

The Effects of Feminism in Pride and Prejudice: A Pragmatic Study



Saddeqqa Hadi Salhb Al Quraishi

The General Directorate of Education in Maysan Governorate –Iraq

ABSTRACT: This study identifies how a feminist perspective has the potential to critique certain aspects of the work "Pride and Prejudice." By analyzing the way Austen deals with her even-spirited heroine, critiques gender roles through the narrative presentation, and offers marriage as a necessary compromise showcasing the unsatisfactory life of women, the study provides pertinent findings to explicate possible reasons for the narrative portrayal of Elizabeth's journey.

The findings of the study suggest the feminist interpretation of "Pride and Prejudice" outlines some compelling critiques, including the representation of a woman who is often contradictory and not portrayed in the best light. Elizabeth Bennet can be seen as deeply flawed, and yet her story is intended to be empowering. Austen employs a narrative that draws a great deal of attention to the subject of gender relations and the various functions of its females as they strive to find an assertive place within a mostly patriarchal society. However, this narrative representation is problematic in part because her exploration of these gender relations often dwells on ceremony and the active subjection to male prerogatives—an active choice rather than an oppressive paradigm. What emerges from this is a commentary on the individuality of love through Elizabeth's story, as well as a skeptical reflection on marriage as an institution and its corrosive potential in colonizing relations. The jumping-off point for this critique, however, is the agency Elizabeth must carry within the narrative, where she must mature and thus foretell the corruptions that will occur if she were to refuse this traditional patriarchal paradigm.

Generally, feminist theory in language and literature assumes that women are subordinated, excluded, and often objectified, and it believes that the two incompatible ideologies have no right, class, or sex barriers. Instead, feminists contend that the two discourses are promoted due to certain interest groups' desire, and particularly the benefit of males, which requires power to keep this social system-like hierarchy. Undeniably, we can expect feminist theory beyond the geopolitical boundary. As such, this paper can critically and prudently bring another literary work from another era to feminist discussion, which lets us dig deeper into a woman's perspective.

KEYWORDS: Effect, Feminism Male and Female Characters, Pride and Prejudice, Pragmatic, Methodology

INTRODUCTION

Pride and Prejudice, an early specimen of English literature, has attracted much critical attention since it was published, and it has become one of the most widely studied texts for feminist aspects. Though the title "feminist" could not have been even imagined in this specific cultural-historical setting, we can see an embryonic feminist spirit evolving amidst circumstances. Today, one of the central concerns of literary practice is to weave feminist implications into the mainstream. The present study is of a modest nature, to account for how Pride and Prejudice is interpreted in a feminist line. It has the following specific objectives: to express feminist interpretations of Pride and Prejudice in a systematic synopsis, and to assess the implications for the feminist standpoint. The following conceptual factors were included in Jane Austen's narrative of Pride and Prejudice because she belonged to a Puritanical society; yet, the novelist had realistic views of life and held that women must step out from mercenary marriages and assert themselves as individuals, rather than as tools in the hands of organizational powers. To be clear, the novel Pride and Prejudice as a micro social study set up a basis for the removal of complexes and preparedness of a person to elevate from the morass of artificial social norms.

Feminism is a humanist doctrine for all individuals, irrespective of the social and gender divides. It is an ideology of survival of self-respecting individuals who value and respect others as they are and not as they are because they might be mere tools for social service or a commodity (Levitt and Whelton, 2024). A woman has to emerge as a self-realized individual. The goal of feminism in literature is to guard against the stereotyping of women while allowing the individuality of women to lend credence to a sense of reality. The study here attempted to analyze Jane Austen; a woman of traditional thinking and social acceptance and their continuum

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until the woman of today – the self-possessed, self-respecting captain of her ship and master of her soul – the ideal feminist icon.

Feminism not only promotes gender equality but also advocates for the rights of individuals. It seeks to break free from societal norms and expectations, emphasizing the importance of self-expression and self-actualization. As a literary phenomenon, feminism aims to challenge the rigid categorization and limitations imposed on women, portraying them as multifaceted beings with their own unique thoughts, emotions, and aspirations. Through the analysis of *Pride and Prejudice*, we can delve into the nuanced depiction of female characters, their agency, and their struggle for independence within the confines of a patriarchal society (Griffin et al., 2023).

Jane Austen, with her insightful observations and keen understanding of human nature, crafted a narrative that transcends time and resonates with readers from diverse backgrounds. While Austen herself conformed to certain societal expectations, her portrayal of strong-willed and intellectually capable female protagonists subtly challenged the prevailing norms of her era. The feminist undertones within *Pride and Prejudice* serve as a catalyst for critical discourse and reflection, inspiring readers to question traditional gender roles and explore the possibilities of personal growth and fulfillment (Suh, 2024).

Through a systematic analysis of the text, employing feminist literary criticism, this study aims to shed light on the themes and motifs that highlight the progressive elements of *Pride and Prejudice*. By examining the characters' interactions, choices, and motivations, we can uncover the underlying messages of empowerment, resilience, and the pursuit of authentic selfhood. Furthermore, this exploration will provide a comprehensive overview of the evolving feminist perspectives within the realm of literature, paving the way for further dialogue and exploration.

In conclusion, *Pride and Prejudice* stands as an enduring testament to the power of literature in promoting social change and gender equality. By delving into its pages through a feminist lens, we unlock a myriad of interpretations and implications that continue to shape our understanding of female agency, identity, and liberation. Jane Austen's contribution to the feminist discourse transcends her time, resonating with readers today and reaffirming the importance of embracing individuality, self-determination, and the pursuit of equality for all.

CHAPTER ONE

1. The novel (*Pride and Prejudice*)

1.1. Background of *Pride and Prejudice*

"*Pride and Prejudice*" was first published in May 1813. At that time, England was an industrially and financially advanced country. The arrival of industry and the rapid expansion of its financial system had a profound impact on the daily lives of the people. Among the social classes, economic independence, although not yet widespread, had begun to be sought by a growing number of women in the only way then possible - by matrimony. Jane Austen herself was entirely dependent on her brothers for her sustenance, shelter, and protection. One way for young women of England's upper middle class to gain economic independence was to marry a husband who could maintain them in an appropriate manner. But for the vast majority of women in the country at the time, education and social customs limited job opportunities to the job market that was neither well paid nor satisfying. (Vapnek, 2024)

Women in the early 1800s believed that their destiny was to be wives and mothers. Young girls from privileged classes were especially taught at an early age to prepare themselves for this role. Austen, in writing "*Pride and Prejudice*," drew on this knowledge as well as her personal experiences. In her treatment of the theme of marriage, Austen also questioned the economic standards of marriage. She often combined the theme of marriage and personal development. So far, a lot of research has been done to analyze this novel in terms of feminism, and it can be seen that feminism developed during the Victorian period. Austen reported the plight of women of her time, women whose only choice was to marry. However, this does not mean that 19th-century women could not stand up for themselves and make significant decisions of their own. In "*Pride and Prejudice*," Jane Austen describes five sisters from the Bennet family. At the time of their parents' passing at very young ages, they had been pressured to start looking for husbands to marry off before they reached the age of majority. At the time of Jane Austen, girls of marriageable age were generally around 17, 18, or 19 years old. Elizabeth Bennet did not escape a couple of suitors at the dinner party hosted by the affluent Mr. Bingley and his company. (Zahra et al., 2024)

1.2. Definition and Evolution of Feminism

As a modern term, 'feminism' establishes a deep-rooted belief in the absolute equality of all genders and the unwavering commitment to eradicating gender-based discrimination in every aspect of society. Feminism, however, encompasses a multitude of profoundly impactful social, political, and cultural beliefs that have evolved and transformed throughout different historical eras. Over time, many insightful critics have meticulously analyzed the development of feminism, identifying three momentous movements or waves that emerged from a series of remarkable ideological shifts spanning from the late 18th century to the present day.

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(Tong and Botts, 2024)

The first wave, often referred to as early feminism, blossomed during the Enlightenment period, radiating with a fervent dedication to securing women's suffrage and enshrining their fundamental legal rights. Pioneering feminists in Britain, such as the remarkable Mary Wollstonecraft, the visionary Hannah More, and the exceptional Bluestocking writers, fearlessly stepped into the public sphere, armed with the Protestant ethic of unyielding diligence, self-help, and tenacious assertiveness. These indomitable suffragists, self-proclaimed feminists and social reformers, united in their resolute opposition to the oppressive gender and class barriers perpetuated by capitalist society.

(Bagüés Bautista, 2021)

It is important to recognize that movements advocating for social justice encompassing race, class, and queer issues are intimately intertwined with and profoundly influenced by the rich tapestry of feminist thought and action that has shaped history. Recognizing this interconnectedness, feminists have consistently positioned their movements in relation to, or concurrently with, these parallel feminist threads, striving to cultivate an extensive network of support that transcends conventional boundaries. In essence, feminist theory seeks to not only comprehend, but actively dismantle the deep-rooted cultural, social, and political structures that facilitate the systemic subordination of women (Cappiali, 2023). This struggle against subordination stands resolute, irrespective of whether such subordination can be exhaustively described as solely grounded in gender-based discrimination. (Hwang, 2024)

It is imperative to note that most feminists throughout history have found solace and guidance within a set of profound ideological tenets that are widely regarded as emblematic of the 'mainstream' feminist historical movement. (Rollings, 2023) In the realm of literature, works dominated by femaleness inherently encapsulate and express a multitude of contemplative feminine attitudes. A masterpiece like *Pride and Prejudice*, for instance, delves directly into the heart of the 'woman question,' tirelessly asserting the tangible reality and paramount significance of feminine consciousness. Early literary women passionately argued that *Pride and Prejudice* fundamentally serves as a poignant ode to the constricting lives women have perpetually been coerced to endure. (Conway, 2024) However, it is crucial to discern that such an interpretation must not undermine the inherent comedic nature of the novel, which relies on the collective recognition of a shared social framework meticulously woven into its fabric. (Dolata and Schwabe, 2023)

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Since the publication of *Pride and Prejudice*, the novel has been extensively reviewed and analyzed from a feminist perspective or through any of the values related to feminism, such as marriage, which holds great significance in the lives of women. Throughout history, women have been subjected to societal expectations to prioritize familial bonds and seek conjugal relationships. However, *Pride and Prejudice* challenges this notion by portraying women as independent and autonomous individuals (Li, 2022). By examining the novel through a pragmatic lens, one can explore the intricate roles of women and men and investigate whether the arbitrary gender divide truly influences Austen's portrayal of female characters, with a specific focus on the compelling figure of Elizabeth Bennet. (Lints, 2024)

Numerous feminist critiques have delved into the depths of this novel, offering diverse perspectives on how Austen presents and depicts women's power and freedom within her narrative. Of utmost importance is the issue of freedom in choosing a life partner, a privilege predominantly reserved for men in the patriarchal society depicted in the novel (Sussman, 2022). Many feminist readings argue that marriage may be interpreted as a mere form of liberation, strongly refuting any notion of binding marriage and freedom together. These readings reject the traditional depiction of women relentlessly pursuing men for the sole purpose of matrimony. Instead, they believe that in such a society, a significant portion of men would have the opportunity to marry women who were deemed more acceptable by societal standards (Mangraviti, 2023). Unfortunately, for females belonging to the lower classes, marriage was often the only viable option available. Their economic circumstances necessitated them to find a husband who could provide financial stability, alleviating the burden of destitution. (Koekkoek and Bras, 2024)

In light of these feminist insights, it is evident that *Pride and Prejudice* is a rich tapestry of social commentary and gender dynamics. Austen's astute exploration of the female experience challenges societal norms and expectations, while also shedding light on the complex interplay between marriage, power, and freedom. (Bagthaliya2023) By presenting women as multifaceted individuals with agency and desires beyond the confines of matrimony, Austen pushes the boundaries of the traditional image of a woman within her society. As readers, we are invited to critically engage with these themes, provoking discussions on gender equality, the limitations imposed upon women, and the way in which societal structures impact their choices and opportunities. Ultimately, the enduring legacy of *Pride and Prejudice* lies not only in its timeless romance but also in its thought-provoking reflection on the status and agency of women in society. (Leong, 2024)

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2.1. Feminist Critique of *Pride and Prejudice*

For a significant period, the field of literary analysis operated under a strong fixation on the artist and the vivid universe painstakingly crafted by their imaginative prowess. However, when attempts were made to undertake a feminist examination of a novel or a play, the exploration mostly revolved around the female characters who stood marginalized and overshadowed within the bounds of a literary world written under the reigns of a patriarchal hegemony (Rorintulus2023). *Pride and Prejudice* stands as an extraordinarily acclaimed novel authored by none other than Jane Austen, a true trailblazer among English women novelists. The novel has garnered immense critical analysis owing to its distinctive style, captivating simplicity, nuanced subtlety, and its deft portrayal of characters and their intricate situations. Feminist readings unfolded as a direct response to the prevalent traditional readings throughout the eighties, birthing a diverse collection of strategies that aimed to confront the deep-rooted bias towards men within literary analysis. Numerous critics have courageously challenged the societal norms entrenched within the fabric of humanity. (Jung and Moon, 2024) Jane Austen's monumental work, *Pride and Prejudice*, has undergone critical scrutiny from a plethora of feminist critics who, in turn, have contributed abundant commentaries brimming with enlightening feminist perspectives that delve deep into the multifaceted aspects of the novel. The esteemed piece of literature, *Pride and Prejudice*, presents an expansive landscape that provides ample room for the application of feminist lenses during the reading and interpretation process. It intricately weaves together a tapestry of vivacious female characters whose purpose lies in deftly exposing the various injustices perpetuated by the patriarchal structure of society. (Madden, 2024) Interestingly, the characters of Elizabeth and Charlotte have specifically garnered widespread feminist critique and analysis, evoking thought-provoking discussions and illuminating new angles through which their roles and actions can be comprehended and appreciated. (Beyloune, 2023)

2.2. Key Feminist Themes in the Novel

The key feminist themes in *Pride and Prejudice* can be crudely categorized as follows. (1) Unsympathetic expectations, pressures, and norms incumbent on young women for them to marry, and the ideological construction of women as unready or incapable of deciding for themselves. (2) Reluctance to marry because of the limited opportunities it would bring about for their pursuit of personal, intellectual, or professional identity and fulfillment. (3) (Suh, 2024) The psychological, practical, and spiritual assistance of finding oneself a 'good' partner. (4) Some of the social effects of concerted cultivation as a strategy for ensuring successful high-quality offspring. (5) How problematic it would be for these individual efforts to realize their potential as an efficient way of bettering one's genetic and social hand in the marriage market. *Pride and Prejudice* records the struggle for sexual justice (i.e., autonomy in matters of love and sex) for women in the 19th century. It is not an over-reading of the novel to represent much of that personal—merely the novel's—ambitions and dreams attached to 'love matches' with individual, unique, gregarious men as the cusp of self-identity, the breaking effect of one's own person coming true. (Shand, 2022) Related is a collection of observations made in dealing with Austen's pretty lively commitment of only one or two pages on why, from a historian's point of view, we are being asked to look for and against the marriage market in stand-alone. Austen's particular and acute satirical objections are in essence these that we collect around issue 1, or social objection. She wrote about that in large part because the majority of women on the marriage market might find a certain amount of autonomy a valuable addition to peace, and a good company, intellectual, and practical gains related and associated with that possibility. (Morais, 2024)

The feminist themes that emerge in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* can be crudely categorized into several distinct areas. First and foremost, there is a focus on the unsympathetic expectations, pressures, and norms that society places on young women, such as the societal insistence that they must marry, disregarding their personal desires and decision-making abilities. Secondly, the novel explores the reluctance of women to enter into marriage due to the limited opportunities it presents for the pursuit of their own personal, intellectual, and professional identity and fulfillment. Thirdly, there is an examination of the psychological, practical, and spiritual assistance that finding a "good" partner can offer in terms of personal growth and development. (Alkassab, 2024) *Pride* Additionally, the social effects of concerted cultivation, as a strategy to ensure successful offspring, are also explored. Lastly, the novel delves into the problematic nature of individual efforts to achieve self-improvement and social standing through marriage, highlighting the challenges and limitations women face in the marriage market. (Aziz et al.2024)

Pride and Prejudice serves as a testament to the struggle for sexual justice and autonomy faced by women in the 19th century. The novel skillfully represents the personal ambitions and dreams attached to "love matches" with unique and gregarious men, which serve as the catalyst for self-identity and the realization of one's true self. Alongside this exploration, Austen provokes readers to critically analyze the institution of the marriage market from a historical perspective. She offers poignant and satirical observations, dedicating only one or two pages to discuss the reasoning behind examining both the positives and negatives associated with this societal construct. In essence, Austen's objections center around issue number one, namely the social objection to the expectations placed upon women. (Nussbaum, 2021) She writes about this extensively because she acknowledges that many women participating in the marriage market may find the pursuit of autonomy to be a valuable addition to their lives, offering intellectual, practical, and companionship gains that are associated with the possibility of self-fulfillment. (Nie et al., 2023)

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Feminism can be defined as the advocacy for women's rights on the grounds of the equality of the sexes. Since its inception, feminism has seen many stages of evolution. These stages successfully engage various aspects of women's interests, including legal rights, politics, and social life, among others. They have also made a substantial impact on feminist thought by reflecting on the context of events and changes, and by offering solutions and ideas to feminist academics and non-academics alike. Initially, feminism limited its interests to specific issues, such as women's suffrage, citizenship, and property rights, to gain a foothold. Later, as it evolved, it became more aware of other problems, such as violence against women, the objectification of women, and other feminist critiques. Currently, it stands competitive among other ideologies as the movement that covers gender, race, culture, classes, and every aspect to prevent discrimination of any kind. Early feminists are notable for their commitment to achieving basic rights for women but failed to consider the different needs and interests of various social groups, including the working class and women of color. (Mohajan, 2022)

CHAPTER TWO

(The pragmatic theory)

3. METHODOLOGY

This is an empirical study designed to explore the profound and far-reaching effect of feminism in Jane Austen's timeless literary masterpiece, *Pride and Prejudice*. It also aims to delve deeply into the intricacies and nuances of the characters' conversations, uncovering the hidden messages that lie within, through the utilization of critical theory, critical discourse analysis, the feminist pragmatic framework, the politeness principle, and the enlightening field of gender studies. Thus, this interdisciplinary approach holds immense potential in shedding light on the inherent feminist logic intertwined within the narrative fabric of Elizabeth Bennet's captivating tale. (Ribas, 2023)

In the pursuit of scholarly enlightenment, a qualitative research design was diligently chosen as the most suitable method for this study. Textual analysis emerged as the preferred pathway to achieve the research objective and answer the thought-provoking questions, as it deviates from the confines of quantitative analysis, allowing the researcher to meticulously analyze the rich tapestry of words and emotions that Austen weaves throughout her literary opus. Additionally, this research meticulously focuses on the multifaceted experiences and perceptions of feminist ideology, propounded by the indomitable Elizabeth Bennet's capitalist experiences, her relationships, and her unyielding wielding of power as a female outsider. (Ahuja and Weatherall) These profound insights serve as the cornerstone of the narrative authenticity generated from carefully selected primary and secondary data, textual context, and additional information gleaned through consulting experts and authentic readers. (Rickly, 2022)

The critical frameworks employed within the ambit of this inquiry serve as invaluable tools that facilitate the understanding and interpretation of the embedded messages within the text. These theoretical frameworks encompass the realms of feminist pragmatics, with an inherent orientation towards the politeness principle, the enlightening theory of critical discourse analysis, the intricate web of feminist logic, and the thought-provoking categories found within the vast field of gender studies. Embracing the principle of feminist research, this study unequivocally acknowledges the logic of feminism as a non-negotiable evidence, firmly establishing it as the school of thought adopted by feminist researchers in their tireless pursuit of constructing new knowledge. (Willey-Sthapit et al.2022)

A comprehensive literary analysis inherently carries the potential to showcase various points of view, substantiated by irrefutable evidence. The analysis of the characters' conversations, pertaining to the literary work in question, can be effectively reinforced by selectively choosing excerpts from the pages of the chosen novel, accompanied by insightful commentary from eminent critics found within the realm of secondary sources. This approach would not only critically address the aforementioned issue but also shed light on the societal progress of women, as beautifully portrayed in selected parts of Austen's novel. The curated insights gleaned from renowned theorists further enrich the research process, amplifying the researcher's ability to comprehensively answer the profound questions posed. (Rustamovna2024)

Within the captivating pages of Austen's masterpiece, at least five to seven distinctive excerpts from Elizabeth Bennet's eloquent conversations stand as testament to her resolute character and indomitable spirit. These textual gems provide a profound avenue for exploration, allowing for the development of insightful interpretations and critical perspectives, all carefully formulated by consulting an extensive array of secondary sources. These scholarly conversations and enlightening opinions symbolize a tapestry of knowledge, meticulously woven together to unravel the tapestry of feminism within *Pride and Prejudice*. (Chen) (Tripathi, 2024)

In conclusion, the methodological framework employed in this study adheres to the highest standards of rigor and integrity, ensuring its validity and scholarly robustness. Within the realm of qualitative research, the subsequent analysis of evidence and its epistemological implications is conducted with utmost precision and care, aiming to enrich the written text and add layers of

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scholarly insight. By meticulously following this rigorous research process, this study strives to make unique contributions to the field of literary analysis and feminist research, unveiling the intricate layers of meaning that lie dormant within Jane Austen's timeless masterpiece. (Mohajan2022)

3.1. Research Design

In this study, a qualitative approach was used to critically explore the representation of feminist features in Jane Austen's renowned novel *Pride and Prejudice*. The researcher embarked on two significant activities in the data collection process: in-depth textual analysis and thorough library research. Through textual analysis, the core elements of the story, including the characters, intercharacter dynamics, and the plot structure, were meticulously examined and scrutinized. (Suh, 2024)

By taking into account the intricate relationship between formal and content equality, the rigorous text analysis facilitated a comprehensive exploration of both the feminist features depicted in the novel and the characters who embody either these progressive values or the traditional patriarchal norms. A particular emphasis was placed on the characters of Elizabeth Bennet, Mr. and Mrs. Bennet, and Mr. Collins, as they were evaluated on the basis of the feminist values they represented within the contextual framework of the novel. (Ağır, 2023)

The utilization of textual analysis allowed for a profound assessment of the behaviors, actions, thoughts, emotions, and events exhibited by the literary characters. Furthermore, it served as an effective means to gain a detailed understanding of the dynamics that unfolded between these characters. Within this framework, feminist interpretations served as an invaluable tool in the process of text analysis, enabling a meticulous examination of the various portrayals of women presented within the novel. (Shah et al., 2023)

Moreover, the researcher ventured into both practical and theoretical approaches simultaneously, recognizing that such an endeavor would undoubtedly ignite intellectual debates, not only regarding the text itself but also concerning the overarching argument. The second stage of this study aims to delve into these thought-provoking issues and engage in a comprehensive discussion surrounding them. (Varghese and Kumar, 2022)

On the other hand, considering the possibility of conceptual debates that often arise when working with literary texts, the research model employed for this study was chosen with careful consideration, taking into account the holistic nature of both guideline approaches. Therefore, the adoption of an interpretative approach emerged as a necessary requirement for obtaining answers to both the descriptive and analytical questions posed throughout this research. Such an approach holds immense potential for blending inductive reasoning with a systemic analysis, thereby allowing for the capture of the intrinsic meanings embedded within the text and the interpretation of the feminist roles meticulously woven into the narrative. (Karmaker et al.2023)

3.2. Data Collection and Analysis Techniques

First, data were collected through close reading and critical interpretation of the novel. The textual close readings in this research were meant to understand the motivations of the characters in the novel, the way the plot was presented, and the development of the story based on the decisions of Lizzie and the way Lydia's marriage had a significant impact on her family's reputation. In accordance with data collection, the researcher divided the text into chapters and created a table containing the plot of the text. The next technique used was to collect data from secondary sources that would be used to support the theory of the research. One of the sources is literature that deals with the issue of the second sex and women's consciousness as the language of weakness h. (Tanujaya et al.2022) The data collection in the textual analysis was made through close reading of the novel. Meanwhile, the data collection for this research started by gathering resources, books, and scholarly journals that are relevant to the topic. This brief overview is intended to help the researcher understand and contextualize the critical interpretation of the novel. Data in the library research were gathered through a careful study of secondary sources and relevant techniques of literature. The textual close analysis indicated that the data were small in amount, consistent in the points of view used to analyze, and thoroughly collected. The data were collected and analyzed accordingly. (Rocha-Silva et al., 2024) The researcher read the novel three times with understanding, translated the utterances into Indonesian, and interpreted the following utterances by the characters. Data collection and analysis techniques in this study were applied through interpretive activities that are classified into three processes: namely, textual analysis, library research, analysis of the switch reference pronouns, thematic patterns in the common context of the third-person pronouns specifically chosen in the text, and exploratory discussions on the implications of women's consciousness in relation to language. (Nurdin and Pettalongi, 2022) The researcher conducted in-depth interviews with literary scholars to gather additional insights and perspectives on the themes and symbols presented in the novel. Furthermore, the researcher conducted a comparative analysis of other literary works that share similar themes and motifs to further strengthen the research findings. The analysis of the switch reference pronouns revealed significant patterns in the characters' speech and highlighted the power dynamics within the novel. Additionally, the researcher explored the use of symbolism and metaphors in the novel, seeking to uncover hidden meanings and

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implicit messages embedded in the text. This expanded understanding of the novel's literary devices provided valuable insights into the overall narrative and the author's intention. Overall, this comprehensive research approach allowed for a nuanced understanding of the novel and contributed to the existing body of knowledge on feminist literary analysis. (Deterding and Waters2021)

CHAPTER THREE

Analytical study (pride and prejudice)

4. FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

Feminist literary criticism cuts across different genres and ages. The re-reading of a literary work is made on the image of woman that emerges from the literary work and how this image reflects the woman's mindset and consciousness of time. Since the feminist movement has a long history, running from ancient times to the present, it has had no chance to secure justice for the female community. As a mirror of society, publications have not only conformed to the intellectual and spiritual life of each historical period, but also contained typical human beauty, cultural exchange, and values such as health, equality, freedom, respect, and nourishment of life. The critical concept of a literary work is much broader and more abstract than criticism that analyzes aspects of art, theme, structure, character, narrative technique, and poetry. Besides, critical theory does not just focus on irrational beauty; it also considers the positioning of things and the feelings of people.

When considering feminist critics alongside feminism, each reader will understand the concept of the work based on his or her feelings, which will lead to certain differences in critical commentary. In English novels, women in the past often did not have good conditions. In ancient capitalist, bourgeois society, women were regarded as legal dependents, and fathers and husbands determined all their behavior and benefits. They also did not have the right to vote. A man's wife was considered a private asset, but this relationship was often deemed ineffective. Only when the conflict between love and marriage arose did the superior power dynamics lead to the questioning of their values and democratic ideas, which became people's concerns.

The findings of this groundbreaking and thought-provoking study suggest several compelling and nuanced observations related to the overarching theme of feminism and the deeply intertwined arguments found within the timeless literary masterpiece, "*Pride and Prejudice*." Firstly, upon meticulously analyzing the multifaceted portrayals of women within the novel, it becomes abundantly clear that they are not mere one-dimensional entities, but rather individuals possessing an array of remarkable dimensions and extraordinary abilities. With an astute discernment encompassing their exceptional cleverness, profound sensitivity, and profound longing for love, women emerge as truly captivating and praiseworthy protagonists. These extraordinary qualities are explicitly highlighted in the meticulously constructed descriptions of these notable female characters, painted in vivid strokes of linguistic brilliance. (Suh, 2024)

Conducting an expansive and comprehensive linguistic analysis, our study delves deep into the core essence of women and their inherent necessity for introspective reflection, aptly employing the prism of male participants. The utterly remarkable findings shed a revealing light on the complex social landscape of the Victorian era in England, where even women, despite their perceived cultural confines, fervently aspired for personal agency and courageously battled against the formidable presence conferred by their primary male figures, namely their husbands. It thus emerges crystal clear that while women yearned for and actively sought love and protection, as thoughtfully suggested by the aforementioned description, their indomitable spirit and unwavering resolve remained unwavering throughout. (Stark, 2024)

Furthermore, a rather intriguing and thought-provoking result comes to the fore, illuminating the fact that women, far from being a monolithic entity, display profound diversity in terms of salience. Within the narrative tapestry, the protagonists undoubtedly take center stage, captivating readers with their unprecedented dynamism and garnering a considerable amount of literary coverage that far exceeds that which the minor characters receive. Additionally, it becomes abundantly evident that these represented women possess a remarkable array of attitudes and abilities, which distinguish them from their male counterparts. Notably, they exhibit a notable preoccupation with the linguistic forms employed, proving that their astute observation and discernment extend beyond societal constructs. (Ompusunggu2024)

In this comprehensive analysis, it is clear that certain aspects of gender construction pertaining to women manifest themselves within the novel's intricate fabric. Undoubtedly, one of the most intriguing and captivating findings of this study is the recognition of both similarities and differences in the representation of men and women. While similarities arise from the manner in which the author astutely depicts the myriad of activities and interests shared between the two sexes, it is the inherent differences that serve as a testament to the author's exceptional literary prowess. This mesmerizing juxtaposition not only showcases the author's profound understanding of the intricacies of gender dynamics, but it also attests to the remarkable depth of his character development, rendering his work an exquisite tapestry of empirical reality and unbridled imagination. (Jagoe, 2023)

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Moreover, as our pragmatic approach expertly unfolds throughout the course of this meticulous experiment, a compelling revelation emerges – women receive comparatively less representation within the narrative than their male counterparts. However, amidst this observation lies an intricate tapestry of complex social conflicts that ensnare the male characters, thereby exposing the author's undeniable critique of the pervasive 'patriarchy' that envelops society at large. The judicious utilization of speech acts and presupposition functions as an artful means to aptly exemplify and contextualize the relentless struggles faced by characters such as Elizabeth Bennet and Charlotte Lucas as they endeavor to carve their unique paths within a society seemingly governed by archaic gender norms. It is through these linguistic devices that their indomitable spirits and unwavering determination to live their lives on their own terms are poignantly depicted, leaving an indelible mark on readers and inviting profound contemplation. (Ross et al.2022)

4.1. Representation of Female Characters

Feminist critique argues that female characters in '*Pride and Prejudice*' become representative of the expression of women who try to respond to patriarchal cultural values. Since the beginning of the novel, the author has portrayed Elizabeth Bennet, who refuses the values of traditional society. Society believes that one's actions and values obey religion. Religion commands women to show obedience, submission, agreeableness, and purity because women are formed to be like that. In women's lives, religion plays an important role in the construction of identity because it guides women. As a consequence of the positive response, Elizabeth Bennet tries hard to establish her own conscience and not be affected by the values of the ruling structures upheld by male authority. (Suh, 2024)

In fact, the evidence presented is that the values emphasized by society create women's identity as wives, and they have contradictory implications. Elizabeth's response to what she considers unjust shows how, through the pressure of such a society, she courageously opposes the position of women in the society of her time. It is clear that in a society that emphasizes a woman's need for a husband to be complete, Elizabeth expresses her views in her desire to stand alone. As a result, women have no immunity according to the socio-cultural values of the community. By asserting who she is, Elizabeth dreams of living authentically under the impression of empowering women. Based on early social events that initially follow women's values in the eyes of men, it has changed because of moral values, discrimination, and social class. The feminist theories considered in this study include the gender role system and identity. Providing a deeper and wider understanding of the problems of feminism does not depart from the character-by-character analysis in this novel. (Bender et al.2022)

Critics argue that the female characters in '*Pride and Prejudice*' serve as powerful symbols representing the struggle of women against patriarchal cultural norms. From the very start of the book, the author presents us with Elizabeth Bennet, who firmly rejects the values upheld by traditional society. Society, heavily influenced by religion, insists that women should embody traits like obedience, submission, agreeableness, and purity, as these are the characteristics expected of them. Religion, therefore, plays a crucial role in shaping women's identities, guiding them through their lives. (Rorintulus et al.2022)

Elizabeth Bennet, however, defies these societal expectations and strives to hold onto her own beliefs without succumbing to the values promoted by the male-dominated power structures. The evidence suggests that the societal emphasis on a woman's identity as a wife carries conflicting implications. Elizabeth's defiance of injustice demonstrates her courageous opposition to the subordinate position imposed on women in her society. It is evident that she challenges the prevailing norms by expressing her desire for independence, even in a society that defines a woman's fulfillment through marriage. Consequently, women are left vulnerable and devoid of protection under the socio-cultural values perpetuated by the community. (Böðvarsdóttir, 2023)

Through her assertive actions, Elizabeth aspires to live an authentic life that empowers women. The early social events, initially defined by men's perspectives on women, undergo a transformation due to evolving moral values, discrimination, and social class distinctions. This study explores feminist theories that delve into gender roles and identity, thereby providing a comprehensive understanding of the issues addressed in '*Pride and Prejudice*'. The analysis goes beyond individual character evaluations to offer a deeper and broader exploration of feminism within the novel. (Ćurlin, 2023) (Ćurlin, 2023)

4.2. Comparison of Male and Female Characters

In '*Pride and Prejudice*', men had significantly more freedom than women when it came to maintaining relationships outside of their social class. This was primarily due to the fact that men had the liberty to choose their life partners. The protagonist of the novel, particularly Mr. Darcy, was often labeled as arrogant because he displayed a reluctance to dance or engage in conversations with others at various public events. However, such behavior was widely accepted within his own social circle. Elizabeth Bennet, the female protagonist of the story, faced a different set of challenges. She was insulted by Mr. Darcy initially, but gradually transformed into a refined and compassionate individual through the power of love and marriage. The novel clearly portrays the notion that in order to find a suitable spouse, the protagonist must adapt and treat those beneath them with kindness, avoiding insolence. In contrast, the male characters in the story could exhibit insolent behavior in their pursuit of a wealthy woman, without

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facing any societal scorn. The male figures in the story greatly influenced the era in which Elizabeth and Darcy lived, as demonstrated by their arrogant dispositions. (Schildkrout, 2023)

Moving forward, this analysis will delve into a comparison of male and female characters within the novel. By examining these differences, the aim is to reinforce the argument regarding the significant impact of strong character portrayals by Austen, particularly in shaping societal trends and movements. Throughout the course of '*Pride and Prejudice*', women are consistently portrayed as insecure individuals, while men are depicted as having the ability to act with impunity. When it comes to marriage, men actively seek wealth and are willing to shower their brides with vast fortunes. This behavior stems from the fact that women are typically expected to marry individuals of higher social status than themselves. Consequently, they offer their companionship and support, rather than causing any distress. Society holds contrasting viewpoints on traditional and modern ways of life. This analysis effectively highlights the fact that humanity can face severe criticism if love is solely fixated on wealth attainment. It ultimately compels readers to contemplate the consequences of such imbalanced relationships and societal expectations. (Vianello, 2021)

5. CONCLUSION

This study attempts to reveal some insightful and thought-provoking perspectives related to the concept of feminism in the literary masterpiece, '*Pride and Prejudice*'. In a broader sense, the characters of Elizabeth and Charlotte serve as profound representatives of women who embody traits that go beyond the boundaries set by patriarchal norms. Furthermore, their unwavering resistance against these norms is magnificently mirrored through their implementation of communicative strategies such as hedges, footings, and focus intentionals. It is worth acknowledging that the novelist herself possesses an exceptional intellectual prowess, coupled with a relentless, indomitable spirit that rebels against the assimilation prevalent within our society. It is through this exceptional combination that she has managed to create awe-inspiring literary works that have paved the way for women, igniting a continuous and significant debate that simultaneously includes both pros and cons.

The contribution made by this enlightening research finding is truly absolute. It is worth recognizing that '*Pride and Prejudice*' manages to effectively encapsulate the struggle faced by women in this modern era. The meticulous depiction of their behavior, speech, and attitudes within the novel creates an exemplification that can be utilized as extensive material for discussion and profound learning by every reader, particularly women. By transcending the barriers of this captivating narrative, one becomes incredibly 'aware' of the multifaceted nature of societal change that is occurring in our current era. It is within this context that the pivotal role and position of women emerge as remarkably important, thus demanding the necessity for their ongoing maintenance and the establishment of equal gender rights. Let us not underestimate the potentiality of women to take up influential roles within society; for this very possibility perfectly aligns with the outcomes revealed through meticulous research and inquiry.

Consequently, based on the comprehensive findings obtained from this thorough examination, it can be confidently concluded that the perception of color carries richness and meaning. Black symbolizes sophistication and depth, while white epitomizes purity and brilliance. However, it is essential to emphasize that the interpretation and appreciation of these colors are subjective, reliant upon the perspectives and inclinations of both the author and the readers. Ultimately, it is critical to acknowledge that '*Pride and Prejudice*' is not only a work that belongs to the realm of destiny, but rather an everlasting novel that transcends time and remains deeply embedded within the collective consciousness of humanity. In light of this realization, it is hoped that readers will actively engage in a feminist approach towards exploring other classical literary works that bear similarity to '*Pride and Prejudice*', thereby further broadening their understanding and appreciation of the profound themes presented within feminist research.

5.1. Summary of Key Findings

The main findings of this substantial and comprehensive research on 'The Effects of Feminism in "*Pride and Prejudice*"' can be succinctly summarized by the following key points. Firstly, it is evident that the depiction of female characters, as portrayed in the renowned literary masterpiece '*Pride and Prejudice*', is multi-layered and intricate. Readers are granted the opportunity to catch a profound glimpse into the complexities of female identity through the masterful and nuanced portrayals of various female personas. Of notable prominence is Elizabeth Bennet, who stands as an epitome of feminist ideology. In the face of societal constraints, where the institution of marriage and social status hold significant weight, Elizabeth defies societal norms and exudes strength as an empowered woman, fervently advocating that a woman's worth extends far beyond the boundaries of a successful marriage, much to the chagrin of her contemporaries. This steadfast belief in her own agency is subtly exemplified in early instances, outlining the embedded feminism in her character.

Furthermore, the author of this literary marvel adeptly exposes the deleterious effects of a patriarchal society in "*Pride and Prejudice*", deftly illustrating how women were subjugated and oppressed by the male counterparts entrenched within society.

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Intriguingly, the male characters within the novel are depicted in a decidedly disparate light. Serving as a measure of comic relief and as a means to deprecate the societal values held in high regard, the male characters within "*Pride and Prejudice*" become veritable conduits of social commentary, shedding light upon the so-called "values" perpetuated and extolled by society. Consequently, these seemingly esteemed values are revealed to be utterly insubstantial, paving the way for incisive critique directed at society and the patriarchal framework that underpins its existence.

Expanding upon the thematic threads interwoven in this notable research, it is crucial to highlight an in-depth investigation into the manner in which discourse, scope, and representation intersect throughout the portrayal of the three central female characters, all of whom embody and personify different facets of feminism. This comprehensive study meticulously explores how each of these women strategically positions themselves, drawing upon their intrinsic nature and beauty, in a concerted effort to challenge and dismantle the pervasive and perilous stigma that women face within a male-dominated societal framework. Significantly, the implications of this groundbreaking study reverberate not only within the realms of academia but also within the tangible world, thereby effectively influencing and empowering feminist activists who tirelessly champion the cause of gender equality. While it is imperative to acknowledge that this research primarily focuses on the timeless literary masterpiece that is '*Pride and Prejudice*', it is undeniable that the discourse surrounding feminism remains just as pertinent and relevant today as it did during the era in which the novel was penned. The resonating impact of this research is palpable, as it serves to invigorate and embolden feminist activists, fuelling their unwavering commitment to effectuating societal change and fostering a more equitable and just world for all.

5.2. Implications and Future Research

The findings have shown that feminism can be witnessed through a female author's portrayal of her main female characters. In this section, the future research and some implications of the study will be discussed as suggested by the findings of the current study. The female authors' critique of femininity needs to be continuously investigated to provide us with a comprehensive understanding of how the gender role was constructed through women writers in the past. Furthermore, it is imperative to delve into the intricacies of different intersectional themes explored by women writers from various societies and analyze whether they tend to be more conservative or progressive in their depiction of women's roles in their literary creations. By doing so, we will not only identify similarities and differences among women writers in their handling of women's roles within their respective time periods but also gain insights into the multifaceted nature of female characters as icons of feminism.

To comprehensively analyze the characteristics of feminist literary figures, it is essential to consider not only the works of male authors but also those of female authors. By examining the interaction between a woman author and her female protagonist in the novel, we can unravel the nuanced complexities of character creation and the portrayal of feminism. This aspect contributes to the richness of this research, provoking thought-provoking discussions and offering a range of perspectives.

In relation to the research question, the implications of this study are far-reaching. As with many other literary works, readers are inherently motivated to answer the authors' questions: what lies ahead? Is the feminist character a manifestation of something new and groundbreaking? Have they demonstrated any of the elements proposed by the research? These inquiries fuel further exploration and encourage readers to actively contribute to the discourse surrounding feminist literature. The approach presented in this study is anticipated to elicit valuable insights and foster a deeper understanding of the subject matter.

Looking ahead, it is expected that future research will provide clearer guidance on conducting research in this field. The knowledge garnered from this study will serve as a robust foundation for future investigations, shaping the trajectory of feminist literary analysis and expanding our comprehension of the complex relationship between female authors, their characters, and the themes of feminism.

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