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The Representation of Women in Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen



Sarah Nawaz Momin

Research Scholar, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Maharashtra Assistant Professor, Swayam Siddhi Degree College, Temghar, Bhiwandi - Thane(421308) Email: sarahmomin999@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Pride and Prejudice is the second novel by English author Jane Austen publishes in 1813. A novel of manners, it follows the character development of Elizbeth Bennet, the protagonist of the book. Mr Bennet, owner of the long bourn estate in Hertfordshire, has five daughters, but his property's entailed and can only be passed to a male heir. His wife also lacks an inheritance, so his family faces becoming poor upon his death. This, it is imperative that at least one of the daughters merry well to support the others, which is a primary motivation driving the plot. In Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen's depiction of womanhood is both varies and expansive. A woman can be gentle in spirit, incapable of finding I'll in other. Daughters can be impossibly "silly" in their romantic endeavors.

Pride and Prejudice offers a nuanced portrayal of Women's rile in early 19th century England. While women were expected to confirm to certain societal expectations, Austen also highlighted the limitations and dangers of these expectations. The novel presents a range of female characters, each with their own strengths and weakness, reflecting the diversity and complexity.

KEY WORDS

Feminism, gender equality, marriage, male dominated society, rich background, social norms, independent woman, female image, inheritance, gentry



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