

## **Social Canges in Romanticism Period in Jane Austen's Novel *Pride and Prejudice***

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**Abstract**—The purpose of this study (1) to determine the social changes that occurred in the romanticism period by Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet. (2) and to find out how social changes can cause someone to opposing the social status in that occurs in the novel *Pride and Prejudice*. In this case the research method used is descriptive qualitative method. To identify and analyze data. The data sources of this study were novel, journals and web articles related to social changes. It can be concluded that social change occurred during the romanticism period as created in the novel *Pride and Prejudice*. That writer hope this research can benefit all students who learn novel and become a learning resource.

**Keywords:** Social Change; Romanticism; Social Life; Opposing; Social Status

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Literature has been widely known by many people and experts. The word 'Literature' is derived from the word 'littera' in Latin which means letter. It refers to the written or printed words. However, now, the term "literature" or more focused on restricted to merely imaginative works, which comes up from the imaginative mind of the story writers. Klarer (2004:1) says that in most cases, literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the world. The definition therefore usually include additional adjectives such as newspaper, scientific textbooks, magazines, legal documents, brochures, and so on. Literature then can be said as a creative writing by an author with aesthetic values which makes literature regarded as an art. Literature as a writing from differentiates its form from other art products, and its aesthetic or artistic values make it different from other writings. Fananie (2000:132) said that literature is a work of art which is an expression of human life. From the over all definition of literature above, it is based on each person's perceptions and their descriptive nature, opinions differ from one another. Each expert is certain aspects, but clearly the definition is stated with the same principle, namely humans and the environment. Humans use art as an expression of aspect of life. This is a capable human creativity that is able to present thoughts and life experiences with literary art forms.

Novel is the further development of romance. A novel is defined as fictitious prose narrative of considerable length and complexity. Portraying characters and usually presenting organization of actions and scenes. Sayuti (2000:10) Novel are often opposed to short stories, the difference being that short stories focus on intensity, while novels tend to be "expands". A good novel tend to focus on the emergence of complexity, which is the ability to convey complex problems in full, create a world that is "so", different from the short story that is implicit, namely to tell a problem briefly. *Pride and Prejudice* is novel. It is one of the literary works of British realist prose writer, Jane Austen. This work was brought his name into the row of English Literature. The novel was born in this 19<sup>th</sup> century: describe social changes society in the modern era. People are beginning to believe that with the advancement of the industry and economy will lead to happiness. *Pride and Prejudice* published on January 1813. This novel tells the story of love of the middle upper class British family at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in Long Bourn, English. This classic work describes an aspiration that represents luxury, excessive and prosperity in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The main of figure is Elisabeth Bennet as a cheerful, polite and has sharp intelligence and refuses to be intimidate by anyone. Social change in general can be defined as a process of shifting or changing structure in society, including a more innovative mindset, attitudes, and social life to get more dignified livelihood. The life of Jane Austen was marked by as much romanticism and tragedy as could be found in his novels and stories. Jane Austen is one of the well-known novelist whose novels have a distinct modern characters through the treatment of ordinary people everyday life. From artistic view, her novels are interesting, because Jane Austen is very good at using her language to describe reality, expressing her ideas. Besides, her being an ironist in using language and realist in depicting life adds their being artistic. This is an interesting novel, there are several social changes can be comprehended by all student.

### **2. METHODOLOGY**

Research method is the important to make a research on analysis to an object. In the implementation of the research paper, as this research is concentrated on textual materials, therefore, descriptive method is recommended. According to Jennifer Swenson (2000:10) in her book entitled *Thesis Writing : A Guide for Students* describes that descriptive research method is a process of building a complex and holistic pictures of the phenomenon of interest, conducted in natural setting which aims to create a picture systematic, factual and accurate information on

the data and the connection of the phenomenon under the study of this research. This script is a library research is review activities conducted by researchers to obtain information on the theories, concepts, and generalization to make theoretical foundation for research to be undertaken.

### **3.1 Object of the Study**

The object of the study research is taken from the novel of Jane Austen entitled *Pride and Prejudice*. This is taken as the object of the study because its content correlates with the needs of the researcher's efforts to discuss the social changes of British Society, specifically the themes of the novel. They are as the central elements of the analysis of the research. Besides the novel, the secondary object of the study used this thesis, are including some books that are related to study, some articles that are related to the study, and some journals that are related to the study.

### **3.2 Techniques of Collecting Data**

Techniques of collecting data is the process of gathering and measuring information on variables of interest, in an established systematic fashion that enables one to answer stated research question, test hypotheses, and evaluate outcomes. According to Arikunto (2000:1340), collecting data instruments are tools that are selected and used by researchers in collecting activities become systematic and made easier by them. In collecting of the data, the writer has done some procedures as follows:

1. Reading the novel
2. Determining the characters that be analyzed
3. Classifying and determining the relevant data
4. Collecting some supporting data from other references that are related to the topic

### **3.3 Techniques of Analyzing Data**

Techniques of analyzing data is a process of inspecting, cleansing, transforming and modeling data with the goal of discovering useful information and supporting decision making. According to Sugiyono (2010:335) techniques analyzing data is the process of searching for data, systematically arranging data obtained from interview, field notes and documentation. And organizing the data into categories, describing them into units, synthesis and compile. In analyzing data, the writer focused on analysis of Social Changes in Romanticism Period in Jane Austen's Novel *Pride and Prejudice*. This research uses descriptive qualitative method.

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

In this study, the researcher has done an analysis with a novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. The study of researcher focuses on finding the events of social changes in romanticism period and opposing social status carried out in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. In this point, the researcher will show the data about social changes in romanticism period which appear in the novel, like the life setting of the time or process implied.

### **3.1 Data Findings**

In this study, the writer has done an analysis with a Jane Austen's Novel *Pride and Prejudice*. This research concerning social changes and opposing social status that happens in *Pride and Prejudice*. As the result of the research, she has found the things concerning to the related problem in this research. In this context, the writer has found some data concerning the social changes to make a person opposing social status British society. In this novel, it is explained that social change occurs because of the vertical groping or differentiation of society (graded). This is illustrated by the relationship between Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy. He who owns everything (status, upper class and power) relating with Elizabeth who is in a lower social layer than him. As a result of their relationship, there will be conflicts and opposition because of these differences in social status. The rules for the distribution of inheritance have also been a cause for social change. This is illustrated by the Bennet family who did not have a son, because in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century if the head of the family died, the wife and daughters would not get any properties. The inheritance was given to Mr. Bennet's cousin, he is Mr. Collins.

### **3.2 Data Analysis**

In this study, the researcher has done an analysis with a novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. The study of researcher focuses on finding the events of social changes in romanticism period and opposing social status carried out in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. In this point, the researcher will show the data about social changes in romanticism period which appear in the novel, like the life setting of the time or process implied.

#### **3.2.1 Social Changes in Romanticism Period**

Social changes in general can be defined as a process of shift thing or changing in society, including more mindset innovative; attitudes, and social life to get more dignified livelihood. *Pride and Prejudice* describes social class where there is some imbalance between upper social class and middle social class. This is what causes social

changes and turns English society against social status. *Pride and Prejudice* describes the life of society where a woman's reputation is very important in attracting a life partner and a reputation for badness that Mr. Darcy makes everyone negative thinking against him.

This novel is even more interesting because there are one of the most cherished love stories in English literature, one of which is the period of closeness between Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth which is full of conflict where Elizabeth, who previously hated Mr. Darcy, after going through several incidents instead turned around to make him fall in love with Mr. Darcy. And also hidden love shown by Jane to Mr. Bingley.

Based on definition above, there are several forms of the social changes which are found in the novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, and these forms will be shown below.

*"The fact that Mr. Bennet has information about a rich man, the named is Mr. Bingley from the north of England who was going to visit his village" (Jane Austen, 1813:3)*

Based on the quotation above can see that there is the social changing in the family of Mr. Bennet. Mr. Bennet is a man who has five daughters, Mr. Bennet told his wife Mrs. Bennet and thought hard and looked for a way so that one of his five daughters could marry Mr. Bingley who is a young man, rich and single. This is done Mr. Bennet so that her daughter is not abandoned, because at that time if someone did not have a son, his property was returned to his brother, who was Mr. Bennet's cousin, if he wanted his property not to be withdrawn he had to marry one of his daughters to Mr. Bennet's younger brother or the uncle of his daughter.

*"If I can but see one of my daughter happily settle at Netherfield, said Mrs. Bennet to her husband. And all the other equally well married. I shall have nothing to wish for." (Jane Austen, 1813:9)*

The statement above that the Bennet family really wants their daughters to have a rich husband. Because the Bennet family does not have a son, so if Mr. Bennet died, then Mr. Bennet property will be taken over by his cousin.

*"Come, Darcy, said he, "I must have you dance. I hate to see you standing about by your self in this stupid manner. You had much better dance. I certainly shall not. You know how I detest it, unless I am particularly acquainted with my partner. At such an assembly as this, it would be insupportable. Your sisters are engaged, and there is not another woman in the room whom it would not be a punishment to me to stand up with." (Jane Austen, 1813:11)*

The statement proves that Mr. Darcy was not interested in Elizabeth Bennet's invitation, even though she had tried to invite Mr. Darcy. But Mr. Darcy refused her invitation to dance. So most people think that he is an arrogant person.

*"You judge very properly," said Mr. Bennet, and it is happy for you that you possess the talent of lattering with delicacy. May I ask whether these pleasing attentions proceed from the impulse of the moment, or are the result of previous study, they arise chiefly from what is passing at the time, and though I sometimes amuse my self with suggesting and arranging such little elegant compliments as may be adapted to ordinary occasions, I always wish to give them as unstudied an air as possible" (Jane Austen, 1813:13)*

The statement above Mr. Bennet's expectations were fully answered. His cousin was as absurd as he had hoped, and he listened to him with the keenest enjoyment, maintaining at the same time the most resolute composure of countenance, and expect in and expect in an occasional glance at Elizabeth, requiring no partner in his pleasure.

### **3.2.2 Social changes make a person opposing social status**

The romantic period occurred between the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Being called the romantic era does not mean that all literary works in this era are about anything related to matters of love, romance or attraction between men and women. However, this period is called the romantic era because in this period the idea of literary works was dominated by elements such as imagination, freedom of expression and idealism.

Opposing a social status is a right that can be exercised by anyone. Like the relationship that happened between Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet, Mr. Bingley and Jane Bennet. This is also the wish of Mr. Bennet and his wife so that their daughters can marry a rich single man.

According to Ralph Linton (2000:34) social status is a set of right and obligations that a person has in society. Owners of high social status will be placed higher in the structure of society than owners of low social status. The definition of social class is a group of people who occupy a social layer based on economic criteria. According to Berger (2003:65) social class is a social stratification according to economy. Economics in this case is quite broad including education and work because education and a person's work today greatly affect individual wealth or economy. Social class refers to hierarchical differences or levels between individuals in

society. The definition of social class can vary in each era and society. However, in general, social class is determined by the level of income, education and power. For example, the upper class such as the rich, highly educated, or have the right power, the middle and lower class.

Based on definition above, there are several forms of the opposing a social status which are found in the novel *Pride and Prejudice* and these forms will be shown below.

*“Oh Mr. Collins, I’m so sorry, she will be engaged in a moment. You can choose my second daughter Elizabeth Bennet.” (Jane Austen, 1813:98) The statement above that Mr. Collins want to marry the oldest daughters of Bennet family, but was refused because she want to be engaged and he was rushed to choose Elizabeth. “Charles, you’re not serious about Jane? Said Caroline Bingley.” (Jane Austen, 1813:84)*

The statement above Mr. Bingley sister does not like that Jane and Mr. Bingley relationship, and she hopes it’s not serious.

*“Charles, you’re not serious about Jane? Said Caroline Bingley.” (Jane Austen, 1813:84)*

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*“to Miss Elizabeth, I have chosen you to be my wife. Since the first time I come here, I am sure this marriage will complement your happiness. I will marry you because I will inherit your house. This marriage will benefit all parties. Said Mr. Collins.” (Jane Austen, 1813:103)*

The statement above that Mr. Collins wants to marry Elizabeth on The orders of Mrs. Bennet.

*“please, understand. I can not accept your application. I can not get married under pressure. Although I can behave so this house still belong to my family, said Elizabeth.” (Jane Austen, 1813:103)*

But Elizabeth refused and opposed her mother. She could not marry without love. Her father also forbade, after this refusal. Finally Mr. Collins married Elizabeth’s friend.

## 4. CONCLUSION

After analysis the novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, the writer has found that social changes show that all forms of success and wealth can be realized by marrying a rich man. Relying on beauty for the lower class can get everything including their loved ones even though they are of different caste. Inheritance law in romanticism period if a family only has daughters, property and wealth will be given to the closest relative. Because women do not have the right to inheritance, so that many mothers look for rich man for their daughters to support their future. Social status in romanticism period of the rich has its own criteria married to other rich people. That’s what caused Caroline Bingley trying to separate Mr. Bingley from Jane Bennet. Lady Catherine also warned Elizabeth Bennet not to marry her niece, Mr. Darcy. Cause the Bennets Family is poor, but with the power of their love, the second couples get married and opposed social status. They not think about the social status of the lower class and not even care about their families. The moral message contained in this novel. We should not judge people right away when we get to know them. Who would have thought that arrogant Mr. Darcy has a noble heart and who would have thought that the good people would be a master liar, like Mr. Wickham. Even in romanticism period, people in the past were polite and although gossip or sarcasm was polite.

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