comes to the resources about Jane Austen's life because unlike other authors, her biographies are scarce. There are a few letters to her eldest sister Cassandra Elizabeth Austen and the famous one “a memoir of Jane Austen” by her nephew James Edward Austen-Leigh. Even though, they can be enough to make a link or a bridge between Jane Austen and her protagonist Elizabeth Bennet. (Austen-Leigh, 1870)

## 1.Statement of the Problem

The research in hand detects the character development of Elizabeth Bennet, the dynamic protagonist of the book who learns about the repercussions of hasty judgments and comes to appreciate the difference between superficial goodness and actual goodness. Although it does not appear that Jane Austen and her protagonist Elizabeth Bennet had much in common with each other, a seemingly private and unassuming authoress, this *Pride and Prejudice* duo did share a circumscribed 19th century existence, which befitted the writer and benefitted her heroine, and that is what this study is going through. (Vink, 2008.Retrieved January 12<sup>th</sup>,2021, from <https://dspace.library.uu.nl/bitstream/handle/1874/31786/MasterThesisJaneAustenSDV.doc?sequence=1>)

Critics have also picked up on the fact that Austen is very concerned with social education in her novels. For example, in *Domestic Realities and Imperial Fictions: Jane Austen's Novels in Eighteenth-Century Contexts* Maaja A. Stewart (1993) notices that the social and economic well-being of the heroines of Austen's novels is very much dependent on the strong relationships with their family. Through Jane Austen's novels, it seems like she is trying to create educated protagonists, which is the case with Elizabeth Bennet and Emma Woodhouse. Education was not the only matter of Jane Austen; even though, it was for her family. She had kept attaching a strong relationship between her protagonists and their families; as if she cannot leave her family even in her works.(Maaja,1993)

This study sheds light on the reflection and the impact of Jane Austen's family and society on her novel *Pride and Prejudice*\_(1813) in order to go deep into the hidden details that will help to remove the doubt about the relation between Jane Austen and her heroine.

## 2. Motivation

No author had reached my soul as did Jane Austin. As a female author in the 18th century, editors refused to publish her book under her name, and she refused to use a male pen name; as a middle ground she used the pen name 'by a lady'. It was a

bold and rebellious act for the 18th century society, and it was her way to stand against the patriarchal ideology of that time. According to her position as a writer at that time when women were supposed to be treated as housekeeper and only ; Jane Austen found her own path which makes us think that she believed that women are not a part of the art, Jane Austen believed that women make the art. After reading a number of her books, none of them mimicked my life and thought as *Pride and Prejudice* did. When you dive deeper between the lines of this masterpiece, you will find that it is an autobiography even though the name Jane Austin has been swapped with Elisabeth Bennet. Elisabeth was rebellious against the rules of the British society of that time. Indeed, in the 18th hundred England, it was believed that a woman cannot exist unless under the shadow of a man; as if men gave women their identity. If a woman stays unwed in that time is as if a 21<sup>st</sup> century woman lost her identity. Diving deeper still, you start noticing that Elisabeth was not only a mirroring image of Jane, but rather of her dreams and fantasies. By creating this character, she puts the heavy burden of her hopes and dreams on its shoulder, hopes which she wanted to see materialized and fulfilled in reality but was unable to.

### **3. Aims of the Study**

The choice of Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice*(1813) is made because of various reasons such as the way they treated this novel before, and how they focused on the feminism side the most and none of them was suspicious if Elizabeth Bennet was presenting Jane Austen. No one thought before if Jane Austen was afraid enough to face the world by her original version without a need for creating a protagonist to play the role. This point will drive us into a new hypothesis which believes that Jane Austen was not a feminist, and this is the aim of this study. In addition, this research aims to go deep in the hidden details in order to show the role of family and society in Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) and also to clarify the similarities between Jane Austen and her protagonist Elizabeth Bennet.

## 4. Research Questions

In Jane Austen's day, women from all walks of life were constrained by their family, society's mores, and unfair laws that deprived them of their rights, except that she was either a blessed mother or breastfeeding. From this perspective arises the following question:

To what extent do Jane Austen's family and society affect her novel *Pride and Prejudice* (1813)?

From this question emerge other sub-questions:

- 1- What are the similarities between Jane Austen and Elizabeth Bennet?
- 2- Was Jane Austen really a feminist?
- 3- Can *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) be considered as an autofiction to Jane Austen?

## 5. Research Hypotheses

It is hypothesized that due to social and family pressures, a successful woman like Jane Austen has great ambitions, greater dreams and pride that prevented her from even publishing her writings under the shadow of a man. So, it makes sense for her to try to express what she suffers and aspires to through her writings. Accordingly, her heroine, Elisabeth is supposed to be the image that exists in the writer's imagination and reflects her true personality. That is why it is also assumed that the novel is not a fiction work, but rather a pure reality written by Jane Austen embodied under the form of an autofiction work to breathe out her repressions and express herself.

If it is assumed that the *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) is an autofiction, then it is also possible that Jane Austen does not really belong to the Feminist movement, but rather that she is a successful woman who sees the presence of a man as a necessity in her life as a father, husband, and others without compromising her being as a successful productive woman.

## **6. Research Methodology**

The novel itself is regarded as a primary resource in addition to other relevant materials. This study is descriptive analytical; it describes the life of the author and the characterization of the protagonist in *Pride and Prejudice*(1813); then, it brings out the similarities between them. It also analyses the results from comparing the author to her heroine to depict the autofiction theory treats based on the similarities between Jane Austen and Elisabeth Bennet.

## **7. Organization of the Dissertation**

The research is divided into three chapters. The first chapter covers the novel's literary background besides the biography of the author. The second chapter deals with the Autofiction Theory and Feminism. It highlights their definitions, characteristics and history. The third chapter is the practical one; it uses the results of the first two chapters to detect the treats of feminism and autofiction in the novel.

Finally, the general conclusion summarizes the main objectives of the present research, its research questions, the results and interpretations, recommendations for future work on the topic, and the research contribution to knowledge.



# Chapter One

## Literary Background

## **Chapter One: literary Background**

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## Introduction

This chapter presents the life of our author, Jane Austen and her target work *Pride and Prejudice* (1813). Starting from the biography of the author, this part includes the social life of Jane Austen and the pyramid of the social classes to make a link between her life and her works. When it comes to her works, *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) takes a place starting from the plot summary, moving to her Elizabeth Bennet heroine who is the protagonist in the 1813 novel. Her friends and family often refer to her as Eliza or Lizzy. The characterization of this protagonist is considered as a main point to help in building the bridge between Jane and her protagonist Elizabeth to be able at the end to prove the autofiction theory. This study ends up by some of the criticism of Jane's work. This chapter also presents the date that revolves around the romantic novel *Pride and Prejudice* which was written by Jane Austen in purpose of showing the importance of the pure love. Jane Austen through this novel tried to change the materialistic mentality and the stereotype of marriage; women should marry at the perfect time with the right person no matter of money or social classes. That is why she created the character of Elizabeth Bennet which they share many similarities in order to deliver successfully her message. To deep dive in the merits of this classic thrilling novel, this section includes all what is concerned with this work starting from the plot and summary ending up by the critics. In order to be able at the end to make a bridge between Jane Austen's life and her Work *Pride and Prejudice*.



## 1.1 Biography of the Author

Jane Austen was a revolutionary author. She introduced more than characters and treated the everyday life of ordinary people. Contrary to contemporary authors, she had a rare record about her daily life and activities; there were no newspaper articles or any other historical records as if she was a normal person. That fact was proven in Jane Austen: a Life (1997) by the English journalist and biographer Claire Tomalin; she said that even if she had any diaries or autobiographical notes they did not survive to posterity. (Tomalin, 1997)

The 16th of December was the day of Jane Austen's birth. The month's delay in her arrival inspired her father to a small joke about how he and his wife had "in old age grown such bad reckoners;" (Tomalin, 1997, p.20) he was forty-four. The child came in the evening, he said, without much warning. There was no need for a doctor; it was rare to call one for something as routine as childbirth, and the nearest, in Basingstoke, was seven miles away over bad roads. In any case, "everything was soon happily over." They were pleased to have a second daughter, "a present plaything for her sister Cassy and a future companion. She is to be Jenny." (Tomalin, 1997, p.20)

Cassandra the older sister of Jane and her niece destroyed all the letters in her possession, even those who were kept by one of her brothers. There are 160 letters in all, but none of them is related to her childhood. The first known letters was written when she was twenty. Her brother Henry was the first to write a biographical note about her. His ended note explained that her life was lacking any major events and it was quite plain. This note consisted only of a few pages. (Tomalin, 1997)

Her nephew James-Edward Austen-Leigh Wrote A Memoir of Jane Austen that appeared 50 years later. This document was what brought confirmation to the plain life of Jane Austen as her brother Henry viewed it as life without any mean to be considered as a life of events.

A biography about Jane Austen can only be done now through the letter that she had between her and her older sister Cassandra. She was one of eight children and was born in a harsh winter where trees lost all their leaves in 1775, as mentioned earlier.

She was born on the 16th of December in Stevenson, a small village in Hampshire England. She published four novels in her lifetime: *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), and *Emma* (1815). Those were published together with *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey* posthumously in 1817. She gave a great description of the English middle-class and how they lived in the early 19th century. Her novels became Timeless classics and are praised by critics and were very popular for over two centuries after her death in 1817. She brought life to the novel of manners' era. (Southam, B. 2021) Retrieved December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020, from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jane-Austen>)

The parents of Jane Austen were both from high-class and very well respected families and we are part of the landed gentry. They had simple life. However, Mr. George Austin was the Rector of the church in Steventon as well as a private teacher. His income was small but enough for the family to live quite well and send some of that money to the school of their children. (Austen-Leigh, 1870)

Her sister Cassandra was the dearest of all to her heart such as she went with her to school because she would have been dismal without her sister. Their mother believed that Jane would share any fate that her sister Cassandra would be to even if it was beheading. The flame of the Detachment has never faded. (Austen-Leigh, 1870)

Both sisters shared everything like the home they live in and the bedroom; it went as if sharing the same illness as they both were ill of typhus in the private school where Jane almost died. As her sister Cassandra has destroyed most of the letters that bore a mention of Jane's health, we cannot be sure of what they were suffering, but one can only fear that it might be the same illness. Another consequence of that illness they both went home in 1785 and tried to go back to a formal education at Reading Abbey Girls' School. That school tried to make young ladies acquainted with subjects like sewing, needlework and French. However, in 1786 they returned home because they did not have enough money to pursue that goal. Luckily for Jane, her family had a great library and she enjoyed reading very much, as such her education was at that time in her own hand and she took great advantage of that. (Austen, J. (1993). Jane Austen's letters to her sister Cassandra and others. Oxford Text Archive Core Collection. Retrieved 28<sup>th</sup> December from <http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12024/1520> ).

The father of Jane Austen provided her with psychological support, and encouraged her and for that reason she was never kept without paper for her writings. Jane started by poems and even short novels between 1787 and 1792 one of the fruits that work was Love and Friendship published in 1790 which was a story told in the form of letters. (Deresiewicz, W. (2004).

Jane Austen's nephew presented in his book a physical description of Jane Austen. He said that she was very beautiful. She was "tall and slim"; she was "light and firm in her steps" and appeared healthy and animated. He carried on describing her face; she was a "clear Burnett with a rich color, her cheeks were round and full, her mouth and nose were small and yet well-formed. Guys wear bright Hazel and her hair was Brown and naturally curly and kept very close to her face." She had quite the charm in the eyes of most people even though "she was not as handsome as her sister Cassandra." (Austen-Leigh, 1870, p.88)

As of her reading, she enjoyed the English poet Crabbe and his style; she mainly enjoyed how he furnished minute details as it appealed very much with her nature. Shut up! you were so high that she said "if she ever married at all, she could fancy being Mrs. Crabbe" (Austen-Leigh, 1870, p. 99)

Even though she was not talking seriously; it is to be understood that she looked at the author, not physically, but rather to his ideas. She was also interested in the writings of Frances Burney, an English author. This fact made some critics think that she might have taken the novel's title *Pride and Prejudice* from Cecilia a 1782 Frances Burney's novel. (Harris, J. 2003)

## **1.2 Social Life of Jane Austen**

Ordinary people and places were the main focus of Jane's novels and that is what differentiated them from the other novels of the same period. The segregation of the British citizen was made in groups to which wealth and their role in the society through their occupation. Indeed, there were many occupations that distinguished individuals as well as their social status. The upper class individuals had better access to commodities and were more likely to marry someone of a social class that is higher

or equal to their standing. (Sutherland, 2014). Retrieved May 04<sup>th</sup>, 2021, from <https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/jane-austens-social-realism-and-the-novel> )

They, also have the ability to access more distinguished schools than their counter parts from the lower and working class. This segregation urged the upper class people to look down on their less fortunate counterpart in lower classes, and that was the building bloc of the hierarchy all around the world in those times. This brought Jane Austen to examine those who had condescence upon the others in her book, *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), as they were overseeing, judging and gossiping about whom had lesser chance in wealth on this earth. This separation was important enough in the 19<sup>th</sup> century British society; even though, the equality of men was rendering it pointless. (Jane Austen and social class. (2020, Feb 12). Retrieved May 04<sup>th</sup>, 2021, from <https://papersowl.com/examples/jane-austen-and-social-class/>)

There were names given to the social classes in the 19<sup>th</sup> century England. Those labels were subject to their dependence, wealth and occupation. Thus, there were, to list a few, the Royal Family, the Spiritual Lords, the Temporal Lords, officers of the state; among them, knights, baronets and country gentlemen. As of the middle class, there were administrative level people, they had a high authority and enjoyed being from the upper middle class. They were bearing the name of the “Middling Class” which was usually referred, which encompassed a large part of the England population and it included Factory Owners, Large Scale Business Men, Bankers, Doctors, Lawyers, Engineers and Clergymen.(Hariyanti, M. (2014).

As to the lower middle class, they included small size business men, shopkeepers, merchants, and Civil Servants. Lastly, there was the worst place to be in, which was the Lower class, which included the working class counting among their numbers of people of all ages and sex, who were very poor and took to their hands to make a living including Labor, Factory workers, Seamstresses, miners, and sweepers, and if they did not, they would be classified as poor.(Jane Austen and social class, 2020). Retrieved December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, from (<https://papersowl.com/examples/jane-austen-and-social-class/>)



### 1.3 Pyramid of the Social Classes

Throughout history, people were divided into classes and this is particularly true in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. At that time, there were three classes, the upper class, the middle class and the lower class. The two higher ones had in their habit to gossip and judge other people as if they were overseeing them. Each of the people in these classes judged the people in a lower standing than their own, or they judged the people in their own class. Coming back the story *Pride and Prejudice*, The Bennet family were of upper class because Mr. Bennet had inherited a small estate and was earning income from it which brought him to the world in the upper class, it is true that he was not in the highest sphere of the upper class; he was, however, considered a gentleman. (Austen, 1813)

In the novel, it is clear to see that the Bennet's family are of high society despite the fact that Elizabeth Bennet's dad's abundance was declining, and Mrs. Bennet comes from a lower and more working class foundation; however, she has gotten acquainted with high society way of life by passing judgment on others who are in her equivalent class and needing her little girls to wed a rich man so they can be dealt with. Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley would be in the Upper-class. Mr. Darcy didnot consider himself to be somebody who should connect with individuals who werenot as shrewd or as well off as himself.He thought those individuals like that were underneath him and he didnot need anything to do with them. Mr. Bingley is Mr. Darcy's dearest companion and not the same as Mr. Darcy. He is more pleasant; he resembles Jane as far as their characters. Mr. Bingley is likewise coldhearted about the class contrasts, but at the same time he's not difficult to control; an illustration of that character in him would be Mr. Darcy and his sister persuading him to leave Netherfield Park.(Gao, 2013)

Notwithstanding, the lower class and the upper class worked differently; the lower class would be the workers like Mr. Darcy's Housekeeper, Mrs. Reynolds, there were additionally two housemaids, a head servant and a footman. There were likely more in that time, too.(Jane Austen and social class, 2020). Retrieved December 31, 2021, from (<https://papersowl.com/examples/jane-austen-and-social-class/>)

The social classes in the nineteenth century were uniquely dealt with in contrast to each other. The privileged societies were rich and they delighted in the abundance they had; they regularly tattled about others in their social class and thought every other person who was not well off or in their social class was underneath them. In *Pride and Prejudice*, Lydia discussed the presence of a servant saying “Aye, that is just like your formality and discretion. You thought the waiter must not hear, as if he cared! I dare I say he often hears worse things said than I am going to say. But he is an ugly fellow! I am glad he is gone. I never saw such a long chin in my life.” (Austen, 1813, p. 203)

She is likewise behaving like the server is not even there when saying this, clarifying that she considers him to be underneath her. Mr. Darcy, likewise, does this. He does not perceive any reason why he should mess with individuals who do not have much cash or who are; however, taught had complex as he may be, which makes him appear to be egotistical. Mrs. Bennet additionally deals with individuals like they are underneath her by saying to Elizabeth, “I do not believe Mrs. Long will do any such thing she has two nieces of her own. She is selfish, hypocritical woman and I have no opinion of her.” (Austen, 1813, p. 12)

As per what have been said, the social classes act altogether differently from each other, the upper and working classes judge and think that individuals who do not have much cash or a well-rounded schooling such as themselves is underneath them. Privileged societies were known for doing elegant things like voyaging, wearing fine garments, eating great sustenance, having workers to tackle their errands. Along these lines, they needed to accomplish no work by any stretch of the imagination. They likewise lived in truly agreeable houses with washrooms; however their workers lived in squeezed quarters. (Teislerová, 2013) Retrieved May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, from <https://dspace.cuni.cz/handle/20.500.11956/51665>)

The working class homes appeared to be confined or stuffed with furniture, nick-knacks or ornaments. Lower class is otherwise called the averages, who were either servants or maids for the upper and middle classes, or they had different tasks to bring in their own earnings to get by. However, they were as yet looked down upon as they did have neither the wealth of purse nor that of mind, as they received no schooling. The Poor lived in Back-to-Backs which were dwellings of three or two rooms vertically arranged. The houses were in a real sense back to back. Moreover, the talented workers

generally lived in houses which werenot joined at the rear of another; for the majority, they had two rooms higher up and two rooms ground floor. (Jane Austen and social class. 2020). Retrieved December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, from (<https://papersowl.com/examples/jane-austen-and-social-class/>)

Bathrooms were a luxury in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and only the rich could afford them. Bathing was common; however, few people had dedicated room for that purpose. The working class doubles the use of the kitchen as a washing room; they used a tin bath to wash there. Thus, it is understood that these classes' lives had very few in common. There was a great discrimination in the way they were treated; however, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, that was the norm. The upper class had no respect for those of the lower one.(Jane Austen and social class, 2020). Retrieved December 31th, 2021, from (<https://papersowl.com/examples/jane-austen-and-social-class/>)

## 1.4 Plot and Summary

The news that a wealthy young gentleman called Charles Bingley has rented the manor of Netherfield Park mixed the nearby village of Longbourn including the Bennet household which have five unmarried daughters, Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, Kitty, and Lydia, whose mother, Mrs. Bennet, is eager to see them all married. After Mr. Bennet pays a social visit to Mr. Bingley, the Bennets attend a ball at which Mr. Bingley is present. He is taken with Jane and spends much of the evening dancing with her. His close friend, Mr. Darcy, who refuses to dance with Elizabeth is seen by everyone as arrogant and obnoxious. Dillon, S. (2021, June 3). *Pride and Prejudice*. Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved 02<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pride-and-Prejudice>

A few weeks later, at some social occasions, Mr. Darcy finds himself increasingly attracted to Elizabeth's charm and intelligence. Jane's friendship with Mr. Bingley also continues to burgeon, and Jane pays a visit to the Bingley mansion. That time, the rainy weather causes her ill and obliged her to stay at Netherfield for several days. With the leaning intention towards Jane, Elizabeth hikes through muddy fields and arrives with a spattered dress, much to the disdain of the snobbish Miss Bingley, Charles Bingley's sister. Miss Bingley's ill will reaches its pick when she realizes that Mr. Darcy whom she is interested in is attracted to Elizabeth. (Kema, & Alwasilah, 2016). Retrieved May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, from (<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/pride/summary/>)

After returning home, Elizabeth and Jane find Mr. Collins, a young ecclesiastic, who was visiting their household. As Mr. Bennett's property was entailed, Mr. Collins was to inherit it as it can only be passed down to male heirs. Mr. Collins is an arrogant fool, but he was fascinated by the Bennett girls. Just after he had arrived, he made a marriage proposal to Elizabeth which immediately turned down and caused his pride to be wounded. In another occasion there were officers of a militia posted in a nearby town with whom the Bennet girls found quite good company. One of them a young soldier, with the name of Wickham, was quite friendly toward Elizabeth and explained to her how Darcy had casted him out of an inheritance in the most cruel manner. (Scudder, H, 1928, p. 177,194)

After that winter, spring came and Elizabeth paid a visit to Charlotte. Charlotte lived near lady Catherine de Bourgh who is also Darcy's aunt. On the occasion of a visit of Darcy to Lady Catherine Elizabeth, and because of this, he made repeated visits to the Collins' house where she was staying. Elizabeth refused quickly the shocking marriage proposal that he made one day because she finds him unpleasant and arrogant. She also reprimanded him for disinheriting Wickham and mingling in the affairs of Bingley and Jane by driving Bingley away from her. (Austen, 1813)

Darcy, after leaving her, sent her a letter in which he admitted that he pushed Bingley and Jane from each another, but that was the only thing he did when he thought they were not having a serious relationship. As for Wickham, Pete explains to Elizabeth that he is a liar and that he altered the truth because he was quite unhappy that he prevented an attempt to push him to leave with his younger sister Georgiana Darcy. (Dillon, S. (2021, June 3). *Pride and Prejudice*. Encyclopedia Britannica. Retrieved 02<sup>nd</sup> January 2021 from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pride-and-Prejudice>)

At the first signs of the winter, Jane appeared much in trouble because Mr. Bingley and Mr. Darcy were leaving Netherfield and returning to London. Furthermore, a second blow came to her when she learned that Mr. Collins had proposed to Charlotte Lucas and that she accepted. It is noted that Charlotte was her best friend and a poor daughter of a knight living there. Charlotte was getting older and needed the marriage for financial reasons and this is explained to Elizabeth. (Austen, 1813)

After the wedding of Charlotte and Mr. Collins, Elizabeth gave him the promise to come to their new home and pay them a visit. When winter was well into its middle, Jane traveled to the city to see friends, but in deep she was having high hopes to see Mr. Bingley. However, Mr. Bingley did not visit her at all, and what made it even worse is that Miss Bingley visited her and behaved very badly towards her. Thus, the marriage plans of the Bennet girls were in great jeopardy. (Kemal, J. & Alwasilah, S. S. (2016). *The Comparison of Love in Austen's Pride and Prejudice and Rusli's Sitti Nurbaya Julita Putri Santosa* Kemal 117010017 (Doctoral dissertation, Sastra Inggris).

The letter made Elizabeth rethink her feelings towards Darcy as well as changing her behavior with Wickham. At the time, the militia was leaving the town, and it made the Bennet girls very distressed as they were rather men-crazy. Lydia found a way to convince her father to let her spend the summer with an old Colonel in Brighton where the Regiment of the militia will be posted. As June arrived, Elizabeth starts on a new adventure; pass time with relatives of the Bennets and the Gardiners. This voyage brings her to the neighborhood of Pemberley, the estate of Darcy. After being certain that Darcy is away she visits Pemberley and finds the ground and the buildings much to her taste. All the while, she hears from Darcy's servants that he is a great and generous man and master. In an unannounced manner Darcy arrives and treats her very well. He does not bring the subject of his proposal up, but invites Elizabeth to meet his sister. (Jeffers, R. 2009)

Presently, however, a letter came from home, explaining to Elizabeth that her sister Lydia had escaped with Wickham. They could not be found, and this brings up the idea that they are living together out of matrimony. Elizabeth goes home very fast. In order to try to find a solution to this most disgraceful situation that would tarnish the situation of her entire family. Search party is organized in which Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Bennett all part off to look for Lydia but Mr. Bennett, not finding them, eventually returns home. At the moment when all hope seemed lost, Mr. Gardiner sends a letter explaining that he found a couple and that Mr. Wickham would accept to marry Lydia if he receives an annual income. The Bennets are persuaded that Mr. Gardiner has persuaded Wickham, but Elizabeth learns that Darcy would be the source of the money and of her family's deliverance (Smith, 2014)

After they had been wed, Wickham and Lydia paid a short visit to Longbourn, where Mr. Bennet treats them with disdain. Afterwards the couple travel to the north of England where Wickham's new assignment was. Shortly thereafter, and after returning to Netherfield, Bingley resumed his courtship of Jane. Darcy went to stay with him, and regularly visiting the Bennets, but making no allusion to his will to marry Elizabeth. However Bingley proposes to Jane, which made everyone happy. (Austen, 1813)

Lady Catherine de Bourgh pays a visit to Longbourn as the family celebrates. She cornered Elizabeth and informed her that her nephew, Darcy, is preparing to marry

her. Lady Catherine insists that Elizabeth agree to deny him since she believes a Bennet is an undesirable marriage for a Darcy. Elizabeth refuses, stating that while she is not engaged to Darcy, she will not promise anything that may jeopardize her own happiness. Elizabeth and Darcy go for a stroll together afterwards, and he informs her that his emotions for her have not changed since the spring. Jane and Elizabeth marry after she compassionately accepts his proposal. (Southam, 2021). Retrieved January 4th, 2020, from (<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jane-Austen>)

## 1.5 Setting

When it comes to dates in *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) the real timing is unclear, but what this study is sure about is that it was in England at some point in the very late 1700s to early 1800s during the Napoleonic Wars (1797-1815) because Jane Austen has mentioned the soldiers and regiments.

Since there is no fixed date, it is possible that the novel might be written and revised between 1796 and 1813. It can be assumed that Austen sets the novel at about the same time she was writing it. The novel actions were moving around different places and locations in England. As mentioned by Jane Austen in *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), other places such as Brighton, London, and the counties of Hertfordshire, Derbyshire, and Kent represent the place of the novel; but there is little detailed description of the geographic settings especially when it comes to women as they had a few limited opportunities to experience the world around them which is the case with the Bennets. Most lives were confined to the residences and private parties of a small circle of family and friends. In confining the action of her novels to these settings, Austen implies that intense psychological drama can still unfold even within a small and seemingly uneventful world. (Austen, 1813)

In addition to that, there is Pemberley. Pemberley is a fictional country estate owned by Fitzwilliam Darcy who is the male protagonist in Jane Austen's novel. It is

mainly located near the fictional town of Lambton and believed by some to be based on Lyme Park, south of Disley in Cheshire. (Austen,1813)

In describing the Pemberley, Austen uses uncharacteristically explicit symbolism to represent the geographical home of the man at the centre of the novel. On her first visiting the estate, Elizabeth Bennet is charmed by the beauty of the surrounding countryside, as indeed she is by Mr. Darcy himself. Elizabeth had already rejected Mr. Darcy's first proposal by the time she visits Pemberley—it is his letter, the praise of his housekeeper, and his own courteous behaviour at Pemberley that bring about a change in her opinion of Mr. Darcy. (Bentivoglio, 2011)

## 1.6 Elizabeth Bennet

Elizabeth Bennet is regarded as the top five strong female characters on Jane Austen's Books. Elizabeth Bennet is the protagonist of *Pride and Prejudice* (1813). She is a witty young girl of twenty years old, with dark eyes and hair. She has the tendency to judge others on first appearance. Elizabeth Bennet is regarded as the cleverest member in the Bennets. She is funny, smart and bold. Her conversation with Mr. Darcy shows how much she was proud of herself and how much she was strong. Elizabeth Bennet was considered as the queen of sarcasm because of her answers. (Austen,1813)

Physically, she was described as the second most beautiful of her sisters because her older sister Jane was the prettiest; however, no one who has read the novel can deny that Elizabeth was an attractive, intelligent girl with beautiful expressive dark eyes that made even Mr. Darcy to fall in love with her. As her mother said while talking to her husband, “Lizzy is not bit better than the others; and I am sure she is not half so handsome as Jane, nor half so good humoured as Lydia. But you are always giving her preference” (Austen,1813, p.06)

Elizabeth was the favorite daughter to her father because of her intellect, wit, love of reading, and pride which are shared with him; and while their relationship is in many ways defined by their similarities, Mr. Bennet was not able to understand the



fundamental challenges and the inner conflicts that his daughter was facing and that is what led to limit his role as a father.(Austen,1813)

Whenever Mrs. Bennet argues with Mr. Bennet about Elizabeth and why he is always by her side, Mr. Bennet used to say that because she is not silly and she is unique,“They are all silly and ignorant like other girls; but Lizzy has something more of quickness than her sisters, said Mr. Bennet.” (Austen, 1813, p.06)

Elizabeth loves her family, but she never gives up her individuality to do her parents’ wishes. In a time like the one she was living, refusing marriage was an attitude that required courage and independence, and Lizzie teaches us how important the simplicity of our roots is. (Austen, 1813)

Elizabeth was not so social and she kept thinking that she will end up unmarried and lonely because she was looking for the true love and that's what lead her to believe that only the deepest love will persuade me into matrimony, which is why I will end up an old maid. (Austen, 1813)

## **1.7 Critics of Pride and Prejudice (1813)**

The beloved novelist, Jane Austen, whose era is not ours, is part of the attraction. Hollywood’s Austen adaptations, more than 70, counting for film and television, beguile with elegance, manners, green countryside, candlelit balls, handsomely dressed ladies and gentlemenand, of course, romance. Alas, this pleasant vision of Austen world gets it all wrong, as literary critics insist they have discovered. (Garnett, 2017) .Retrieved January 10<sup>th</sup>,2021, from (<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-pride-and-prejudice-of-21st-century-literary-critics-1500070094> )

Far from celebrating the genteel society presented in her novels, according to an influential feminist study, Austen was an angry subversive who repeatedly demonstrates her alienation from the aggressively patriarchal tradition.(Gilbert; Gubar,1979).

According to the aforementioned criticism, this study ends up with the idea that Jane is living a kind of paradoxes. Her heroine has few options in the repressive

society of her time yet still she escapes from the toxic systems of rank and gender that control her woman's life by the guide of men to end up by marrying a man she has criticized.



## Conclusion

To summarize what has been mentioned in this chapter of, it is worth saying that there is indeed a relationship between what Jane had lived and what she wrote. In other words, Jane Austen was influenced by her society and family and that is what led her to create a protagonist mirroring her. There is an academic journal article from 2015 expands on a humorous exchange about muslin in “*Northanger Abbey*,” explaining that Austen shows that the society in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was trying to circle the women in the marriage circle which they were conceded as goods in marriage market. That is why she created such a strong protagonist in hope to prove them wrong but she failed. According to the saying ‘show me your friends and I will show you your future,’ or as the motivational speaker, Jim Rohn, used to say, “You are the average of the five people spent the most time with.” This part sheds light on the life of Jane Austen aiming to identify the cornerstone that contributed to form Jane Austen’s character which was affected by her life and by people she was surrounded by. Austen’s life looks like an ordinary one but hides within a never told reality of hidden points of view and ambitions. The presented information in this part starting from Jane Austen’s biography until her social life helped to refute what Henry said about his sister’s life, and how it was not a life of event. This part proved that the impact of Jane Austen’s life helped to produce such a masterpiece *Pride and Prejudice*.

# Chapter Two

## Autofiction Theory and Feminism Theory

## **Chapter Two: Autofiction Theory and Feminism**

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## **Introduction**

In this chapter is about to define the protector of the authors from critics which is the autofiction theory. The theory that was found by Serge Doubrovsky the one who has added the theoretical vocabulary which is related to literary studies. These literary studies are used as a tool to describe interplay between fiction and autobiography. The autofiction is considered as a shield to protect the author from criticism as well as a translation of his buried desires and wishes. As if it re-creates him again in the character he dreams of and instead of admiring a fictional character, the author becomes the hero of himself. Through this section, readers can be lighted by the definition and the origins of autofiction as well as the characteristics. And by the end they will be able to distinguish between the autofiction and autobiography. Backing 19th Century English literature, Jane Austen was considered as a one of the feminist writers. This chapter aims to present the feminist side in Jane Austen as most of the readers and critics believed. This idea is not from vain but according to what she presented as works, even if the feminist movement had started mainly in the second half of the 20th Century; Jane Austen still be concerned. According to feminism principles, equality is the other face of feminism. Feminism is based on the belief in the equality of women and men in

all fields. The feminist idea had changed and by going back in time we notice that what was before as needs and principles may not fit what we have nowadays. The beliefs had changed and the way to rebel too; After reading *Pride and Prejudice* it is obvious to the readers that the one who created such protagonist is a rebel, a radical and feminist. But there are some paradoxes in the story itself that makes it out of the feminist shoes. And that is why this study is made for.

## 2.1 The Autofiction Origin and Definition

According to Hywel Dix, the origin of the autofiction is French because the term autofiction was firstly produced by the French novelist Doubrovsky in 1977. Doubrovsky regarded the autofiction as an autobiography but in a fictional form.(Dix,2017, p.69)From this point, the autofiction is a kind of combination between the autobiography and fiction. Autobiography presents a person's life but by his own pen. In other words, the autobiography is life writing. The autobiography includes all what concerns the author's life starting from his diaries ending up by his works. In other meaning, the autobiography is moving from the informal like diaries, memories, journals and the like to the formal, which is a formal book representing an autobiography ready to be published. The autobiography is divided into four types which are thematic, religious, intellectual, and fictionalized.In fiction, the writer wears the mask of the protagonist of the novel in order to freely tell the events of the novel that revolves around him and to have an extra protection from the critics. In addition, fiction aims to present the imagination and desires which does not necessary to go back to the trauma as a source of inspiration. (Britannica, Ed.Encyclopaedia (2020). Autobiography. Retrieved, April 07, 2021, from <https://www.britannica.com/art/autobiography-literature>)



The term autofiction cannot be regarded in one critical consensus. Some see it as describing any novel with autobiographical elements, others apply more restrictive definitions. The critic James Wood, for example, sees the autofiction as a combination between New Narrative, Magical Realism and Deflationary Realism. The New Narrative is an experimental writing's movement appeared in the late 1970s by Robert Glück and Bruce Boone; it represents the real side of the subjective experience without any pretence. While The Magical Realism, as a literary movement, exists to mix between the realistic view and the magical elements. (Blejmar, J, 2016)

To conclude with, autofiction does not represent the masked author's life only; it also aims to realize his desires.

## **2.2 The Sociological Definition of Autofiction**

The sociological definition of autofiction is based on the social background of the author which has a relationship with his life experiences and the trauma. From this point, it is clear that even in the sociological definition, the differences between autobiography and autofiction remains a problematic. Hywel Dix said:

*"the distinction between autobiography and autofiction remains problematic for a number of reasons, Though it may be true that classical autobiographies tend to have been written by recognized figures who are of high literary standing in historical terms, there is no generic reason why the writing of autobiography should be limited to those leading figures, especially provided that the status itself is sociologically conferred rather than in any definitive sense essential to the person in question."*(Dix,2018, p. 20)

It seems like the sociological definition of autofiction is only related to social status of author without any consideration to his inner conflicts or desires. This point may not serve this study's aim which is trying to prove that *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) is an autofiction to Jane Austen, but the good news is that the sociological definition of autofiction states that the autofiction existed even before the existence of the word

autofiction itself, and this is proved by Hywel Dix when he said in his book *The Autofiction in English*:

*"One of the major developments in research into life writing in English, which took place during the same period that theories of autofiction were developing in France, has been the rediscovery of nineteenth century autobiographical works by ordinary people, such as Somerville's Autobiographies of a Working Man (1848). Raymond Williams, whose own novel Border Country (1960) could be considered a work of autofiction before the invention of the word."*(Dix,2018, p.04)

The previous quotation indicates the existence of autofiction before the birth of the word itself which is the case with *Pride and Prejudice* which was published before the emergence of the autofiction theory, but it serves the characteristics of this theory and this is what allows it to be regarded as an autofiction to Jane Austen.

### **2.3 Characteristics of Autofiction**

One of the characteristics of autofiction is that the writer bears the same name as the protagonist, as if he shares the same fate with his protagonist. This was confirmed by Jacques Lecarme when he said: "author, narrator and protagonist share the same nominal identity and the generic title indicates that the narrative is a novel." Lecarme argued also that it is not an obligatory to share the same name or his proper name. In some cases, "the author may use a pseudonym to be masked by."(Lecarme,1993, p. 227) Since autofiction combines between the author and the protagonist, then one autofiction's characteristics is the Self-Translation which existed since the Greco-Roman antiquity, which was popular in the Hispanic literary world with Spanish authors. According to Kruger, "self-translation can be regarded as a desperate attempt to ensure personal literary survival."(Antunes, 2013, p. 46)

The autofiction's author uses the third person to recount the story as a main characteristic of it besides the modifications of details and characters. He also may use fictive subplots and imagined scenarios which do not exist with real life characters in order to reach his aim which is the search for self. (Panichelli-Batalla, S. (2015). *Autofiction as a Fictional Metaphorical Self-translation*. *Journal of Romance Studies*, 15(1), 29-52).

## 2.4 The Autobiography and the Autofiction

The fiction blurs the reader's mind between the author and the character by having a some motions to reality and many pointers to details taken from the real world, thus, generating a whole world out of the imagination of the author and situations or people which are completely fictional and never existed. Some works of fiction, taking for example the *Portrayal of Life* by Knausgaard, is full of detailed recollection from everyday life that it seems to be very hard for someone to remember, nay, which is impossible for a human to bear in mind with such exact exhaustiveness. In fact, he admitted that he made things up when he could not remember his childhood diner setting for example. (Lorentzen, 2018)

There are graver things to consider in autofiction between what is logical and what did never exist. Memoirs and essays have a certain standards they have to stand up to, as for fiction, it is under no obligation to these. Memoirs might be entertaining or explanatory to how our short dwelling in this universe should be. We take essays as a learning tool, teaching us about what is around us and what to expect by ways well thought opinions. Autofiction writings usually try to encompass the same spirit as essays, but when we come to fiction, they tend to diverge when they are thought or spoken by fictional characters than if they were written as a memoir or an essay. It is to be argued that autofiction writers keep away from the real world. The morals and the legislation that are ink on the paper they write are at a great distance from fictions that do not follow an autobiographical path in their writing. (Shands, et al., 2015)

## 2.5 Feminism

Feminism handles many movements that are linked in one aim which is to establish the equality of genders and laws that preserve women's rights in all fields. Feminism also aspires to face all the abuse against women. According to Virginia Woolf, feminism is the belief in the principle that women should have the same rights and opportunities as men, a believe supported by this movement. The feminist movement started in the 19th century; although it did not develop as fast as in the

beginning of the 20th century when the female presence in public was accepted. (Woolf,1997)

The media and female writers were the main supporters of the feministic movement which achieved many goals and changed a lot, but still has not reached his goal, for it still works with the same principles. Feminism was divided into several types such as the ‘cultural feminism’, the ‘Individualist’ or ‘Libertarian Feminism’, the ‘Moderate Feminism’, and several more. What they all have in common is that they have the same origin which is to call attention to the problem of discrimination between men and women concerning different issues, social and private. (Crowther,1995)

## 2.6 Jane Austen as a Feminist

Taking a deep dive into Jane Austen's literary works, one would understand at first glance that she is a fanatical feminist who created a protagonist with a strong independent personality who is not in need to the help of men but most of them ended up marrying the love of their lives, a rich handsome guys and that's what we call it the paradoxes. However, Jane Austen used to have a tough declaration against men in her works in sarcastic way as usual.

*“I do not think I ever opened a book in my life which had not something to say upon woman's inconstancy. Songs and proverbs, all talk of woman's fickleness. But perhaps you will say, these were all written by men... Men have had every advantage of us in telling their own story. Education has been theirs in so much higher a degree; the pen has been in their hands. I will not allow books to prove anything” (Austen, 1817, p. 26-27)*

This kind of declaration resembles Elizabeth Bennet's answers. This may mean that Jane Austen is haunted by Elizabeth's soul. This may conflict with this study's purpose which aims to show the anti-feminist side of Jane Austen but the truth is yet to come. It is true that Jane Austen lived in a world controlled by men, at that time women writers had to tread ever so carefully. It is also true that Jane Austen was aware of what could and would happen if she stepped out of comfort zone masked by her protagonists.

She may be excused and there are plenty of contemporary examples that give her the right to stay behind the scene such as Mary Wollstonecraft and Ann Radcliffe, whose reputation had been destroyed after their death because of the rumors circulated about their works. These acts reveal the danger of being a female writer at that time. (Waldron, M. 2001)

## **2.7 Jane Austen and Feminism**

Even though feminism was fully recognized in the last part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, we can assert that Jane Austen was a feminist. In Fact, Mary Wollstonecraft and Jane Austen were adopted as exemplifying and embodying feminism and the women's writing impulse movement by the Marxist-Feminist Literature Collective or MFLC. The Collective also epitomized the two writers for focusing on writing about the public sphere of life.

In giving a broad definition of feminism, we would find it judicious to note that it is a philosophy in which women and their legacy, past or present, would be appreciated and respected. It is founded on social, political and economic equality for men and women. There is no restriction on the gender or age of a feminist. These restrictions or barricades are biases against gender, sexual orientation, age, martial status and economic status. (Millen, 1997)

Everybody tends to prefer the realm of men with his or her own sense of gender and fairness. Feminists see the world as being imbalanced. They demand and strive to get the gender breach and the impression that men are greater to women decreased or even abolished. Feminism has been unique force in determining our contemporary civilization. (*DeLamotte, 1990*)

Jane Austen, as one of the most influential figures of 19th Century English literature, is undoubtedly a critique of conventions about both gender and societal class. Her principles and actions are founded on feminism. Feminism is suggested, as by Charlotte Bronte in *Jane Eyre*, mainly to persuade our empathy with the protagonist in her suffering. (Joannou, 1995, p.93)

Jane Austen delves into the depths to which women might behave in society and discovers her own limits in nineteenth-century England. As a result, feminism is frequently associated with issues of class disparities and borders. Women had little opportunities during the start of the nineteenth century, and as a result, many of them felt uneasy while seeking to enter numerous aspects of society. Women have few options in life due to a lack of advanced educational prospects and their exclusion from practically all sectors of labor.

Austen's books were published during a period when women were beginning to think about equal rights, around the period of the early women's rights movement. She is a pivotal figure in the feminist movement's growth. Austen was essentially stating that women are equal to men in all aspects of life. Austen's writings demonstrate that some Victorian women were growing more self-reliant. (Bastan,2020)

More often than ever, feminists regard discourse as a kind of oppression, a conflict in which the party with the weakest and most united voice inevitably loses. In literature, feminism has been a significant and contentious issue. (Hohne,1994, p. 155)

The heroines' attempt to express their own identity within a male-dominated society is a major issue in Austen's works which runs parallel to feminism. Austen debunks Victorian prejudices about women in her work, outlining what was at the time a radical feminist ideology.(Güney, 2008, p.523)

## **2.8 Feminism in Pride and Prejudice**

Austen condemns ladies, in her writings, who lack reasoning thinking abilities. The writer also criticizes illiterate women; which feminists see as a watershed moment. Lucy Steele, for example, is described as 'ignorant and illiterate' in *Sense and Sensibility*. (*Sense and Sensibility*, p.118) Lucy is a character in this work who the readers despise because she lacks the education to make rational judgments.

*Pride and Prejudice* is a novel written by Jane Austen. Austen criticizes Mary Bennet. She appears to be more focused than her other sisters. Because of her reading interest, Mary in this story feels she is superior to her sisters, yet this interest has given her a false sense of superiority. Mary reads a lot, but she did not have the knowledge

she needed to make rational judgments. As a feminist author, Austen promotes the importance of formal education for all women. (Jane Austen,1813)

ElinorDashwood, Elizabeth Bennet, and Anne Elliot are excellent female characters that can make a positive contribution to society. Anne Elliot learns to make her own decisions in Persuasion, which is a feminist ideal. Austen, for example, depicts the conflict of a woman's intelligence and self-identification via Elizabeth Bennet. The independence of Jane Austen's heroines is a necessary component for women's advancement in society, according to her.(Güney,2008)





## Conclusion

Jane Austen tried to create independent women who desires to find a place in the patriarchal society. From what is above, Jane Austen expresses the feminist feelings of her time. Therefore, Austen makes connections with choice in marriage and the logical female thoughts. Austen's heroines are unique women who try to stand up for themselves in a society which is an ideal of feminism. That is what they think of. However, the study's view may be different because there are some paradoxes that need to be discussed to show the non-feminist face of Jane Austen in back to the autofiction theory as a reference that may serves the purpose of the study's hypotheses or to reach the reality of Jane Austen through her protagonist Elizabeth Bennet. This chapter sheds the light on the autofiction which had existed even before the birth of the word itself. It can be regarded as a branch of the autobiography where the author has a total freedom to express himself as translation to his life under the shield of this theory. This study believes that *Pride and Prejudice* is not a random novel; it is way more than that. Elizabeth Bennet is not Jane Austen's heroine as the rest of Austen's protagonists, she way more than that. This hidden face will be decoded through the data that were mentioned in this chapter which paved the way to the idea that Elizabeth Bennet is Jane Austen herself and this novel is an autofiction. As a simple definition of this theory, the autofiction is when the real life becomes fictional a story.

## Chapter three

# Investigating Autofiction Treats in Pride and Prejudice

**Chapter three: Investigating Autofiction Treats in *Pride and Prejudice***

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## Introduction

After looking at the biography of Jane Austen, as well as the story of her protagonist Elizabeth Bennet, we found ourselves in front of several similarities between the two of them that lead to question the possibility of having much more in common either on the personal, financial or familial level. It also leads to think that they share the same life with different names.

Even if there are ultimate differences between Jane Austen and her protagonist Elisabeth Bennet; the way of life remains sufficient evidence that *Pride and Prejudice* is addressing the life of Jane Austen which is the main idea of this research. It is assumed that *Pride and Prejudice* is meant to embody Austen's wishes and desires. Personality, economic situation, sisterhood, fatherhood, boisterous mother, and love and marriage are but some of the similarities between Jane Austen and her protagonist Elisabeth Bennet that this research is based on to clarify the autofictionality between them; thus, making them two sides of the same coin.

This chapter ends up by investigating the characteristics of feminism in Jane Austen in her novel, *Pride and Prejudice* (1813). The arguments are based on to what extent we can consider *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) as an autofiction work together with the mirroring image of Elisabeth Bennet.

### 3.1 Personality

Jane Austen and Elizabeth Bennet were independent young women which kept rebelling against the arbitrary traditions of the British society during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. When women were afraid to end up unmarried, both of them believed in marrying for love, as mentioned in *Pride and Prejudice* (1813): “Oh, Lizzy! do anything rather than marry without affection”.(Jane Austen,1813, p. 460)

Both Jane Austen and Elizabeth Bennet were surrounded by a few people they trust, and that is what makes people think they were not so social.

*“There are few people whom I really love, and still fewer of whom I think well. The more I see of the world, the more am I dissatisfied with it; and every day confirms my belief of the inconsistency of all human characters, and of the little dependence that can be placed on the appearance of merit or sense.”*(Jane Austen,1813, p. 169)

They also had a judgmental personality. In Elizabeth’s speech, “But people themselves alter so much, that there is something new to be observed in them forever.”(Jane Austen,1813, p. 52)we notice her nosy judgmental personality which is the same with Austen. When it comes to intelligence no one can deny that Jane and Elizabeth revealed significant intelligence and wit compared to women of their age. Austen was the one who writes and Bennet was the one who reads.

In beliefs, Both Elizabeth and Jane are very able minded in that they are able to see the advantages in what they have. They were both able to take something and appreciate its greater value. They both had different thoughts about society and did not let the opinions of others sway their own. They believed in what they believed, and even if it was improper, they made their feelings known. This is demonstrated by Elizabeth when she is speaking to Lady Catherine, "You can now have nothing further to say. You have insulted me in every possible method. I must beg to return to the house." (Jane Austen,1813, p.346) It is obviously noticed that Elizabeth does not hide her feelings; she utters it aloud and shows her anger and attitudes. She is not afraid to show her failure or surrender which is true with Jane.

### **3.2 Economic Situation**

Austen and her protagonist faced some financial conundrum which put them into a financial struggle that helped to create a kind of obstacles to marry for love. They also encouraged their families; when we talk about families we mean the only member who is sick to find a wealthy husband for the daughters who is the mother. This situation of the financial issues encouraged marrying for financial security, but it is not the case when it comes to Jane and Elizabeth.

Elizabeth's parents experience does not encourage her to find a suitable life opinion by forming a family. Though she loves her father and respects him but she "Could not have formed a very pleasing opinion of conjugal felicity or domestic comfort." Elisabeth believes, unlike her parents that love comes first, which might be the opinion of Jane Austen who never married. We cannot deny the fact that Elisabeth is intelligent enough to notice the "impropriety of her father's behavior as a husband," and she blames both parents for that. She believes that if her mother had lived a more loving situation with her partner, she could have provided more love and not living continuously unhappy with all what her husband did; a "husband who keeps putting others down." (Jane Austen, 1813, p. 146) The unmarried wise Austen recognized long time before the appearance of psychology, sociology and life coaching that respect preserves love and love comes before material.

### **3.3 Sisterhood**

When you read all of Jane's novels, you will find that she gave all of her heroines a sister, two sisters, or more. If this indicates anything, then it indicates that Jane is influenced by her sister Cassandra, and the evidence is that the letters were sent to her sister Cassandra.

The dearest of all to the heart of Jane was her sister Cassandra, about three years her senior. Their sisterly affection for each other could scarcely be exceeded. Perhaps it began on Jane's side with the feeling of admiration which is natural to a loving child towards a kind elder sister. Something of this feeling always remained; and even in the maturity of her powers, and in the enjoyment of increasing success; she would still speak of Cassandra as if talking about one wiser and better than herself. In childhood, when the elder was sent to the school of a Mrs. Latournelle, in the Forbury

at Reading, the younger went with her, not because she was thought old enough to profit much by the instruction there imparted, but because she would have been miserable without her sister; her mother observing that “if Cassandra were going to have her head cut off, Jane would insist on sharing her fate.” This attachment was never interrupted or weakened. (James Edward Austen-Leigh,1871, p.17)

In *Pride and Prejudice*, Austen presented five special types of sisters. The first two ones are the basis. Jane and Elizabeth’s relationship is not that much in criticism; however, they both admire each other. For Elizabeth, Jane has a special goodness. Jane admires Elizabeth’s intelligence and wit. They both overprotective to each other and always try to adjust the other sisters’ behaviours. (Austen,1813)

According to what James Austen-Leigh(1886) said in his book,a Memory of Jane Austen(1886), Jane Austen was close to her eldest sister Cassandra which is the case in *Pride and Prejudice*; Elizabeth is very close to her eldest sister Jane. what makes us believe that Austen was so attached to her sister Cassandra is that she even named her by her own name in the novel. According to Mrs. Bennet, her eldest two daughters, Jane and Elizabeth, are ready to die for each other. (Jane Austen,1813)

In addition to what is above, the sisters’ love was strongly shown in *Pride and Prejudice* by Elizabeth walking miles to the Bingleys' house in order to visit her ill sister.

*"I shall be very fit to see Jane-which is all I want...I do not wish to avoid the walk. The distance is nothing, when one has a motive; only three miles. I shall be back by dinner."*(Jane Austen, 1813, p.33)

### **3.4 Fatherhood**

A Girl with “Something More of Quickness than Her Sisters” (Jane Austen,1813, p. 4)is how Mr. Bennet describes his daughter Elizabeth.Out of Mr.

Bennet's five daughters in *Pride and Prejudice*, Elizabeth is the favorite one. Father and daughter have an easy relationship: they are natural allies and share a sense of humour, a love of books – and distaste for Mr Collins. (Jane Austen, 1813)

Mrs. Bennet kept arguing with her husband about Elizabeth that she is not better than her other sisters because according to her, "Elizabeth is not half so handsome as Jane, nor half so good humored as Lydia but Jane's father was always giving Elizabeth preference." (Jane Austen, 1813, p. 4)

The strong relationship between father and daughter is highly summarized in *Pride and Prejudice* when Elizabeth's father supports her decision not to marry Mr. Collins. Mr. Bennet said:

*"An unhappy alternative is before you, Elizabeth. From this day you must be a stranger to one of your parents. Your mother will never see you again if you do not marry Mr. Collins, and I will never see you again if you do."* (Jane Austen, 1813, p. 110)

### **3.5 Boisterous Mother**

Jane Austen and Elizabeth Bennet were gentlemen's daughters who used to live under the guidance of their fathers. However, their mothers played a huge role in their lives. Both Jane's mother as well as Elizabeth's believed the girls should marry for money and that love had little relevance. They were of the middle class; they were comfortable, but money was still a concern. Since the Bennets had all daughters who were unable to inherit the property, for them, marriage was essential. (Jane Austen, 1813)

Both mothers felt the girls should marry for money and they were obsessed with finding their daughters a husband, and this caused conflict. Elizabeth turned down Mr. Collins's proposal as Jane Austen rejected Harris Bigg-Wither. Mr. Collins and both mothers were furious with the girls because not only did their actions affect themselves but also the family as a whole. Wealth gave one's family a name, superiority, and respect. It also allowed the comfort of knowing all will be taken care of.



*"Oh, Mr. Bennet, you are wanted immediately we are all in an uproar. You must come and make Elizabeth marry Mr. Collins, for she vows she will not have him, and if you do not make haste, he will change his mind and not have her "(Jane Austen,1813, p.121).*

When it comes to personality, both of them were gossiping all the time as means of entertainment. This is strongly demonstrated in Jane's letters to her sister Cassandra when she told her that their mother is having fun by discovering new people personal stories to talk about. (Claire Tomalin,1997)

### **3.6 Love and Marriage**

Both Elizabeth Bennet and Jane Austen rejected proposals that would have helped their family keep their wealth and property. However, they sought love instead.

As what was presented in Miss Austen Regrets' movie, Jane Austen received a marriage proposal from Harris Bigg-Wither and rejected him. However, she truly was in love with her neighbor, Tom Lefroy, who had a higher social status.

Elizabeth Bennet received a marriage proposal from Mr. Collins and rejected him. However, she married Mr. Darcy for love although he was a higher status. In this specific example, Ms. Austen gave her character a very similar situation as herself, but with a more desirable outcome. (Jane Austen,1813)

Austen strongly disliked an aspiring lawyer named Tom Lefroy who she believed to be arrogant and self absorbed. Eventually, it was Tom Lefroy who won over Austen's heart. (Austen-Leigh,1871)

In *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), Elizabeth initially dislikes the character of Mr. Darcy, finding him to be pretentious and cold. As the story progresses she becomes more obsessed with Darcy and it is him who she ultimately gives her heart to. (Jane Austen,1813)

### 3.7 Ultimate Differences

Even if the beginnings are similar, but the ends are different. Jane Austen may have had the ability to choose a happy ending for her protagonist, but she failed when it comes to her. She ended up unmarried which means that she did not find her true love. Elizabeth and her sister married for love but Jane Austen and Cassandra never married.

What if she was not looking for true love! What if she has another definition to love; the one that is never related to men? Maybe the happy ending she was looking for was not marrying the one she loves but publishing the novel she wrote. This is what we call a real success in time where women were considered as part of art but not the one who make it. All this mystery will disappear once we know the truth about the significance of the age of twenty and the relation between the age Elizabeth had married in and the age Jane had published *Pride and Prejudice*.

Elizabeth married the love of her life, lucky for her! Austen became a world renowned author. Lucky for us!

### 3.8 Elizabeth Bennet and the Treats of the Anti-Feminism

Mr. Darcy's first marriage proposal to Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) is the most famous moment in Austen's most famous novel. It is also the most telling example of Austen's remarkable ability to combine wish fulfillment with social realism, and fairy-tale romance with biting cultural critique.

On one level, the scene between the two would-be lovers is a world removed from harrowing accounts of sexual harassment and assault. Darcy is proposing marriage to Elizabeth, not sex, and in his eyes, at least, it is a very romantic offer. He knows that her social standing is far below his own, and that in asking for her hand he is going against the wishes of his family and his own better judgment. But, as he patiently and politely explains, his love for her has overpowered him, and he wants her to become his wife. (Morrison, 2018)

Basically, the switch between the two is full of irony and dark anxieties. Darcy is a wealthy well-connected man who enjoys great freedom and moves assertively through a world of elegance and opportunity. Elizabeth is a younger and much more vulnerable woman who can already see poverty and singleness out of the corner of her eye, and marrying a man like Darcy is the only way to gain a higher status in society. (Ibid.)

This is the main paradox; from what is above, it is clear that *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) is an autofiction to Jane Austen which means that Elizabeth Bennet is mirroring Jane herself. Elizabeth is not a feminist; neither is Jane Austen. What is demonstrated in Elizabeth's personality has nothing to do with feminism principles, which are based on the no need of men presence, or at least, women should prove themselves by their own. However, what did Elizabeth is the opposite.

What we have mentioned before about Jane Austen who is Elisabeth was not only a mirroring image of Jane, but rather of her dreams and fantasies. By creating this character, she puts the heavy burden of her hopes and dreams on its shoulder; hopes which she wanted to see materialized in reality, but she was unable to realize by herself. So, this is an enough prove that Jane was not a strong enough to be a feminist who is ready to damage the world in order to show her existence.

### **3.9 Jane Austen as an Anti-Feminist**

In all times, feminism is embodied in the belief that women should be equal to men in the way they can vote, work, travel and having other rights. Even after the Second World War, feminism keeps the same belief that women should be able to work outside the home and have a strong independent personality.

To figure out if Jane Austen was not a feminist, this study examined Jane Austen's life and work because the answer may lie in the life she led, not only the words she wrote. According to what this research has mentioned before, the protagonist Elizabeth Bennet may not fit the feminist idea men and women have today. Jane Austen was well aware of the expectations and norms of the women of her time. Women were expected

to marry, and their living situation depended largely on their male relatives in contrary to what feminism is based on.

A feminist life is a life full of events and achievements but Jane Austen herself lived a conventional life. Her life resembles her novel *Pride and Prejudice* (1813). At first glance, it seems to be composed of a series of quiet, unexceptional events. Such an impression is supported by the comment of her brother, Austen Henry (1817), who commented after her death that her life was "not by any means a life of event." Similarly, her nephew James added in a biography published fifty years later that "Of events her life was singularly barren: Few changes and no great crisis ever broke the smooth current of its course."(Austen-Leigh,1870, p.1)

Although she created spirited and strong female leads, some well-read Austenites and critics argue that Jane Austen failed to challenge the social norms and to change the idea of men and women shouldn't be treated as equal in every scenario. Jane Austen in a try to cover her failure she said in the cover of her novel, *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), "It isn't what we say or think that defines us, but what we do." (Austen,1811, cover)

However, Jane Austen did nothing to change this idea, and in a further attempt to prove that she is equal with the man, her protagonist Elizabeth Bennet said that:"He is a gentleman, and I am a gentleman's daughter. So far we are equal." (Austen,1813, p. 492)

This quote is considered as another paradox of Jane Austen's paradoxes because she admitted that even if she will be equal to a man she needs the help of other men. It's kind of clear confession that a real feminist will never admit.

Elizabeth Bennet accepted the universal truth which believed that women must marry and that their lives were very limited to the boundaries of their home. As a fine proof the lack of details that describes the geographic settings especially when it comes to women because they had a few opportunities to experience the world around them, and these opportunities were relatively limited which is the case with the Bennets where most of their lives were confined to the residences and private parties of a small circle of family and friends. In confining the action of her novels to these settings,

Austen implies that intense psychological drama can still unfold even within a small and seemingly uneventful world. (Austen,1813)

As a result, Jane Austen herself is living some sort of a paradox in her life. This paradox makes her decisions hard to take; whether to be a strong independent woman or follow the society's requirements.

## **Conclusion**

Jane Austen lived in a manly society. This society sees the women in one and only one image; a creature born to serve men. In order to find a place in this society,

she was obliged to fictionalize her life to be able to face them. She was not able to make any changes. That is why she was wearing her protagonist's mask to deliver her thoughts and desires.

Jane Austen published her book under a female name even if she did not put her name but at least she confessed that the author is a woman. Indeed, she started publishing her novels under a pen name 'by a lady'. It may be an explicit recognition that she is feminist. However, 'A lady' cannot refer only to feminism, it may also refer to her social class.

Let's not be fooled by the cover and let's focus more on the content. Backing to Elizabeth Bennet, We can notice that we are dealing with a story full of obeying. The protagonist who is the other face of Jane Austen is a woman without any uniqueness. She is a woman who dreams of the prince charming even if not to change her social state but it is still considered a life desire. In addition, let's have a brief look on the happy ending. When the protagonist marries her true love, it becomes the most important event in Elizabeth's life as well as in the story. Is marriage the desired dream of a feminist? Surely not!

# General Conclusion

## General Conclusion

In this life, we often wear masks, not necessarily to hide facts, but it happens that we wear those masks in order to avoid some comments that may make us feel blue. The British writer Jane Austen was one of those who chose to wear masks, but she didn't know that by this act she is losing herself and her real identity. As a fine proof of this is what we have tried to do in this research.

This work tried to discuss Jane Austen's life from various aspects to prove that she was not the person who many people believed in. The woman who is born to break the laws and to stand against the 19<sup>th</sup> society's rules this study tried to reveal the truth and to remove the ambiguity about Jane Austen's life and discover the real one through her famous work *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) which is considered as a love story for the ages which we still after 200 years ago swooning over the romance of Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy.

Moreover, beyond the romance, it is also a fascinating peek into the family life of the Bennets which resembles any other family. However, the question is whether Jane Austen herself had the same family routine is what this study was made for. This research tried to find the link and secret that lead Jane Austen to create such a Family. This work arrived at the idea that the Bennets are not a stiff family from a book published more than 200 years ago. In the pages of Austen's novel, they will be always alive as evidence that embodies Jane Austen's wishes.

This research has demonstrated that the author's work is key to clarify his life puzzle; through applying the autofiction theory but before going deep in autofiction world. In this work, Jane Austen and her target work *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) were given important status starting from the biography of the author in order to surround all her life aspects that helped this study to reach its results that clarifies the link between Jane Austen and her protagonist .

Besides, this study included the social life of Austen and pyramid of the social classes in order to be able to make another link between her life and her works. when it comes to her works, a strong bridge cannot be made from one side but rather needs both sides in order to achieve the goal; the reason why *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) has taken an important place in this study, starting from the plot and summary, moving to Elizabeth Bennet who is the protagonist in the 1813 novel. This work has proven that the protagonist Elizabeth Bennet is the key of Jane Austen's life by adopting all what surrounds Elizabeth Bennet, her friends, her



family, and even her whispering under the sheets to eavesdropping at doors with her older sister Jane.

All these details helped this dissertation build the bridge between Jane and her protagonist Elizabeth which was the main prove of using of autofiction in *Pride and Prejudice* (1813). Though the previous pages, this study hopes to have proven that there is indeed a relationship between what Jane Austen lived and what she wrote. In other words, Jane Austen was influenced by her society and family and that is what led her to create a protagonist who is mirroring her.

This study also dealt with what concerned the autofiction theory in a way that serves the goal of the research question which was made to understand to what extent Jane Austen's family and society had affected on her novel *Pride and Prejudice* (1813). This research resulted in the idea that autofiction is the answer.

Both family and society has caused pressure on Jane Austen life which led her to run away from the real world to her book pages. The study has argued that even if she was strong enough to publish her book under a female name, at least she confessed that the author is a woman, but this is not enough because she was not strong enough to face the world with her autobiography, and that what guided her to chose the autofiction in order to stay at the comfort zone. Jane Austen chose to be protected from the critics by the cover of autofiction in purpose to deliver her thoughts and wishes peacefully; she used the fact that autofiction is when the real life becomes fictional story.

One of Jane Austen's wishes was totally against the feminism principals. This study discussed the fact that Jane Austen is a feminist and it came to the conclusion that Jane Austen doesnot fit feminism principles which are about the belief in the equality of women and men in all fields. But Jane failed to prove that because depending on what she wrote women will remain in the need of men whoever he is.

It was obvious to the readers that Jane Austen was a rebel, a radical and a feminist, but the paradoxes she made in her story led her to be out of the feminist shoe. To begin with, let's start from the need of Elizabeth Bennet to a father and ending up by marrying Mr. Darcy which was the main event in the novel and in Elizabeth's life.

This study has shown that the patriarchal society where Jane Austen lived surrounded by the idea of women are born to serve men was the one who won at the end. Jane Austen had

fought in order to find a place in this society. She was even obliged to fictionalize her life to be able to face them. Unfortunately she was not strong enough to make any changes even by the protagonist mask she wore, but all of these trials were in vain because she was not fighting just one battle. Jane Austen was struggling inside and living an inner conflict made by the society she belongs to.

What can be learned from this study is that literature is a tool to understand the society we live in, and the literary devices can be a tool in which we define ourselves by any means. We should read our friends' diary to find out who they really are. But if we have some friends that resemble Jane Austen; we have to follow her path because it would be difficult to push such kind of people to write about themselves in a direct way. The autofiction exists to help such people like Jane Austen to face the society and to protect them from criticism that they do not have a time to spend on. All what you need is to let them make up a fictional story and all what we have to do is to use the literature approaches to unravel the secrets.

Finally, what has this study added to literature is kind of thinking out of the box. This study tried to break the stereotype of the authors because literature is not axioms; literature accepts all theories and hypothesis; we are all free to ask and we are also free to find the answer. Be curious about what you receive because this is not mathematics; one plus one equals two in literature may equals three if asked the right question and that is what makes you a good researcher.

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# Appendices

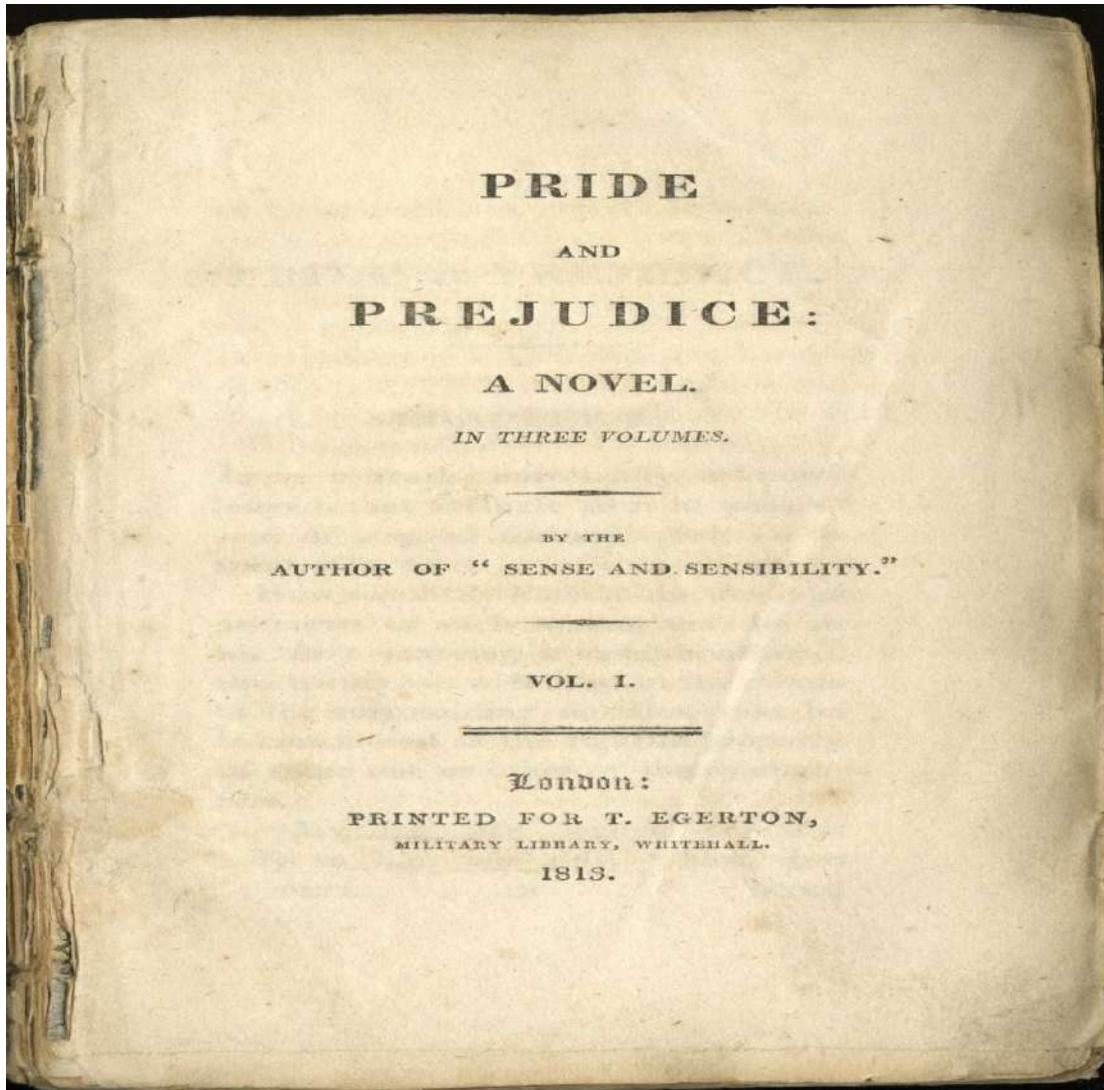
## Appendices

### Appendix 01: Jane Austen

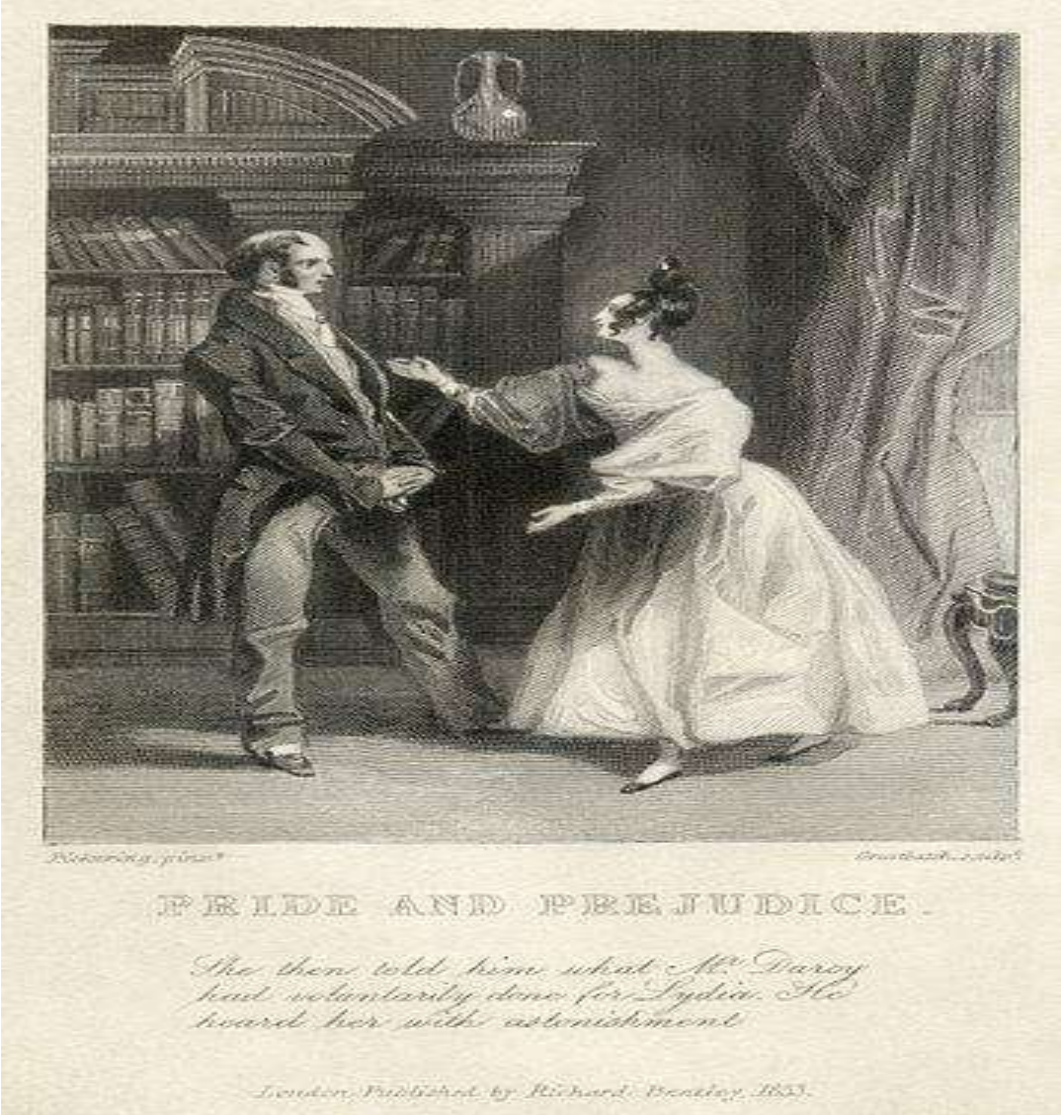




Appendix 02: the cover of the first edition, PRIDE AND PREJUDICE



Appendix 03: Elizabeth Bennet and her Father Mr. Bennet:



## Abstract

When it comes to Jane Austen, the critics consider her as a pure feminist; she is a woman with strong personality who is born to break the rules. However, both Jane Austen and her protagonist Elizabeth Bennet share the same traits and similarities besides the similar vision of man and success. Elizabeth's happy ending was by marriage and Jane Austen's was by publishing her stories. These traits in both lives lead to question the feminism and the autofictionality of Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice* (1813). In this light, the aim of this dissertation was to examine the reflection and the impact of Jane Austen's family and society on her novel *Pride and Prejudice* (1813). This dissertation, then, examines the hidden details that clarified the role of family and society in Jane Austen's novel, and also to clarify the similarities between Jane Austen and her protagonist Elizabeth Bennet. To achieve this aim, this research adopted the comparative approach and the autofiction theory that is a work where the author is the protagonist, in which the author's biographical background and life experiences inform the nonfictionality of the work, and in which the author combines fictionality and nonfictionality at length for his or her purposes. As a result, a number of arguments were presented in favor of the autofictionality of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) where Jane Austen used her protagonist as a tool to transfer her reality into fiction.

**Key-words:** autofiction, feminism, society, family, fiction/ non-fiction

### ملخص

عندما يتعلق الأمر بجاين أوستن ، فإن النقاد يعتبرونها نسوية خالصة. إنها امرأة ذات شخصية قوية ولدت لخرق القواعد. ومع ذلك ، تشترك كل من جاين أوستن وبطلتها إليزابيث بينيت في العديد من أوجه التشابه إلى جانب الرؤية المتشابهة للإنسان والنجاح. كانت النهاية السعيدة لإليزابيث عن طريق الزواج وكانت نهاية جاين أوستن من خلال نشر قصصها. كل هذا يؤدي في كل من حياة جاين أوستن وبطلتها إليزابيث بينيت إلى التشكيك في النسوية والخيال الذاتي لرواية جاين أوستن تحامل وكبرياء. في ضوء ذلك ، ان الهدف من هذه الأطروحة هو دراسة انعكاس وتأثير عائلة جاين أوستن والمجتمع على روايتها تحامل وكبرياء (1813) ، ثم تتناول هذه الرسالة التفاصيل الخفية التي توضح دور الأسرة والمجتمع في رواية جاين أوستن ، وكذلك لتوضيح أوجه التشابه بين جاين أوستن وبطلتها إليزابيث بينيت. ولتحقيق هذا الهدف ، اعتمدت هذه الدراسة النهج المقارنة ونظرية الخيال الذاتي ، وهي عبارة عن عمل يلعب فيه المؤلف دور البطل ، حيث تكون الخلفية الذاتية للمؤلف وخبراته الحياتية هي مرجع للعمل دون ذكر المصدر وحيث يجمع فيها المؤلف بين الخيال والخيال الذاتي وهذا خدمة لأغراضه أو أغراضها الخاصة. نتيجة لذلك ، تم تقديم عدد من الحجج لصالح التصور الذاتي لجين أوستن الفخر والتحفظ حيث استخدمت جاين أوستن بطلها كأداة لتحويل واقعها إلى خيال.

كلمات مفتاحية : الخيال الذاتي، النسوية، المجتمع، العائلة، الخيال/اللاخيال

### Résumé

Concernant Jane Austen, les critiques la considèrent comme une pure féministe. C'est une femme à forte personnalité qui est née pour enfreindre les règles. Cependant, Jane Austen et sa protagoniste Elizabeth Bennet partagent les mêmes traits et similitudes et aussi la même vision de l'homme et du succès. L'heureuse fin d'Elizabeth était le mariage et celle de Jane Austen était en publiant ses romans. Ces traits dans les deux vies amènent à remettre en question le féminisme et l'autofictionnalité du roman *Pride and Prejudice*(1830) de Jane Austen. Dans cette optique, le but de cette thèse était d'examiner la réflexion et l'impact de la famille et de la société de Jane Austen sur son roman *Pride and Prejudice*(1830). Cette thèse examine ensuite les détails cachés qui clarifient le rôle de la famille et de la société dans le roman de Jane Austen, et aussi pour clarifier les similitudes entre Jane Austen et sa protagoniste Elizabeth Bennet. Pour atteindre cet objectif, cette étude a adopté l'approche comparative et la théorie de l'autofiction qui est une œuvre où l'auteur est le protagoniste dans laquelle le contexte biographique et les expériences de vie de l'auteur informent la non-fiction de l'œuvre, et dans laquelle l'auteur combine fiction et non-fiction pour ses besoins. En conséquence, un certain nombre d'arguments ont été présentés en faveur de l'autofictionnalité de *Pride and Prejudice*(1830)de Jane Austen où elle a utilisé son protagoniste comme un outil pour transférer sa réalité dans la fiction.

Mots clés: autofiction, féminisme, société, famille, fiction/ non-fiction