

## The Impact of Human Relationship in Pride and Prejudice

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### Abstract

Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is a timeless novel that explores the complexities of human relationships against the backdrop of early 19th-century English society. Central to the narrative are the themes of love, class, and individual growth, as exemplified through the interactions of the main characters, particularly Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy. The novel delves into how societal expectations, personal biases, and misunderstandings shape human connections, ultimately highlighting the transformative power of self-awareness and communication. At its core, *Pride and Prejudice* follows the spirited Elizabeth Bennet as she navigates the pressures of family, social status, and romantic entanglements. The initial tension between Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy, characterized by pride and prejudice, underscores the barriers that can obstruct genuine understanding and affection. Through their evolving relationship, Austen illustrates how personal growth, humility, and the willingness to confront one's flaws can lead to deeper connections. Moreover, the novel examines various relationships, including those among the Bennet sisters, the dynamic between Elizabeth and her parents, and the contrasting marriages of Charlotte Lucas and Mr. Collins, as well as Lydia Bennet and George Wickham. Each relationship serves to elucidate the societal norms of the time, revealing both the constraints and the opportunities for emotional fulfillment. Ultimately, *Pride and Prejudice* emphasizes that human relationships are complex and multifaceted, shaped by external pressures and internal conflicts. Austen's incisive commentary on the interplay between personal growth and social dynamics invites readers to reflect on their own relationships, making the novel a relevant exploration of love, respect, and understanding across generations.

**key words:** Love ,frustration, proud, careless, hope, pain

### Introduction

*Pride and Prejudice*, written by Jane Austen and published in 1813, is a seminal work in English literature that explores themes of love, social class, and the complexities of human relationships. Set in the early 19th century, the novel follows the life of Elizabeth Bennet, one of five sisters, as she navigates societal expectations and personal desires in her quest for love and happiness. The story delves into the dynamics of various relationships, particularly focusing on the tensions and misunderstandings between Elizabeth and the wealthy Mr. Darcy, ultimately revealing the transformative power of love and self-awareness. The novel is structured into three main sections: the introduction of the characters and their social milieu, the development of the central conflict between Elizabeth and Darcy, and the resolution that culminates in mutual understanding and acceptance.

Each section highlights different aspects of human relationships, showcasing how misunderstandings, prejudices, and societal pressures impact the characters' interactions. The aim of this research is to analyze the impact of human relationships in *Pride and Prejudice*, particularly how they shape individual identities and influence societal norms. The study seeks to explore the ways in which the characters' relationships reflect broader themes of class, gender, and personal growth, ultimately contributing to a deeper understanding of Austen's critique of her contemporary society. The method of the study involves a qualitative literary analysis, examining key interactions between characters and their implications. Close readings of pivotal scenes, character development arcs, and thematic elements will be utilized to draw connections between personal relationships and societal expectations. Additionally, secondary sources, including critical essays and historical context, will be incorporated to provide a well-rounded perspective on the significance of human relationships within the novel.

### Section One

#### Literature Review

#### Important Opinions on "Pride and Prejudice" and Insights for Novelists

"Pride and Prejudice" has received significant acclaim and analysis since its release, influencing both readers and writers. Critics often highlight Austen's exceptional character development, particularly in Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy.

Their journey from misunderstanding to mutual respect showcases the importance of self-awareness and personal growth. Novelists can learn from this by creating multidimensional characters who undergo meaningful transformations, reflecting the complexities of human nature. Austen's incisive critique of social class and gender roles is another focal point. The novel encourages readers to question societal norms and the value placed on wealth and status. This serves as a reminder for novelists to weave social commentary into their narratives, using storytelling as a platform to challenge prevailing attitudes and provoke thought. The central romance between Elizabeth and Darcy is often regarded as a model of a relationship built on respect and understanding rather than superficial attraction or status. This emphasizes the importance of portraying authentic relationships in literature. Novelists should strive to depict love that transcends mere physical attraction, focusing instead on emotional depth and mutual growth. Austen's use of wit and irony is frequently praised, allowing her to convey deeper meanings while entertaining her audience. This technique encourages novelists to incorporate humor and clever dialogue into their writing, enriching their narratives and engaging readers on multiple levels.

The novel's narrative voice, characterized by a blend of irony and empathy, invites readers to connect with the characters while encouraging critical reflection on their actions. For aspiring writers, mastering voice and tone is crucial for creating an engaging narrative that resonates with readers. Austen explores the impact of family dynamics on individual choices and societal expectations. The relationships among the Bennet sisters and their parents reveal the complexities of familial love and obligation. Novelists can benefit by delving into family structures and their influence on character development, adding layers of depth to their stories. The themes of pride, prejudice, and the quest for personal happiness remain relevant today. This highlights the importance of addressing universal themes that resonate across time and cultures. Novelists should consider the enduring human experiences that can anchor their narratives, making them relatable to a broad audience. "Pride and Prejudice" offers rich insights into character development, social critique, and the nature of relationships. For novelists, Austen's work serves as a powerful example of how literature can reflect and challenge societal norms while exploring the intricacies of human emotions and connections. Embracing these lessons can lead to more meaningful and impactful storytelling.

### Jane Austen's Life and Works

Jane Austen (1775-1817) an English writer who first gives the novel its modern character through the treatment of everyday life she was born in Hampshire village of Stevenson, where her father the Reverend George Austen, was a rector of the village. She was the second daughter and seventh child in a family of eight: six boys and two girls. Her closest eldest sister, Cassandra, who also remained unmarried. Their father, was a scholar who encouraged the love of learning in his children. Although she and her sister briefly attended several different schools. Jane was educated mainly by her father, who taught his own children and several pupils who boarded with the family (Kirkham, 68–72). By age 25 of Jane, her father retired and by that time her brothers two of whom later became admirals, had career and families of their own. Jane, her sister, Cassandra, and their parents went to live in Bath. His wife, Cassandra (nee' Leigh), was a woman of ready wit, famed for her impromptu verses and stories. The great family amusement was acting. Such a kind of affectionate and lively family provided a stimulating context for Jane Austen's writing. Jane's life was like an extensive network of relationships by blood and friendship. It was this world of minor landed gentry and the country clergy, in the village, the neighborhood and the country town, which occasional visits to Bath and to London – which she was to use in the setting, characters, and subject matter of her novels. Her childhood was a happy one amongst all brothers and the other boys who lodged with the family and whom Mr. Austen tutored; to amuse themselves the children wrote and performed plays and charades, and even as little girl Jane was encouraged to write for the reading that she did of her father's extensive library that provided her a material for the short satirical sketches she wrote as a girl (Grundy, 195–197).

### The Literary Works of Jane Austen

In age of fourteen years old Jane wrote her first novel Love and Friendship and then A History of England in addition to other amusing Juvenilia. In early twenties years old, Jane Austen's wrote the novels that were later to be revised and published as Sense and Sensibility, *Pride and Prejudice* and Northanger Abbey beside another in completed novel called The Watsons. Jane enjoyed dancing as a young woman (such an activity features frequently in her novels), she attended balls in many of the great houses of the neighborhood. She loved the country, enjoyed the long country walks, and had many friends from Hampshire. So when her parents announced in (1801) that the family would be moving away to Bath this announcement was a considerable shock to Jane (MacDonagh, 65, 136–137). The next four years were difficult ones for Jane Austen, she disliked the confines of a busy town and missed her Stevenson life. After her father's death in 1805. The mother and her two daughters were suffered financial difficulties and were forced to rely on the charity of the Austen sons. It was also at this time that, Jane fell in love, and when the young man died, she was deeply upset. Later she accepted a proposal of marriage from Harris Big-Wither, a wealthy landowner

and brother to some of her closest friends, but she changes her mind next morning and was greatly upset by the whole episode (Le Faye, 27). In July 1804, on her brother Edward offering his mother and sister a permanent home on his Chawton estate, the Austen's ladies moved back to their beloved Hampshire countryside. Such a nice and pretty garden countryside home was the whole thing that Jane Austen's need to settle in order to write (Honan, 211–212). During the years that she spent in this house (seven and a half years) Jane Austen revised and published *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice* (in 1811 and 1813) then she produced an intensive productivity; *Mansfield Park* (1814). Followed by *Emma* (in 1816) and she completed *Persuasion* (that was published together with *Northanger Abbey* in 1818 the year after her death). None of the books published in her life –time had her name on them they were described as being written "By a Lady". In the winter of 1816 she started *Seditions* by illness prevented its completion. Jane Austen had contracted Addison Disease, a tubercular disease of the kidneys. No longer able to walk far, she used to drive out in a little donkey carriage which can still be seen at the Jane Austen Museum at Chawton. By May 1817 she was so ill that she and Cassandra to be near Jane's physician, rented rooms in Winchester. Tragically, there was no cure and Jane Austen died in her sister's arms in the early hours of 18th of July 1817. She was 41 years old and buried in Winchester Cathedral (South am, 244).

### **The Plot of *Pride and Prejudice***

In Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice*, there was an examination of the lives of women living in the late 18th to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. During this period in time, women had a very specific role in society and were expected to be both subservient and innocent. Their primary role was to get married, have children and maintain a household for their husband. Rarely were women acknowledged for their intelligence or for having an opinion. In the novel, the heroine, Elizabeth Bennet, was in contrast to this definition an epitome of an ideal woman. She was clever and opinionated, but, in the end, chooses the life of a 19<sup>th</sup> century wife. However, there did seem to be a message portrayed by Austen in this story. Women during this period often deferred to decisions made by men, regardless of their own feelings. In *Pride and Prejudice*, although they were often treated as inferior to their male counterparts, the women in this story represented different characteristics to demonstrate how the ideal was not necessarily the most desirable. This novel might start off with the anonymous figure of a rich, single man, but the novel was actually concerned with the plight of the poor, single woman.

### **The Characters of *Pride and Prejudice***

#### **Elizabeth Bennet**

The second-eldest of the Bennet daughters, she is attractive, witty and intelligent but with a tendency to form tenacious and prejudicial first impressions. As the story progresses, so does her relationship with Mr. Darcy. The course of Elizabeth and Darcy's relationship is ultimately decided when Darcy overcomes his pride, and Elizabeth overcomes her prejudice, leading them both to surrender to their love for each other (Runcie, 219).

#### **Fitzwilliam Darcy**

A wealthy gentleman, the master of Pemberley, and the nephew of Lady Catherine de Bourgh. Though Darcy is intelligent and honest, his excess of pride causes him to look down on his social inferiors. Over the course of the novel, he tempers his class-consciousness and learns to admire and love Elizabeth for her strong character (Ibid).

#### **Jane Bennet**

The eldest and most beautiful Bennet sister. Jane is more reserved and gentler than Elizabeth. The easy pleasantness with which she and Bingley interact contrasts starkly with the mutual distaste that marks the encounters between Elizabeth and Darcy (Ibid, p. 221).

#### **Charles Bingley**

Darcy's considerably wealthy best friend. Bingley's purchase of Netherfield, an estate near the Bennets, serves as the impetus for the novel. He is a genial, well-intentioned gentleman, whose easygoing nature contrasts with Darcy's initially discourteous demeanor. He is blissfully uncaring about class differences (Austen, 115).

#### **Mr. Bennet**

The patriarch of the Bennet family, a gentleman of modest income with five unmarried daughters. Mr. Bennet has a sarcastic, cynical sense of humor that he uses to purposefully irritate his wife. Though he loves his daughters (Elizabeth in particular), he often fails as a parent, preferring to withdraw from the never-ending marriage concerns of the women around him rather than offer help (Ibid, 115).

#### **Mrs. Bennet**

Mr. Bennet's wife, a foolish, noisy woman whose only goal in life is to see her daughters married. Because of her low breeding and often unbecoming behavior, Mrs. Bennet often repels the very suitors whom she tries to attract for her daughters.

**George Wickham**

A handsome, fortune-hunting militia officer. Wickham's good looks and charm attract Elizabeth initially, but Darcy's revelation about Wickham's disreputable past clues her in to his true nature and simultaneously draws her closer to Darcy.

**Lydia Bennet**

The youngest Bennet sister, she is gossipy, immature, and self-involved. Unlike Elizabeth, Lydia flings herself headlong into romance and ends up running off with Wickham.

**Mr. Collins**

A pompous, generally idiotic clergyman who stands to inherit Mr. Bennet's property. Mr. Collins's own social status is nothing to brag about, but he takes great pains to let everyone and anyone know that Lady Catherine de Bourgh serves as his patroness. He is the worst combination of snobbish and obsequious (Tauchert, 144).

**Miss Bingley**

Bingley's snobbish sister. Miss Bingley bears inordinate disdain for Elizabeth's middle-class background. Her vain attempts to garner Darcy's attention cause Darcy to admire Elizabeth's self-possessed character even more (Ibid: 144).

**Lady Catherine de Bourgh**

A rich, bossy noblewoman; Mr. Collins's patron and Darcy's aunt. Lady Catherine epitomizes class snobbery, especially in her attempts to order the middle-class Elizabeth away from her well-bred nephew (Ibid: 143).

**Section Two**

**The Impact of Human Relationship in *Pride and Prejudice***

In "Pride and Prejudice," the impact of human relationships is a central theme that shapes the narrative and influences character development. The interactions between characters reveal the complexities of social dynamics, the significance of love and marriage, and the challenges of personal growth. The relationship between Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy illustrates how initial misunderstandings can evolve into deep understanding and respect. Their journey from initial prejudice and pride to mutual admiration highlights the transformative power of love. Elizabeth's ability to challenge societal norms and Darcy's willingness to confront his own flaws demonstrate that genuine connections require vulnerability and the willingness to grow. Their eventual union symbolizes the triumph of love over societal expectations and personal biases. Conversely, the relationships within the Bennet family showcase the varying values and expectations surrounding marriage. Jane's relationship with Mr. Bingley exemplifies a more conventional view of love, marked by kindness and mutual respect. In contrast, Lydia's impulsive elopement with Mr. Wickham serves as a stark warning about the dangers of superficial relationships and the lack of parental guidance. Lydia's actions not only jeopardize her own future but also impact the reputation and stability of the entire Bennet family. Friendships also play a significant role in the narrative. The bond between Elizabeth and her sisters, particularly Jane, highlights the importance of support and solidarity among women in a society that often undermines their agency. Their relationship fosters resilience and offers a counterbalance to the pressures of societal expectations regarding marriage and propriety. Moreover, the interactions between characters like Lady Catherine de Bourgh and Elizabeth emphasize the impact of social class and power dynamics on relationships.

Lady Catherine's attempts to assert her superiority and control over Darcy's choices underscore the tensions between individual desires and societal expectations. Elizabeth's refusal to be intimidated by Lady Catherine's status ultimately reinforces her belief in the importance of personal integrity and self-worth. The various relationships in "Pride and Prejudice" collectively illustrate the profound influence of human connections on personal identity and societal norms. Through love, friendship, and familial bonds, characters navigate the complexities of their social environment, ultimately revealing that true fulfillment comes from authentic relationships built on respect, understanding, and mutual growth. In "Pride and Prejudice," human relationships profoundly impact character development and thematic exploration. Key quotes illustrate these dynamics, revealing the complexities of love, social class, and personal growth. One pivotal quote is Elizabeth Bennet's assertion, "I am not afraid of storms, for I am learning how to sail my ship." This reflects her resilience and determination to navigate societal expectations. Elizabeth's relationship with Darcy evolves from misunderstanding to mutual respect, emphasizing that personal growth often stems from challenging circumstances. Her journey demonstrates that genuine relationships require self-awareness and the courage to confront one's biases. Darcy's transformation is encapsulated in his declaration, "You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you." This moment signifies a shift in his character, revealing vulnerability and the depth of his feelings for Elizabeth. It highlights the impact of love on personal



transformation, as Darcy learns to shed his pride and societal prejudices. Their relationship underscores that love can inspire individuals to grow beyond their limitations. Conversely, Lydia Bennet's proclamation, "I am determined to be a fool," epitomizes her reckless pursuit of excitement and attention. Lydia's impulsive actions lead to scandal, impacting not only her own future but also her family's reputation. This quote illustrates the dangers of superficial relationships and highlights the contrast between Lydia's frivolity and Elizabeth's more considered approach to love. Lydia's decisions serve as a cautionary tale about the consequences of neglecting the deeper values of relationships. Jane Bennet's gentle nature is reflected in her words, "I cannot bear the idea of not being married." Her relationship with Mr. Bingley represents the ideal of romantic love based on mutual respect and kindness. Jane's unwavering optimism contrasts with Elizabeth's initial skepticism, showcasing the varied perspectives on love and marriage. Their dynamic emphasizes the importance of supportive relationships amid societal pressures. Lady Catherine de Bourgh's assertion, "I am not accustomed to such a degree of civility from people of your situation," highlights the class tensions that permeate the novel. Her condescension toward Elizabeth underscores the barriers that social status creates in relationships. Elizabeth's refusal to be intimidated by Lady Catherine showcases her strength and conviction, reinforcing the theme that true worth is not defined by social standing. The impact of human relationships in "Pride and Prejudice" is illustrated through key quotes that reveal character motivations and thematic depth. Through love, friendship, and familial bonds, characters navigate societal expectations and personal growth, ultimately demonstrating the transformative power of authentic connections. The interplay of these relationships underscores the novel's exploration of pride, prejudice, and the journey toward understanding and acceptance.

### **Comparison between Upper-class and Lower-class in English Society in *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen**

In "Pride and Prejudice," Jane Austen skillfully contrasts the lives and values of upper-class and lower-class characters, highlighting the social hierarchies and class distinctions of early 19th-century England. The interactions between characters from these different social strata reveal the complexities of class dynamics and the impact of wealth and status on human relationships. The upper class, represented by characters such as Mr. Darcy, Lady Catherine de Bourgh, and Mr. Bingley, embodies wealth, privilege, and a certain level of social power. Their lives are marked by elaborate social events, material comforts, and a sense of entitlement. Mr. Darcy, despite his initially aloof demeanor, reveals the expectations placed upon him as a wealthy gentleman. His struggles with pride and the pressure to uphold family status reflect the burdens that accompany privilege. Lady Catherine, with her domineering attitude, exemplifies the rigid class structure and the belief in aristocratic superiority. Her interactions with Elizabeth highlight the social barriers that often dictate relationships and interactions. In contrast, the lower-class characters, such as the Bennet family, represent the struggles of those without substantial wealth or social standing. The Bennets' financial insecurity and reliance on advantageous marriages illuminate the limited opportunities available to women of lower social status. Elizabeth's witty and independent spirit sets her apart from societal expectations, yet she is still acutely aware of the consequences of her family's lower status. The pressure to marry well is a constant theme for the Bennet sisters, reflecting the societal norms that dictate a woman's worth in relation to her marital prospects. The novel also addresses the nuances within the upper class. For instance, Mr. Bingley, despite his wealth, is portrayed as amiable and approachable, contrasting with Darcy's initial pride. This distinction suggests that character and personal values matter more than social rank. Similarly, the character of Mr. Wickham, who initially appears charming and well-mannered, reveals the pitfalls of lower-class ambition when exposed as deceitful. His ability to manipulate perceptions illustrates the fluidity of social status and the potential for moral corruption regardless of class. Austen uses these contrasts to critique the social norms of her time, emphasizing that true worth lies in character rather than wealth. The relationships between characters across class lines, such as Elizabeth and Darcy, challenge societal expectations and suggest that love and respect can transcend social boundaries. Ultimately, the interactions between upper-class and lower-class characters in "Pride and Prejudice" reveal the complexities of human relationships and the impact of social class on personal values, aspirations, and moral integrity. Through her nuanced portrayal, Austen advocates for a more equitable understanding of worth that transcends societal divisions.

### **The Moral Lessons in *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen**

"Pride and Prejudice" presents several moral lessons that resonate through its exploration of character, relationships, and societal norms. One of the central themes is the importance of self-awareness and personal growth. Elizabeth Bennet's journey illustrates the necessity of recognizing one's own prejudices and biases. Initially, Elizabeth allows her first impressions of Mr. Darcy to cloud her judgment, believing him to be arrogant and proud. However, as she learns more about him and confronts her own misunderstandings, she grows to appreciate his true character. This evolution emphasizes the value of introspection and the willingness to change one's perspective. Another significant moral lesson is the critique of social class and wealth. Austen presents characters like Mr. Collins and Lady Catherine de Bourgh, who embody the pitfalls of excessive pride in social status. Their superficial values and condescension

highlight the dangers of allowing class distinctions to dictate one's actions and relationships. In contrast, the genuine connections formed between characters like Elizabeth and Darcy demonstrate that true worth lies in character and integrity rather than social standing. The novel advocates for the idea that love and respect should transcend societal barriers. The importance of personal integrity is also a key moral lesson. Elizabeth's refusal to marry Mr. Collins, despite the financial security he offers, underscores her commitment to marrying for love rather than convenience. This decision reflects her belief in the necessity of authenticity in relationships. Similarly, Darcy's character development reveals that moral integrity requires humility and self-reflection. His initial proposal to Elizabeth, filled with condescension, ultimately leads him to recognize his faults and strive for personal improvement. Furthermore, Austen critiques the societal pressures surrounding marriage. The various relationships in the novel illustrate the consequences of marrying for the wrong reasons. Lydia Bennet's impulsive decision to elope with Mr. Wickham serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of superficial love and the lack of foresight. This contrast with the relationships of Elizabeth and Darcy and Jane and Bingley reinforces the idea that meaningful relationships are built on mutual respect and understanding rather than mere attraction or financial gain. Ultimately, "Pride and Prejudice" imparts moral lessons about the importance of self-awareness, the dangers of prejudice, the value of integrity, and the necessity of genuine love in relationships. Through the diverse experiences of its characters, Austen encourages readers to reflect on their own values and the impact of societal norms on personal choices, advocating for a more profound understanding of human relationships that transcends class and superficial judgments.

### Conclusion

In "Pride and Prejudice," Jane Austen masterfully illustrates the profound impact of human relationships on personal development and societal norms. Through the intricate dynamics between characters from different social classes, the novel reveals how love, friendship, and familial bonds shape individual identities and influence choices. The evolving relationship between Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy encapsulates the journey from misunderstanding to mutual respect, demonstrating that genuine connections can transcend societal barriers and prejudices. Austen's exploration of various relationships—whether they embody ideal love, social ambition, or familial duty—highlights the complexities of human interactions and the moral lessons they impart. Characters like Jane and Mr. Bingley exemplify the beauty of affection based on mutual respect, while the reckless actions of Lydia serve as a cautionary reminder of the consequences of impulsive decisions. Ultimately, the novel advocates for the importance of integrity, self-awareness, and the courage to challenge societal expectations. Through its rich tapestry of relationships, "Pride and Prejudice" not only critiques the social constructs of its time but also offers timeless insights into the nature of love and the transformative power of understanding and acceptance. Austen's work continues to resonate, reminding readers that the quality of our relationships profoundly shapes our lives and our understanding of ourselves and others.

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