

T.C.

İSTANBUL YENİ YÜZYIL UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE PROGRAMME



MARRIAGE IN JANE AUSTEN'S AND CHARLOTTE BRONTE'S NOVELS

MA THESIS

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SUPERVISOR

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PREFACE

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Huda AL-TAEI

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ÖZET

JANE AUSTEN VE CHARLOTTE BRONTE’NİN ROMANLARINDA EVLİLİK

Bu tez *Pride and Prejudice* ve *Jane Eyre* romanlarında Jane Austen ve Charlotte Bronte’nin feminist kuram çerçevesindeki vizyonlarını araştırmaktadır. Bu romanlar erken onsekizinci yüzyıldan ondokuzuncu yüzyıla kadarki dönemin İngiliz sisteminin toplumsal cinsiyet ayrımcılığını toplumsal koşullarını yansıtmakta. Roman kahramanları da farklı tür mücadele ve deneyimle karşılaşmış ve neticesinde kendi kaderlerinin ve öykünün sonucunu oluşturacak dönüşüm geçirmişlerdir. Araştırmanın bulgularından biri de zamanın ve sosyal pozisyonların içinde kadınların rolüne ilişkin yazarların bakış açılarının ifade edildiği kurgusal bir dünyaya ilişkindir.

Araştırma, ayrıca dönemin sosyal yapısındaki şiddetin niteliklerine de dikkat çekmektedir. İnceleme İngiliz koloni idaresinin kadınlar üzerinde uyguladığı toplumsal cinsiyet ayrımcılığının etkilerini göstermektedir. İnceleme ek olarak toplumda pozitif bir değişim için sosyal düzen ve normlar için gereklilikleri değerlendirmektedir.

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Anahtar Kelimeler: Feminist Kuram, Evlilik, Toplum, Sosyal Normlar, İngiliz Sistemi.

ABSTRACT

MARRIAGE IN JANE AUSTEN'S AND CHARLOTTE BRONTE'S NOVELS

The paper investigates the visions of Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte on feminist theory through their novels *Pride and Prejudice* and *Jane Eyre*. These novels portray the early eighteenth to the nineteenth-century societal condition that highlighted the British rule regarding gender discrimination. The protagonists of the novels have faced different types of struggles and experience a transformation that will ultimately build their destiny and the story's conclusion. The discovery of the research displays how Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte create their characters and the fictional world to express their point of view regarding the role of females in that time and social position.

The research also marks the characteristics of violence in the contemporary social structure. In addition, this study also depicts the impact of gender discrimination and British colonial rule on females. The paper also evaluates the requirements for social order and norms for a positive change in society. Both of these novels are proved as effective to describe the social condition of the colonial era. This research study also focused on the role of marriage to conduct women's lifestyle that ultimately leads to social destruction. All the matters that have influenced gender discrimination have been elaborated on in this below section.

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Keywords: Feminist Theory, Marriage, Society, Social Norms, British Rules.

INTRODUCTION

Feminist theory is identified as equality of sexes in several social backgrounds expressed through activity. It includes economic, political, social, and ideology to support the position of females and girls in society. Feminism operates the social position along with priorities of women similar to the men. Depending on the majority of Western history, women remain restricted to the national sphere. Basically, public normal life was reserved for only men in society. In order to show the fighting against gender stereotypes as well as demonstrating professional, educational and mutual opportunities, feminism was established in the society. It was a major movement for women's right to continue their social freedom such as earning equal pay, voting, receiving education, holding public office, and also having the similar right to men in marriage and maternity leave.

In literary history, both Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte are eminent writers who focus on the contemporary social diversity related to gender. In this context, Virginia Woolf previously stated: "A woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction" (Woolf, 1989, p.2). Throughout this sentence, Virginia Woolf has tried to show the contemporary societal reality and influenced the women writers to make e freedom for their works. It has been found in the literature that women remained tortured under the patriarchal culture for a long time. During the patriarchal social domination females were identified as the second sex. At that time men treated women as lifetime slaves as they are born to tolerate domination and torture. Along with this, it also has been seen that women have no right regarding employment as equal to men. The majority of the people believe that women were perfect only for household activities.

Along with this, women remain restricted from receiving higher education as well as achieving any kind of succession. All the success and achievement are kept aside only for men. At the end of the Victorian Age in France, women were restricted from covering their heads in public. Along with this, in Germany, a husband had the right to sell his wife. Several types of cruel activities were proving how the role of females was in our society before the existence of feminism. Besides this, in the ancient world women had no right to control their own life according to their desires. After the feminist theory, several social activities are becoming the rights of women. In simple words, it can be said that feminism is diverse in respect for women's identities, strengths,

experiences, and knowledge. It has been established to provide a secure feeling and awareness to all women regarding their rights along with their social position.

It has been noticed at the end of the eighteenth century that most of the middle-class women started to write literary works to make a protestation through the writing skills. Near about all the writings of those writers, the female characters are portrayed as free and able to raise their voices against the patriarchal society. They have provided independent dignity, the realization of self-existence, and self-rights. The female characters are not made based on remuneration to men. Thus, there are several writers in the nineteenth century who gave support to female rights and positions throughout their writings. It includes Savitribai Phule, Anita Desai, Arundhati Roy, Anita Nair, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Arupa Kalita Patangia, Urvashi Butalia, Meena Kandasamy, and many others. Among all the feminist writers' Charlotte Bronte and Jane Austen are considered idols. Through their writings, they have expressed their personal feminist perspective about the requirement of women's social rights equal to men.

In *Pride and Prejudice*, the female character Jane Bennet has been represented as a lady with gentle and kind nature. “Apart from this, Georgiana Darcy has been portrayed as introverted, bashful, and adaptable. On the other hand, Miss Bingley is another character in this novel that has been described as a great woman with an air of decided fashion” (Austen, 2003, p. 6). Throughout the story of this novel, the readers have found that all the characters are engaged in meeting the demand that is declared that women need to be mild-mannered in order to influence men. It also has been mentioned in this novel that females who are able to adopt all the skills that impressed men are considered as angles of men’s eyes. Accompanied by these sentences the narrator Jane Austen has tried to show the contemporary social system under British rule. On the contrary, the protagonist of the story Elizabeth has been portrayed as a female character who has a sense of self-respect and loves useless reading that is also show the leading opposition to the societal approach.

Accompanied by the statement, the distance is nothing when one has a motive. it can be understood that female also needs a specific motivation to fight against society and bring transformation in their social position. The first arrogant response against Darcy’s first confession is why with so evident a design of offending and insulting me you chose to tell me (Austen, p. 142) highlighting the concept that Elizabeth is capable of protesting for her right. In addition, Elizabeth has stated, A woman must have a thorough knowledge of music, singing, drawing...a certain something in her air and manner of walking, the tone of her voice... it is also an indication

of being able to make a protest against the patriarchal social system. As Elizabeth has identified as the second daughter of five and has a personal opinion about marriage, the sarcastic personality has been successfully made by the author.

The theory feminist represents a supplement to feminism that is concentrating on the concept of sex and gender equality. This theory is a scholarly activity that concentrates on the nature of gender equality along with equal feeling. This theory is also focusing on various areas such as power and subjection, discrimination, objectification, barring, and gender roles. Along with this, the Feminist Theory Archive was established in order to support the students to engage in education. Several scholars exist that are showing the seed collection for the archive. In the discourse of philosophical, fictional, and theoretical, the feminist theory examines the men's and women's social roles. Similarly, in this plot, Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth meet with each other where wealth, class, and pride are identified as vital themes. Both love and restrictions of the Victorian era have been represented in this story.

It is quite natural that women's hearts are seeking honour and nobility as these are the basic requirements to sustain any relationship. In this story, it also has been described that Elizabeth desperately wants to get an equal position and right to employment. The constant struggle and experience of domination have been beautifully portrayed in this story. It has been set under British rule that rich men are capable of making decisions and rules and applied those to women. Elizabeth has been portrayed as having charms and resisting the spirit as she becomes a perfect example of supporting and following feminist theory. In the plot of the marriage also women were restricted and bound by social rules. The factor of gender discrimination has been found in a wide range, especially in this context.

“In addition, the age of marriage is also set for women that have been found in this statement, it was the only honourable provision for well-educated young women of small fortune, and however certain of giving happiness, must be their pleasantest preservative from want” (Austen, 1985, p. 93). In the real-life of Charlotte, because of this reason, Mr. Collins married Charlotte as she turned 27 which remains a high age in that contemporary society. Based on her life story and her missing desire, she portrayed the character of Elizabeth who only believes in love. Along with this, she also believes that without love there never is a happy married life. In the story, the readers have found that Elizabeth once rejects Mr. Darcy not being found the respect that she thinks she deserves. “It has been shown in this quotation, his sense of her inferiority--of

its being degradation--of the family obstacles ... seemed due to the consequence he was wounding” (Austen, 1985. P. 141). The concept of equality has been repeatedly found in this novel throughout the character of Elizabeth.

On the contrary, in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, the main leading character Jane has been described as a poor lady who has tolerated all the tortures and domination of society. In this story, once Jane stated, women feel just as men feel; they need exercise for their faculties, and a field for their efforts as much as their brothers do (Brontë, 2003, p. 101) constantly highlights the desire of getting freedom of living. Thus, the role of Jane has portrayed as calm and gentle as Charlotte wanted to create a turning point that influences the readers. Observing the contemporary social system and male domination, Jane has become dare to love and hate and she wants justice as she was portrayed as a victim. In the fight or protest for establishing self-reliance as well as self-respect, Jane began to raise her voice through engagement in higher education. Charlotte has made her character capable of challenging British rule and gender discrimination through her activities.

It is a rule of the British that brings diversity among the genders and makes it clear that men and women are not having equal rights to survive in society. Rich females have the dignity and choice to lead a happy life and marriage but Jane, like women, must struggle to achieve superiority in every relationship. Jane has represented the forward female character that has a rebellious spirit to build a strong protest against the contemporary patriarchal societal system. In this novel establishing self-respect is considered a major theme as it highlights the contemporary requirements for living as a female. Apart from this, romance is another key theme in *Jane Eyre*. Love is divine and pure that cannot be metered by mundane objects like money, power, position, or status. For Victorian women, it is not easy to have a choice between love and marriage. Jane broke this conservativeness and thus the novel is celebrated as a feminist novel that records the triumph of oppressed women over dominating patriarchy.

In order to show the self-respect and spirit of making protests against male-oriented society, Jane has protest against Mrs. Reed, John, Lowood School, and the injustice of her destiny. Charlotte has depicted the character with five rebels by that the narrator has tried to implement a differentiation compared to the other feminist characters. The first is to burn Rochester because the individual does not love Jane rather detained her, tormented her in his bed that is indicating the suffer period of Jane against the maltreatment of the authority of her husband. Feminism does not

go accordingly to patriarchy because it is thought that feminism is beyond the natural order. Different cultures and different times prove that men, no matter belonging to the lower or upper class, always want to dominate women as if women were meant to be oppressed for being the weaker gender.

After that, the second rebel is to bite and stab her brother which highlighted the factor that is related to her hate towards her family and the concept of patriarchy. Thus, the patriarchal society has represented powerful domination over women as they are key in mind that women are objects to tolerate all the domination. The third is to pay a ghastly visit to *Jane Eyre* which shows a brutal perspective of society by tearing the wedding dress. It shows a protestation against social marriage that has been associated with money or dowry. Then the fourth rebel is identified at the moment Jane's existence was exposed. In this regard, the statement the lunatic sprang and grappled his throat viciously, and laid her teeth to his cheek (Brontë, 280) has been highlighted. The last rebel is to burn Thornfield Hall on the ground. In this scenario, the fights against the patriarchal society for being isolated from contemporary society and making obstacles in her educational life.

Any reader of *Jane Eyre* is quite influenced by Jane's development of self-respect without any compromise. She fights for gender, racial and social prosperity for dominated classes. No craving for money, power, and status makes her unique and a successful protagonist of a novel. She never wants to be Rochester's mistress for the sake of money and happy life. Jane shows that a woman living in the shadow of a man is not as happy as it seems. She succeeds not only in terms of wealth and rank but also in the family. Her strong belief to hold her hard achieved freedom regardless of difficulties is extra to her achievement. Jane's fight for liberty and independence inspires everybody to run for peace and the real meaning of love. *Jane Eyre* shows the reader the enormous power and motivation a woman can possess. These qualities contribute to Jane's movement for equality and justice throughout her life. Her passionate love never has become an obstacle in her way to achieving her goal. Marriage without bonding fades with time but equality and marriage and love are permanent.

Feminism highlights those multiple women, as well as girls, have the right and opportunities similar to boys and men. Comprehensiveness is considered the core part of the concept of feminism. The feminist is a character who is fully believed in the concept of equality in rights rather than it does not hate men. The term feminism depicts the equality that represents that no one will remain behind in the case of social rights. It highlights those women have social

rights and it provides a different aspect of life. Feminism theory is connected with the feminist movement and tries to recognize gender inequality by monitoring the roles of women in society. Accompanied by feminism different types of ideologies along with the feminist movement have developed in order to identify the actual role of women in developing society.

While discussing the history of feminism theory, it can be found several philosophers or feminists' practitioners who are describing and emphasizing the theory according to their point of view. The feminism theory helped to make the turning point for the women's lives to achieve social rights besides the men. In the late 1960, the resurgence of feminist activism was connected with literature that was accompanied by concern regarding spirituality and earth. Elaine Showalter has elaborated the process of modification of feminist theory throughout a huge number of phases. As a rejection of fatalism, several feminist psychologists have analysed the feminism theory compared to the previous exciting psychological theories. The majority of the feminist readers observe the ideologies apart from the literary phenomena to understand the inner depth of the theory.

In 1794, the first appearance of feminist theory was introduced in *The Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. In order to change the thinking process regarding women's education and social rights, the concept of this theory has been established at an early age. In the last decade, history has set off effectively is essential to feminist theorists. Across a huge number of disciplines, feminist practitioners tried to renew the attention of society toward women living and rights. In several types of novels and in writings, there are found different types of epistemologies that are important elements. Most feminists identified the background of the history as just not about the past incidents rather it is mentioning something pointed. In several literature writings and novels, the concept of feminism has been found and emphasis on the term also has been noticeable. The contribution of feminism theory has participated in several historical perspectives that focus on the different kinds of contributions of feminists. Without the support and help of the feminists' practitioners along with writers, the development of feminism theory could not be implemented worldwide.

In conclusion words, it can be stated that both the novels are pushing their efforts to make the stories a happy ending. From the early eighteenth century to the nineteenth century, women's social status was low and they could not achieve economic independence. Both male characters Mr. Darcy and Mr. Rochester are beginning to identify both Elizabeth and Jane who have

successfully portrayed an outstanding strength and observed better skills compared to the expectation of the other women. Both of them deserve to be better treatment and experience in life to lead a secure life. All the elements that need to protest against the contemporary patriarchal society have been presented throughout the characters. Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte engaged in the activities that are successfully influencing the readers toward feminist theory and its importance in building female rights and values in the patriarchal society.



FIRST CHAPTER

1. AN OVERALL VIEW OF FEMINIST THEORY

1.1 The Historical Background of Feminist Theory

The feminist theory discovers inequity in gender relations. This theory plays an indispensable role in exploring the configuration of gender. As per the opinion of Agenor (2020, p. 803), “the way of interaction between oppression and power is assessed by feminist theory”. This theory focuses explicitly on the repression structured in the patriarchal society that draws a line of differentiation between the experiences of men and women. A remarkable development of feminist theory occurred in the 1970s and 1980s (Anand, 2018, p.223). The main argument related to this theory is that women must obtain similar rights enjoyed by male individuals.

A stereotypical framework of patriarchal society showcases men as superior, whereas women are seen as inferior in society. Though the significant improvement of the theory was noticed after the year of 1970, Many of Wollstonecraft’s creations can be considered the beginning of the history of Western feminist theory. For example, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, written by Mary Wollstonecraft, is one of the revolutionary creations of feminism. “This individual is considered the founder of feminism for her creation named *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. According to the statement of Malik” (2021, p. 9) women have encountered pathetic experiences caused by the horrendous wall constructed by the patriarchal society. Women had no right to be educated, and these individuals were deprived of basic needs that were only accomplished in the case of men. This pain created severe depression and alienation in many female individuals.

Feminists worldwide raise their voices against this viciousness and oppression created by the notion of patriarchy. Feminist theories are deep-rooted in the experiences and viewpoints of female individuals. As per the opinion of Sapkota (2022, p. 75), “conventional feminist theory is frequently divided into three segments such as radical feminism, reformist feminism, and socialist feminism. These notions were present in the mindsets of male individuals who think that the only

duty of women is to take care of children after marriage and maintain households. Preferences of women were not provided with importance in this society.

“Some female individuals were also the bearers of the flag of patriarchy. These individuals comprehend that the private sphere of women's lives consists of the responsibility for creating the political sphere that causes domestic barbarism, prostitution, and rape encountered by women. According to the statement of” McBean (2021, p. 206) radical feminism is seen as a political movement that targets eradicating the sex-class system from this society. “Radical feminists endeavour to destroy the wall of patriarchy to liberate each individual from the confined life controlled by social norms and institutions” Gbaguidi's (2018, p. 131) words, Liberal and radical feminism are part and parcel of feminisms in championing women's rights. Radical feminists accept revolutionary ways to manage suppression. These individuals think that biological differentiations in the bodies of men and women cause this oppression.

Feminists included in this group target to reform the deadly parts of the society through establishing the essentiality of having equal rights for both men and women. An amalgamated practical and theoretical approach is depicted in this part of feminism in the case of gaining equality for women. The interrelation between the suppression of women and other repressions, including economic injustice and racism in the patriarchal society, is interpreted by socialist feminists.

A long history of feminism represents the participation of women in World War I. This initiative of female individuals indicates that women willingly participated in this war instead of the presence of certain negativities in the patriarchal society. These individuals have proved that women deserve similar representation to men. Suffrage movement of women reinforces the base of feminism as women raised their voices against their deprivation in several fields like voting. Twenty million American women protest to achieve the right of complete citizenship through voting. This movement and participation of women signify that woman started to eradicate the hegemonic ideas contained by men in the patriarchal society.

The patriarchal perspective of marriage reflects that woman are bound to accomplish all household duties and take care of husbands and children. As per the viewpoint of this patriarchal society, women cannot have their choices. Feminists have wanted to break these cliché thoughts unfathomably rooted in society. Jane Austen, an English novelist, reflects her protest against

patriarchal ideas through her writings. “In *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen critically assesses a marriage that is not caused by love” (Sipola, 2021, p.130). Marriage was considered the assurance of safety and economic stability for women during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Love was not prioritised in the case of marriage between two opposite genders.

Elizabeth, one of the significant characters of this novel, considers loving the main reason for marriage. Collins, another character in *Pride and Prejudice*, is not loved by Elizabeth, and consequently, this woman rejects Collins to marry. “The character of Elizabeth mirrors the soul of Jane Austen, consisting of the feminist discourse. According to the statement” Zharkevich (2019, p. 681), marriage is a compulsion for many women. In previous years, most female individuals were compelled to marry completely unknown individuals due to the pressure of either their families or society. Austen raises a voice consisting of the tone of protest in her masterpiece *Pride and Prejudice*. Though Jane Austen showcases different layers of marriage in her classic *Pride and Prejudice*, a concealed feminist’s voice can be observed in each of these layers. This novel highlight that mutual respect plays a vital role in enhancing the happiness in a couple's married life. The married life of Mr and Mrs Bennet in the present novel highlights the absence of respect for each other.

“An explicit line of comparison has been drawn by Austen between the conventional view of marriage and the modern notion related to marriage. According to”(Lee et al., 2021, p. 39), some individuals consider marriage as the only way to financial stability. However, Austen satirises this conception, and she portrays that one of her created characters, Elizabeth, prioritises love over financial stability. Though Collins is the owner of immense wealth, Elizabeth does not want to marry Collins to save her family from impoverishment. *Jane Eyre*, written by Charlotte Bronte, represents marriage as an integration of three things such as ethics, passion, and compatibility. A similar tone can be noticed in the portrayal of marriage showcased by Charlotte Bronte in her novel *Jane Eyre* and reflection of the marriage in Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*.

Charlotte shows that similarities in the mindsets of two individuals are necessary to continue a married life successfully. In case women are compelled to marry, these female individuals have to go through a loveless married life in most cases. Consequently, these women feel isolated, depressed, and stressed due to persistently continuing a sad married life.. As per the opinion of” Ruijne et al., 2021, p. 87), in many cases, women become the victims of extreme levels

of family violence, and most of these individuals cannot protest against this inhumanity. As a result, a lethal soul is carried by these female individuals.

Equality is prioritised by Charlotte Bronte in her novel *Jane Eyre*. In *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte mentions that legal identification is necessary for the equality maintained between two individuals. In this novel, Jane and Rochester marry each other; however, the practical nature of Rochester causes immense suffocation to Jane. Consequently, this marriage becomes intolerable to the significant character of this novel *Jane Eyre*. Idealistic illustration of marriage is unfolded by Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte in their mentioned novels. “Jane Eyre reflects a prudish and male-dominated Victorian society in which female individuals obtain no rights. As per” Vijayan's (2018, p. 136) opinion, feminists desire to break the robust wall of the patriarchal society that considers women as passive creatures. Women even had no rights over their bodies; however, in *Jane Eyre*, the discord between duty and passion is represented by Charlotte Bronte.

A satirical tone can also be found in the work of Charlotte Bronte, just like in the classic of Jane Austen. At first, happy married life is reflected in *Jane Eyre* and Rochester; however, this marriage becomes incredibly suffocating to Jane with the progression of time. Long-lasting love and an actual home are desired to be offered by Rochester to Jane. It proves that love can open the door to a successful marriage. On the other hand, Elizabeth falls in love with Darcy instead of falling in love with Collins; However, her family compels Elizabeth to marry Collins for his immense wealth; Elizabeth chooses Darcy as he subsequently becomes her loved one.

Feminists aim to eliminate the suppression and oppression that women in a male-dominated society persistently encounter. As per the opinion of Verrocchio et al. (2019, p. 1), many female individuals suffer from depression and estrangement due to the cruelty continuously faced by these people. “The feminist movement originated from the disagreement and conflicts created by certain inequalities in gender. In the words of” Afros (2019, p. 261), conflict and feminist perspective focus on social change to minimise inequality. According to the viewpoints of feminists, marriage without women's consent can be considered a crime. The willingness of female individuals matters the most in marriage; despite the presence of several feminist movements, till now, many families compel female individuals to marry someone. In this case, several women marry instead without their desire. Elizabeth, the character of *Pride and Prejudice*, is opposite from these women as she refuses to marry Collins and Elizabeth rejects to follow the way that her family draws.

Feminists believe that sexual differentiation cannot measure the superiority and inferiority between genders. A promotion of many individuals' promotion of the inferiority of women strengthens the root cause of these female individuals' sufferings. Socialism and Marxism are considered two significant elements in the feminist discourse. Feminist theories interpret women's repression throughout the world. Liberal feminism concentrates on bringing female individuals into a similar position possessed by men to eliminate the curtain of inequity.

Simon de Beauvoir, a French philosopher and feminist, first remarks that this patriarchal society structures the conception of a woman". As per the perspective of Singh (2021, p. 157), "the theory of Simon de Beauvoir is one is not born but rather becomes a woman". This philosopher showcases how this male-dominated society portrays the inferiority and passivity of female individuals. However, Elizabeth breaks the concept related to women constructed by patriarchal ideas, and she creates her own identity. Present novels have showcased that there are some revolutionary characters like *Jane Eyre* and Elizabeth in these classics who choose their ways of being happy. The Desires of these individuals are prioritised by themselves in place of the stereotypical concepts of the patriarchal society. Hence, a reflection of feminist theory can explicitly be observed in these two creations.

"Innovative directions of feminist theory concentrate on highlighting men and women's fundamental complementarity. According to the statement of" Jiang (2022, p. 12), superiority over women over men or men over female individuals is not supported by new feminism. This theory is similar to the radical feminism theory as both these theories prioritise gender equality. New feminism reflects those women and men have different roles, viewpoints, and strengths. Any man must not be evaluated based on the strengths and perspectives of women. On the other hand, any woman should not be judged based on the power and opinions of men. This innovative direction of feminism portrays those biological differences cannot create differentiation between the rights of two opposite sexes.

This new feminist theory highlights that woman consist of equality like men in legal, economic, and social senses. As per McCann's (2022, p. 9) opinion, "the new feminist theory aims to destroy the toxic masculinity for which many women have suffered". In the light of this new direction of feminist theory, an instance from *Pride and Prejudice* can be cited. In this novel, Elizabeth decides to reject Collins as this woman prioritises her love in place of her property of Collins. This aspect indicates that the woman takes the decision of her life by herself, and it

signifies those women have the right to decide their fate. On the other hand, Rochester, an essential character of *Jane Eyre*, does not stop himself from expressing his feelings for Jane.

“New directions related to feminism focus on interpreting conceptions that cause inequality of gender in society. According to the statement” of Batool (2019, p. 217), post-modern feminists interpret conceptions as responsible for creating gender equality. These individuals provide immense efforts to uplift gender equality in this society by promoting subjectivity, deconstructing texts, and supporting innumerable discourses. Jane Austen is just like radical and post-modern feminists who think that women should have all economic, political, and social rights just like men. On the other hand, the character named *Jane Eyre*, created by Charlotte Bronte is a liberal feminist. As per the opinion of Mishra (2019, p. 640), liberal feminism entirely concentrates on the capabilities of women in the field of maintaining equalities through following their own choices and preferences. This aspect draws a line of similarity between *Jane Eyre* and Elizabeth. The reason behind it is that Elizabeth provides essentiality to her decision to reject Collins.

“Some new dimensions of feminism are included with the previous divisions during the twentieth century. One of these new dimensions is separatist feminism, which is similar to radical feminism. Homosexual relationships are prioritised by lesbian feminism. In the perspective” of Jennings (2018, p. 88), the notion related to separatist feminism aims to provide women with an opportunity to accomplish a feminist journey in the field of finding themselves. Post-colonial feminism can be considered another new division of feminism. Postcolonial feminists target to solely concentrate on the experiences of female individuals in former colonies and western cultures. According to the statement of Yong (2022, p. 9), “suppression of women is exhibited by postcolonial feminist theory. Discourses of post-colonial feminism focus on restoring the marginalised”. Postcolonial feminists raise their voices to ensure the rights of subordinate, exploited, and powerless individuals.

Jane challenges the subordination of female individuals, domination of males, and stereotypical convention. Jane has questioned the entire patriarchal system; Charlotte's novel *Jane Eyre* illustrates that the domination of men causes the repression that is faced by women. Jane portrays a clear image of oppression in her classic *Pride and Prejudice*. Mrs Bennet forces her daughter Elizabeth to marry her cousin Collins as this man is to inherit the estate. However, Elizabeth protests against her mother's decision and refuses to marry Collins. This novel reflects

the conceptions of Mr and Mrs Bennet as these individuals think that a woman can achieve material comforts only after her marriage.

A cliché thought of Elizabeth's parents is represented by the comments made by Mr and Mrs Bennet; as these individuals have said, a wealthy man always craves a woman. These stereotypical thoughts related to the marriage of women were common at this time. Elizabeth, the novel's central character, says that the individual must have the right to assess herself. As per the opinion of Elizabeth, this woman can make her ways of living. In *Pride and Prejudice*, Elizabeth decides to provide her long bourn estate instead of receiving help from Collins. The lady is not ready to sacrifice her contentment by marrying Collins. This aspect signifies that Elizabeth proclaims the equality of women and men in making their own decisions.

The novel represents the honesty of Elizabeth in the field of expressing her feelings. Liberal feminists opine that every woman has the right to express her concealed emotions and feelings. Gender inequality was demonstrated by Jane Austen in her novel *Pride and Prejudice*. According to the statement of (Agénor, 2020, p. 803), “new directions of feminist theory provide a new shape to the liberation movement of women. New feminist theory reveals new facets of feminism notion consisting of a broader perspective to establish equality in society”.

Feminism only concentrates on ensuring all women's social, economic, and political rights. On the other hand, new directions of feminism focus on setting up equity in this society to maintain a proper balance. Jane Eyre questions the rigid system related to masculinity; she raises her voice due to the oppressed position of women in society. However, Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice* speaks for the equal position of both men and women.

Until 1986, feminists commonly identified modernism as a hegemonic, reactionary, and misogynist mire worth examining. In the colonial era, females were treated as invaluable and restricted by social rules and regulations. Most women were abused in the Appalachian region at that time. There were several writers raised their voices throughout the novel's writings. Especially during the Victorian Age, discrimination and exclusion based on sex and gender were highlighted as significant issues in society. At that time, when females are restricted to higher studies and living their lives according to their desires, several female writers have tried to change the social structure and thinking process through the different stories and different plots of the novels.

“Feminist theory sheds light on contemporary social issues, trends, and problems that have been arisen from the male-dominated society. In the colonial society, males were considered a ruling class who had the right to create pressure on the females” (Song et al. 2020, P. 49). the nineteenth century has been identified as a period that brought a revolution in education. In this context, feminist theory has played a significant role due to changing the nature and structure of society and education opportunities for females”. It has been fixed in the thinking process of a society that females are born to be dominated by males. This has made gender discrimination in contemporary society. Thus, this theory is a revolutionary social theory that tries to bring equality among males and females in society.

“Accompanied by this theory, the feminists have emphasised that is indicating equality and similar priority for both males and females. In addition, this theory assists in the struggle of the women to get proper education and lifestyle according to their desires. As per the view of” (Jacobs, 2019, p.31), under the *umbrella of critical theory*, feminist theory has dropped that is associated with the occasion of damage to systems of power and suppression. Along with this, the feminist theory also helps in describing the lifestyle of lower-class female lives as the social structure narrows them. Thus, this theory has indicated the contemporary rules and regulations and how people depend on systems. Gender equality has been considered a significant issue of the Victorian era and this fact has still moved feminist theory forward. Female students have faced several barriers on the way to higher education compared to males.

In the 1970s and 1980s, this theory grew remarkably to shape the social structure by modifying female positions. This theory has offered a natural structure of how a range of phenomena are orderly connected with the main system. As opposed to (Peine & Neven, 2019, P. 16), “the feminist theory attempts to improve an exhaustive account of the subordination of women”. Identifying the underlying causes of women's subordination, this theory is capable of supporting the negative situation to make it better. Generally, it is a prerequisite for developing effective strategies to liberate women. In order to suggest strategies for women's release, this theory has focused on women's oppression to express the reason behind it. In this regard, Jane Flax argues in her *Women Do Theory*, that feminist theory is dependent on everyday experience. At the time of the women's emancipation movement, in the 1890s, the term Feminism and Feminist have entered the English language.

Feminist Theory and Politics is identified by great internal discourse that is engaged in discussing Feminism in the plural compared to the single feminism. Feminism is the theoretical or ideological commitment to the women's discharge movements. It is the reliance on the importance of gender equality and provides potential ideas to change the socially constructed concept. Feminism basically indicates Economic, Political, and Cultural movements that intend to set up effective rights as well as legal protection for female candidates. Dependent on socio-cultural and economic power this theory is focused on the revolution that is connected with biological differences between the sexes. As most of the female candidates at that time were facing sexual harassment, rape, and domestic violence, this theory has made it possible to provide extra support to protect the negative flow. Hence, feminist theory fights against establishing rights of contract, property rights, and voting rights for women.

In addition, feminist theory assists in understanding the power differential between men and women. Establishing social rights and overcoming the suppression among women, this theory has tried to empathize with its viewpoints to make a huge change in the societal structure towards females. According to (Douglass, 2018, p. 109), "this theory also advocates for workplace rights including maternity leave and equal pay. Feminist theory is the extension of feminism into theoretical or philosophical discourse". Apart from this, Feminist theory is the foundation of action that is strongly committed to the revolution in suppression that has been occurred in a male-dominated society. As the social position of the women was sympathetic, this theory has combined different points of view to support the concrete issues for women. It is also can be identified as similar to rights feminism or specifically the First Wave of the women's movement.

During the nineteenth century, emancipatory movements have been improved within the aspect of feminist theory. "Along with this, this theory has made a huge emphasis on reform than revolutionary change. As supposed by" (Aiello, 2020, P. 371), A complex and vague aggressiveness has been seen in the position of the females in this period. Accompanied with this, class power class has been a difficult phase in that period which continuously influences the oppression of women. Feminism is one of the most common powers that helped the novelist and feminists to establish greater rights in the male-oriented society in the Victorian Age. As women were treated as un-powerful and restricted by different types of social barriers, feminist theory has played one of the best supporting roles in establishing new thoughts. Modifying the time, social structure, and the mentality of society towards females is the main intention of this theory.

It has been seen from the early times that in Indian society males are treated as higher class people and they have the right to set rules and regulations to operate the social structure. “According to the thinking process of the male-oriented society, females are remaining for cooking and household things” (Cheng, 2018, p. 420). Thus, analysing the struggle period of females this theory has engaged in suggesting the modification way to influence the female right. Marxist theory of feminism refers to economic development as well as socio-economic change in order to make a revolution for the female position.

Feminist theory is basically associated with the implementation of female rights and power in a male-oriented society. As females were facing different types of obstacles in both getting higher education well as living according to their wishes, feminism theory has emerged in 1794 in Mary Wollstonecraft’s *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. “In the nineteenth century particular social group, women were considered a neglected point of intersection. In the words of” (Han, 2020, P. 246), observing the female status in society and experience of social positions several writers or feminists have emphasized feminist theory throughout their writings. This theory focuses on ethnic groups, class, nationality, race, and age to describe the degree of separatism from men. Through the lens of the psyche, learning the thoughts of dominated female characters in society can be possible within this theory. In addition, creating different dimensions regarding female rights and against the patriarchal society also can be possible within feminism theory.

Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte are famous writers who have focused on female social status and supported feminist theory. Based on the gender discrimination social structure of the Victorian Era, the structure of Victorian society was hierarchical. While race, religion, locality, and occupation were all significant parts of identity and standing in Victorian society, gender and class were the primary organising forces. As shown by the sexual double standard, gender was regarded to be biologically grounded and virtually entirely determinative of a person's potential and character. The foundation of Victorian gender ideology was the "doctrine of different spheres." This indicated that men and women are distinct and suited for different purposes. Men were physically more robust than women. For men, sexuality was central, whereas reproduction was central for women. Men were independent, but women were dependant. Women belong in the private domain, while men belong in the public arena. Men were expected to engage in politics and paid labour, while women were expected to manage the home and raise children. Women were also believed to be more pious and morally superior by nature than men. While the majority of

working-class families were unable to practise the idea of separate spheres because they could not exist on a single male pay check, the ideology was widespread across all social groups.

Jane Austen in her novel *Pride and Prejudice* has mentioned multiple marriages and also describes the cause behind happening of each marriage. In the literature of the nineteenth century, the concept of marriage has been identified as a social institution. “Jane in the majority of cases has focused on the portrayal of the middle-class female lifestyle. In the century of domestic fiction, women were restricted in the domestic sphere. In this regard, Jane Austen has provided a close look in her novel to mention the value of the individual woman” (Akman, 2019, p. 38). At that time gender discrimination has taken a serious impact on society, women could not out of this effect. In several domestic fictions, it has been shown in a repeatable manner that middle-class women have the sense of an intendancy and a capacity to create autonomous decisions.

In most of the novels of the Victorian age, the issue of women has been considered the most critical point. “Jane Austen has given an effort in her novel to portray the real aspect of society regarding female education and rights” (Le, 2019, p. 3). The entire novel revolves around the choice of that marriage partner which has been contemplated as a huge concern. In the Victorian Age, based on the social structure choosing a life partner for women was a complex thing that enhanced personal autonomy. In Austen’s world, marriages are identified as foremost that changed in the shaping the fact of matrimonial matters. In this novel, Jane has introduced nine lessons and all the lessons are associated with the description of marriage from a different point of view. Throughout the story of this novel, the readers have found Mr. and Mrs. Bennet’s marriage as the first that set a negative example to convert into marital bliss.

It has been seen that Mr. Bennet treats Mrs. Bennet as an idiot which shows the brutal face of the nineteenth century that entirely supports male domination. The main story has revolved around Elizabeth Bennet’s relationship with Mr. Darcy. Thus, within the devoted relationship of Elizabeth and Darcy, there are found other characters in this story who have made marriages with satisfaction. It has been found in this story that for women marriage becomes more important compared to the spouses to achieve monetary and social stability. “Austen develops the plot of this novel by introducing different marriages by utilizing characterization, satire” (Sangeetha et al., 2022, p.25), and narrative voice to express the vocational nature of marriage for women in her society. In addition, Austen also revealed a satirical perspective on matrimony. Within the quotation *a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune,*

must be in want of a wife the author has tried to define the meaning of marriage from her point of view.

The struggle that has been faced by most females also has been portrayed with marriages. There has been mentioned in this novel that any kind of competition or jealousy has not existed between Elizabeth and Miss Kingas well as Miss Bingley and Elizabeth regarding choosing spouses., “it has been stated in this novel that women have no right to choose a husband according to their choices” (Nagle, 2018, p. 502). The irony of this beginning sentence launches the novel brilliantly. A sound of humour in her narrative has been found that depicted that marriage has been set as the ultimate destination for women in society. On the contrary, Austen’s witty reflection on marriage defines the need for a husband among women. In this regard, it also has been found that in those contemporary times, facial security has played a great role in the selection of spouses.

In a repetitive manner, the restrictions for females and their limited lifestyle have been portrayed throughout the several marriage descriptions has to highlight the social structure of that period. According to (Koegler, 2020, p. 6), “within the character of Elizabeth, Jane tried to establish the feminist theory. Due to shaping Mr. Darcy's moral character to match her Elizabeth has challenged the social structure. By fulfilling all her affection Elizabeth set an example of feminist theory”. Elizabeth's struggle to bring revolution in the thinking process of the society and establish spouse choosing authority among the females has been mentioned in this novel. Accompanied with the portrayal of a constant headstrong personality in the character of Elizabeth made this novel an ineffective example of feminist theory to secure the social position and rights of the existing female who was suffered through male domination activities. As Austen successfully reflected the courage and feminine belief in the character of Elizabeth, it has set perfect evidence of implementing the feminist theory in this novel.

On the other hand, in the novel *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte makes *Jane Eyre*’s characters and that is entirely associated with obscurity, poverty, and bounded with several types of social restriction. In addition, Charlotte Bronte also makes Jane a victim in every individual place where she lived. “The struggle that has been occurred depending on the old traditions has been mentioned throughout the character of Jane. in this context, Charlotte also turns Jane into a heroine of her novel to reveal the challenges and difficulties that have been faced by the most of the females at that time” (Bernstein, 2021, p. 2). Especially in the class structure of British society, *Jane Eyre*’s characters displayed the complexity as well as brutal dominance of the male-oriented society.

Thus, Charlotte adopted the Sociocultural Historical approach to express the real state of British condition and society in the novel. The character has made based on different aspects and phases that indicated Jane as a Liberal Feminist.

The novel *Jane Eyre* is illustrated and increased the idea of an independent woman who is capable of leading her life according to herself. “In this portrayal of the character of *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte has mentioned that Jane is capable of working herself, thinks for herself, and also acts for herself. In the words of” (Sarah, 2021, p. 201), the patriarchal system is identified as a hypothetical social system that engaged in creating women as subordinates within the male dominating society. Throughout the story of this novel, the readers have known that Jane challenged the patriarchal system as well as the class structure of the British society of the nineteenth century to achieve her educational right. At that time, it has been made a great influence on the implementation of the feminist theory to secure the social position and rights of women.

“It is the most popular novel that represented the modern aspect of women’s rights and position in society; it has become one of the most effective novels of that time” (Hemmati, 2020, P. 89), in the Victorian period based on class discrimination well as gender diversity, the character of Jane has been portrayed. Accompanied by the power of Queen Victoria. The Great Britain experienced a speed-up improvement among serious social issues as well as in the economic growth. Since that time, the British Raj has set a social structure according to themselves and made rules and regulations against class discrimination. Victorian literature as being a portion of the Victoria period has several elements. At that contemporary time, Charlotte Bronte has moved the class division and gender inequality and prepared the novel *Jane Eyre* in order to achieve gender equality in all of humanity.

In this regard, it has been found that at her young age Jane has lost her parents and stayed with her uncle. Eventually, after the death of Jane’s uncle, she was neglected by her aunt and treated as inferior. “At that time early feminism came out and she argued with her aunt and denied to live a life of inferiority” (Parslow, 2021, p. 202), the feminist theory suggests making protests against the domination and violence that appeared against women in the Victorian Age. Accompanied with the sharp and cold exposure Jane has made a clear protest against the treatment of her aunt to achieve her own right to live life according to her own choice. In this novel with the character of Jane, Charlotte successfully made the example of feminist theory as Jane has *refused to rich lady’s doll*.

Jane stated *How dare I, Mrs. Reed? How dare I? Because it is the truth. You think I had no feelings, and that I can do without one bit of love or kindness, but I can't live so, and you have no pity. I shall remember how you push me back-roughly and violently pushed me back into the red room, and locked me up there-to my dying day. Though I was in pain, though I cried out, have mercy! Have mercy, Aunt Reed!* (Bronte, 2002, p.64). “This made it clear that Jane has made a strong protest against domination and raised her voice to gain and establish her social rights and position” (Di Biase, 2021, p. 8), feminist consciousness has made within the desire of being independent and strong. In addition, Jane also fought against conventional marriage ideas that is also indicated the support of the feminist theory.

Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte both are considered enduring classics of English Literature by involving their perspectives regarding feminist theory in their novels. Both feminists of the Victorian Age are focusing on the social structure and raised their voices against male-oriented society. Power and oppression are acknowledged and disputed throughout both of the stories. Accompanied by the creation of female characters and made their protest against the social system has made both novels are sustainable. In order to set the social position for women by that they will also enjoy equal rights with males.

SECOND CHAPTER

2. MARRIAGE AND ITS RELATION TO THE NOVEL *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE*

2.1 The Critical Analysis of *Pride and Prejudice*

Jane Austen has cleverly done three things, she has declared that the main subject of the novel will be courtship and marriage, she has prepared the reader for a chase in the novel of either a husband in search of a wife, or a woman in pursuit of a husband. The first line also defines Jane Austen's book as a piece of literature that connects itself to the eighteenth-century period, because it is emphasized on man in his social environment rather than in his individual conditions. The use of satire, a common form of the eighteenth-century literature, also contributes to label the novel as an eighteenth-century novel. The main object of Jane Austen's satire in the novel is the ignorance of the people, a common criticism of the eighteenth century. The characters in the novel who best carry these qualities are Mrs. Bennet, a foolish woman who talks too much and is obsessed with getting her daughters married, Lydia Bennet, the youngest of the Bennet's' daughters who is devoted to a life of dancing, fashions, gossips and flirting, and Mr. William Collins, the silly and conceited baboon who is completely stupefied by Lady Catherine in every aspect of his life, so that he has forgotten his own morals and duty.

Pride and Prejudice depicts a person, who is cunning like Miss Bingley, a flatterer who is disturbing and weird like Mr. Collins, Lady Catherine de Bourgh who becomes an obstacle of Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy's engagement, the proud and self-confident Mr. Darcy, and the good looking but has very bad attitude, Wickham.

Among her novels, *Pride and Prejudice* is quite similar to Austen's life. Her brothers support her living with her mother since Austen did not inherit anything from her father. If only Austen had been married to someone, she would have to build her own family life and live in her own home. She used this condition as the background on almost all of her works. Charlotte Lucas, Austen's creation in *Pride and Prejudice* must decide between life as a spinster in the home of her brother and marriage to Mr. Collins, a man she cannot either respect or love. It is not a difficult choice though, since what she needs is just a comfortable home of her own.

Feminism based on philosophical, fictional, and theoretical discourse is signified by feminist theory. “This theory highlights the importance of eradicating gender differentiation in ensuring the complete well-being of all human beings (Bareket et al, 2018, p. 519). Jane Austen's classic *Pride and Prejudice* showcases the gender inequality and endeavour of a woman in establishing her own identity. Several flaws and oddities are obtained by Jane Austen's created characters who represent more than stereotypical thought patterns. Act of entitlement specifically concentrates on highlighting the impact of patriarchy on this novel. For example, only male heirs can be the owners of Mr. Bennet's estate. On the other hand, women cannot have any ownership of the estate of Mr. Bennet. This instance explicitly illustrates the inequity in gender that is depicted by Jane Austen through her characters.

Elizabeth, a major character of this masterpiece, plays the role of an independent woman who prefers to make decisions by herself. “Feminists across the world state that all women have the right to undertake decisions, and these individuals can lead their lives based on their desires” (Ghabra, 2018, p. 38). Elizabeth reflects this statement of feminists as the woman rejects the marriage proposal of Mr. Collins. Though Elizabeth seems to be selfish, foolish, and unpredictable from the perspectives of other characters, this lady proves that women can prioritize their decisions in any circumstance. Personal contentment is provided with more importance by Elizabeth in comparison with the economic stability of her family. In previous years, the place of women was dictated by the patriarchal system. Elizabeth likes to be guided and controlled by her rather than this male-dominated society.

Created character of Jane Austen named Elizabeth provides essentiality to love rather than wealth. Mr. Collins has gained the ownership of a huge property. Hence, the parents of Elizabeth, Mr. Bennet, and Mrs. Bennet tell her to marry Mr. Collins as the marriage is the only way for Elizabeth in the field of saving the Bennet family from destitution. “However, Elizabeth falls in love with Mr. Darcy and she chooses to love him in her life in the place of immense wealth” (Mustafa et al., 2022, p. 144), women in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were compelled to marry someone who can take the financial responsibilities of these female individuals. Feminists proclaim that a woman can take her financial responsibilities in case these individuals get a chance to be properly educated. The rigid patriarchal system in earlier years never allowed women to step out of the houses in the field of continuing education. Education is necessary for women to create a position for these individuals in this male-dominated society.

Establishment of equal rights for both men and women are the main target of the feminist theory. “Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice* shows an equal attitude of Elizabeth like men and deep touch of liberal feminism can be noticed in the traits of this character” (Alkan 2021, p. 1229), achievement of gender equality is represented by the main branch of feminism named liberal feminism. According to the idea related to this feminism, gender equality can be brought by legal and political amelioration by following the structure of liberal democracy. Elizabeth like liberal feminists also believes in gender equity and hence, she does not marry Mr. Collins based on her family's decisions rather than the individual prioritizes her decisions related to the marriage. Societal standards and financial causes are ignored by this character and ultimately, Elizabeth marries Mr. Darcy.

“*Pride and Prejudice* mirrors the experiences of Jane Austen about the patriarchal society in which this person grows up” (Alami et al, 2020, p. 83), the success of an individual is determined by social status and money in this male-dominated society. This notion is reflected in the present novel as Elizabeth is first forced to marry Mr. Collins just because of his immense wealth. However, the robust barrier of patriarchy has been broken by Elizabeth as this individual decides to marry Darcy as she loves this man. In previous days, the social class of a woman was measured based on the wealth of a man who is responsible to bear the woman. This aspect indicates that women were seen as objects and feminists strictly protest against this stereotypical notion. As per the viewpoints of all feminists, women and men both have their identities and both of these sexes must be treated equally by society.

“Society is described in *Pride and Prejudice* in exceptional ways; feminist viewpoints of this creation are represented by the different layers. This novel shows that women consist of adequate power to control the entire society” (Awan, 2018, p. 651), It represented the character of Elizabeth Bennet who has strong ability to change the circumstances according to her requirements. The entire story of the novel is based on the family of Mrs. and Mr. Bennets. Enough essentiality to the materialistic ways of life is provided with huge importance by Mrs. Bennet. Only motive of this individual is to successfully arrange the marriage of her five daughters to rich families. This woman believes that a wealthy husband can only secure the future of her daughters. However, Elizabeth proves herself wrong and she shows that not all women are bound to follow the advice of families.

“Loyalty and love are the two most important factors in marriage. Understanding between individuals can determine a successful married life of people” (He et al, 2018, p. 2836), wealth cannot help individuals to lead a successful married life. However, most of the characters of this novel prioritize wealth for marriage. Issues of treatment of female individuals in the Victorian epoch are explicitly depicted in this novel. In this era, structural repression, gender oppression, gender inequality, and gender difference are experienced by women. These aspects are provided with a different layer in this novel; low quantity of opportunities, power, social status, and material resources are obtained by women in the field of accomplishing self-actualization. On the other hand, men always get more opportunities than women for self-actualization. For instance, Mr. Collins has achieved ownership of the estate whereas the five daughters of the Bennet family have no right to the estate.

In this novel, “Elizabeth claims that her parents should leave her to evaluate herself. This proclamation of the character showcases that all women have the ability to judge themselves” (Zaidi et al., 2020, p. 191), patriarchal society becomes habituated to evaluating women and this system creates several obstacles to the way of female individuals in the field of being independent. However, Elizabeth wants to destroy this notion related to the judgement of women. She makes her decisions in life by herself; some critics may call Elizabeth arrogant and selfish. However, this woman has eradicated the preconceptions of society about women. In the tone of Simone de Beauvoir, it can be said that Elizabeth is a woman from her birth and this lady never allows society to provide the stereotypical structure of woman to her.

“Elizabeth in the present novel has depicted herself as a rational woman. This individual also states that truths are spoken by Elizabeth from heart” (Karo, 2020, p. 522), the male-dominated system stops women from expressing their inner feelings and as a result, these individuals repress their emotions. Elizabeth is extremely honest about her feelings and she never feels ashamed of admitting her love for Mr. Darcy. Most women characters in this novel cannot get an opportunity for self-actualization like men. Factors related to gender inequality have moulded this present novel. A line in the novel, it is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of wife proves that a wife is needed by a rich man (NEWS UPDATES, 2021). This woman can get all material comforts from her rich husband. In this case, the question arises about the dependence of women on their husbands.

Feminist theory highlights that women do not need to be dependent upon male individuals for their financial stability. These female individuals can earn by themselves and women must have the right to determine their future. Bennet's family forces Elizabeth to marry her cousin Mr. Collins to stop the entailment of the estate and Mr. and Mrs. Bennets have no son. Consequently, these individuals start to compel Elizabeth to ensure security of her family from poverty. Elizabeth's feminist viewpoints are affirmed by herself through defying the conventional norms based on gender. Moral character of Mr. Darcy is shaped by Elizabeth to achieve her loved one.

Mr. Darcy is motivated by Elizabeth Bennet to keep aside his immense pride. Jane Austen believes that women should have the same opportunities and rights as male individuals. Austen portrays women characters in her novels in a specific way that does not showcase female individuals as passive and oppressed creatures. For example, Elizabeth is not inferior to men; rather this woman has structured a similar place as men in society. *Pride and Prejudice* highlights that marriage is the only aim of women and this marriage can provide these female individuals with a secured future. In this novel, Elizabeth marries out of pure love whereas Lydia marries through driven out of passions. On the other hand, sheer prudence influences Charlotte to marry. Hence, it is clear that love, passion, and prudence are three essential factors in a marriage.

Jane Austen portrays marriage in this novel as the only way of relationship and intellectual development for women. “a set of ideologies and movements are signified by feminism that focuses on establishing equal social, personal, cultural, economic, and political rights for women” (Simões et al., 2021, p. 165). Feminists raise their voices to set up equality in employment and education. A patriarchal society is reflected in the novel of Jane Austen; social and economic power is held by this society. An idea related to liberal feminism is intensified in this present novel; liberal feminists believe that all human beings should have the same rights. Hence, similar opportunities should be gained by women in the different fields of society. Flaws in the patriarchal system are satirically portrayed by Jane Austen in *Pride and Prejudice*.

“One of the main characters of this classic is Elizabeth Bennet who deals with several issues of marriage, education, morality, upbringing, and manners” (Zaidi et al, 2020, p. 191), this male-dominated society has determined some pre-rules that should be maintained by both men and women. Narratology related to feminism focuses on fighting for establishing the equal right for both men and women in society. Elizabeth is the mouthpiece of Jane Austen in the novel *Pride and Prejudice*. In this creation, Austen reveals her grudge against this patriarchal system through the

dialogues of the heroine of this classic. Inequality in gender is artfully challenged by Elizabeth Bennet. Other women in this novel have followed the traditional ways of marriage whereas Elizabeth protests to provide importance to her desires.

Character of Elizabeth is not entirely feminist in segregation; however, the liberal feminism approach of this character is visible while a line of comparison is drawn between Charlotte, Jane, Caroline, and Elizabeth. Certain elements can be noticed in the present novel and these specific components concentrate on integrating the aristocracy and the bourgeoisie during the eighteenth and the previous years of the nineteenth century. “Individualism and romanticism of Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice* win the heart of many readers” (Ostas, 2021, p. 129), the struggle of Elizabeth is dramatized by Austen to break the traditional notions related to the marriage institution. The answer of Elizabeth to Lady Catherine de Brough showcases that the heroine prefers to accept herself as equal as men. Men and women are similarly equated by the doctrine named feminism.

“Beginning of the novel portrays Elizabeth Bennet as an outspoken female individual who can easily express her internal feelings and different opinions without any hesitation” (Ndege , 2019, p. 30), feminists are not afraid of the frowning of a patriarchal system; these individuals fight for the position of women in this male-dominated society. Similarly, Elizabeth, who consists of beliefs related to gender equality, does not become frightened by the stereotypical norms of the patriarchal society. Hence, at this point, Elizabeth can be considered as a feminist. In the Victorian era, women were suppressed from expressing their emotions and viewpoints. As a result, an almost deadly life is led by these individuals. However, Elizabeth writes the story of her own life and she mentions that no one can make decisions for Elizabeth except the individual herself.

Aim of Charlotte, the eldest daughter of Sir William and Lady Lucas, is to marry a wealthy man in the field of gaining material comforts. As a result, Charlotte marries Mr. Collins to lead an extremely comfortable life. Elizabeth, on the other hand, decides to lead her married life with Mr. Darcy as she loves this man. Here, the heroine breaks the conventional wall constructed by the male-dominated society. In earlier years material comforts were provided of importance by several families. Emotional comfort cannot be bought by an individual through material comforts. Jane Austen does not want to prove that Charlotte is wrong and Elizabeth is right. However, Austen establishes the feminist mind-set of Elizabeth in this novel explicitly.

“Desire of Elizabeth of being equal to the status of a man not only showcases that she is a feminist. It also portrays that Elizabeth is comfortable with herself and this lady does not crave anyone's suggestions in the field of creating her own decisions”. (Foster, 2018, p. 1), the patriarchal society treats women as commodities in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Hence, horizontal hostility is caused in women by the oppression faced by these female individuals persistently. However, in Elizabeth, a deficiency of horizontal hostility can be observed. This aspect shows that the heroine leads her life independently and she does not provide a chance to this patriarchal system to suppress this individual.

Elizabeth is completely different from Charlotte as Charlotte marries Mr. Collins to get material comforts. Contradictorily, Elizabeth rejects Mr. Collins to keep her freedom and livelihood after the marriage. Elizabeth Bennet is a sustained strong-willed personality throughout the present novel. “This individual never bends her head to the rigidity of the patriarchal system” (Nutsukpo, 2020, p. 84), many women are responsible for the oppression that is caused by the male-dominated society. In case these individuals raise their voices against the repression, this patriarchal system cannot get a chance for dominating these individuals.

Women often carry the flag of male-dominated systems and female individuals suppress other women to follow the rules structured by the patriarchal society. In the present case, Mrs. Bennet compels Elizabeth to follow the rules framed by the patriarchal society. However, “Elizabeth protests against the viewpoint of her mother and decides to follow her own decisions” (Mack, 2019, p. 347), feminist theory states that all women should endeavour to make their decisions without being dependent on their families or others. The dismissal of Elizabeth to the marriage proposal of Mr. Collins portrays that Elizabeth does not want to marry someone due to financial purposes. This individual is determined to marry Mr. Darcy as she falls in love with this man. According to the statement of Clark (2018, p. 245), “respect is one of the most important things in a marriage. Elizabeth knows that Mr. Darcy will respect her after the marriage and hence, she takes this decision by refusing her family's advice”.

Feminine beliefs and courage of Jane Austen are mirrored through the heroine of *Pride and Prejudice*. Elizabeth can be considered as a true feminist who never doubts her decisions. Women were considered as submissive, weak, nurturing, and emotional in the age of Jane Austen. Elizabeth has her own opinions, feelings, and perspectives. “Feminism in *Pride and Prejudice* is interpreted from the conservative and progressive aspects of feminism” (Puspita, 2019, p. 65).

Though Austen exceptionally illustrates the character of Elizabeth, Austen cannot transcend the social custom in her era. The heroine of the present masterpiece rejects all traditional views retained by the patriarchal society about women. This individual thinks of herself as equal to the men and Elizabeth is confident enough about her evaluation power and intelligence. In that era, most women have less confidence and these people fail to make decisions. A separate position is created by Elizabeth in the patriarchal society in the field of making decisions.

In a male-dominated society, men consider women as objects of observation. Most women were married to maintain economic stability in the future. Many male individuals think that women have no digressive power. Women were materialized in the imagination of male individuals; these female individuals became the victims of either family violence or immense negligence. Elizabeth is opposite and the heroine successfully establishes her identity in this male-dominated society. The identity of female individuals is erased by the patriarchal society; however, Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice* argues with her family to prioritize her decision. Though the oppression structured patriarchal ideal tries to bind Elizabeth, the individual reveals herself from the confined life dictated by the male-dominated society.

Pride and Prejudice written by Jane Austen has been able to gain popularity as this classic showcase's different layers of a marriage. Female individuals are dominated by the patriarchal system in social, economic, political, and educational fields. However, the most important character of the novel. Elizabeth raises her voice against the traditional conception of marriage. This lady is confident enough to lead her married life with her loved one instead of spending this life with Mr. Collins. This decision of Elizabeth creates a strong example in the history of literature based on feminism.

2.2. Marriage in *Pride and Prejudice*

The majority of feminists have all-time remained as suspicious of the promotion of marriage by the State and Church. During the Victorian Age, there is no rights and values for women in the social structure. Rather males are treated as higher-class people who have the right to set rules and regulations and implemented those in the leading possess of the society. In this regard, marriage has been identified as one of the relationships between males and females to make females a subordinated role. It has been found in the nineteenth century that females remained in complexity in their own suppression.

The five Bennet sisters, Elizabeth, or Lizzie, Jane, Lydia, Mary and Kitty, live with their mother, who is apt to suggest them to marry a wealthy man so that they will have a comfortable life. Yet, Elizabeth and Jane, who are cleverer than the younger Bennet, try to see life and marriage from different point of view.

The Bennet's meet their new friends when Mr. Bingley stays in a nearby mansion. They dance in a ball, start to judge one another, and this story shows why the title *Pride and Prejudice* is definitely perfect. It is pride that makes them not revealing their very true personality. And it is prejudice that creates jealousy among the ladies. Later Caroline Bingley tries to persuade her brother, Charles Bingley, not to continue his acquaintances with Jane Bennet, and she also flirts Mr. Darcy to pay her more attention.

Women in this novel do not have any job. They earn nothing and they will not inherit anything from their parents. Therefore, Mr. Collins, a distant cousin, will get the whole estate. That is why when Elizabeth does not accept Mr. Collins' marriage proposal, her mother gets shock but Mr. Bennet agrees with his daughter, since Mr. Collins is described as a bore and silly man who always follows what Lady Catherine says.

Pride and Prejudice tries to tell us that marriage which is too rushed and only such an impulsive action will not bring happiness and stay steady. It needs time to form a relationship with someone, where respect is essential, but self-confidence is not less important. The explanation about the characters in *Pride and Prejudice* helps us to understand their behavior and their view in the story, because this research is focused on this novel. Elizabeth Bennet is the core of the story. *Pride and Prejudice* is about the relationship between her and Darcy, since when they get to know to each other, finding obstacles and differences in their characters, and Darcy is interested to her through her open mind and intelligence. Elizabeth finds happiness at the end. The Hursts marriage is like Charlotte and Mr. Collins'. They married for gaining position in the society as an established relationship. A quite promising marriage and it might last forever, yet with no passion. Jane Bennet is Elizabeth's elder sister. She is beautiful, kind, and sweet-tempered. Her marriage is based on blind love. She loves Bingley without understanding his real personality. It is because she always thinks that everyone has a good will and character. So, when they are making mistakes, they must have certain reasons for doing them, or they do them unconsciously. It can be seen from her letter to Elizabeth which talks about Miss Bingley.

Lydia Bennet is Elizabeth's younger sister. She is not yet sixteen. She is an active girl. Her only interests are clothes, dancing, and men. Her motivation of entering marriage relationship is mostly based on sexual or appearance attraction and always without a good observation. Obviously, Lydia and Wickham's marriage was an example of a bad marriage. Their marriage was based on appearance, good looks, and youthful vivacity. Once these qualities can no longer be seen by each other, the once strong relationship will slowly fade away. As in the novel, Lydia and Wickham's marriage gradually disintegrates Lydia becomes a regular visitor at her two elder sisters' homes when her husband is gone to enjoy himself in London or Bath Through their relationship, Jane Austen shows that a hasty marriage based on superficial qualities quickly cools and leads to unhappiness.

Mr. Bennet had married a woman (Mrs. Bennet) only because of he found her sexually attractive without realizing that she was an unintelligent woman. Mrs. Bennet's favoritism towards Lydia and her comment on how she was once as energetic as Lydia reveals this similarity. Mr. Bennet's comment on Wickham being her favorite son-in-law reinforces this parallelism. The effect of the relationship is that Mr. Bennet will isolate himself from his family. Mr. Bennet's self-realization. comes at the end of the novel, that he discovers that he has a lack of attention toward his family. Mr. Bennet is Jane Austen's example of a weak father. Austen shows that it is necessary to use good judgement to select a spouse, otherwise the two people will lose respect for each other. The marriage between Darcy and Elizabeth reveals the characteristics which constitute a successful marriage.

One of these characteristics is that the feeling cannot be brought on by appearances, and must gradually develop between the two people as they want to know one another. In the beginning, Elizabeth and Darcy were distant from each other because of their prejudice. The series of events which they both experience that give them the opportunity to understand one another and the time to reconcile their feelings for each other. Thus, their mutual understanding is the foundation of their relationship and will lead them to a peaceful and lasting marriage. This relationship between Elizabeth and Darcy reveals the importance of getting to know one's partner before marrying. The last example of a marriage is a different nature than the ones mentioned above. The marriage between Mr. Collins and Charlotte is based on financial reason rather than on love or appearance. It was a common practice during Austen's time for women to marry a

husband to save her from spinsterhood or to gain financial security. However, Jane Austen viewed this as a type of prostitution and disapproved.

The key motive of this study is to shed light on feminist discussions of marriage by mentioning the experiences of heterosexual feminists. In this study, some common novels have been included that are associated with the theme of marriage, feminism has been influenced by the marriage perspective that was set for women by the male-oriented society. There are several critics who have believed that feminist theory has been prepared only to promote the power of women over men. Thus, feminist theory focused on a social world that is supporting injustice, inequality, and suppression in order to develop the tracking of justice and equality. For several years, women were experiencing social injustice and domination by the male power. In this regard, feminist theory has concentrated on the experiences as well as interactions that have been suffered by the majority of the women of that society.

“There were different types of restrictions for females and they were remained as moving according to men. Even in the area of marriage, they have no right to choose their spouse according to their choice” (Yunis et al, 2018, P. 27), in the nineteenth-century social structure husbands were treated in God-like roles. In contrast of this wives were existed to worship their husbands. It was a social structure that was set by men to dominate females. In this context, feminist theory has brought the liberation movement to the lifestyle of women. Thus, this movement has led the turmoil in the family and finally express the suggestion of professional help. It has been found in several novels in that time that there mentioned different stories related to marriage to describe the real state of male-dominant society. Several feminists observing women's position and social rights raised their voices through their writings.

It was set by the social structure and men that women were born to tolerate the pressure and order of men. In that brutal situation, some feminists have raised their voices against female suppression through the preparation of novels. Accompanied by this, the feminists have tried to establish social rights and social positions for females. It has been believed that marriage has the power to control females and restricted them from all types of movement. In addition, women were predicted to obey the restrictive laws that are set by the men as they were pretending to be upper-class people.

“It was somewhat a rule of society that females have no need to learn higher studies rather they were learning housewife skills” (Allen & Goldberg, 2020, p. 20), it includes washing, weaving, cleaning, and cooking to take care of a wealthy family. In *Pride and Prejudice* Jane Austen stated, From the very beginning— from the first moment, I may almost say— of my acquaintance with you, your manners, impressing me with the fullest belief of your arrogance, your conceit, and your selfish disdain of the feelings of others, were such as to form the groundwork of disapprobation on which succeeding events have built so immovable a dislike; and I had not known you a month before I felt that you were the last man in the world whom I could ever be prevailed on to marry. within the quotation also it has been shown that marriage is an ultimate destination of marriage and women had no right to choose their spouse.

Jane Austen in this context has made the character of Elizabeth who is constantly fighting for establishing her right and social value. Thus, “in this novel, the author has introduced different types of marriage to show the readers the actual structure of society” (Lazarus, 2019, P. 26), Victorian wives became personal property to their husbands as they have the right to treat their wives according to their desires. Domestic violence was another element that was found in the majority of the marriage. Domestic labour, children, and sex are all activities that are associated with marriage and entirely dependent on the desires of husbands. In this context, Jane Austen and other feminists of that time have mentioned different kinds of obstacles in marriages and tried to establish rights against them. Basically, the intention of the feminist theory is to protect female lives as well as implement their value in a male-oriented society.

Women have been treated as unpaid labour for the household duty in their husband’s houses. It also has been seen that many feminists have connected marriage to identity and family. In order to improve the vision of society and prepare a perfect example of protest, feminist theory has concentrated on the actions that can support women in the negative situation. Many critics in that time have criticized the fact of marriage and its impact on the lifestyle of females.

It has been identified within the reference of nineteenth-century marriage that *women are given in marriage, taken in battle, exchanged for favours, sent as tribute, traded, bought, and sold*. “Women were pretended as objects that are capable of treating as working-class people as at that time class discrimination had taken a large area of society” (Choi et al., 2020, p. 171), many Victorian feminists have made novels based on the idea of romantic love and marriage among the upper classes. It indicated that romance and love can take place among upper-class people. It could

not happen among the lower-class or working-class people. Thus, this factor is highlighting the class discrimination that has been implemented with the set rules by the British Raj. Jane Austen's novels are entirely prepared with the impact of marriage in the colonial society where women were bound by different types of obstacles.

“Victorian society has made the marriage market discriminatory as it was only set for the women who have paid attention to impel as well as strict rules and regulations of that society” (Frazer & Hutchings, 2020, P. 210), feminist theory is focused on equality and discrimination in genders. Thus, the feminist theory has gained dependent on the three different waves and all the waves are engaged with the protection and implementation of female rights in society. The first wave has concentrated on *suffrage and political rights*. The second wave has tied with *social inequality between the genders*. The end of the third wave has concentrated on the *concepts of globalization, post colonialism, post-structuralism, and postmodernism*. This theory depicts a marriage that will not happen forcefully rather it will be favour gender equality.

On the other hand, in *Jane Eyre* Charlotte Bronte has introduced a girl who has suffered through domestic violence and is dominated by a male-oriented society. In this novel, the author has described that marriage is a mixture of three elements such as *the dynamic trio of compatibility, passion, and ethics*. The marriage of Jane and Rochester defines an example of a colonial society that is dependent on male perspectives. In this marriage, Jane struggles through brutal societal aspects and eventually tried to connect with the people who are reliable for sharing emotions. On the one side, Charlotte has introduced the Victorian social structure and restrictions regarding females to make them restricted from the activities that are set by the males. Due to preparing a plot of love and marriage, the author has described different types of problems concerning marriage. Being a governess, Charlotte denied the structure and rules of the society and tried to set an example of how to fight against the colonial system.

In the maximum cases, feminist theory has explained the social obstacles in the living area of women and the domination of men. *The institution of marriage* has been criticized by the feminist theory. It has been found that marriage is a sociological activity that entirely leads according to the male partner. From the perspective of Jane Austen, marriage is considered as a mutual attraction is the most important thing. Marriage can be defined in several ways and it is somewhat believed by a majority of the people that marriage is a compulsory element without the life of women could not be completed. Thus, in contrast to this, Charlotte's disappointment with

the role of women in marriages in the colonial system, she offers the character of *Jane Eyre*. As feminist theory is only focusing on the establishment of equality of sexes in economic, social, and political areas, it has been connected with different activities.

“Basically, the concept of feminist theory has risen from the activities of medieval Europe when women were denied the right to own property and tried to lead their lives according to their wishes” (Biesecker & von Winterfeld, 2018, p. 290), women were restricted to control over their own children without the permission of their husbands. From the ancient world, the societal system has been constructed based on British rules. As the British wanted to establish their power in the lower-class society, they have implemented the concept of class discrimination. Thus, eventually with the growth of the different restrictions the upper-class society has raised the concept of gender diversity. It also has been seen that the languages used by males are humiliated females and bound them within an invisible boundary. In the patriarchal society, the contemporary lifestyle of women has pretended as a difficult situation.

“Accompanied within the quotation, *Marriage, Sexuality, and Gender examine contemporary debates about the meaning and value of marriage. Traditional marriage is including those of new naturalists, utilitarians, and communitarians or virtue theorists.*” (Thompson, 2018, p. 630). The critics of the feminist theory have described different aspect that helps in modifying the viewpoints of society towards female.

Although, the feminist theory studies the intersections of sex, gender, sexuality, race, nationality, and economic status. From the perspective of the supporter of the feminist theory, marriage is the one and only lawful union between two people that has been identified as can support the implementation of equality and justice for females. It also has been found in the feminist theory that supported the equal right of both men and women to marry to their choices. As this theory is represented the actions that are against domestic violence against women, it has been criticized by several contemporary novelists. In a repetitive manner, feminist theory has been engaged in establishing equality in marriages. Thus, marriage was one of the practical impacts on women in order to create the subordinated role.

“An explicit line of comparison has been drawn by Austen between the conventional view of marriage and the modern notion related to marriage” (Dery & Bawa, 2019, p. 990), some individuals consider marriage as the only way to financial stability. However, Austen satirizes this

conception and she portrays that one of her created characters named Elizabeth prioritizes love over financial stability. Though Collins is the owner of immense wealth, Elizabeth does not want to marry Collins to save her family from impoverishment. *Jane Eyre* written by Charlotte Bronte represents marriage as an integration of three things such as ethics, passion, and compatibility. A similar tone can be noticed in the portrayal of marriage showcased by Charlotte Bronte in her novel *Jane Eyre* and reflection of the marriage in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. In addition to this, it also has been seen in several novels that the main protagonist remains a male candidate.

It also indicated the cruel and negative impact of patriarchal society in the colonial system, the feminist theory also expresses that all women need to earn a minimum wage by that they can spend according to their wishes. In addition, the value also will be sustained with this approach. The feminist perspective helped in opening fresh thoughts on both social and historical life. In a repetitive manner, this theory has pushed the nature and boundaries of nineteenth-century society and emphasized the process of rethinking the issues related to gender discrimination. Since the rising era of the British Raj, female domination has been developing day by day. The males have applied their power and authority over women to show their capability and position in the patriarchal society. Due to help women to recover from the male-oriented society, this has focused on the factor that is related to marriage.

“It was also a feature of the Victorian Age marriage that the bride remained younger than the groom. The feminist theory is entirely engaged in mitigating or balancing the gender wage gaps, it always suggests that females earn their expenses. In this context, it influenced the women to increase their desire towards getting higher education and as per the view of” (Gutierrez, 2018, p. 22), understanding the central concept of feminism is highly significant before implementing it in protest activities. Interest has been grown in the concept of feminist theory is can decrease the chance of social barriers. Thus, the introduction of feminist theory in the patriarchal society did not remain easy instead it has been identified as difficult to accept by society. Especially in the area of marriage, how women were treated as animals have been mentioned in several novels written by several contemporary writers. Thus, there were existed laws regarding marriage, but they can be applied in a specific place and time.

Accompanied by the two different stories and introduction of the concept of marriage suggests the ways to protest against the contemporary rules and system to modify the visions of

society. This theory also raised its voice against childhood marriage activities that also influenced the male-dominated society to make it possible to construct a society with establishing quality.



THIRD CHAPTER

3. MARRIAGE AND ITS RELATION TO THE NOVEL *JANE EYRE*

3.1. The Critical Analysis of *Jane Eyre*

The famous literary work *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte was published in 1847. Contemporary society was moved hugely by this novel. Many critics and literary experts have taken *Jane Eyre* as the subject of their thesis from various perspectives. *Jane Eyre* is shaped by dominating romantic elements and nature plays an important role in this work. *Jane Eyre* was written in the Victorian period, which is the most excellent period of British history. “Victorian society observed women as a subject to the command of men and society was fully patriarchal. Women belonging to low status and low-income societies do not get chances of having a decent and good married life” (Ryan et al., 2021, p. 885).

Social status determines the position of a man in society. “Women in status are below men and discrimination of gender is clear in Victorian society” (Gawali et al., 2019, p. 7763). This is the time female writers take their pens and write down the growing oppression and distress of Victorian women and *Jane Eyre* is the production of such a point of view. “The Victorian period witnessed Britain to be a newly developed and wealthy country with rich people that are snobbish and self-centred” (Prema, 2021). Jane, the protagonist of the novel is generally a lower-class woman and always has been looked down upon by snobbish upper-class society. She also is indifferent to such types of people that do not give any respect and esteem to the poor people. Throughout her life, she continues to achieve the respect and dignity that she deserves from people around her.

Rich females have the dignity and choice to lead a happy life and marriage but Jane, like women, must struggle to achieve superiority in every relationship. Ultimately Jane achieves what she deserves and full liberty by struggling throughout her life. “Victorian period' observes women like Jane craving for gender as well as social equality and it becomes a crucial theme for literature through *Jane Eyre's* struggle for self-estimation as a feminist” (De Costa, 2018, p. 305). Romance is another key theme in *Jane Eyre*. Love is divine and pure that cannot be metered by mundane

objects like money, power, and position, or status. For Victorian women, it is not easy to have a choice between love and marriage. “Jane broke this conservativeness and thus the novel is celebrated as a feminist novel that records the triumph of oppressed women over dominating patriarchy” (Bachmann & Proust, 2020, p. 75).

“The theory of feminism is the final analysis to banish gender discrimination in society” (Enyew & Mihrete, 2018, p. 62). Most feminist theories are presented as women being a sufferer of domination, and oppression by men leading society. World economics, culture, politics, sports, literature everything watches women as inferior to men, even within the family and married men are much more privileged than women.

Feminism does not go accordingly to patriarchy because it is thought that feminism is beyond the natural order. “Different cultures and different times prove that men, no matter belonging to the lower or upper class, always want to dominate women as if women were meant to be oppressed for being the weaker gender” (Badura, 2018, p. 350). Feminism is related to the liberation movement of *Jane Eyre* and subjected to the study of anthropology, political aspects, and academic research.

Feminists tend to grab the political hierarchy in order to strengthen women by keeping them in power. Feminists believe that all types of injustice should be driven away from social structure. They also support any movement other than feminism such as human and civil rights movements, and movements related to the LGBTQ community. There is a strong trend that feminist movements to some extents are dominated by white women. Once Jane is hospitalized, she showed the first sign that she hardly believes in gender discrimination and refused to be treated as a citizen of lesser status and scolded Ms. Reed in a strong voice. -

“I am not dishonest. I ought to claim that I loved you if I was. However, I announce, that I do not love you. You might be sending your child, Georgiana, a liar who you don't care about but John Reed” (Bronte, 2002, p. 63).

People hope to see Jane be thankful to her aunt Ms. Reed in spite of all misbehaving and abuse she did to her earlier. Jane leaving Gates head for charitable education infuriates Ms. Reed to make a conspiracy to make Jane ashamed of her position. Jane's opposition to Ms. Reed and John discloses her feminist mentality as well as proves her strong aversion to injustice in every

aspect. Lowood Boarding School, the school of Jane's childhood serves as the cradle of Jane's thinking of autonomy and self-preservation. Thorn field is an important place in the novel as well as in Jane's life. She met Rochester, her love interest. Rochester belongs to so-called upper-class society but Jane never sees herself any less than Rochester as she believes love is beyond any social and gender discrimination.

Any reader of *Jane Eyre* is quite influenced by Jane's development of self-respect without any compromise. She fights for gender, racial and social prosperity for dominated classes. No craving for money, power, and status makes her unique and a successful protagonist of a novel. She never wants to be Rochester's mistress for the sake of money and happy life. Jane shows that a woman living in the shadow of a man is not as happy as it seems. She succeeds not only in terms of wealth and rank but also in the family. Her strong belief to hold her hard achieved freedom regardless of difficulties is extra to her achievement. Jane's fight for liberty and independence inspires everybody to run for peace and the real meaning of love. *Jane Eyre* shows the reader the enormous power and motivation a woman can possess. These qualities contribute to Jane's movement for equality and justice throughout her life. Her passionate love never has become an obstacle in her way to achieving her goal. Marriage without bonding fades with time but equality and marriage and love are permanent.

"The social discrimination of the 18th century, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is concerning regarding social norms. During that time the impact of patriarchal societal rule has affected the lifestyle of the women" (Akman, 2018, P. 1109), economic and social power both are held by the men of the nineteenth century. Similarly, during the period of the Napoleonic Wars as well as starting of an industrial revolution, *Pride and Prejudice* is also concentrated on the mixing of the bourgeoisie and the aristocracy. Accompanied by Elizabeth's romanticism and individualism the story of this novel has become sharing a point of view regarding women's position in that contemporary society. In this novel, Jane Austen has tried to establish a factor that is associated with the heroine's struggle to find out her own social right and position in the patriarchal social system.

In addition, "Jane Austen has introduced the conservative and social institution of marriage that has been greatly engaged with the leading story" (Lanser, 2018, p. 657), feminist theory is depicted the social negative effects on the lifestyle of the women and how they have to fight against it. This story has highlighted how the character of the protagonist leads towards the end of suffering

through a variety of obstacles of the social system. In this novel, Elizabeth's struggle repetitively has shown the social obstacles and social captivity of men. In addition, Elizabeth Bennett's outbreak at Lady Catherine de Bourgh has highlighted her insufficiency of horizontal hostility and song with this being narrated as sporty by Georgiana, an individual is able to notice that at the end of the novel Elizabeth Bennett truly makes an appearance as the feminist character.

"At a moment when the story shows that Lady Catherine de Bourgh came to Elizabeth's home. Elizabeth has informed her he is a gentleman; I am a gentleman's daughter; so far, we are equal" (Bronte 1989, P. 306) as Lady Catherine asked about her relationship with Mr. Darcy. In this scenario, for the first time, Jane Austen has successfully highlighted that Elizabeth is truly a feminist character. The power and right of women that depicts that the social power and rights are equal for both men and women. It is a belief that creates an economic, social, and political perspective to establish a secure position for women in the patriarchal society. Basically, it is the Western tradition that creates restrictions on social rights and has made gender discrimination. From the beginning of this story, the readers have found the protagonist Elizabeth was entirely an outspoken woman with many opinions to describe and brave to being defeated by those revolved around her.

Jane Austen's portrayal of women has indicated a stereotypical view of women and how they equally deserve social value. Besides Elizabeth, Charlotte Lucas is another effective character made by Jane to represent the perfect example of feminism because she also had the ability to make her own decisions. "As the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries are entirely conducted based on the patriarchal social system, making decisions by any female characters is also identified as raising the voice against that contemporary social system as well as gender discrimination" (Bautz & Wootton; 2018, P. 414). Elizabeth never really compares herself with men or her persecutors, in addition, she did not really cover a real road for herself that is associated with her own morality and proposal for achieving victory in her future, and contrasting Charlotte Lucas did by marrying Mr. Collins is entirely connected with the aim of living a pleasant life. It has been found throughout the entire story that Jane Austen her spirit and feminine trust has described through the portrayal of Elizabeth's character.

On the other hand, Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* is another novel that also heightened the feminist theory. "First of all, Charlotte Bronte has portrayed the character of *Jane Eyre* as a female who belongs to poor background. In addition, the narrator also portrayed the protagonist as a victim

in every single area throughout the novel” (Husain, 2020, p. 4175), feminist theory believes that both men and women have the right to improve their human interests in the conflict of societal approaches. The main motive for portraying the character of *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte has tried to find out the personalities of the female character to highlight a woman also has the ability to establish identity. Along with this, the second intention of this story is to find out the feminism in the character to indicate the societal issue at that time.

Besides this, the third aim of the portrayal is to find out the struggle and fight of *Jane Eyre* against the class structure of British society. “In this section of the portrayal of the character of Jane, the narrator has used the Sociocultural Historical approach in order to express perfectly regarding British condition and society” (Hussain & Ali, 2021, P. 21), throughout the variety of different incidents the story has revolved around the main character of this novel. In every single step, Jane has been identified as protesting against the old tradition and facing challenges in the male-oriented society. *Jane Eyre* repeatedly has challenged contemporary patriarchal societal approaches to establish her position as a subordinate. In this story, Charlotte represented the fight or protest within the activity of Jane’s education. The structure of British society has become affected by Jane’s education.

“During the nineteenth century in England, society revolved under the impact of the patriarchal system. Women were restricted to do work outside the house and it has been considered a major offense” (Pike, 2018, P. 118), some feminists at that time raised their voices against this social system through their writings to make a secure position and value for women. At that time gender discrimination has applied in several ways and from every aspect and that affected the relationship between men and women. The novel *Jane Eyre* has been identified as an autobiography of Charlotte Bronte as in her own life she also faced challenges to complete her higher education against the patriarchal societal system.

3.2. Marriage in Jane Eyre

The novel talks about marriage during the Victorian epoch. The theme of marriage in the novel is based entirely on Brontë’s view of marriage. The first example of Brontë’s view on the role of passion is in Rochester’s marriage to Bertha; this marriage is based on passion, because he entraps himself in an unsatisfying marriage.

Through Rochester's choices, the reader can see that Brontë asserts that marriage decisions based on passion and ignoring the role of duty will bring more than loss of passion, it will bring an abundance of what you failed to factor into the decision, duty.

Jane does not want an affectionless love. As decent and handsome a man as John is, Jane Eyre cannot accept him because his love would be 'one of duty, not of passion. Therefore, for Jane, love is a crucial element in marriage – but it must be complemented by righteousness and morality.

Rochester's marriage to Bertha was arranged; she is a well-off woman; their marriage is lacking in passion; they lived emptiness in their relationship with no emotions; consequently, Rochester sacrificed his youth and independence because of his wrong decision of marrying Bertha. Jane believes that marriage should be decided because of passion and inevitably the couple will carry their duties to each other:

The English society in the 19th century was highly patriarchal. Young women before marriage had to depend on their fathers, uncles, or brothers, and after marriage on their husbands. Feminists have been strongly averse to institutions and the concept of marriage over the ages. History proves that marriage has been gallows for women in times as married women are exploited by the hands of male and female members of the family. They have actually no human rights and are obliged to live under her husband's command. Recent scenarios show that women do most of the household work but with much less credit and she gets lesser wages or compensation than men in external workplaces.

The concept of a white wedding states that it is a woman's dream and desire for her entire life to get married no matter the quantity of talent she possesses. This concept is quite sexist; the father of the girl handing over his daughter to the bridegroom and white attire symbolizes chastity. She takes an oath to be obliged to her husband and then he marks the bride as his own by kissing her. Feminists think that is very humiliating for the girl as she is treated as property or stuff in the entire process of marriage. Moreover, the bride takes a new name aligned to her husband as if she is dismissing her self-entity and existence through the ceremony of marriage. Despite years of criticism and protests from feminists, the institution of marriage stands with some changes in time. The UK government permits now the bride and bridegroom can choose a location of their marriage on their own which was formerly prohibited because it was against the protocol to get married in any place rather than religious places.

World in modern days also witnesses widow marriage and marriage within gender also has been legalized by several national governments. Feminist critics are divided in opinion about marriage, one group of critics thinks that the orthodox concept of a wedding is demeaning for women. The second concept states orthodox marriage is unacceptable as it promotes inter gender marriage, casting away the concept of same gender marriage. Possibly the first critique of marriage is that it has a direct impact on women making them inferior objects. The feminist notion of a marriage firmly believes that marriage encourages gender discrimination in workplaces obliging women to work for fewer wages than men and with less independence. This notion reinforces the idea that women should do all of the household work that feeds their energies and dignity.

Domestic and marital violence is encouraged by the marital notion of ownership over women's bodies. The primary incarnation of marriage snatches rights from women over their own bodies, choices, and opinions. Few modern feminists think that though there are some changes in marriage policies new principle is opening a path for marital abuse and violence passively.

These feminist critiques rely on marriage laws for their applicability and also on social and sociological norms that can support that idea. The feminist concept of marriage gives priority to equality in household and labor and also both husband and wife must work less in external sectors to prioritize domestic work. Changes in marriage policies are regarded as hard-gained achievements for feminist movements and equality in domestic labor must be situated in time forward. Marriage is a disadvantage for women- this general claim brings another form of critique that is dependent on symbolic backwardness instead of practical impacts: that is getting married is a shameful act for the entire feminine gender as it might display women as inferior by restraining her options and ambition. The feminist notion observes that a girl cannot achieve her dream and aspirations or can contemplate herself being independent fully if she involves herself in marriage.

Symbolic violence is hidden in the institution of marriage that affects morally rather than physically. One symbolic violence is that unmarried women are faulty and unhealthy for society and it must not be practiced or encouraged. This obligation is put by family, newspapers, and agendas. Straight women find unmarried life as a short period before married life and if she continues to remain single for a long time it is strange and awkward. Few self-help books state that women should secure themselves by an act of marriage following marriage guidelines and must abide by the command of their partner without any dilemma. She must handle all difficulties in marriage life on her own.

Regardless of marriage laws and characterization of marriage by gendered division of labor, feminists will always nullify marriage as it promotes such a type of symbolic violence. A question arises in this description that feminists would or would not be against marriage finding that marriage brings equality in every domain. Marriage will still be the subjection of women even after the reformation of historical oppressions. The meaning the institution of marriage represents makes it different. People marry to avail several legal, financial and practical benefits but the key factor remains in the statement they made.

Another feminist critique of marriage argues marriage is only beneficial to married people. These feminists oppose marriage as the interests of a same-sex couple and sexual independence cannot be secured by marriage on the grounds of both sex and sexuality. Feminists thus make agenda for the extension of marriage to the same gender and they believe that by doing so the institution of marriage must be transformed into more liberal institutions. The existence of tax and other financial factors can be easily benefitted for married couples but it does not imply that it is difficult to avail of this facility by unmarried people. Benefits for married people can be only achieved at the cost of being unmarried. Marriage is an injustice for both women and homosexuals but married people are gaining from this injustice.

Understanding and interacting with the institution of marriage is quite complicated as it is reflected in various feminist positions regarding the issue. Women might be better after closing the institution of marriage. Discussion and analysis of feminist criticisms of marriage is an encourager for liberalism. Liberals are not traditionally in a fight with the institution of marriage. The feminist agenda and liberal agenda have similarities as they both seek equality for all. Liberals are in discussion about their perspective on marriage. Political liberals' institution of marriage is not unjust as a violation of political liberal values does not go according to conventional feminism. The conceptual framework informing this article is compliance of feminist and general perspective. General perspective deals with system, process and feminist perspective covers the ground of discussion to enlighten socio cultural concepts of men women equality. Post-modern perspective from woman and feminists are focusing on social structure that is connected with relationships and diversity of women's' point of view.

Combination of conventional and feminist ideologies caused reclamation of institution of marriage. Both subordination and empowerment of women is noticed in marriage. Women explained their willingness to look beyond stereotype family function and some other women also

expressed their willingness to look after their family after marriage. Human society tends to patriarchy in various aspects. Man controlling and driving society is a well-established concept. Existence of matriarchal society is quite theoretical rather than real.

Men subjugated females by being stronger in physical aspect and women are meant to face physical adversities such as pregnancy and childbirth. Ideology refers to men as bread bringer and decider of family matters and women as caretaker and nurturer of family. Boys must be sturdy and brave at the same time girls are hoped to be pretty and passive.

Girls, since birth are indoctrinated into benefits of marriage that contributes to the traditional role of girls as passive voice in marriage. On the other hand, boys are told to take responsibilities and be strong because they have to win the world and marriage is not a priority for them. In fact, it is said that intelligent boys do not marry at all. An unmarried woman is often marked as desperate; actually, no polite or positive term is used for referring women who is unmarried.

Institution of marriage watches women as low value and decaying materials. Women must find a master to be controlled by him not just that, they must be attractive to be looked at. She must be inferior to the man she is going to marry in all sense, be it in education, knowledge and even age. Philosopher Bertrand Russell opines-

People believe that feminism is biased and is not essential for society. Women have fought for justice and equality for decades and centuries and have won their rights in several fields like voting rights, right to be educated as it is noticed in Saudi Arabia. However, other issues are still present such as low number of reports of violence against women. Women still get lesser pay than men for the same type and quantity of work. Countries having no such laws against marital rape and child marriage are still present with practices like honor-killing. Jokes and satires about feminism are quite popular and many of these are abusive to LGBTQ community also. Actually feminism is not enclosed in females; anyone can choose to be a feminist regardless of gender, sexual orientation and belief. Feminism reflects history of movements and struggles to put an end to sexism and patriarchy to gain full sexual equality in law and culture.

Women have played significant role in world history but not all of them have been considered as feminists as their works do not necessarily address women's issues. Women

movement or feminist movement is the result of men and women working and fighting to elope gender discrimination and development of women's life. Generally, women are known as anyone's mother, daughter and wife regardless of their own identity.

Feminism, belief in social, political and economic equality of genders largely originated in West and manifested across the world and utilized by many institutions engaged in activity for the sake of women's rights and interests. Women are mainly confined in home in much civilization even in modern and post-modern era. Medieval Europe witnesses' denial of women to right of their own property, to educate themselves or to take part in social matters. "Practices like hijab are at run in many Asian as well as African countries even in European countries like France till few years before" (Abdelhadi 2019, p. 30). Taalaq enables husbands to leave his wife at any moment without any consequences (Mandal 2018, p. 100). Still in several states and countries women cannot take part in business and entrepreneurship without male representative.

Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* creates a conflicting critique in feminist concepts. Critics have considered marriage and servitude of Jane as the factor that makes this novel anti-feminist. Jane's act of strength, independence, and individuality should not be overseen from a proto-feminist critique of *Jane Eyre* because of Jane's choice to be Rochester's wife in the end. Her ending does not necessarily have to be distressful to satisfy proto-feminist sentiment; rather, her decision to marry somebody she thinks equal should strengthen the concept and modern feminism expressed by writer Charlotte Bronte in the background of Victorian society. *Jane Eyre* becomes a gem in Victorian literature not only from feminist perspective, but also from socio-economical perspective.

Feminist theory basically supports equality for both men and women especially based on the British colonial social system. It is quite natural that most feminists allow on five basic principles such as expanding human choice, working to increase equality, ending sexual violence, eliminating gender stratification, and promoting sexual freedom. "All are the basic requirement that has been identified as necessary for the living of women in the patriarchal society" (Mölders, 2019, p. 96), depending on the British rule there is no right for women to work outside and earn their requirements. In this regard, feminist theory pushes for change toward gender equal opportunities to do work to lead the life cycle. During the time of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, working outside for women was considered a sin and they are isolated in

society. Several contemporary feminists have become concerned about the social right and position of women and raised their voices throughout the novel writings.

In addition, the feminist theory thinks that both men and women have the right to improve and secure their social values and develop their human talents as well as interests. According to this theory females also have the right to do on the report their choices. As in that time, men had the only right to make their decision and throw that design and rule over women, “this theory has raised notes against this tradition and tried to establish the female choice against male-dominated society” (Mauro-Flude, 2021, P. 799), the feminist theory also supports female education as education is the only element that can enhance knowledge and skill. This theory has pushed the establishment of laws and cultural norms that will support and encourage female values. It has been found by the majority of the feminists that implementation of laws and regulations can secure and build the opportunity for the women for getting higher dictation and job opportunity.

Due to reducing gender stratification, “this theory also provided extra direction that indicated contemporary social issues. Thus, “this study has focused on the portrayal of the critical analysis of the marriage in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* in the light of feminist theory” (Riley & Evans , 2018, P. 10), in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, marriage has been identified as a reinforcement that is continuously pushing the gender division factor. According to the social system, women were considered an object that has been born to be experienced domination by men. Women are always indicated as the characters that are capable of falling issues and restricted less independent than men. The majority of feminists believe that females also have equal rights regarding reproduction and sexuality. In order to bring a revolution to the mind of the patriarchal society, both novelists and feminist writers Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte have been involved in the portrayal of feminist characteristics in their female characters in their novels.

“Social, liberal, and radical feminism are the three primary forms of the feminist theory that help to build the classic liberal beliefs, and thoughts to reconstruct personal talent and skill” (Hickey, 2020, p. 500), gender discrimination has been highlighted in a major structure within the influence of the attitude of cultural and social institutions. In this regard, Equal Rights Amendment in 1972 is identified as a major step to make a move toward a liberal feminist agenda. Besides this, feminist theory has a wide criticism regarding marriage also. From the beginning of British rule, marriage has been considered an effective key tool that can able to dominate the females under the

colonial rules and regulations. At that time, according to the colonial system female have no right to choose their life partner and lead their lives. It is the men who have the only right of making decisions and applied those in every aspect.

In the novel *Pride and Prejudice*, the narrator has stated, I ask only a comfortable home; and 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 a marriage state. “This also highlighted the factors that are associated with women are not independent characteristics under the patriarchal society. Accompanied by the act of entailment the impression of patriarchal society has been seen as a primary issue” (Seeber, 2021, P. 281), by making strong statements against the contemporary societal approach the character of Elizabeth has highlighted the example of a feminist woman. In addition, comparing herself with a male character also has considered a gaining a higher status from a societal perspective. The constant protestation has repeatedly represented the movement against patriarchal society. As the character of Elizabeth is associated with establishing feminist power, and at a moment she felt an inner satisfaction for being a part of it, critics are not criticized for it.

Along with this, Jane Austen also stated that it is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife. It also indicates that in leading a man’s life perfectly there needs a wife to support this journey. Accompanied by this Jane has highlighted that woman have equal value and the right to set a life journey. In addition, Elizabeth stated There is a stubbornness about me that never can bear to be frightened at the will of others. My courage always rises at every attempt to intimidate me. It highlights that Elizabeth has the courage to fight against the patriarchal society to build her own position and value in the patriarchal society, feminist theory always allows the thoughts and beliefs that are connected with self-satisfaction and societal standards. In this regard, throughout the character of Elizabeth, Jane Austen has represented that it was Mr. Darcy who has the capability to keep the social standard for Elizabeth.

“It also needs to be stated in this context that, the message of the patriarchal society has providence by Jane will be lost if the story ended with Elizabeth showing off her independence and running away” (Wells, 2020, p. 222), during the late eighteenth century and nineteenth century, men have been identified as belonging to higher class society, and females are remained as lower or working class. Within the statement Georgiana had the highest opinion in the world of

Elizabeth; though at first, she often listened with an astonishment bordering on alarm at her lively, sportive manner of talking to her brother Elizabeth has been highlighted as a true supporter of feminism theory. Not before the marriage but also after her marriage Elizabeth successfully holds on to her livelihood as well as freedom. This is also another key tool that has been portrayed in this novel indicating that marriage is not the ultimate destination for women.

“It is not necessary to change only for marriage rather females need to hold their social rights and value after marriage and also to secure their social rights equal to men” (Valdés & Almendra, 2021, P. 26), throughout the portal of Elizabeth, Jane has tried to show the constant struggle that needs to face as an individual female to build her social right in the male-oriented society.

Accompanied by the statement *I have not the pleasure of understanding you*. Jane has highlighted that feminism needs to hold the courage to express their comfort as well as discomfort also. This statement has highlighted that Elizabeth has the spirit to express her choice about marriage. In every step, the character of Elizabeth has highlighted the protestation that is completely opposite of patriarchal society.

Throughout the description of several different types of protestations, the narrator has tried to build an act of positive courage in women to fight against the patriarchal society. “The portrayal of Elizabeth’s character is an example of influencing contemporary women to raise their voices against British rules” (Boling, 2020, p. 977), to provide value to the women's dream and change tier social position is the main intention of establishing or following feminist theory. Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* also portrayed the same movement that moved forward the patriarchal protestation. Accompanied by showing the differences between masters and labourers, the narrator has tried to highlight the contemporary social position of women compared to men. In this regard, Charlotte has stated, *I am no bird; and no net ensnares me: I am a free human being with an independent will*. This is the indication of creating social value for women by raising their voices by understanding their needs.

“Women also have the right to live freely according to their choices is an indication of getting the opposite of British rule” (Mazur, 2020, p. 387), the feminist theory allows woman’s independence is one of the necessary needs that can help them to experience the meaning of life. In this novel, Charlotte has represented the character of Jane who is involved in the process that is

underlying maintaining a position in life. This is the statement that helps Jane to encourage her to be a protective character under the domination of the patriarchal society. In addition, woman autonomy is part of gender issues that is also mentioned in the novel.

The introduction of Jane's involvement in the process of education is also another perspective to highlight the feminist theory. No man being injured by the branch? For you have neither relatives nor acquaintances whom you need fear to offend by living with me also it has described. "As in that era, higher education or earning money remain restricted under the rule of the British, it is considered a huge movement to lead against the social system" (Vendramin, 2020, p. 243), the feminist theory was invented to make changes to the male dominations of women in society. Several contemporary feminist novel writers have engaged in the process of introducing different types of ways that help to conduct the thoughts and movements that support the protests against the patriarchal society. World economics, culture, politics, sports, literature everything watches women as inferior to men, even within families and married men are much more privileged than women.

"Gender discrimination has been identified as cultural expectations that affect women and their lifestyles" (Fischer, 2018, p. 375), in the early nineteenth century, the word feminist originated by a French to modify the social position and values of women. The feminist concept of marriage gives priority to equality in household and labour and also both husband and wife must work less in external sectors to prioritize domestic work. In order to build a proper justice for women based on the gender position of women in the patriarchal society feminist theory has been implemented in the literature.

CONCLUSION

This thesis aims to keep an in-depth review of the theory and the novels and tries to evaluate the mindset of the writers as both Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte are renowned authors in the history of English literature. By evaluating the female characters in *Pride and Prejudice* and *Jane Eyre* from a women's view point has been discussed. Moreover, it further tries to differentiate the feminist thoughts of these women writers.

Taking a close look at the novel *Jane Eyre*, can depict a visible story of an orphan that lives with her aunt and cousins that are very wealthy yet still, the orphan is mistreated by the family members. After the encounters with the girl's family, she was remitted to the Lowood School, in she could make friends, yet suffered being abused and persecuted. In history, masculinity had demonstrated itself in the economic, legal, social, and political legacy of a range of varied cultures. It is similar to the theory proposed by Douglas in the year 2007, in which, various paternal societies were also patrilinear.

The image of Jane was depicted in 3 steps in the novel. The 1st step is the feminist thoughts that started to come up from her fighting to her distressful childhood. The remarkable part of the 3rd step of Jane's pursuit was for pure and true love, freedom and equality. At that stage, the feminist thoughts of Jane started to grow. The development of Jane mirrored the growth of Charlotte. The uncompromising avocation of Jane for esteem left an in-depth impression on each reader of *Jane Eyre*. The character fights for equality in marriage and in the economy and society.

Jane's love is dependent on equality and freedom that had nothing to act with status and power. It shows a strong feminist urge in her. The character is shown in the novel never wanted money or sacrificed her urge to have equal respect as men in the society as her love way pure and steadfast. It means that the belongings and title were inherited by the masculine lineage. There were mixed feelings in Elizabeth during the communication, staring with amazement and advancing to painful distress as Darcy eventually left the house. From the novel and discussions, it was evident that Elizabeth felt grateful for the emotions yet angry from the persuasive pride that Darcy had. The novel clearly depicted the masculine pride and ego of Darcy as he got ashamed of expressing his love and heard the justification given by Lizzie. From the novel and analysis, it was

found that both the couples and the novel characters coped to have a good happy ending after having the agreement and advancements to analyze and understand each other and their characteristics.

In the area of hardship, brave women should be courageous enough to fight against it. Self-esteem and respect are the key factor to security and the feminist activities of the novel characters help to teach to defend oneself. The analysis shows that to be in a happy married life, some level of fortune is required. It means marriage in the absence of love is lifeless; therefore, a good match is dependent on love, equality, and some fortune. Jane goes beyond the anticipated kind of declining servility, contradicting the superiors standing against the rights and using creative ideas. The character is not only victorious in regards to wealth and position, yet most significantly, in reference to family and love.

The masculine character Mr. Rochester and Darcy started to identify Jane and Elizabeth as female characters that present outstanding strength and worth better treatment and lower egotism from their sides, which directed to the women accepting their marriage proposals at the finale of the novel. Charlotte Bronte and Jane Austen gave in the supporters a load of feelings and the development of the characters and its dimension to humanize and help the audience recognize them till now. Moreover, during the time in which Jane Austen lived, the social status of women was extremely low and they could not obtain economic independence.

Even though they might feel angry and disconnected, they were not capable of any condemnation. However, in the time in which Charlotte Bronte lived, the English masses were fighting for representative rights, recommending the freedom of women. The novel female character had feminist awareness and they called for fairness between the genders. Because of the time and conditions in which Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte lived are contrasting, there are dissimilarities in character attributes between Elizabeth and *Jane Eyre*. yet, both of them advised that women should possess both corporal and spiritual freedom, not serving the taste of the male members and catering as an extremity.

The novel characters mentioned in the case had a huge appreciation for equality among genders and mutual respect. The characters fight against the injustice of society by having great courage. In contrast, the feminist thoughts of Charlotte Bronte were fiercer and bolder. Differentiating from Elizabeth, the character of *Jane Eyre* was more clear and vivid, and defiant.

She was an ample figure of warm blood and flesh. As a female writer, the anxiety of recognition of Charlotte Bronte makes Bertha a leading character fighting against masculinity insanely.

Both the writers thought that the basis of marriage should be true love and not fame or destiny that is the highlighting point and the greatest part of the novels. Therefore, Elizabeth refused the declaration of Mr. Collins even though he could give her a better life. For a similar cause, *Jane Eyre* declined the proposal of Mr. St. John. both the character's love was saintly and never mixed with any external benefits. Contrarily, from the analysis, it was evident that the thinking of Jane Austen about equality was completely different than Charlotte Bronte's.

Contrasting to Charlotte Bronte, Jane does not stress full equality between all the genders. The equality that Charlotte wanted was a little bit extreme. The mindset of Charlotte made her a radical feminist condemning female as a superior character and men as rival, even though it was the subclass of the concept of conventional androcentric, showing women as a disadvantage. As stated above, both Jane and Elizabeth were the characters of new women having huge defiant spirit. The resistance of *Jane Eyre* to unfairness is even more and higher should condemn the school, John and Mrs. Reed. Not only that, she even fought for the injustice of her destiny too.

In spite of this embracing, characters showed that they can fight back against their parents to keep the desire immortal and even they can find their love of life by themselves with purity. The occurrence of Elizabeth is surely related to and is about feminism. There are some of the elements that can be found by analysing the novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. The novel can further be seen from the sociological perspective. Here, the writer wanted to depict human nature as a fact of looking at a magnificent thing. The novel also involves the positioning system or the societal order that enables the English heritage system.

The stance of women in regards to inheritance is weak. They do not have the obligation to inherit. Legacy is heritage directed to discrimination among men and women. Moreover, in the novel, Jane Austen also recorded the *manner of irony*. There are various areas of life that have been founded by evaluating the novels. The title of the novel *Pride and Prejudice*, along with its stable alternative generalizations, might recommend a 2nd experiment in simplified psychology and the book, obviously depicts some of the likenesses to sensibility. In the British society of the nineteenth century, males have control over society and women.

Women were assumed as the 2nd person and weak in various areas of life, just like social, educational, and economical areas. Men, in British society, were demonstrated as a creature that helps women excel in all areas of life. Therefore, discrimination against females was common then. At that time, women considered that they are weak and that is why they can be hurt easily and anyone and even frightened. At that time, in the male-dominated society, a novel like *Pride and Prejudice* talked about *feminism* and *women's empowerment*. These novel characters were the carrier of the feminism concept.

In the British society, in the 1850, it was not described particularly how the types of resistance performed by women in repositioning the living systems, that had been controlled by men. The streams just demonstrated what caused the persecution of women over several years, and the way it was inaugurated. Also, the belief inequality in a society no longer subsists biased treatment over 2 sides. In line with the explanation in the paragraph, the paper observes and analyzes the manner of thinking, attitudes, and the actions of the key characters to discover types of resistance that are carried out by the character of Elizabeth over the discriminatory behaviour that she possesses as a negative outcome of the domination of men over several years.

The characters depict various types of views of the society in the 1850 century in the novel the expectation of the society from the women. Women were wanted and desired by rich and noble men at that time for their happiness in life. Marriage in the history of 18th century was always been an important matter of issue. Not only was that, the issues manifested by various writers in their novels and writings at that time. *Pride and Prejudice* and *Jane Eyre* are two of the novels of that time in which the reasoning for marriage was strongly presented.

At the starting of the novel only, the writer claimed that it is a universal truth accepted that a single man in ownership of a better fortune should be in desire of a wife; thus, predicting the theme of marriage was most controversial and authoritative throughout the novel. The line was true as it was only rational to say so in case one believes that the end goal of a man or a way to marry. However, the veracity is stable in the minds of some of the families in the novel, and thus, it cannot be stated as a universal truth.

From the time Elizabeth and Darcy met, she was blinded by detriment and Darcy was obsessed with pride even though they linked each other. They should get married only in case they accept their mistakes, especially Elizabeth. Elizabeth should have accepted Darcy's right to

process some level of pride for his class and Elizabeth had to learn to obey the social obligations. Therefore, it was not only about marriage and was more about learning to obey rules. Both the characters had to meet at some common grounds. It was about discovering restraint among the nature shown by Elizabeth and the art shown by Darcy.

Contrarily, Charlotte Lucas had no chance, sorted out to marry Mr. Collins, the self-centred, materialistic and arrogant, and boring man. According to her, it is better to get married to a person that she does not like than not be married, even in case she cannot be happy with that person. It made Elizabeth more conscious and afraid about her forceful marriage. Taking into consideration the civil stance and the economic upright of women, Austen had hit at a paternal society. The threat of not marrying a man was more adverse than marrying someone like Collins. On the opposite side, Charlotte Bronte, the writer of *Jane Eyre*, was an anti-Austenian.

Both the novels differentiated in the area of concept and knowledge of marriage. Both the writers viewed and understood married as 2 different things. In *Pride and Prejudice*, marrying was not a necessity, whereas, in *Jane Eyre*, marriage is the basis and a universal truth for happiness. The key character of Charlotte, Jane broke all standard behaviours for someone in the societal situation, being an orphan. Even in adulthood, she wanted equality between him and her partners. Bronte honoured Jane by providing her the economic freedom and penalizes Rochester through the hand of his wife, who was her victim. The self-sufficiency of Rochester became his dependence on Jane. Jane always wanted and looked to encounter a public life and not be locked up in a castle or any attic.

In Jane and Charles, whose initial mutual interest was temporarily hung up by Darcy and Bingley sisters, Austen shows a less highlighting yet extremely satisfying and well-tied pair. The end of the matches created in the novel *Pride and Prejudice* is yet more uncertainly dependent. The right to choose a husband was not there in the 18th century made the urge to fight more for the rights by Elizabeth. This novel visibly states various events of the social phenomenon during that time. Such as, not traveling alone being a woman or the annual permission of the women after marriage shows the controlling power of masculinity in the society.

As Darcy grasps to decrease his traditional view of society and to identify the personal excellence in a range lower in own, Elizabeth becomes barely opinionated in her decisions, and in

specific, more informed of the true merits of Darcy, whom Elizabeth initially banished as a haughty, unemotional aristocrat.

The story of Jane tells that in a society that is male-dominated, a woman should try to have decency and respect dignity. The rising settlement of Elizabeth and Darcy is one of the most adequately fulfilling engagements in English literature in the 18th century. Their characteristics, mindset, and taste could assure the readers that they are 2 individuals that truly belong to each other and their companionship speaks fitness on the universe over them. As a reason for this principal match, the novels allow individuals to think up mortality as a distinct style. The slow-developing bonding of Elizabeth and Darcy in the novel is the key alliance, yet it is far from being the sole one, and a provider of the best characters.

However, she is more honoured by marriage than in the domestic sphere of the 18th century. In conclusion, it can be assumed that both Austen and Bronte identified human nature in the problem of marriage. However, Austen was more rational and observed the scene and not distinguished. Bronte observed the hidden and unobservable things and declined the domestic sphere. The concept of Marriage in both *Pride and Prejudice* and *Jane Eyre* is the two examples of feminism. There is a core matter reflected from the above analysis about marriage and how the key characters of those novels show their pride by keeping their head up.

In the conclusion, it can further be stated that *Jane Eyre* written by Charlotte Bronte is praised as a novel of huge significance in the universe of feminist literature. Of course, the nominal character is comparatively independent, she desires things for herself and her creation of a good life does not start and ends with only marriage. Jane challenges the traditional patterns, domination of male in society and also the subordination of females in the 18th century. There are even more things are waiting for Jane that she deserves. Booth the key character of the novel was very feminist at that time, and obviously has strong human values, yet to put it on a bottom like some kind of greatest feminist novel or anything more than a good novel of English literacy merit that is proto-feminist is optimal.

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