

**MATERIAL ORIENTED MARRIAGE IN JANE AUSTEN'S  
*PRIDE AND PREJUDICE*: SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
for getting Bachelor Degree of Education in  
English Department**

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**2008**

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Study**

People are social creature. It means that people cannot live alone without the help from other person. There is nobody that can survive without any interference from the other. In fact, individual is a part of the society. A society is an organization of people who share a common territory, govern themselves, and cooperate to secure the survival of the group (Neubeck, 2005:56). They tend to depend on each other. They interact in order to show their existence and admitted in society. One of the ways to shows their existence is marriage.

People are created in pairs. They are men and women. By marriage, both of them can make intimacy relationship. Marriage is a fundamental shape of the family. Marriage is an interpersonal relationship with governmental, social, or religious recognition, usually intimate and sexual, and often created as a contract or through civil processes. ([www.wikipedia.org/wiki/marriage](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/marriage)). Civil marriage is the legal concept of marriage as a governmental institution.

The main purpose of marriage is to inherit the offspring. Historically, marriage is a relationship between male and female and their families whose primary purpose is to raise offspring. People use the word to describe a committed, loving relationship with or without the children.

([www.familysynergy.org/art-poly.html](http://www.familysynergy.org/art-poly.html)). Beside that main purpose, people make a marriage for many reasons, but usually one or more of the following : legal, the formation of a family unit, procreation and the education and nurturing of the children, legitimizing sexual relationship, public declaration of love or to obtain citizenship and social and economic stability.

Usually love and courtship are fundamental of marriage. But there are some people having paradigm that marriage is only economic oriented. It is called material-oriented marriage or more known as marriage of convenience. According to The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (1995: 419) the term of marriage convenience is defined as a marriage made in order to achieve some practical or political purpose, not because the two partners love each other. It means that marriage convenience as marriage based on economics or other benefit for the couple, with no feelings of each other within the marriage. They have reason even though by marriage they can raise their status and economic automatically. This paradigm not only happens in real world but also reflected in literary work.

The close relationship between literary work and society cannot be separated from society because both of them have close relationship. A literary work exists because of society. In other words, the existence of literary work is influenced by the condition and phenomenon in society either in politic, social, religion, economy, and cultural.

However, a literary work is not only influenced by society but it can also influence society. Every literary work consists of an idea, a feeling, a value, a manner, a

norm and a moral of its writer. It contains the writer's expectation toward manner or a norm of individual of society, which may be contrast or opposed to the writer's hope.

Basically, the most principal concept of sociology of literature is that literature work is a mirror of the society. However, literary work describes the reality in a subjective point of view; in author's point of view and the authors develops them with the imagination and ideas about the society. Literary work has the more subjective character of a study since the influence of the writer is more dominant in the work. The writer expresses his thought, view, idea, desire and experience toward the society through this works. Thus, in creating the imaginative works, a writer combines a social reality around him or his imagination. The combination is called a literary work.

Literary work is like mirror which reflects the society that preserves a response or solution of problem and also changes the society views. Lowenthal ( in Swingewood and Laurenson, 1972:12) states that the literature as an reflection of values and feeling, points both in degree of change occurring in different society as well as to the manner in which individual becomes socialized in to the social structure and their response, to this experience. This matter is a reference that the author uses the literary work as a media to change the society and submerge in a new ideal society. For this reason, studying the literary work is worth doing since; it is the reflection of human life experience as well as a solution to the problems which is exists in society. The literary work is the product of society which takes real life as the main resource the imagination in the work. Through the work, the author reflects intentionally and shape the behavior of society headed for life. Furthermore, literature represents life and life is in large measure, a social reality (Wellek 1959:94).

Hence, a literary work which is the author creation is an ideal reflection of social reality. In other words a literary work is an extraction of social life.

Literary work has purpose not only to give pleasure, to entertain those who are willingly attend to it, but also to teach people about values and truth of life. The author's works contain his or her perception of many aspects of life and he or she wants to share experiences with the society where he or she lives. Therefore, it is interesting to study literature as a means to understand values of life as reflected in literary works.

This research analyzes one of the greatest English novels of the nineteenth century, *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) by Jane Austen. She is a British novelist from Steventon. She was born on December 16, 1775 and died on July 18, 1817 in Winchester. She was the seventh child and the second daughter of George Austen (1731-1805), the local rector, or Church of England clergyman, and his wife Cassandra (1739-1827). After a few months at home, she placed her daughter with a woman living in a nearby village for a year. As Austen grew into adulthood, she continued to live with her parents at home, carrying out these activities normal for women of her age and social standing. ([www.wikipedia.org/wiki/janeausten](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/janeausten))

Jane Austen has played an important role in the emergence of novel as a respected literary form. She has contributed powerfully to determine the form of English novel. According to Bradburry (1973: 32) the typical species of the novel in England is the socio moral novel, or the novel of manners and morals. The prime theme of which is the ethical conduct of man in society is relatively stable and secure. The English novels also express a particular species of moral realism. Therefore, analyzing an English novel will give

better achievement in understanding the values of life as reflected in that novel. The social condition of England in the nineteenth century represented an important moment in the changing attitude toward marriage. These attitude tended to represent the interest of the wealthy and uphold patriarchal tradition, and among the wealthy, marriage was primarily a business arrangement. Austen had put concern about marriage problem that arouse in his life time on his novel, *Pride and Prejudice*. Therefore, it will be worthy to discuss about Austen's view towards marriage which is reflected in this novel.

*Pride and Prejudice* arguably the greatest novel of the nineteenth century, in many ways it shows Austen's idealism towards marriage. It was originally titled *First Impression* because the appearances of the characters of the characters created the plot of the novel. *First Impression* was first written between 1796 and 1797 in Steventon, but it was never published under that title. However, the novel is also concerned with the effects of the character's first impression, which is their prejudice; Austen finally found the title *Pride and Prejudice* more appropriate. *Pride and Prejudice* was far more fortunate than its earlier incarnation and it was published to the world on January 28, 1813. *Pride and Prejudice* is like Austen's work which is written in gentle or Horacian satire. The main object of Austen's satire in this novel is the mercenary and the ignorance of the people common criticisms of the nineteenth century. This novel belongs to Romantic Period between 1800- 1850, which is signed with France Revolution. ([www.wikipedia.org/wiki/prideandprejudice](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/prideandprejudice))

The novel tells that marriage is not only based on love and affection, but also economic oriented. This marriage is called material- oriented marriage. It can be seen in

characterization in this novel where Charlotte Lucas was twenty-seven years old women, unmarried, poor and plain accepted the Mr. Collins's propose. Therefore, when Mr. Collins, a man she neither loved nor respected, proposed to her, and Charlotte accepted, saying that “considering Mr. Collins character, connections and situation in life, I am convinced that my chance of happiness with him is as fair as most people can boast on entering the marriage state” (Austen 165-166).

Beside *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) as her works, Austen had written the other novels, they are: *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Mansfield Park* (1814), *Emma* (1815), *Northanger Abbey* (1818) and *Persuasion* (1818). All of her novels have theme about courtship and marriage. She achieved success as author. ([www.wikipedia.org/wiki/janeausten](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/janeausten)). All of these works contain a strong moral message, although the moral message is not entirely consistent in all works and is presented in various ways. Actually Austen's work does not fully belong to in romantic periods, because she tends to use sense than sensibility.

In connection to the function of literature as the reflection of life, the researcher tries to analyze the novel, in *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*. It is worthy to analyze it using sociological approach in order to know, see, and describe the social condition of the nineteenth century of England especially in marriage of convenience, and it is useful to know the issue affected English society. The researcher then proposes to conduct a research entitled “*Material- Oriented Marriage in Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice: Sociological Approach*.”

## **B. Literary Review**

Having checked and observed exhaustively, the writer found a research in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta that studied *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*. It was conducted by Zakiyah Wasnadi Astuti in her research entitled "A Syntactic Analysis of Noun Phrase in *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen".

The present researcher is going to analyze this novel from different approach, with the title "*Material – Oriented Marriage in Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice: Sociological Approach.*"

## **C. Problem Statement**

The major problem of this study is "How material- oriented marriage is reflected in *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice*"

## **D. Limitation of the Study**

The study is focused on Jane Austen's view the materialistic marriage in *Pride and Prejudice* by using sociological approach.

## **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follow:

1. To describe the structural elements of the novel.
2. To help the readers in apprehending the novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen especially about social problem of certain society.

## **F. Benefit of the Study**

The study is expected to give benefits as follows:

### 1. Theoretical Benefit

To give some contribution to the understanding about the material marriage in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* principally sociological approach.

### 2. Practical Benefit

To provide additional information that is useful for the next researchers who are interested in analyzing any further.

## **G. Research Methodology**

### **1. Object of Study**

Object of the study is *Pride and Prejudice*

### **2. Type of the Data and the Data Sources**

#### a. Type of the Data

The type of the data is form of text that is taken from the words, phrases, sentences, narration and dialogues in the novel.

#### b. Data Sources

The data source used in the research can be categorized into two sources of data:

##### 1). Primary Source

The primary data are taken from *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. It comprises such things as words, phrases, sentence events and narration.

## 2) Secondary Source

The secondary data are related to the novel. The writer also collects information of Jane Austen's background and her work *Pride and Prejudice* from many books and internet (virtual reference).

### 3. Technique of Collecting the Data

In conducting the study, the writer uses the techniques of documentation in collecting the data:

- a. The researcher collects any data, which are relevant to the problem statement. He classifies the data into 2 groups; they are main data and supporting data.
- b. The main data (novel) are read repeatedly and comprehensively.
- c. The supporting data are collected and classified in accordance with the subject matter.
- d. Both of data are analyzed in order to answer the problem statement.
- e. The researcher draws conclusions from the analysis and proposes some recommendation.
- f. The research selects the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study.

### 4. Technique of Analyzing the Data

In analyzing data, the writer employs descriptive qualitative analysis of content. The analysis is begun from the structural analysis of the work and finally the sociological analysis of the literary of literary works.

## **H. Paper Organization**

The writer systematizes the research into six chapters, as follows : Chapter I is introduction, covering the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of study, objective of study, benefit of study, research method and research paper organization. Chapter II presents underlying theory. It includes notion of sociology of literature, major principles of sociology of literature, structural elements of the novel and theoretical approach. Chapter III includes the social background with all aspects of social reality of English in the nineteenth century. Chapter IV contains structural analysis of the novel. Chapter V discusses the sociological analysis of Jane Austen in *Pride and Prejudice*. Chapter VI consists of conclusion and suggestion of the research.