

THE PORTRAIT OF THE UPPER CLASS SOCIETY IN JANE AUSTEN'S *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE*

**FEIBRIANY FABIOLA VALENCHIA MEWOH, OLGA RORINTULUS,
MERLIN MAUKAR**
*Faculty of Languages and Arts
Universitas Negeri Manado*

Correspondence author: olgarorintulus@unima.ac.id

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Abstract: This study aims is to reveal the portrait of the upperclass society in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. This study classifies as qualitative descriptive because the data collected in the form of words as well as quotation from the sources. Research finding shows that the upper class life style consist of having great wealth, having party, and showing their property. Their life style proved that in Jane Austen's novel the description of upper class life style are existed and described clearly.

Keywords: *Upper class, Pride and Prejudice, wealth, life style.*

INTRODUCTION

The novel *Pride and Prejudice* articulated the conditions of social life in early 19th-century England, including social classes. The title was originally "First Impressions", as the appearance of the characters shaped the plot of the novel. As a literary work, the novel reflects social reality in its social, economic, political, technological, cultural and religious aspects. According to Wellek and Warren (1977: 94), the reserves of literature about life and life are mostly part of the real world. Literary works exist because society exists. The existence of a literary work is influenced by social, economic, political, scientific, technological, cultural, religious, and other social conditions and phenomena.

According to Lawrenson and Swingwood (1972: 13) In literary sociology he has three types. A literary work as a social document, a literary work as a reflection of the author's social situation, a literary work as an expression of a historical moment. The social classes in 19th-century England are influenced by the industrial revolution. As Perkin (1969) put it, ``The industrial revolution was not just a series of changes in industrial technology and production, but a social revolution with social causes and profound social consequences." Social structure (McKay, Hill , and Buckler, 1983: 780). In nineteenth-century England, the social structure consisted of her third major class. Upper class, middle class, lower class.

This study focused on portraiture of the upper classes. During the Victorian era, this phenomenon was largely reflected in social interactions, bordering on each other. According to the Cambridge Online Dictionary: "A social group made up of people of the highest social standing, usually the wealthy." In *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen describes Darcy's family as belonging to the upper classes. At that time, the upper class had power over society. Most of them are members of the government and direct social activities. They share similar values of being the wealthiest and smartest community, but other classes are at the bottom of the list of priorities. As a representative of the upper classes, Mr. Darcy displays an indifference toward the other classes, showing that his way of thinking is of a higher quality than the others. He only wants to talk to people in his class. Mr. Darcy has a lucky fortune and, as you can see from her fortune, she has a worldly lifestyle. They live on large plots and have companions. Income also provides information about a person's social status. The higher a person's income, the higher his social position in society. Income identifies Darcy's social status. Fitzwilliam Darcy earns £10,000 a year. It explains how wealthy he was compared to other characters in the novel. It is interesting for researchers to dissect the upper-class supremacy.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study is classified as a qualitative study because the data collected is in the form of words. According to Bodgan and Bicklen, "Qualitative research is descriptive,

the data collected are in the form of words or images rather than numbers, and written research findings include citations from the data to explain and support the presentation.(2019:28). This study can also be classified as a library study, as the data are contained in fictional books and other relevant sources. It is a research tool for the authors themselves to collect and analyze data. In this study, the author collected data from her two categories of primary and secondary sources. The main source is that of Jane Austen in *Pride and Prejudice*. Secondary sources are books, dictionaries, other relevant documents such as web browsing. When analyzing the data, the authors used a sociological approach. Laurenson Diana T and Swingwood Allan said :

A sociological approach is a general understanding of how and why problems arise, how people are affected by them, and what is needed to address them. In other words, the sociological approach is to find imaginary meanings in literary works and to learn about society, social classes, romantic relationships, religion, nature, etc. (13) Therefore, the sociological approach can be said to be a kind of approach that analyzes social issues such as social class, romantic relationships, religion and nature. Therefore, the author analyzes the social class based on the hegemonic group.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Last Country During the 1960s and early 1970s, the UK economy was one of the fastest growing in the world. Conditions at the time were unusually favorable in all the major sectors of agriculture, industry, transportation and foreign trade, leading to exceptionally wide and rapid increases in output and incomes (Court, 1965: 3). New businessmen and merchants were gradually rising as a class, but they had not yet won the right votes. Jane Austen created the character of Mr. Gardiner to reflect this. He is in business and is not considered a gentleman by the social elite, but he possesses all the refinements and personal qualities. Jane Austen brought this phenomenon to the surface in *Pride and Prejudice* by portraying an economic environment dominated by agricultural occupations. She wants to smear the British economy before the industrial boom of the 19th century. She assigns her profession to the characters in this novel. For example, Mr. Bennett represents the farmers who plow

their fields. During this time, everything is evaluated by material. The notion of materialism can also be seen in the fact that Mrs. Bennet has strong opinions on the issue because of her life situation. This means that when Mr. Bennett dies, her daughters should take care of themselves and her daughters. nothing will be left. Because all her property belongs to Mr. Collins. Mrs. Bennet wants her daughters to get married. Because if she doesn't get married, she won't have a place to live. Her deep concern about getting her daughters married is expressed in her next words. 4, 5 thousand per year. How wonderful it is for our daughters!" (PAP, 1813:2) Most women in England married in the 19th century. After marriage, the wife mainly stays at home to do household chores and take care of the family. In this novel, after Charlotte Lucas became the wife of Williams Collins, she mostly stayed at home doing household chores. (PAP, 1813:186) In the traditional British class system, wealth is inherited through inheritance of family property. An inheritance given for a position that is more than the money earned at work. The family estate was usually inherited by the eldest son, and in some cases the daughter's income was lower. In the novel, Mr. Bennett cannot pass his fortune to his daughters, but to his male cousin, Mr. William Collins. There is a difference in income between the middle class and the upper class. The income of the middle class is much lower compared to that of the upper class. In *Pride and Prejudice*, Mr. Bennett's family comes from a middle-class background, while Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley's families come from an upper-class background. Ms. Bennett earns her income through the use of her family's property. "Mr. Bennett's fortune, which consisted almost entirely of \$2,000 a year fortune, was unfortunately made worse for his daughters by the lack of distant male heirs. I did..." (Austin, 2012, p. 466) Meanwhile, Mr. Bingley and Mr. Darcy derive their income from the estate and the family business, "of which he earns \$10,000 a year." Because it turned out that he was proud of his comrades and not satisfied. And all his vast estates in Derbyshire could not save him from the most forbidden fate". (Austin, 2012, p. 450). By focusing on the social dimension, Jane Austen attempts to explain the social conditions of society at the time, concluding that social class is not permanent. Subject to change depending on circumstances

CONCLUSION

The upper class, in particular, enjoyed the excessive diet of aristocrats in the nineteenth century, and married women from this class also enjoyed an increase in leisure time. It was typical to evaluate everything materially, including wealth and money. Three different social classes were evident in terms of status, wealth, and power. Power is the capacity to persuade people to act, think, or value in a particular way. The value of everything a person or family owns is referred to as wealth. Status refers to a person's place in society. The social element, particularly social stratification and social relations, is the main theme of the book. Jane Austen demonstrates that the Darcy family is from the upper class in *Pride and Prejudice*. Their snobbish lifestyle is evident from their estate.

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