

WOMEN'S POSITIONS IN 19TH CENTURY ENGLISH SOCIAL LIFE
IN JANE AUSTEN'S *EMMA*

THESIS

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FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND CULTURE

THE STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF MALANG

2008

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THESIS

Presented to
The State Islamic University of Malang
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
For the Degree of SARJANA SASTRA (S. S)

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Certify that the thesis I wrote to fulfill the requirement for the degree of Sarjana Sastra entitled “Women’s Positions in 19th Century English Social Life in Jane Austen’s *Emma*” is truly my original work. It does not incorporate any materials previously written or published by another person, except those indicated in quotations and bibliography. Due to this fact, I am the only person responsible for this thesis if there is any objection or claim from others.

Malang, 20th September 2008

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MOTTO

Around here, however, we don't look
backwards for every long
We keep moving forwards, opening up
new door and doing new things,
Because we're curious.....

And curiosity keeps leading us
down new part.

Dedication

I dedicate this thesis special
for:

My lovely Mom (Zuliati Ulfah) and
Dad (Hamzah), thanks for your
endless love, care, support and
pray may Allah bless you. Amiin
My "only one" sister, Habibah
'n My cLick Oya'
I'm so glad we are family.

And for V.A
Hope we will together forever

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All praises and gratitude be to Allah, the Most Gracious and Merciful, who has given me the inspiration, His guidance and blessing in finishing this thesis. Sholawat and Salam are also delivered to the prophet Muhammad SAW who has brought Islam as the Rahmatan Lil Alamiin.

First of all, I am very much indebted to the rector of The State Islamic University (UIN) Malang, Prof. Dr. H. Imam Suprayogo, who has allowed me to study in this University. I am rightfully proud of being the students of The State Islamic University (UIN) Malang.

Likewise, my sincere gratitude also goes to the Dean of Faculty of Humanities and Culture, Dr. H. Dimjati Ahmadin, M. Pd and the Head of English Letters and Language Department, Dra. Hj. Syafiyah, M.A. who have given me valuable knowledge since I studies in The State Islamic University of Malang.

Next, my sincere gratitude goes to Dra. Isti'adah M.A as the advisor, who has conscientiously guided me throughout the entire process of the thesis writing all of the constructive comments which helped me to make this thesis more perfect.

My thanks are also dedicated to all of the lecturers of the State Islamic University of Malang, especially English Letters and Language Department for being so mind, patients and generous in leading to the worlds which never I knew before with the invaluable knowledge.

Furthermore, I want to express my deepest thanks to my beloved family for their continual moral and material support, especially for my My beloved father Hamzah and my dear mom, Zuliati Ulfah, thanks for loving and caring about me until now and then. I am nothing without you. My only one sister Habibah and my nice nephew lovely *oya'* I'm so glad we are family.

My last destination V.A thanks for being there always. My Sweetie "Ardhanarysvari" who makes me realize how important to be myself. My best friend Andrew ,Atik, Lia,Nyeeta, Dea, OmBrot, and Reza. Thanks for our

friendship start from we were in this university and I hope it will be kept until then.

All members 154, 15B, 05 and 88 community that I can not mention one by one. Thanks for every moment that was created when I was there. “You are so kind and to be with you all is very great”.

My friend “teman seperjuangan” in UIN Malang especially in English Department who gave me many values knowledge in my study at State Islamic University (UIN) Malang. All of my friends in English Department students’ 2004/2005 of UIN Malang, thank you so much for our unforgettable togetherness.

And all of people helping me to finish this thesis, which I can not mention one by one, thank you.

Finally, I truly realize that this thesis still far from perfection. Thus, I will always appreciate for the coming constructive comments from the readers. Hopefully, this work can give a valuable contribution to the field of literary study.

ABSTRACT

Himah Aini, Mufah. 2008. *Women's Position in 19th Century English Social Life in Jane Austen's Emma*. Thesis. Faculty of Humanities and Culture. English Letters and Language Department. The State Islamic University of Malang.

Advisor : Dra. Isti'adah, M.A.

Key Terms : Women's position, social life.

Feminism is women's movement for the equality between men and women. It is traditionally constructed that women are men's inferior. To change this condition, feminists figure out why men are dominance in women's life. It starts from the patriarchal society where always put women in the second class after men. Basically, every of us was created equal in every single part, so it is forbidden to dominate or even exploit someone else. The men domination not only proves itself in the real life but also in the world of literature. Women frequently turn out to be the second class, as men's inferior, *Emma* written by Jane Austen also talks about that issue.

This study is intended to answer the questions as follows: first what were women's role in Britain 19th century in *Emma* by Jane Austen; second how were women's positions in 19th century social life in *Emma* by Jane Austen.

This research is a literary criticism by using feminist literary criticism. The data source of this study is the novel *Emma* by Jane Austen. The data of this study are all sentences in the form of written dialogues, monologues and expression, which are collected from novel *Emma*. The steps of data collection are reading and understanding the novel to gain comprehension of the depiction Emma's thoughts. Next is picking up the data about the women life. After that, the writer selected the data which focus on the research problems.

To analyze the data, the writer classified, interpreted, and made conclusion based on the result of data analysis about the women's role and their position in 19th century social as the last for the writer to analyze the data. Women were described as the house keeper; and that women were the men's servant. They have nothing to do than become a daughter for their family, wife for her husband, and women for their men. It is portrayed in the novel that the nature of women are become men's servant. More over, women's position were considered as the second sex, women were the men's inferior, women were not equal to men. Even though, some of characters represent the effort such as independent women but most of them cannot avoid the men's domination in their life.

The writer hopes that this study can give a new contribution to the readers, especially the students who are interested in women's studies. Also it is hoped to enrich the understanding about woman's position in social life that reflected in the literary works.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

A novel is a long prose narrative which presents the description of the world chosen by the novelist. In spite of the great number of novels and author in this world, the researcher chooses one of the nineteenth century's British literatures, which come from the Romantic age (1798-1870), it is because of the researcher is interested in love story and social life during that era. "Romantic age's novel is a type of novel marked by strong interest in action and presenting episodes often based on love, adventures, and combat" (Holman, 1986:438). In the literary world, people know so many English women authors; one of them is Jane Austen. Jane Austen one of the Romantic age's novelists, was born on December 16, 1775 in Hampshire in England.

The researcher chooses one of the Jane Austen's novels *Emma*, as the object of the study because it is a widely read and well-thought novel. Her themes of family, social stratification and male-female interactions have universal appeal. In *Emma*, practically all the characters come from middle-class people who live in the village of Highbury, which was once on the outskirts London. There are no very rich people, but neither are there any who are very poor (Calvert, 2003:7).

In the world of social calls, dinner parties, dances and picnics nobody is worried by any social or political problems. By the time we have

finished reading Emma we feel that we know the heroine and her friends very well indeed. They may have done very little beyond weaving a rather complicated route to marriage, but in doing so they have given us a well drawn and most interesting picture of the social life and manners of their times.

The main character in this novel is Emma Woodhouse, she is a young woman in Regency England. She lives in the village of Highbury with her father, who is principally characterized by excessive concern for the health and safety of his loved ones. Emma's friend and only critic is the gentlemanly Mr. Knightley, her "neighbour" and brother of her sister's husband. As the novel opens, Emma has just attended the marriage of Miss Taylor, her old governess and best friend. Emma herself introduced Miss Taylor to her future husband; Mr. Weston, Emma was very satisfy because of their marriage, and decides that she rather likes matchmaking.

Emma tries to match her new friend Harriet Smith, a sweet but none too bright girl of seventeen described as "the natural daughter of somebody" to Mr. Elton, the local vicar. Eventhough it means that she is against Mr. Knightley advice. However, first she must persuade Miss Smith to refuse an advantageous marriage proposal from a respectable young farmer, Mr. Martin; which is done. But soon Mr. Elton declares he wants to marry Emma not the poor and socially inferior Harriet. After Emma rejects Mr. Elton, he leaves for a while, going on holiday; and Emma now tries to convince Harriet that Mr. Elton is beneath her after all.

The arrival of Frank Churchill, Mrs. Weston's stepson, whom Emma has never met, gives Emma little air to breath. The next plot is presenting Mr. Elton who is reveals himself to be more and more arrogant and as the story continues Mr. Elton brings a newcomer, vulgar but very rich wife who becomes part of Emma's social circle, though the two women soon loathe each other. A third new character is Jane Fairfax, the reserved but beautiful niece of Emma's impoverished neighbor. Emma, however, envies her talent in music and somewhat dislikes her though eventually they become friends. Jane had lived with Miss Bates until she was nine, but Colonel Campbell, welcomed her into his own home where she became fast friends with his daughter and received a first-rate education. On the marriage of Miss Campbell, Jane returned to her relation to regain her health and prepare to earn her living as a governess.

Emma indulges that Jane was an unwilling object of admiration for Miss Campbell's husband, Mr. Dixon, and that it is for this reason she has returned home, rather than going to Ireland to visit them. This suspicion is further fueled by the arrival of a piano for Jane from a mysterious anonymous benefactor. The plot becomes quite complex as Emma tries to make herself fall in love with Frank largely because everyone says they make a handsome couple. At this time, Mrs. Weston wonders if Emma's old friend Mr. Knightley might have taken a fancy to Jane. Emma promptly decides that she does not want Knightley to marry anyone, but rather than further explore these feelings, she claims that she wants her nephew Henry to inherit the family

property. When Mr. Knightley scolds her for a thoughtless insult to Miss Bates, Emma is privately ashamed, and tries to atone. Though the kindhearted Miss Bates readily forgives her, Jane initially refuses to see her or accept her gifts causing Emma to despair of ever making amends for her behavior. She is further discomfited when she learns that Jane and Frank have been secretly engaged for almost a year. When Harriet confides that she thinks Mr. Knightley is in love with her, jealousy forces Emma to realize that she loves him herself. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Knightley proposes to Emma, Harriet reconciles with her young farmer, Jane and Emma reconcile and everyone lives happily ever after.

In this study the researcher will explore the women's position in 19th century social life in a novel entitled *Emma* written by Jane Austen. Researcher will try to explore the problem using feminist perspective. In this novel, the writer described the situation which represents the woman's position in their social life at that time that reflected in the novel. And, the feminism literary criticism is very appropriate as the critics of the problem.

Researcher has two reasons why it is interesting to study about women's position in 19th century England social life in Jane Austen's *Emma*. First, the story in this novel is simply about women daily life, the story itself is focused on women and their life. Here, Jane Austen tries to tell us the women's struggle for their life, love and future. Second, issues about women are always interesting to be analyzed and the problem faced by women in this novel will lead us to the remarkable attention about women's struggle today.

The struggle in getting equality in rights and positions are worth enough to reveal. Feminist literary criticism means to reveal women discrimination and subordination within literary work. From the reason above the researcher wants to analyze the novel by using feminism perspective especially their position in the 19th century English social life that reflected in the novel entitled *Emma* by Jane Austen.

The researcher will start the research by analyzing the women's roles in the story by using feminist point of view. After knowing the women's roles in the novel, the research will continue to the next step that is interpreting the women's position at that time from their roles described in the story.

Other researchers in the similar topic have been conducted by many previous researchers. One of them is Khomsiana Fitria entitled *Social Status and Marriage in the Last 18th Century in England as Reflected in Jane Austen's Emma*. From the result of her analysis it is found that there are similarities between the social status and marriage in *Emma* and the social status and marriage in England. First, both in *Emma* and in England people are ranked based on their status and the dominant social status is upper-middle status. Second, both in *Emma* and in England, marriage is not for love. While, this research focused in the women's position in 19th century English social life which is can be described from what were women's role in their daily activities around their fellowship and public life.

The research which is conducted by Khomsiana Fitria entitled *Social Status and Marriage in the Last 18th Century in England as Reflected in Jane Austen's Emma* concern in the specific area that is marriage which is related to the social status and its reflection in the novel during last 18th century until 19th century in the other hand, this research is focus on the women's position in the social life in English 19th century in the novel entitled *Emma*. It is evidently different from the first research, because it is search the boarder area than the first one. Marriage is one of the results of the social intercourse in the social life.

The other study in the similar theme is conducted by Siti Khodijah entitled *An Analysis on Equality of Rights and Positions of Men and Women Reflected in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Hound of The Baskerville*. Her research described the detail description about women's right and positions reflected by female characters in the novel such as women's right in speaking, women's right in social affairs, and women's right in making decision. There are also reflections of women's position regarded as subordinate creature, women as the victim of love affair, and women as the victim of physical intimidation.

The research entitled *An Analysis on Equality of Rights and Positions of Men and Women Reflected in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Hound of The Baskerville* conducted by Siti Khodijah also has a basic difference than this research. As Siti Khodijah's research were concern in finding the equality, this research focus in showing the condition of women

in 19th century English social life in the novel entitled *Emma* by Jane Austen, in order to show the marginalization of the women's position in 19th century.

In addition, the research which is conducted by Zulfi Zumala Dwi Andriani entitled *Women's Role in Indian American Family in Jhumpa Lahiri's Interpreter of Maladies* also discusses about women and their life. Here, the researcher criticizes the Indian American society. Women were considered as inferior creature. Women just work in domestic affairs including cooking; cleaning the house and taking care the children, women are dependent (cannot be autonomous when their husband died) and women are submissive to their husband. Women's Role in Indian American Family in Jhumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies* was discussing the Indian American's women role.

This thesis tries to analyze the women's role in novel *Emma* by Jane Austen then find out the position of women in 19th century in English society as the setting of the novel entitled *Emma*. From the role described by the writer of the novel, the researcher hopes that it will show the women's position at that time through the novel.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

Concerning to the background of the study above, this research is intended to answer the following problems:

1. What were women's roles in 19th century English social life in *Emma* by Jane Austen?
2. How were women's positions in 19th century English social life in *Emma* by Jane Austen?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In accordance with the statements of the problems, the objective of this study is formulated as follows:

1. to know the women's role in 19th century English social life reflects in the novel.
2. to describe the women's position in 19th century English social life in the novel.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

In relation to the research topic, the research has to determine what aspect of study should cover to come to the right answer of the research problems. Therefore this study is supposed to find out the women's positions in the 19th century England social life on *Emma* by Jane Austen. After knowing the women's roles as reflected in the novel, we can automatically understand the women's positions in 19th century English social life which represented in the novel.

To focus the analysis in order to fulfill the objectives of the study, this study is focused on the women characters in the story; their activities as

house keeper, their duty as men server, their characterization that weak than men and their condition that reflect in the novel. Then, the limitation of this research is it is all about women and their life which is reflected in the novel. The researcher will not explore about the other aspects of the novel such as how each character influence the other character, or the setting in the novel that reflect the social life at that time.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The results of the study are supposed to be useful for everyone, especially who is interested in English Literary studies. It is hoped to enrich the understanding about woman's position in social life that reflected in the literary works. The finding of the study will give both theoretical and practical to the area of literature. Theoretically, this study will explore about feminism point of view, especially in the area of women and their social life. Theoretically, this study will lead us to analyze a literary work which is related to the woman, here about woman position in their social life. And become useful for other researcher in similar research, the study about woman in social life and its reflection in the literary work.

Practically, this study hopes will served the information about how to analyze the literary work from the women's point of view. This study is tend to give the action rule in conducting similar research which is concern about women and their representation in the literary work.

The researches do hope that this research will lead the reader to the deep understanding about feminist literary criticism. And from the understanding will escort our point of view about the women struggle to pursuit the equality between women and men. And finally, this research was conduct in order to give board knowledge about feminist literary criticism for the next research which conducts in the same theme.

1.6 Research Method

1.6.1 Research Design

This study is a literary criticism and uses feminist literary criticism to deal with the data. It is literary criticism which is applied to the analysis, interpretation, and evaluation of a literary work (Peck and Coyle, 1984:149) and in this study the researcher conducts discussion of literature, including description, analysis, and interpretation of a literary work, that is, the novel *Emma* by Jane Austen. Basically, feminism is the women movement that efforts the woman rights. Feminism grows from the fact that women always get discriminations in the social structure. It comes from the consciousness of the structure that wants to legitimate their position. Social structure which is not fair for women is followed by expansion of ideology patriarchy and misogynist view. So, the history of women are different from the history of men, it seems that women become the second sex, or only become servant of men and are exploited on their social relation.

To analyze the data, the researcher applies feminist literary criticism because the novel describes about women and their social life in 19th century. Generally, feminist literary criticism exists to counter, resist, and eventually eliminate the traditions and conventions of patriarchy the ideology or belief system which sees as "natural" the dominance and superiority of men over women in both private and public contexts as it exists in literary. Some versions are critical of past and present social relations. Many focus on analyzing what they believe to be social constructions of gender and sexuality. Many focus on studying gender inequality and promoting women's right, interests, and issues. Feminist literary criticism pointed out for example, that in 19th century fiction very few women work for living, unless they are driven to it by awful necessity. Instead, the focus of interest is on the heroine's choice of marriage partner, which will decide her ultimate social position and exclusively determine her happiness and fulfillment in life, or her lack of these. And here, feminist used to analyze what are the women's role reflect in the novel in order to get the description about their position at that time describe in the novel.

1.6.2 Data Sources

Data is the main object which is analyzed by the researcher using the appropriate method chosen. The data itself might be in the form of conversation, story tells in the novel, etc. The data of this research is taken from novel *Emma* by Jane Austen. Wordsworth Classic publishes this novel in

1955. This novel is consisting of fifty-five chapters and 354 pages. Tells about Emma Woodhouse, a young woman in Regency England with all the things happen in her life as the plot of the story goes.

1.6.3 Data Collection

The data were collected through some steps. The steps are as follows: first is intensive and analytical reading to the novel entitled *Emma* by Jane Austen and then reading the novel to gain comprehension. Next is picking up the data, and the last is selecting then classifying the data that has relation with the theme of the research. That is feminist perspective to the literary work entitled *Emma* by Jane Austen.

1.6.4 Data Analysis

The data analysis is handled in several steps. After collecting the data, there are some steps in doing data analysis, are as follows: organizing and separating data, analyzing, interpreting and categorizing the social phenomena in 19th century in the novel, and the last is make conclusion based on the result of data analysis.

1.7 Definition of The Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding on the terms used in this study, the researcher gives a brief definition of each term in this study one by one as follows:

1. Women's position:

Position here refers to someone status, especially women in social, family or her private life. E.g.: the relative position or standing of things or especially persons in society. "He had status of a minor", the novel attained the status of a classic"

2. Social life:

Concerning the organization of and relations between people and communities; concerning rank and position within society; living group.

3. Role:

Is simply the behavioral aspect of a status including all the rights and responsibilities with the status.

4. Patriarchy:

The ideology or belief system which sees as "natural" the dominance and superiority of men over women in both private and public contexts--as it exists in literary, historical, and critical contexts.

5. Feminism:

A philosophical term for the movement on equality of men and women. Feminism is a diverse collection of social theories, political movements, and, moral philosophies.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Concept of Literature

Literature might conclude as a speech act or textual event that elicits certain kinds of attention. It contrasts with other sorts of speech acts, such as imparting information, asking questions, or making promises. Literature is not just a frame in which we put language; not every sentence will make it as literature if set down on a page as a poem. But, on the other hand literature is not just a special kind of language; they function in special ways because of the special attention they received. Literariness is often said to lie above all in the organization of language that makes literature distinguishable from language used for other purposes (Jonathan 1997:28). Moreover, literature is language in which the various elements and components of the text are brought in to complex relation.

One reason why readers attend to literature differently is that its utterances have a special relation to the world a relation we call 'fictional'. The literary work is a linguistic events which projects as fictional world that includes speaker, actors, events, and an implied audience (an audience that takes shape through the work's decision about what must be explained and what the audience is presumed to know)

In addition, we have known that literature is a part of human life that reflects the reality in what have happened in each aspect of life. Wilbur

(1962: 123) stated that literature can not be created in vacuum; it is the work not simply for person, but of an author fixed in time and space, answering to a community of which he is an important, because articulate part. Simply mean that literature can not stand by itself, there are so many factors influence the existence of literature. The work of literature is called an autonomous and independent. But when we talk about the influence of literature to a society or it's opposite, we have to relate this aspect to the society and reality.

2.2 Women in Literature

So far, there are limited literary works that describes woman with the real condition. If not, it usually portrays women as weak creatures and depicts men as great persons. For example, men represent public relations, and women live in domestic realm. And feminist literary criticism means to reveal woman discrimination and subordination within literary works.

Emma Woodhouse is the first Jane Austen heroine with no financial concerns, which, she declares to the naïve Miss Smith, is the reason that she has no encouragement to marry (Calvert, 2003: 8). This is a great departure from Austen's other novels, in which the pursuit for marriage and financial security is the main focus and theme of the story. Emma's sufficient financial resources are one of the factors that make this novel much lighter than Austen's earlier works, such as *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*. Emma's determined and clumsy

matchmaking may represent a soft protest against the narrow scope of a wealthy woman's life, especially that of a woman who is single and childless.(Ashford,Violahttp://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/jane_austen/113712). Adoring critics praised Austen's characteristic authorial traits, especially the elegance of her prose, but offered no thorough critical analysis of her works. Subsequent studies of Austen therefore reacted strongly to counter this tendency, emphasizing the technical flaws in the novels and dismissing what scholars considered the narrow, trivial world about which she wrote.

Women as the victim of the social condition also present in another work of literary where women are drawn with all difficulties also bad luck and bring a message that all difficulties and bad luck in women's life is their entire fault, or even it was the women's destiny to be the victim of life. In *Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne served the story about Hester Prynne who engages in an extramarital affair with Arthur Dimmesdale. And, when she gives birth to a child, Hester invokes the condemnation of her community—a condemnation they manifest by forcing her to wear a letter “A” for “adulteror”—as well as the bitter anger of her husband, who has appeared just in time to witness her public shaming.

Dimmesdale stands by in silence as Hester suffers for the “sin” he helped to commit, though his conscience plagues him and affects his health. Hester's husband, Chillingworth, hides his true identity and, posing as a doctor to the ailing minister, tests his suspicions that Dimmesdale is the

father of his wife's child, effectively exacerbating Dimmesdale's feelings of shame and thus reaping revenge. Above all Hester Prynne put herself in the sin to keep Arthur Dimmesdale from shamed, clearly drawn that women take all the difficulties and fault on her for men's profit.

Another literary work which presents the tragic history of women are *Maggie the Girl of The Street* by Stephen Crane, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, *Incidents in The Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Jacobs, and many more. Most of those novels talk about the women's struggle in finding the security of life in their own way. And, not all of those stories have happy ending. Some have difficulties in the first chapter of the story and find their happiness in the end of the story, while the other should pursuit their happiness until the end of their life.

Finally we are able to make a conclusion how difficult world that women have to face of in their life as reflected in the literary work, especially novel. Even though most of women in those stories are the main characters, the women are the minor characters in their society. Women are busy to arrange their marriage in order to get security in financial matter. Women cannot stand by her own selves; they should have someone (men commonly) to support their life. And, Jane Austen is considered as the writer who wants to make transformation in English society at that time by her writing about women.

2.3 Feminist Literary Criticism

Feminist literary criticism is literary criticism informed by feminist theory or by the politics of feminism more broadly. Its history has been broad and varied, from classic works of nineteenth century women author. Feminist Literary Criticism grew out of women's movement following WW II; this approach analyzes the representation of women in literature. Form of demonstrating the attention to the fact of gender and relationship between men and women, or around certain assumption about gender. (Peck and Coyle. 1985: 152)

Although there are still some doubt, even from a few feminist critics, that there is anything resembling a fully-formed feminist critical theory, there appears to be as much commonality in approach among feminists as there is within some other theoretical groups. Like reader-response criticism, feminist criticism began during the social unrest of the 1960s and grew prominent in the 1970s. Some major early works were in direct response to questions of female graduate students who resisted the New Criticism's exclusion of women writers and female consciousness in the accepted literary canon. The identification with women writers and the work of those writers, along with a sense of repression, trivialization, and misinterpretation of female texts, led to new studies of the images of women in literary works and, consequently, a feminist revision of the literary canon itself.

In practice, feminist literary criticism is not limited to texts written and read by women, for its interest is not only how 'women' have been treated in books per se, but how notions of gender and sexuality, generally, have determined or enforced an inferior place for many different voices of women, of racial and ethnic minorities, and of gay and lesbian writer and readers of literature. Its target may include stereotypes of any of these groups as seen as inferior from the point of view of an established patriarchal order, or the exclusion of such groups created by such a point of view (or ideological bias) in literary history.

There are no "rules"-no "recipe"-to doing feminist criticism. Rather, feminist literary critics may employ, for example, reader-response criticism to present a reading of a text in which female characters are traditionally ignored, or to reveal how the text itself (in an Iserian view), seems to "imply" or elicit a feminist reading, or, conversely, how the text seems to beg for a reading that ignores the full humanity of its female characters. Likewise, a feminist literary critic might deconstruct any text whose chief binary opposition implies a hierarchy in which the masculine elements are predominant. Many recent feminist critics have exposed the patriarchal nature of Freud's psychoanalytic theory, but rather than abandon it altogether they have expanded its models to include and acknowledge, for example, those homoerotic relations between mother and daughter or between female subjects that Freud's theory would ignore or discount as mere "perversions."

Shortly, this approach analyzes the representation of women in literature. It explores texts in detail, demonstrating patriarchic patterns, and challenges to a literary canon that is so dominated by men.

2.4 Liberal Feminism

Liberal concur that a just society allows individual to exercise their autonomy and to fulfill them. The main thrust of liberal feminism is that female subordination is rooted in asset of customary and legal constrains that blocks women's entrance and/ or success in the so-called public world. Because the society has false beliefs that women are by nature, less intellectually and/ or physically capable than men (Tong, 1992:2). As the consequence, women cannot elaborate their true potential especially in academic, the forum and the market place.

The liberal feminist believe that equality for women can be achieved through legal means and social reform. They see more similarities between women and men than differences and envision. They view choice as an absolute right, and they seek control over the body and social circumstances. These demand make men become the 'second sex' in this world. Men are totally has no control of women. Susan Wendell (in Tong, 1992: 12) stated that liberal feminists usually committed to major economic reorganization and considerable redistribution of wealth, since one of the modern political goals most closely associated with liberal feminism is equality of opportunity, which would undoubtedly require and led to both. As

the contrast, men began to consider about the positive and negative impact of being independent woman for their family life continuities.

As explained above, the novel entitled *Emma* by Jane Austen purely tells about women and their social life in 19th century. The novel served the reader about the society in Highbury a Regency in England. Where women have very little contribution in their social world at that time. As the novel going to the end of the story, women character in this novel only showed as the men “seeker”. Women fight for their life security in social and economic status by getting perfect guy. While the Liberal Feminism straight forward to get the equality between men and women, liberal feminism ask for the same position for women in the society. They want to break up the patriarchy world and built their own rule in order women are able to create their own life security by their selves. Liberal feminism will lead to the deep understanding about the women’s position in their social life which is reflected in the novel entitled *Emma* by Jane Austen.

2.5 Women’s role in 19th century in English social life

From the ancient time till today’s social life, women strictly ruled as the in dominant group under men domination. Motherhood and raising children have been ruled form women to accomplish. Many songs and myths passed down from generation to generation, as the phrase, "Mother Earth" when making reference to gifts provided by nature. (<http://www.wikipedia.com/> the free encyclopedia/women’s role in the world

war//freearticle). Because life begins with birth and mothers nourish that life, it seems fitting that numerous of legends tend to include women when referring to their origin. So it is the woman “nature” to get married, having children, and served her husband for her entire of life.

Women should take the responsibilities in keeping the house since they were born as women. They have to be the “man in charge” in the domestic affairs before or after married. When they were still girl their role is the daughter of the family and it is change when they get married. After marrying a gentleman they have to be a wife for their husband. And life must go on in such way. Their roles in their own life were finely put in the narrow and monotones place that is home. They have no opportunity to give any contribution for their society.

Women usually were not as well educated as men as some families educated their sons and not daughters because they assumed that women would get married and have children. The most common job for women was in domestic service, which about one and a half million women worked. Some domestic servants lived in attics and worked long hours as cleaners, cooks or chamber maids. Some women worked from home and were paid piece rates (paid for every item they made). Women were usually paid two-thirds of a man's wage, or even less and were rarely ever promoted above men.

It was assumed that the woman's role was considered as a powerless servant in a male-dominate society; woman was regarded as little

more than a slave of her husband; a downtrodden, the life-giving force to future generations, submissive beast of burden whose work was never done.

2.6 Women's position in 19th century in English social life

Most of Jane Austen's novel tries to show that the men "must be in want" of the woman, and not the other way around. The man being in need of the woman is clearly a feminist view. The end of this work may lead us to the fact that the struggle of women in feminist perspective just begin.

In Jane Austen's *Emma*, she uses a young woman by the name of Emma Woodhouse to portray a very vain, but also liberal and independent woman. Yet Jane also went on to depict the flaws of the independent Emma Woodhouse. In the story, Emma has a revelation of her self-centeredness. Jane allows her readers to see the good qualities of being your own person, but also retrospectively she allows her readers to see the bad ones as well. Emma's self realization helped Emma to change the flaws of her character, but that did not mean compromising who she was and what she stood for. Through this character she was trying to show her readers that not all independent women, also categorized as feminists, were vain.

In the 19th century Britain women were expected to marry and have children. However, there was in fact a shortage of available men. Census figures for the period reveal there were far more women than men. There were three main reasons why women outnumbered men. The mortality rate for boys was far higher than for girls; a large number of males served in

the armed forces abroad and men were more likely to emigrate than women. By 1861 there were 10,380,285 women living in England and Wales but only 9,825,246 men. (Matilde g. De miro Quesada/ *Women in Britain 19th century*/ www.studyenglishliteratureonweb.com)

The laws in Britain were based on the idea that women would get married and that their husbands would take care of them. Before the passing of the 1882 Married Property Act, when a woman got married her wealth was passed to her husband. If a woman worked after marriage, her earnings also belonged to her husband (Margaret: 1845)

The idea was that upper and middle class women had to stay dependent on a man: first as a daughter and later as a wife. Once married, it was extremely difficult for a woman to obtain a divorce. The Matrimonial Causes Act of 1857 gave men the right to divorce their wives on the grounds of adultery. Married women were not able to obtain a divorce if they discovered that their husbands had been unfaithful. Once divorced, the children became the man's property and the mother could be prevented from seeing her children. (Chase, Susan E. *Mothers and Children: Feminist Analyses and Personal Narratives*. www.historyoffeminism/patriarchy/britain.com)

From here, women's life is considered as unimportant thing in patriarchy world where every part of life was dominated by men. Women almost have no contribution for their society. Women are not more than men's servant, and their position is under the men mentally or physically.

The England's 19th century society has been created this condition from the beginning as the rule of the life, and women destiny is controlled by men.

2.7 Previous Study

Topic about women and their life reflected in literary work has been conducted by many previous researchers. One of them is Khomsiana Fitria with thesis entitled *Social Status and Marriage in the Last 18th Century in England as Reflected in Jane Austen's Emma*. The focus of this study is the status of women in England especially in their social life and the women's status in the marriage in the last 18th century. From the result of her analysis it is found that in *Emma* the society is dominated by upper-middle society in which the difference is caused by the different individual's status. Every person has a name to mention his or her status. There are gentlemen superior and first circle to mention by half-gentlemen, inferior and yeomanry. Because of this difference, an individual who tend to marry will find a couple who has the same status with him. Marriage with someone from the different status is impossible to happen. Further there are similarities between the social status and marriage in *Emma* and the social status and marriage in England. First, both in *Emma* and in England people are ranked based on their status and the dominant social status is upper-middle status. Second, both in *Emma* and in England, marriage is not for love. It is as the business arrangement and to gain the better life. *Social Status and Marriage in the*

Last 18th Century in England as Reflected in Jane Austen's Emma was analyzed by Khomsiana Fitria using Liberal Feminist criticism.

While, this research focused in the women's position in 19th century English social life which is try to find out what were the women's role in their life among their fellowship and their public life. Women's life at that time must be different than today, so it is interesting to know the women's role and the women's position in 19th century English social life to lead us to the understanding of women effort for their equality with men today. The research which is conducted by Khomsiana Fitria entitled *Social Status and Marriage in the Last 18th Century in England as Reflected in Jane Austen's Emma* concern in the specific area that is marriage which is related to the social status and its reflection in the novel during last 18th century until 19th century in the other hand, this research is focus on the women's position in the English social life in 19th century in the novel entitled *Emma*. It is evidently different from the first research, because it is search the boarder area than the first one. Marriage is one of the results of the social intercourse in the social life.

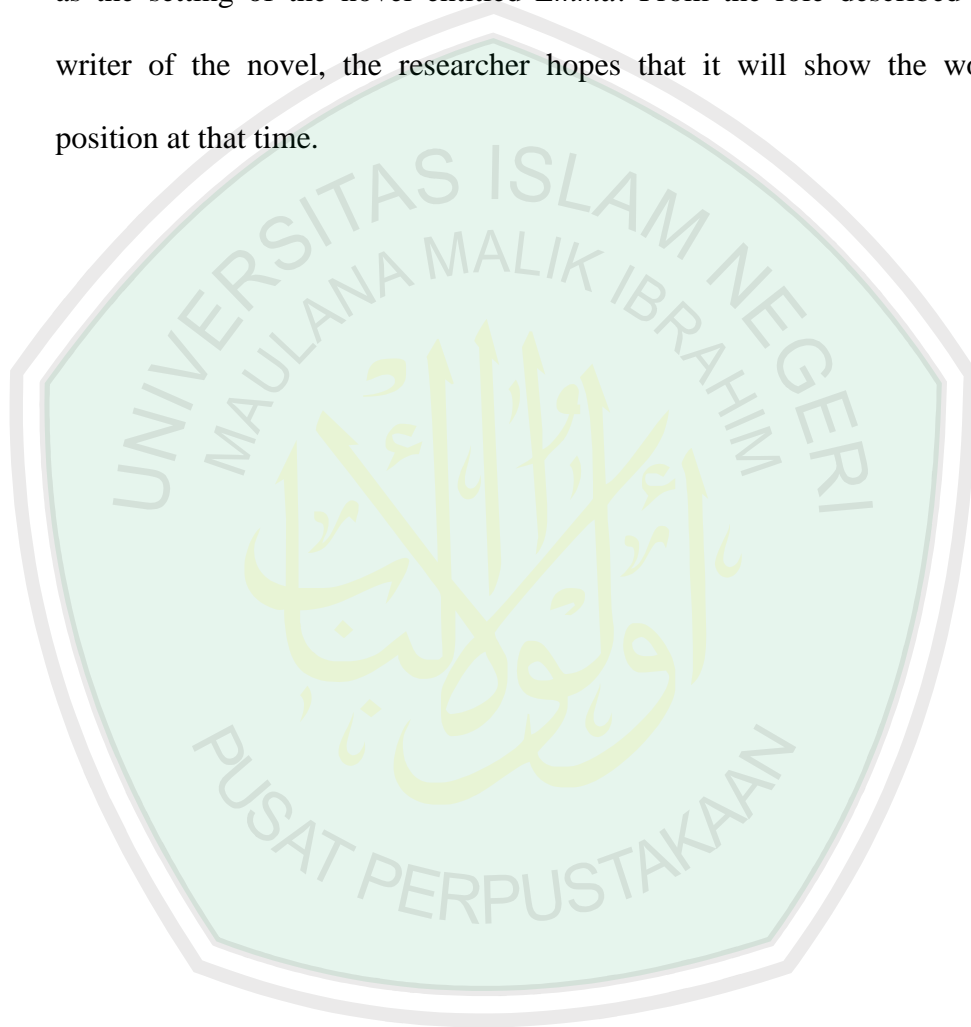
The other study in the similar theme was conducted by Siti Khodijah with thesis entitled *An Analysis on Equality of Rights and Positions of Men and Women Reflected in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Hound of The Basker Villes*. Her research focused on the detail descriptions about women's right and positions reflected by female characters in the novel such as women's right in speaking, women's right in social affairs, and women's

right in making decision. There are also reflections of women's position regarded as subordinate creature, women as the victim of love affair, and women as the victim of physical intimidation. Siti Khodijah also used feminist literary criticism in her research, here she used federal feminism.

The research entitled *An Analysis on Equality of Rights and Positions of Men and Women Reflected in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Hound of The Baskerville* conducted by Siti Khodijah also has a basic difference to this research. While Siti Khodijah's research were concern in finding the equality, this research focus in showing the condition of women in 19th century English social life in the novel entitled *Emma* by Jane Austen, in order to show the marginalization of women.

In addition, the research which is conducted by Zulfi Zumala Dwi Andriani entitled *Women's Role in Indian American Family in Jhumpa Lahiri's Interpreter of Maladies* also discuss about women and their life. Here, the researcher focused on the Indian American society in take care of the women. The Indian American's women were considered as inferior creature. The results of this research are; women just work in domestic affair including cooking; cleaning the house and taking care the children, women are dependent (cannot be autonomous when their husband died) and women are submissive to their husband. *Women's Role in Indian American Family in Jhumpa Lahiri's Interpreter of Maladies* was discussing the Indian American's women role.

While *Women's Position in 19th century England social life in Jane Austen's Emma* tries to analyze the women's role in English 19th century in *Emma* then find out the position of women at 19th century in England society as the setting of the novel entitled *Emma*. From the role described by the writer of the novel, the researcher hopes that it will show the women's position at that time.



CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

In this chapter the researcher will explain about the women's interaction in their society and the women's position in 19th century English social life in Jane Austen's *Emma*.

3.1 Women's Roles in 19th Century English Social Life in Jane Austen's

Emma

The focus of the novel is narrowly on the lives of the landed gentry in rural England and more particularly the little triumphs and defeats faced by the young women attempting to secure their future survival through respectable marriage. The story purely tells about women and their activities which are conduct to pursuit their happiness by having good fortune gentlemen as their husband. Novel *Emma* by Jane Austen also express about women's role as house hold, wife for her husband, daughter for their family, and women for their men.

3.1.1 Women as Men Servants

The role of women describes in the place where women spent their time most. The role of women can be seen in the following statement where occur in the wedding party of Miss Taylor.

.....invite him to dinner, Emma, and help him to the best of fish and chicken, but leave him to choose his own wife. Depend upon it, a man of six or seven-and-twenty can take care of himself (*Emma*: 9).

That was Mr. Knightley who is tried to explain to Emma about how to act as women for their men. Mr. Knightley assumed that women should not take any action in men life then only give them what they need especially in domestics needed. Noticeably stated that women should take responsibility in domestics part, women should not take any achievement in the other spot. As mentioned above, women role is as house keeper serves their men, and that is all. Women are not allowed to take contribution in any other subject than domestic affairs as their role is men's server; served them food, and drink.

Women spent their time for being house keeper and serves the men, as the result they have very limited role. Their limited role make them have a very little world to be present, little places to be visited, and even little things to do, the most important thing in their life is persuade the closer community and expect about respectable marriage or another women's things. They have no worry about another thing just because they were born as women. As the opening of the story in the novel, stated about the main character of the story.

Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessing of existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vexes her (*Emma* :1).

Here, clearly imply the simplicity of women life. Nothing to worry or no important thing they should do in their entire of life just because they are women. Nothing will make them distress about their life, everything will

just be fine. They did not need to make any new steps because their destiny have been clear, get a fortunate gentlemen, getting marriage, having children and serve her husband. Women's role is not far above the ground, they has limited role than men. Still their little world to be present as the result of their limited role, here it is expressed in the story by giving monotonous setting where and with whom they share their day. Commonly women appear in the same place for many times, such as mention they were at home, visiting neighbor, balls, and wedding parties of family. On those places women at a standstill present the inadequate role than men.

3.1.2 Women as House Keepers

Their very limited roles in their life were clearly stated in the story.

As the prologue about Harriet;

Harriet had been at Hartfield, as usual, soon after breakfast; and after a time, had gone home to return again to dinner; she returned, and sooner than had been talked of, and with an agitated, hurried look, announcing something extraordinary to have happened which she was longing to tell (*Emma*: 42).

Their limited role in the society gives the narrow activities to be present. Nothing to do, nothing to be worried, nothing to expect, and that is all they have. Moreover, because women has limited world to be presented most of women has little interaction and restricted people to be met. Harriet, always conduct her life in the same way everyday. Women daily life never comes far from domestics' area. Met and share with the same people in almost the same places. Emma herself was met Harriet in the Miss Taylor's wedding party. And since then they make a friend, which built the story goes. Most of women

characters in the story were so happy enjoying her life by this kind of relations. Almost all of Emma's life was spent to cheer up everyone around her, whom mostly is women.

Despite her superiority that given to Emma from her father Mr. Woodhouse, Emma Woodhouse as the main character in this story has little activities in their daily life. As mention above, women's role as house hold, wife for her husband, daughter for their family, and women for their men.

3.1.3 Women as Men's Backing

For the reason that women have insignificant role, women commonly have very strict social intercourse. They spent their time with their companion who is usually women too. Emma commonly spent their day with her only companion and friends "the lovely Harriet". Both Emma and Harriet having good relationship for both of them wants to improve their self by study together, but it is going erroneous in the following story. Actually, Emma wants to bring a good society to Harriet as she wishes Harriet would have prestigious role in the society despite the fact at the present. The truth is, it is hard for Emma to make it trough.

Her views of improving her little friend's mind, by a great deal of useful reading and conversation, had never yet led to more than a few first chapters, and the intention of going on tomorrow. It was much easier to chat than to study; much pleasanter to let her imagination range and work at Harriet at Harriet's fortune, than to be labouring to enlarge her comprehension to exercise it on sober facts; and the only literary to pursuit which engaged Harriet at present, the only mental provision she was making for the evening of life, was the collecting and transcribing all the riddles of every sort that she could meet with, into a thin quarto of hot- pressed paper, made

up by her friend, and ornamented with ciphers and thropies (*Emma* :60).

The nature of women in the society is strictly describes that women are commonly considered as the men's server that is why women need not to improve their education. Their role is being men's servant. Conducting the domestics affair and doing household. And for those reason the only thing they need to do is being women for men, they have to be able to perform their women side. Commonly they appear as obedient personality with a traditional ability; cooking, washing, giving birth and so on. To be different is not easy for them, as Emma tries to do. She tries to improve Harriet's ability by giving her activities, here is study together. But the fact is, this activity is boring for her, and the result is they prefer to chat than to study. For young lady, the daily activities means having visiting to the others or being visited by friends and commonly they have a chat by the visitors. Most of Emma's days were spent for these kind of activities where served her with so limited social life in attendance because it is fact that women's role is simply as men's backing.

3.1.4 Women as Women for their Men

Limited role, strict social intercourse, and little contribution make women almost have nothing to do than just hanging around. But in fact of those horrible condition women consider as the happiest creature in the world. Even tough their life seem so boring Most of the women characters in this story have no eventful day; they have no worry about their present day or their future at all. What should they do is being house hold, wife for her

husband, daughter for their family, and women for their men. Hence their social intercourse was so little and narrow. On top, it was unfortunately for them, that kind of fact was a conventional situation for every woman.

There could hardly be a happier creature in the world, than Mrs. John Knightley, in this short visit to Hartfield, going about every morning among her old acquaintance with her five children, and talking over what she had done every evening with her father and sister. She had nothing to wish otherwise, but that the days did not pass so swiftly. It was a delightful visit; perfect in being much too short (*Emma*: 94).

And the day will come and gone away by the time they fill it with uneventful moment. Everyday was an ordinary day for every woman at that time, because they have no worry about what going on in their tomorrow. No matter what will happen men is still in the front of them whatever they do, the last and the most important thing is they should served the men. In addition, men and family is their everything.

Their imperfect social intercourse which caused from the stereotyping that women is need nothing than men in which relation why women's life become so monotonous then give them fine role in the social life. No one is able to seen then only their family and neighbor. If there is some one new, they must be having some family relation to them even though seem so far. Like Miss Jane Fairfax, she was the grand daughter of Mrs. Bates, the Emma's neighbor. Even Mr. Frank Churchill, to whom Emma trying to fall in love was the step son of Miss Taylor, Emma's governess. Everyone here just going around in the one single circle.

Women have only one relationship that is friendship, while men are able to build another kind of relationship that is business relationship. Both men and women have the same way in keeping relationship, but as the mention above women have different purpose in using something. When men speaking of letters of business; women are letters of friendship.

Almost every woman has another woman as their companion and generally they have the same partner in every party or any event they attend to. Every one need to develop any kind of interaction, anytime they want, and anywhere they were belongs. But in this story, most of the interactions in the social intercourse were occurring in the family atmosphere, everyone knows well each other, and everyone has some family relationship each other. It hard for women to have widen social intercourse, and again it is because their role was just man's backing. Women have only one relationship that is friendship, almost every woman has another woman as their companion and generally they have the same partner in every party or any event they attend to.

Typically, every woman has their companion who always comes with them anytime they need. After the marriage of Miss. Taylor, Emma has Harriet as her companion. Emma and Harriet mostly talk about men who had special relationship with them. No other topic that interesting to be discussed than an attractive, rich, and honorable gentlemen. And that is the way the go along with the day.

These were the ladies whom Emma found herself very frequently able to collect; and happy was she, for her father's sake, in the power; though, as far as she was herself concerned, it was no remedy for the absence of

Mrs. Weston. She was delightful to see her father look comfortable, and very much pleased with herself for contriving things so well; but the quiet prosings of three such women made her feel that every evening so spent was indeed one of the long evenings she had fearfully anticipated (*Emma*: 16).

Beside friends from her own sex, Emma also has men as her friends. But basically this kind of friendship was built in the profitable fundamental. First, Emma trying to persuade Mr. Elton in relation of her match making project for her friend, Harriet. Furthermore Emma also gets closer to Mr. Frank Churchill because she expects it become engagement in the future. While Mr. Knightley, was the one to whom Emma have quarreled almost in all the time for some different opinions. Hopefully they make wedding as their ending of their relationship. The reason is of course, women's role is to serve the men so the interaction between them is commonly end by predictable ending marriage or engagement.

What can women get for their selves if there is no other place for them than home? What kind of development can be expected for whom, that only know their family and their neighbor. Women like men also need widespread social interaction in order they get improvement in their life. In supporting the society women needs same ability with men. And women also need same opportunity to get what they need not only for their marriage but also for the future of the social life they live in.

Women and men were created equally what them man have, women also have. And what man can do, women also can do it as well. So, when men able to achieve a role, it means that women also can take in this

part too. In addition it is not only women should responsible in household or taking care of children. Also about being somebody for someone else. If it should for women have to be house hold, wife for her husband, daughter for their family, and women for their men. Men should take their part also, not only as women priority but take the same role with women in the different way that is equal with what the women have done.

Shortly, men also able to take the house hold responsibility together with women. Men should be the husband for his wife synchronize way complete each other. No one is higher then the other. To be leader does not mean that it is necessary to consider the follower as the inferior.

3.2 Women's Position in 19th century English Social Life in Jane Austen's *Emma*

3.2.1 Women are Inferior than Men

Women in 19th century social life can be a part of every class and status. It is depending on the fact their education, family, husband, or their wealth. Even to get respect from their society they have to get married with the good fortune gentlemen. Women assumed that the respectable marriage is the end of the bright future. But the fact is, marriage just change their role from a daughter of family into a wife of husband. Where the have to serve her husband for their entire of life and still their position is not more than as man's backing. Generally, women were considered as a creature which has limited ability and has inferior position than men.

The inferiority of women can be seen from their education, family wealth or their popularity. As it revealed in Mr. Knightley says to Emma about Harriet.

‘ I wish you may not get into a scrape, Harriet, whenever he does marry; I mean, as to being acquainted with his wife for though his sister, from a superior education, are not to be altogether objected to, it does not follow that he might marry anybody at all for you to notice. The misfortune of your birth ought to make you particularly careful as to your associates. There can be no doubt of your being a gentlemen’s daughter, and you must support your claim to that station by everything within your own power, or there will be plenty of people who would take pleasure in regarding you (*Emma*: 24).’

Mr. Knightley wants Emma know about the real fact about the impossibility relationship between Harriet and Mr. Elton. Harriet is Mr. Elton’s inferior so it is better for Harriet to take another chance than expecting Mr. Elton. The inferiority of Harriet is because she was the daughter of nobody. Nothing from Harriet that can make her equal with Mr. Elton, that is why Harriet should take the purpose from young Martin or she will never get marry forever because of her inferiority. As their inferiority, the only one way to change this condition woman should marriage with a man who has high status or at least in her equal.

No equality no marriage. No marriage no guarantee for better life. Everybody knows how much the advantage of marriage for women; everybody knows how very acceptable it is that in the women’s time of life they have to be settled in a home of her own, and how important to her to be secure of a comfortable provision, and therefore cannot allow herself to feel

so much pain as pleasure. The conclusion is women will not get those entire good situations without marriage with men because women can not stand in their own feet.

The weakness mind and body of women need to be supported by men. As stated by Mr. Knightley “Young ladies should take care of themselves. Young ladies are delicate plants. They should take care of their health and their complexion”. The fact that women should support by men in their social life was clearly stated in this novel. How the writer tell about Mrs. Bates.

Mrs. Bates, the widow of a former vicar of Highbury, was a very old lady, almost past everything but tea and quadrille. She lived with her single daughter in a very small way, and was considered with all regard and respect which a harmless old lady, under such untoward circumstances, can excite. Her daughter enjoyed most uncommon degree of popularity for a woman neither young, handsome, rich, nor married. Miss Bates stood in the very worst predicament in the world for having much of the public favour; and she had no intellectual superiority to make atonement to herself, or frighten those who might hate her, into outward respect. She had never boasted either beauty or cleverness. Her youth had passed without distinction, and her middle of life was devoted to the care of failing mother, and the endeavour to make a small income go as far as possible (*Emma*: 15).

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Bates should face the world alone in the little way. The fact that she has a daughter, even make their life harder than a normal family where there is a man hand on. Women with no men by her side was terrible, it seem like women have no capability in having better social life without men. More over this situation will give them difficulties in

having better life in the future because with no respect they can not conduct any kind of good interaction with anyone else. Their inferiority caused by the limited social intercourse, and without good social interaction it is impossible for women in inferior life to get superior future.

Just the same as the difficulties which faced by Harriet, but hopefully Harriet have Emma by her side to help her make the better future for her life is possible to be reached. But it does not mean that Harriet able to make everything easier to be solved. The fact that Harriet is the daughter of no one, make the situation get complicated in the opening.

Men are allowed to choose which women they wants to marry, while women should waiting and accept whoever purpose her for their own advantage. Harriet should not refuse Mr. Martin because she is a girl from the inferior society, and what she has is only what is called by loveliness.

‘Men are much more philosophic on the subject of beauty than they are generally supposed; till they do fill in love with well informed minds instead of handsome faces, a girl, with such loveliness as Harriet, has a certainty of being admired and sought after, of having the power of choosing from among many, consequently a claim to be nice. Her good nature, too, is not so very slight a claim, comprehending, as it does, real thorough sweetness of temper and manner, a very humble opinion of herself, and a great readiness to be pleased with other people. I am very much mistaken if your sex in general would not think such beauty, and such temper, the highest claims a woman could possess (*Emma*: 54).’

The fact that Harriet is the natural daughter of no one is the reason why Harriet is not Mr. Elton equal, then she should accept Mr. Martin who so much equal with her. Although nobody could say that Mr. Martin in a

perfect good fortune gentleman still Harriet is better accept Mr. Martin than expecting Mr. Elton ask her to marry with him.

‘I have always thought, it is a very foolish intimacy,’ said Mr. Knightley presently, ‘though I have kept my thoughts to myself; but I now perceive that it will be a very unfortunate one for Harriet. You will puff her up with such ideas of her own beauty, and of what she has a claim to, that, in a little while, nobody within her reach will be good enough for her. Vanity working on a weak head, produces every sort of mischief. Nothing so easy as for a young lady to raise her expectations too high. Miss Harriet Smith may not find offers of marriage flow in so fast, though she is a very pretty girl. Men of sense, whatever you may chuse to say, do not want silly wives. Men of family would not be very fond of connecting themselves with a girl of such as obscurity-and most prudent men would be afraid of the inconvenience and disgrace they might be involved in, when the mystery of her parentage came to revealed. Let her marry Robert Martin, and she is safe, respectable, and happy for ever; but if you encourage her to expect to marry greatly, and teach her to be satisfied with nothing less than a man of consequence and large fortune, she may be a parlour-boarder at Mrs. Goddard’s al the rest of her life-or, at least, (for Harriet Smith is a girl who will marry somebody or other,) till she grow desperate, and is glad to catch at the old writing master’s son (*Emma*: 55).’

The equality will consider the family social position, wealth, education, and the charming physical appearance. When women have inferior position they should not have high expectation for having high superior gentlemen as their husband.

Marrying a good fortune gentlemen give so much advantage to women. As well stated in the novel

‘This is an attachment which a woman may well feel pride in creating. This a connection which offers nothing but good. It will give you everything that you want-

consideration, independence, a proper home-it will fix you in the centre of all your real friends, close to Hartfield and to me, and confirm our intimacy for ever. This, Harriet, is an alliance which can never raise a blush in either of us (*Emma*: 64).'

How fortune for women to get married and having family of her own, and it is consider as the happy ending of every women. But the fact is this family was conduct under the men feet, women have no equal right in having the family, women is still as house hold, wife for her husband, daughter for their family, and women for their men. Still as the men in chair of the domestic activities, while men able to have and manner their life freely for their own selves.

Being single women will lead women to the suffer, and it is considered as deviant thoughts for young women to decide about being single in their life. And commonly they get married in very early age. While men are free to decide whether they want get married sooner or later. Mr. Knightley was 37th when he marrying Emma who still in her 21st old. Moreover, men able to choose which girls they want to marry while women should waiting also better for them to accept whoever purposes them.

Emma herself wants to be a single woman and never agree to marry early with any gentlemen in the Hartfield. And it was considered as strange point of view because women without men side of her were something odd. Even Emma has tried to prove it nobody agrees with her about being single.

‘Never mind, Harriet, I shall not be a poor old maid; and it is poverty only which makes celibacy contemptible to a generous public! A single woman, with a very narrow income, must be ridiculous, disagreeable old maid! The proper sport of boys and girls; but a single woman, of good fortune, is always respectable, and may be as sensible and pleasant as anybody else. And the distinction is not quite so much against the candour and common sense of the world as appear at first; for a very narrow income has a tendency to contract the mind, and sour the temper. Those who can barely live, and who live perforce in a very small, and generally very inferior, society, may well be illiberal and cross. This does not apply, however, to Miss Bates; she is only too good natured and too silly to suit me; but, in general, she is very much to the taste of everybody, though single and though poor. Poverty certainly has not contracted her mind; I really believe, if she had only a shilling in the world, she would be very likely to give away sixpence of it; and nobody is afraid of her: that is a great charm (*Emma*: 74).’

Actually Emma’s opinion about being single is very exciting but their society can not be accepted this kind of idea. Being single is only for odd maid, and as young lady they should marriage and having family for her own life security.

For not getting any agreement Emma become hesitate about her own idea for being single. In the following story, Emma in her own mind, determined that she did know what she was talking about, and that she shewed a very amiable inclination to settle early in life, and to marry, from worthy motives. He might not be aware of the inroads on domestic peace to be occasioned by no housekeeper’s room, or a bad butler’s pantry, but no doubt he did perfectly feel that Enscombe could not make him happy, and that whenever he were attached, he would willingly give up much of wealth to be

allowed an early establishment. And, in the end Emma decided to accept Mr. Knightley as her husband then getting married with him.

3.2.2 Women are Equal with Men

Most of the female characters in this story presents a very little contribution but there are some of them who able to present the woman position which can be considered as equal as the men in the story. Mrs. Goddard for the example,

Mrs. Goddard was the mistress of a school not of a seminary, or an establishment, or any thing which professed, in long sentences of refined nonsense, to combine liberal acquirements with elegant morality, upon new principles and where young ladies for enormous pay might be screwed out of health and into vanity but real, honest, old fashioned Boarding-school, where a reasonable quantity of accomplishments were sold at reasonable price, and where girls might be sent to be out of the way and scramble themselves into a little education, without any danger of coming back prodigies. Mrs. Goddard's school as in high repute-and very deservedly;....

She was a plain, motherly kind of woman, who had worked hard in her youth, and now thought herself entitled to the occasional holiday of a tea-visit; and having formerly owed much to Mr. Woodhouse's kindness, felt his particular claim on her to leave her neat parlour hung round with fancy work whenever she could, and win or lose a few sixpences by his fireside. (*Emma*, 1955:16)

Despite her limit appearance, Mrs. Goddard served the different consideration. Although she was the minor character, she presents the important representation of women for her time. She is a woman who takes a responsibility in keeping her own life. Even though she has a husband, she still works for her life. Actually she has earning her own life since she was

young. She seem never let anybody to let her hanging on even to her husband.

To settle down and having family should not cut off women from their social life or having any job out side the house. To be a governess for woman is very acceptable at that time, and it is good opportunity for women to be equal with men like Miss Taylor done in the beginning of the story.

In addition, the Miss Fairfax's decision to get separate from their family and plan to be governess can be relate to the women struggle in having their own life by their own selves free from men's control. By her talents and warm attitude it is easy for her to make any relationship with other people by her side. Her charming appearance make every body wants to get closer with her and Jane Fairfax herself was a good young woman in taking advantage from their own capability. Despite of her weak body she is well educated young lady who able to put herself in the correct place, so that every body loves her so much and admire her charming personality.

In the one way Emma Woodhouse, is a beautiful, high-spirited, intellectual, and slightly spoiled woman of 21. People in the community think highly of her, and she also thinks highly of herself. Though vowing she will never marry, she delights in making matches for others. She seems unable to fall in love, until jealousy makes her realize that she has loved Mr. Knightley all along. Emma as the main character of the story was clearly showed as the young lady who has everything which called as superior women. Her rich families, handsome face, smart brain, all the fortunate of

life were given to her. She able to develop their ability and talent. She has freedom to do everything she wants. She can speak what she want to say, share what she has and refuse what she dislike. Emma always said the word of her mind by her own way, especially when she talked about being single women to assure Harriet about independence women

‘Never mind, Harriet, I shall not be a poor old maid; and it is poverty only which makes celibacy contemptible to a generous public! A single woman, with a very narrow income, must be ridiculous, disagreeable old maid! The proper sport of boys and girls; but a single woman, of good fortune, is always respectable, and may be as sensible and pleasant as anybody else. And the distinction is not quite so much against the candour and common sense of the world as appear at first; for a very narrow income has a tendency to contract the mind, and sour the temper. Those who can barely live, and who live perforce in a very small, and generally very inferior, society, may well be illiberal and cross. This does not apply, however, to Miss Bates; she is only too good natured and too silly to suit me; but, in general, she is very much to the taste of everybody, though single and though poor. Poverty certainly has not contracted her mind; I really believe, if she had only a shilling in the world, she would be very likely to give away sixpence of it; and nobody is afraid of her: that is a great charm.’ (*Emma*, 1955:74)

Her open mind was extremely odd for her time. Nobody could accept it easily even her close friend Harriet. Emma also stands on her own opinion in every case which brings her to contradictions with Mr. Knightley sometimes. She is brave young lady who develop her mind by spreading her social intercourse every where she present.

Emma spoke with a very proper degree of pleasure; and fully assented to his proposition of Mr. Frank Churchill and Miss Smith making

their party quite complete (*Emma*, 105). Her presence was expected by everybody and she has nobody who could ignore her being there. She gives contribution and advice in conducting the ball of The Cole. Emma need not any instruction she will do everything right. And she needs not to be told what is to be done when she was to be called to such a council.

Emma was a smart young lady; it can be ultimate from the way she express her opinion about what she truly feel. She really knows what to say in any kind of situations she should face. When most of women keep her opinion for their own selves, Emma steps forward to take the challenge.

I do not look upon him to be quite the sort of man. I do not altogether build upon his steadiness and constancy. His feelings are warm, but I can imagine them rather changeable. Every consideration of the subject, in short, makes me thankful that my happiness is not more deeply involved. I shall do very well again after a little while-and then. It will be a good thing over; for they say every body is in love once in their lives, and I shall have been let off easily. (*Emma*, 1955:232)

She really knows what she wants from what she has done. She knows what she have to do, what mistakes she should avoid to, she able to accept any mistakes then take a lesson from it by not making the same mistake in the future. She never feels underestimated by someone especially Mr. Knightley even both Emma and Mr. Knightley have different opinion in some cases. They often quarreled each other because their indifferent of each other.

Emma spoke with pleasure with everybody both men and women, she was the party enthusiastic. Emma commonly appears not only as guest

but also as the entertainer in the party. She can dance and playing musical instrument which give her superiority than the other women in her society. Her good fortunes bring herself to the place which the patriarchy society called as superior position. Emma has many opportunities to conduct her social intercourse because she has no worry that everybody will ignore her. No body would disregard her in any kind of the situation for the fact that she was come from high superior family.

And above all, Emma shows no romantic interest in the men she meets. She is genuinely surprised and somewhat disgusted when Mr. Elton declares his love for her. Her fancy for Frank Churchill represents more of a longing for a little drama in her life than a longing for romantic love. Although never outright stated as such, it may be postulated that the reason for Emma's inability to fall in love with another man is that she has been unconsciously in love with Mr. Knightley for years. Mr. Knightley think highly of her, despite of the fact that he is the one among the very few people to find any fault with Emma he deep fall in love with Emma. More over the fatcs that Mr. Knightley is highly respected and considered very much a gentleman, and there is a no-nonsense air about him Emma accept him as her husband. He is the standard against which all the men in Emma's life are measured.

Life must go on no matter what will happen, and Emma's decision to get marry with Mr. Knightley might be her good fortune or might be the opposite. Women were created to complete men's life naturally, but it does

not mean that women can not stand by her owns. Women still need men in the way men needs women for their life.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

4.1 Conclusions

In this novel women's role are described as the men's backing. Women are the house keeper; women are the men's servant. They have nothing to do than become a house hold, daughter for their family, wife for her husband, and women for their men. And unfortunately there is no way out from this strict rule that tight woman strongly. The nature of women is become men's server.

From the fact that their roles are limited and has no contribution to the society, women are considered as the second sex, women are the men's inferior, women is not the men equal. Even though, some of characters represent the effort such as dependent women but the fact is they cannot avoid the men domination in their life. They still marriage in their early age, and they have to stop working when they get married. As they have to serve their husband and stay home to keep the house and do the domestic affair. When Mrs. Goddrad may to continue her activity out side the house Mrs. Taylor have to stop working as governess since she got married with Mr. Weston.

Despite the fact that most of women in this novel is the men inferior some of them struggle to change their position in their social life. Emma, Miss Fairfax and Mrs. Goddars are the examples given in the story. But by the end of the story we can only know what kind of

oppression which covers the woman daily life. Their narrow social intercourse and the restricted of their life forced them to be inferior community in their patriarchal society. Their very little contribution was the real reflection of their inferiority as their role which is very restricted. Commonly they are appearing as the worker of domestic affair.

In spite of the women representation in the literary work, their life was commonly expressed as the man inferior. It because much of literary work tells about women commonly ends by engagement or marriage of the main character whom are women. The conclusion is women can not stand on their own feet, the fact is; their life security was depending on the men always. And above all their limited activities where they have to take a role as domestic affair worker push them down to the men subordinate, the second class, the inferior and the lower position than man.

In *Emma*, Jane Austen uses a young woman by the name of Emma Woodhouse to portray a very vain, but also liberal and independent woman. Yet Jane Austen also went on to describe the flaws of the independent Emma Woodhouse. In the story, Emma has a revelation of her self-centeredness. Jane Austen allows her readers to see the good qualities of being your own person, but also retrospectively she allows her readers to see the bad ones as well. Emma's self realization

helped Emma to change the flaws of her character, but that did not mean compromising who she was and what she stood for.

Through this character she was trying to show her readers that not all independent women, also categorized as feminists, were vain. Jane Austen somehow manages in her novels to have her women be strong, independent, and aggressive. The female characters do all this, while keeping a spotless reputation, just as Jane Austen succeeded in doing during her life. But the fact that the patriarchy can not receive this kind of women also express in her *Emma* social life by giving description how women spent their life most.

Emma is an intelligent young woman with too little to do and no ability to change her location or everyday routine. Though her family is loving and her economic circumstances comfortable, her everyday life is dull indeed, and she has few companions of her own age when the novel begins. Emma's determined and inept matchmaking may represent a muted protest against the narrow scope of a wealthy woman's life, especially that of a woman who is single and childless.

4.2 Suggestions

The female characters in the world of literature were representing the women participation in this world. There are so many work of literature which served women as the main characters in it. The

female characters here commonly appear as the men inferior. Their effort commonly source in men and get to the bottom of men also.

From those facts, it is very appropriate to use feminist literary criticism to the work of literature which reflects the women lifeline. The men domination not only appears in the real life, their domination also attack the women appearance in the literary work. The patriarchy societies always marginalize women politically, economically and psychologically in its way of thinking. Likewise, a feminist literary critic might deconstruct any text whose chief binary opposition implies a hierarchy in which the masculine elements are predominant.

Women and men are created equally, the society should not treat women in the way the patriarchy society have done. Put women in the second class after the men. Consider women as the weak creature as they can do nothing than serve the men, not only at home but also in the public area.

There must be something to do to deconstruct the patriarchy tradition. Men should not oppress women in every single way. The freedom and right given to the men should give to the women too. If men can appear in the masculine way and shows their domination, women must be able to do in their own way too. And feminism movement tends to counter the women's problem. And the natural problem of women in the patriarchy society is how to get the equality with men.

The men appearances in the literary works should not take dominant place than women. The description about women should change; from the weak creature become the strong and equal with men. Because the fact that women able to stand on her their own feet were naturally appear as today life trend; being single and happy in their life, without men for them to be served in any kind of relationship, bigger opportunities for women to develop their quality of life in the same opportunities with men. Compete with men equally; win not because men allowed them to be the winner, but become the winner because women were deserve to get that. That equal opportunity not only should appear in the theoretical area but also in literary world and of course in real the world too.

The researches do hope that this research will lead the reader to the deep understanding about feminist literary criticism. And from the understanding will escort our point of view about the women struggle to pursuit the equality between women and men. And finally, this research was conduct in order to give board knowledge about feminist literary criticism for the next research which conducts in the same theme.

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1. Plot summary of *Emma* by Jane Austen

Emma Woodhouse is a young woman in Regency England. She lives in the village of Highbury with her father, a hypochondriac who is principally characterized by excessive concern for the health and safety of his loved ones. Emma's friend and only critic is the gentlemanly Mr. Knightley, her "neighbour" and brother of her sister's husband. As the novel opens, Emma has just attended the marriage of Miss Taylor, her old governess and best friend. Having introduced Miss Taylor to her future husband, Mr. Weston, Emma smugly takes credit for their marriage, and decides that she rather likes matchmaking.

Against Mr. Knightley's advice, Emma forges ahead with her new avocation; this time she tries to match her new friend Harriet Smith, a sweet but none-too-bright girl of seventeen --described as "the natural, i.e. illegitimate, daughter of somebody"-- to Mr. Elton, the local vicar. However, first she must persuade Miss Smith to refuse an advantageous marriage proposal from a respectable young farmer, Mr. Martin; which is done. But soon her schemes go awry when Mr. Elton, a social climber himself, declares he wants to marry Emma -- not the poor and socially-inferior Harriet. After Emma rejects Mr. Elton, he leaves for a while, going on holiday; and Harriet fancies herself heartbroken. Emma now tries to convince Harriet that Mr. Elton is beneath her after all.

An interesting development is the arrival in the neighbourhood of Frank Churchill, Mrs. Weston's stepson, whom Emma has never met, but has a long-standing interest. Also, Mr. Elton (who will reveal himself to be more and more arrogant and pompous as the story continues - much like Mr. Collins of *Pride and Prejudice*) returns with another newcomer - a common, vulgar but very rich wife who becomes part of Emma's social circle, though the two women soon loathe each other. A third new character is Jane Fairfax, the reserved but beautiful niece of Emma's impoverished neighbour, the

loquacious Miss Bates, another comical character who serves to lighten the tone. Jane, who is very accomplished musically, is Miss Bates' pride and joy; Emma, however, envies her talent and somewhat dislikes her though eventually they become friends. Jane had lived with Miss Bates until she was nine, but Colonel Campbell, a friend indebted to her father for seeing him through a life-threatening illness, welcomed her into his own home where she became fast friends with his daughter and received a first-rate education. On the marriage of Miss Campbell, Jane returned to her relations, ostensibly to regain her health and prepare to earn her living as a governess.

In her eagerness to find some sort of fault with Jane — and also to find something to amuse her in her pleasant but dull village — Emma indulges in the fantasy, shared with Frank, that Jane was an unwilling object of admiration for Miss Campbell's husband, Mr. Dixon, and that it is for this reason she has returned home, rather than going to Ireland to visit them. This suspicion is further fueled by the arrival of a piano for Jane from a mysterious anonymous benefactor.

The plot becomes quite complex as Emma tries to make herself fall in love with Frank largely because everyone says they make a handsome couple. Emma ultimately decides, however, that he would suit Harriet better after an episode where Frank 'saves' her protégée from a band of Gypsies. At this time, Mrs. Weston wonders if Emma's old friend Mr Knightley might have taken a fancy to Jane. Emma promptly decides that she does not want Knightley to marry anyone, but rather than further explore these feelings, she claims that she wants her nephew Henry to inherit the family property.

When Mr. Knightley scolds her for a thoughtless insult to Miss Bates, Emma is privately ashamed, and tries to atone (bertobat). Though the kindhearted Miss Bates readily forgives her, Jane initially refuses to see her or accept her gifts causing Emma to despair of ever making amends for her behavior. She is further discomfited when she learns that Jane and Frank have

been secretly engaged for almost a year. When Harriet confides that she thinks Mr. Knightley is in love with her, jealousy forces Emma to realize that she loves him herself. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Knightley proposes to Emma, Harriet reconciles with her young farmer, Jane and Emma reconcile and everyone lives happily ever after.

2. Principal characters

Emma Woodhouse, the protagonist of the story, is a beautiful, high-spirited, intellectual, and 'slightly' spoiled woman of 21. Though vowing she will never marry, she delights in making matches for others. She seems unable to fall in love, until jealousy makes her realize that she has loved Mr. Knightley all along.

Mr George Knightley, about 37. He is a close friend of Emma, and her only critic, though he cares deeply for her.

Mr Frank Churchill, Mr. Weston's son by his previous marriage, an amiable young man who manages to be liked by everyone except for Mr Knightley, who considers him quite immature. Frank thoroughly enjoys dancing and music and likes to live life to the fullest. Frank may be viewed as a careless but less villainous version of characters from other Austen novels, such as Mr. Wickham from *Pride and Prejudice* or Willoughby from *Sense and Sensibility*.

Jane Fairfax, an orphan whose only family consists of an aunt, Miss Bates, and a grandmother, Mrs Bates. She is regarded as a very beautiful, clever, and elegant woman, with the best of manners, and is also very well-educated and exceptionally talented at singing and playing the piano; in fact, she is the sole person that Emma envies. She has no money, however, and seems destined to become a governess – a prospect she greatly dreads.

Harriet Smith, a young friend of Emma's, is a very pretty but unsophisticated girl who is too easily led by others, especially Emma; she has been educated at a nearby school. The illegitimate daughter of initially unknown parents, she is revealed in the last chapter to be the daughter of a fairly rich and decent tradesman, although not a "gentleman"). Emma takes Harriet under her wing early in the novel, and she becomes the subject of some of Emma's misguided matchmaking attempts. Harriet initially rebuffs a marriage proposal from farmer Robert Martin because of Emma's belief that he is beneath her, despite Harriet's own doubtful origins. Ultimately, Harriet and Mr Martin are wed, despite Emma's meddling.

Philip Elton is a good-looking, well mannered and ambitious young vicar. Emma wants him to marry Harriet; he wants to marry Emma. Mr Elton displays his mercenary nature by quickly marrying another woman of means after Emma's rejection.

Augusta Elton is Mr Elton's moneyed but obnoxious wife. She is a boasting, domineering, pretentious woman who likes to be the centre of attention and is generally disliked by Emma and her circle. She patronizes Jane, which earns Jane the sympathy of others.

Mrs Weston, formerly Miss Taylor, was Emma's governess for sixteen years and remains her closest friend and confidante after she marries Mr Weston in the opening chapter. She is a sensible woman who adores Emma. Mrs Weston acts as a surrogate mother to her former charge and, occasionally, as a voice of moderation and reason.

Mr Weston, a recently wealthy man living in the vicinity of Hartfield. He marries Emma's former governess, Miss Taylor, and by his first marriage is father to Frank Churchill, who was adopted and raised by his late wife's brother and sister-in-law. Mr. Weston is a sanguine, optimistic man.

Miss Bates, a friendly, garrulous old maid whose mother, Mrs Bates, is a friend of Mr Woodhouse's. Her accomplished niece, Jane Fairfax, is the light of her life. One day, Emma humiliates her at a party when she pointedly alludes to her tiresome prolixity. Afterward, Mr Knightley sternly rebukes her and Emma, shamed, tries to make amends.

Henry Woodhouse, Emma's father, is always concerned for his own health that of his friends, to the point of trying to deny his visitors foods he thinks too rich. He laments that "poor Isabella" and "poor Miss Taylor" shouldn't have married and been taken away from him.

3. Jane Austen's Biography

The daughter of the Reverend George Austen and Cassandra Leigh Austen, Jane Austen was born December 16, 1775. She was the seventh of eight children and the youngest of two daughters in the middle-class family, then living at Steventon Rectory in Hampshire, England. As the parson's daughter, Austen mixed frequently and easily with the landed gentry of rural England. Among the Austens's neighbors was Madam Lefroy, wife to a parson and sister to an aristocratic squire fond of books. Lefroy, who wrote and published poetry, took a special interest in Austen's education, and encouraged her intellectual development.

At home, Reverend Austen entertained the family by reading literature aloud and guided Austen in choosing books from his large library and local circulating libraries, while James Austen, Austen's eldest brother, directed the family in amateur theatricals. Between 1783 and 1786, Austen received formal schooling, first at a boarding school at Oxford, then at the Abbey School in Reading. Around the age of twelve, Austen began writing children's stories. She stayed at Steventon until 1801, reading, writing, and participating in the Hampshire social rounds of balls, visits, and trips to Bath. **Austen never married, but in 1795 fell in love with Thomas Langlois Lefroy, the**

nephew of her mentor Madam Lefroy. Madam Lefroy, however, disapproved of the match, thinking Thomas would lose his inheritance if he married the penniless daughter of a clergyman, and sent her nephew away. During these last years at Steventon, Austen began several early drafts of her mature works. She wrote her first novel in 1796 and 1797; "First Impressions" was sufficiently polished that her father attempted to publish it, but it was turned down. She would eventually revise it as *Pride and Prejudice*. Her next attempt was a novel she titled "Susan," and though she was able to sell it to a publisher in 1803, it was never published in its initial form. She eventually revised it further, and the book was published posthumously as *Northanger Abbey* (1818).

Austen's authorial efforts were interrupted by a series of tragedies: in 1804 Madam Lefroy, who had remained her close friend, died in a riding accident, and in 1805 her father died, leaving Austen, her sister, and her mother with no means of support. They became dependent on her brothers, who jointly maintained the women in Bath until 1806, when Frank, a naval officer, invited them to live at his home in Southampton. In 1809, they moved to Chawton Cottage, on her brother Edward's estate in Kent. There, Austen worked on *Sense and Sensibility*, finally succeeding in getting her first novel published in 1811. As with all her works, *Sense and Sensibility* was published anonymously, "By a Lady." That year, she also worked on the final version of *Pride and Prejudice* and began *Mansfield Park*. She was unusually secretive about her writing for some time, even insisting that the door to the chamber she used for writing not be repaired, so that the squeak (cicitan) of the hinges (engsel) would alert her to intruders. *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice* both sold out their first printings and went into second editions and *Mansfield Park* sold out its first printing as well. Now a literary success, Austen began work on *Emma* in 1814. The Prince Regent (later George IV) invited Austen to meet with him in November 1815, expressing his admiration for her work and asking her to dedicate her next novel to him. She reluctantly

agreed, and *Emma* was released with a dedication to the prince just over a month later.

During that year, Austen also began work on *Persuasion* (1818), the last novel she would complete. She began the novel *Sanditon* in 1817 but was forced to leave it unfinished due to illness. In May of that year, she moved with her sister Cassandra to Winchester to obtain medical care but died on July 18. The obituary in the Hampshire newspaper contained one of the first public acknowledgements of her authorship.



4. Data

A. Women's role in 19th Century English Social Life in *Emma*

.....invite him to dinner, Emma, and help him to the best of fish and chicken, but leave him to choose his own wife. Depend upon it, a man of six or seven-and-twenty can take care of himself. (*Emma*, 1955:9)

Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessing of existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vexes her. (*Emma*, 1955:1)

Harriet had been at Hartfield, as usual, soon after breakfast; and after a time, had gone home to return again to dinner; she returned, and sooner than had been talked of, and with an agitated, hurried look, announcing something extraordinary to have happened which she was longing to tell. (*Emma*, 1955:42)

Her views of improving her little friend's mind, by a great deal of useful reading and conversation, had never yet led to more than a few first chapters, and the intention of going on tomorrow. It was much easier to chat than to study; much pleasanter to let her imagination range and work at Harriet at Harriet's fortune, than to be labouring to enlarge her comprehension to exercise it on sober facts; and the only literary to pursuit which engaged Harriet at present, the only mental provision she was making for the evening of life, was the collecting and transcribing all the riddles of every sort that she could meet with, into a thin quarto of hot-pressed paper,

made up by her friend, and ornamented with ciphers and thropies.
(*Emma*, 1955: 60)

There could hardly be a happier creature in the world, than Mrs. John Knightley, in this short visit to Hartfield, going about every morning among her old acquaintance with her five children, and talking over what she had done every evening with her father and sister. She had nothing to wish otherwise, but that the days did not pass so swiftly. It was a delightful visit; perfect in being much too short. (*Emma*, 1955:94)

These were the ladies whom Emma found herself very frequently able to collect; and happy was she, for her father's sake, in the power; though, as far as she was herself concerned, it was no remedy for the absence of Mrs. Weston. She was delightful to see her father look comfortable, and very much pleased with herself for contriving things so well; but the quiet prosings of three such women made her feel that every evening so spent was indeed one of the long evenings she had fearfully anticipated. (*Emma*, 1955:16)

B. Women's position in 19th Century English Social Life in *Emma*

Women are inferior than men

‘ I wish you may not get into a scrape, Harriet, whenever he does marry; I mean, as to being acquainted with his wife for though his sister, from a superior education, are not to be altogether objected to, it does not follow that he might marry anybody at all for you to notice. The misfortune of your birth ought to make you particularly careful as to your associates. There can be no doubt of your being a gentlemen's daughter, and you must support your claim to that station

by everything within your own power, or there will be plenty of people who would take pleasure in regarding you.’ (*Emma*, 1955: 24)

Mrs. Bates, the widow of a former vicar of Highbury, was a very old lady, almost past everything but tea and quadrille. She lived with her single daughter in a very small way, and was considered with all regard and respect which a harmless old lady, under such untoward circumstances, can excite. Her daughter enjoyed most uncommon degree of popularity for a woman neither young, handsome, rich, nor married. Miss Bates stood in the very worst predicament in the world for having much of the public favour; and she had no intellectual superiority to make atonement to herself, or frighten those who might hate her, into outward respect. She had never boasted either beauty or cleverness. Her youth had passed without distinction, and her middle of life was devoted to the care of failing mother, and the endeavour to make a small income go as far as possible. (*Emma*, 1955:15)

Men are much more philosophic on the subject of beauty than they are generally supposed; till they do fall in love with well informed minds instead of handsome faces, a girl, with such loveliness as Harriet, has a certainty of being admired and sought after, of having the power of choosing from among many, consequently a claim to be nice. Her good nature, too, is not so very slight a claim, comprehending, as it does, real thorough sweetness of temper and manner, a very humble opinion of herself, and a great readiness to be pleased with other people. I am very much mistaken if your sex in general would not think such beauty, and such temper, the highest claims a woman could possess.’ (*Emma*, 1955:54)

‘I have always thought, it is a very foolish intimacy,’ said Mr. Knightley presently, ‘though I have kept my thoughts to myself; but I

now perceive that it will be a very unfortunate one for Harriet. You will puff her up with such ideas of her own beauty, and of what she has a claim to, that, in a little while, nobody within her reach will be good enough for her. Vanity working on a weak head, produces every sort of mischief. Nothing so easy as for a young lady to raise her expectations too high. Miss Harriet Smith may not find offers of marriage flow in so fast, though she is a very pretty girl. Men of sense, whatever you may chuse to say, do not want silly wives. Men of family would not be very fond of connecting themselves with a girl of such as obscurity-and most prudent men would be afraid of the inconvenience and disgrace they might be involved in, when the mystery of her parentage came to revealed. Let her marry Robert Martin, and she is safe, respectable, and happy for ever; but if you encourage her to expect to marry greatly, and teach her to be satisfied with nothing less than a man of consequence and large fortune, she may be a parlour-boarder at Mrs. Goddard's al the rest of her life-or, at least, (for Harriet Smith is a girl who will marry somebody or other,) till she grow desperate, and is glad to catch at the old writing master's son.' (*Emma*, 1955:55)

This is an attachment which a woman may well feel pride in creating. This a connection which offers nothing but good. It will give you everything that you want-consideration, independence, a proper home-it will fix you in the centre of all your real friends, close to Hartfield and to me, and confirm our intimacy for ever. This, Harriet, is an alliance which can never raise a blush in either of us.' (*Emma*, 1955:64)

'Never mind, Harriet, I shall not be a poor old maid;and it is poverty only which makes celibacy contemptible to a generous public! A single woman, with a very narrow income, must be ridiculous,

disagreeable old maid! The proper sport of boys and girls; but a single woman, of good fortune, is always respectable, and may be as sensible and pleasant as anybody else. And the distinction is not quite so much against the candour and common sense of the world as appear at first; for a very narrow income has a tendency to contract the mind, and sour the temper. Those who can barely live, and who live perforce in a very small, and generally very inferior, society, may well be illiberal and cross. This does not apply, however, to Miss Bates; she is only too good natured and too silly to suit me; but, in general, she is very much to the taste of everybody, though single and though poor. Poverty certainly has not contracted her mind; I really believe, if she had only a shilling in the world, she would be very likely to give away sixpence of it; and nobody is afraid of her: that is a great charm.' (*Emma*, 1955:74)

Women are equal with men

Mrs. Goddard was the mistress of a school not of a seminary, or an establishment, or any thing which professed, in long sentences of refined nonsense, to combine liberal acquirements with elegant morality, upon new principles and where young ladies for enormous pay might be screwed out of health and into vanity but real, honest, old fashioned Boarding-school, where a reasonable quantity of accomplishments were sold at reasonable price, and where girls might be sent to be out of the way and scramble themselves into a little education, without any danger of coming back prodigies. Mrs. Goddard's school as in high repute-and very deservedly;....

She was a plain, motherly kind of woman, who had worked hard in her youth, and now thought herself entitled to the occasional holiday of a tea-visit; and having formerly owed much to Mr. Woodhouse's kindness, felt his particular claim on her to leave her neat parlour

hung round with fancy work whenever she could, and win or lose a few sixpences by his fireside. (*Emma*, 1955:16)

‘Never mind, Harriet, I shall not be a poor old maid; and it is poverty only which makes celibacy contemptible to a generous public! A single woman, with a very narrow income, must be ridiculous, disagreeable old maid! The proper sport of boys and girls; but a single woman, of good fortune, is always respectable, and may be as sensible and pleasant as anybody else. And the distinction is not quite so much against the candour and common sense of the world as appear at first; for a very narrow income has a tendency to contract the mind, and sour the temper. Those who can barely live, and who live perforce in a very small, and generally very inferior, society, may well be illiberal and cross. This does not apply, however, to Miss Bates; she is only too good natured and too silly to suit me; but, in general, she is very much to the taste of everybody, though single and though poor. Poverty certainly has not contracted her mind; I really believe, if she had only a shilling in the world, she would be very likely to give away sixpence of it; and nobody is afraid of her: that is a great charm.’ (*Emma*, 1955:74)

I do not look upon him to be quite the sort of man. I do not altogether build upon his steadiness and constancy. His feelings are warm, but I can imagine them rather changeable. Every consideration of the subject, in short, makes me thankful that my happiness is not more deeply involved. I shall do very well again after a little while-and then. It will be a good thing over; for they say every body is in love once in their lives, and I shall have been let off easily. (*Emma*, 1955:232)