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A Marxist Reading of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice

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ABSTRACT: Pride and Prejudice is hailed as a great romantic work of the recent era. For socialists and philosophers, the ongoing fight of social classes to establish a stable social standing is a growing source of concern. Marxism, which offers a socioeconomic perspective on history, makes clear that people's social relationships are set up in accordance with their material wealth. It promotes a few political initiatives to create an exploitation-free society. The purpose of this work is to analyse Pride and Prejudice from a Marxist perspective. Following a qualitative analysis, the current study demonstrates that Marxist concepts of class conflict, the unjustified dominance of the ruling class over the proletariat, and restless yearning for the improvement of individuals from the working class were not ignored by literature. The study undoubtedly provides answers to the questions about how materialism affects human life. It also validates the ideology, class conflict, materialism, and dominance in a capitalist society that are central to Marxist thought. This essay will assist us in comprehending how Marxist philosophy is reflected in literary works.

KEYWORDS: Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice, Marxism, class struggle, capitalism, ideology.

I. INTRODUCTION AND LITERATURE REVIEW

The novel Pride and Prejudice is frequently considered as a literary classic. It consistently ranks as the most cherished and one of the most favourite novels of all time, making it one of the most well-loved works of English literature. Numerous theatre productions and even more motion pictures have been made from it. Pride and Prejudice has never gone out of style or been forgotten by the general people. In a nutshell, it is one of the most cherished books in all of literature. Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet, the protagonist and heroine, are frequently cited as one of the most enchanting literary couples in history, rivalling Romeo and Juliet in terms of captivating readers' hearts. Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen's plot, characters, and style have become so popular.

II. MARXIST THEORY

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen demonstrates how monetary status affects people's views and behaviour. The key idea of Jane Austen is the Marxist Theory. This hypothesis claims that a number of the characters in the narrative, including the protagonist Elizabeth Bennet, believe that people should get married for financial gain. A prominent example of this is Elizabeth's mother, Mrs. Bennet, who thinks that all of her daughters should be married. However, Mrs. Bennet thinks that marriage should not only be about real love and that her daughters should follow a wealthy man into marriage. Throughout the entire novel, but Jane Austen also portrays the upper class as looking down on the middle class, which is paradoxical given that middle class people aren't actually so impoverished.

III. CLASS STRUGGLE AND SOCIAL MOBILITY

In her novel Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen showed how social expectations affect social class and gender roles. Jane Austen described social class and gender roles as a social hierarchy that limited the freedom of lower-class women and men. She describes the advantages of one class over another. Austen shows how society has created a complete barrier between the lower and upper classes, preventing the middle and lower classes from getting rich. The main themes that influenced the decisions of the characters in the novel are gender roles and social class. In the book, Austen uses images to make his readers interested in the unfair treatment of women and the lower class. Society simply gives decisions to people in high positions about what they need, whether it is a woman or a man. Mrs. Bennet's fantasy is to marry off her five daughters to upper-class men for security and happiness, which would be difficult because her family is not upper-class. Mr. and Mrs. The Bennets are middle class and have five daughters, all unmarried. Women see marriage as a way to gain wealth rather than true happiness or love. You have no place in society as a lower-class woman unless you are married or have a functioning male family member. Because of their limited freedom, both middle- and lower-class women had difficulty making decisions. In that novel, Austen showed how Elizabeth changed her mind about society's expectations. Instead of marrying for power, she decided to marry for love and find true love, a love that every woman may not have, because society is not based on that - but rather on power. I didn't say that. I only act in a way



that I believe will bring me happiness without thinking about you or anyone else so far away from me. Austen, But Ms. Not seeing Elizabeth's point of view, Bennet wants and focuses on Elizabeth marrying his daughter to ensure their safety because neither he nor their father is always there to help them. Women are seen as powerless and powerless because they have no access and especially if they are rich, they rely on their father or husband. Because Mr. Bennet is the head of the family and the only one who can provide for the family, Mrs. Bennet and her daughter trust him in this case. Elizabeth is neither poor nor from a rich family; However, due to his lack of privileges, marriage was difficult for him. It is a universally accepted fact that a single man who is lucky must be without a wife. 5 (Austen). This quote explains that rich men have the right to marry at any time without question, that they may simply want a partner, and that women who are not as wealthy as the upper class must marry for protection. In this novel, marriage is seen as a negotiation to protect women and preserve their pride. Wealthy women have the right to choose what they want based on their financial situation, but the lower-class choice is made before they even know it. Women can only hope for their future in marriages.

IV. THE REPRESENTATION OF THE-BOURGEOISIE IN AUSTEN'S NOVEL

Marxist ideology holds that the bourgeoisie is heroic in the industrial revolution and society's modernisation. It also tries to monopolize the advantages of modernity by taking advantage of the proletariat's lack of ownership, which causes unrest. Marx asserts that the expropriation of bourgeois property, class conflict, exploitation, and the demise of the state will be the outcomes of the last revolution. However, it was plainly obvious even during Marx's lifetime that the bourgeoisie lacked the same level of cohesion and unique propensity to accept responsibility that it had displayed. The word "bourgeoisie" had all but vanished from political authors' and politicians' lexicons by the middle of the 20th century in much of Western discourse. However, the fundamental notion at the root of most political disagreements

V. CONCLUSION

Marxist theories are difficult to apply to novels like *Pride and Prejudice* because Marxism only talks about two classes - the bourgeoisie and the proletariat - while English society in the late 18th and early 19th centuries was much more complex. Another thing is that despite the fact that capitalism was clearly expanding at the time, the ruling class was the aristocracy, not the bourgeoisie. On the other hand, Karl Marx said the following about the superstructure: the up and down in social conditions of existence and the whole structure of separate and individually formed feelings, illusions, ways of thinking and aspects of life." This shows that the superstructure of the society of Jane Austen can be treated with a Marxist method. In this novel, Austen talks about increasing social mobility and ending discrimination based on wealth and class, he shows that marriage between men is based on love and affection for each other, rather than on a mere economic union between two parties and an agreement to increase wealth and status. He constantly condemns the hypocrisy and superficiality of the upper class. Through Elizabeth, a character who in the novel shows "disgusting self-righteous independence", Austen seeks to expand the possibilities of female independence. "(Linstrom) Austen shows how the upper classes see the protagonist's independence as a threat to their power and encourage the protagonist to maintain his independence."

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