

# **Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen: Comparison of characters of Jane and Elizabeth**

Lucie Millerová

---

Bachelor Thesis  
2010



**Tomas Bata University in Zlín**  
Faculty of Humanities

---

Univerzita Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně  
Fakulta humanitních studií  
Ústav anglistiky a amerikanistiky  
akademický rok: 2009/2010

## **ZADÁNÍ BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE**

(PROJEKTU, UMĚLECKÉHO DÍLA, UMĚLECKÉHO VÝKONU)

Jméno a příjmení: **Lucie MILLEROVÁ**  
Studijní program: **B 7310 Filologie**  
Studijní obor: **Anglický jazyk pro manažerskou praxi**

Téma práce: **Pýcha a předsudek od Jane Austenové: Srovnání postav Jane a Elizabeth**

Zásady pro vypracování:

Úvod  
Teoretická část  
Viktoriánská éra  
Charakteristika Jane a Elizabeth  
Praktická část  
Elizabeth a Jane v očích ostatních  
Závěr

Rozsah práce:

Rozsah příloh:

Forma zpracování bakalářské práce: **tištěná/elektronická**

Seznam odborné literatury:

**Austen, Jane. Pride and prejudice. Middlesex: Penguin Popular Classics, 1994.**

**Austen, Jane. Pýcha a předsudek. Ikar, 1998.**

**"Literature Online." Online. Available from internet, <http://lion.chadwyck.co.uk/>, accessed on November 25, 2009.**

Vedoucí bakalářské práce:

**Mgr. Jana Máčalová**

Ústav anglistiky a amerikanistiky

Datum zadání bakalářské práce:

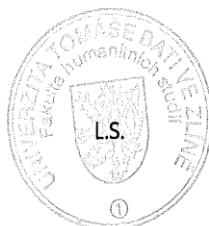
**7. ledna 2010**

Termín odevzdání bakalářské práce:

**7. května 2010**

Ve Zlíně dne 7. ledna 2010

prof. PhDr. Vlastimil Švec, CSc.  
*děkan*



doc. Ing. Anežka Lengálová, Ph.D.  
*vedoucí katedry*

## PROHLÁŠENÍ AUTORA BAKALÁŘSKÉ PRÁCE

Beru na vědomí, že

- odevzdáním bakalářské práce souhlasím se zveřejněním své práce podle zákona č. 111/1998 Sb. o vysokých školách a o změně a doplnění dalších zákonů (zákon o vysokých školách), ve znění pozdějších právních předpisů, bez ohledu na výsledek obhajoby <sup>1)</sup>;
- beru na vědomí, že bakalářská práce bude uložena v elektronické podobě v univerzitním informačním systému dostupná k nahlédnutí;
- na moji bakalářskou práci se plně vztahuje zákon č. 121/2000 Sb. o právu autorském, o právech souvisejících s právem autorským a o změně některých zákonů (autorský zákon) ve znění pozdějších právních předpisů, zejm. § 35 odst. 3 <sup>2)</sup>;
- podle § 60 <sup>3)</sup> odst. 1 autorského zákona má UTB ve Zlíně právo na uzavření licenční smlouvy o užití školního díla v rozsahu § 12 odst. 4 autorského zákona;
- podle § 60 <sup>3)</sup> odst. 2 a 3 mohu užít své dílo – bakalářskou práci - nebo poskytnout licenci k jejímu využití jen s předchozím písemným souhlasem Univerzity Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně, která je oprávněna v takovém případě ode mne požadovat přiměřený příspěvek na úhradu nákladů, které byly Univerzitou Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně na vytvoření díla vynaloženy (až do jejich skutečné výše);
- pokud bylo k vypracování bakalářské práce využito softwaru poskytnutého Univerzitou Tomáše Bati ve Zlíně nebo jinými subjekty pouze ke studijním a výzkumným účelům (tj. k nekomerčnímu využití), nelze výsledky bakalářské práce využít ke komerčním účelům.

Prohlašuji, že

- elektronická a tištěná verze bakalářské práce jsou totožné;
- na bakalářské práci jsem pracoval samostatně a použitou literaturu jsem citoval. V případě publikace výsledků budu uveden jako spoluautor.

Ve Zlíně ..... 4. 5. 2019...

..... Lucie Millerová .....

*1) zákon č. 111/1998 Sb. o vysokých školách a o změně a doplnění dalších zákonů (zákon o vysokých školách), ve znění pozdějších právních předpisů, § 47b Zveřejňování závěrečných prací;*

*(1) Vysoká škola nevydělečně zveřejňuje disertační, diplomové, bakalářské a rigorózní práce, u kterých proběhla obhajoba, včetně posudků oponentů a výsledku obhajoby prostřednictvím databáze kvalifikačních prací, kterou spravuje. Způsob zveřejnění stanoví vnitřní předpis vysoké školy.*

(2) *Disertační, diplomové, bakalářské a rigorózní práce odevzdané uchazečem k obhajobě musí být též nejméně pět pracovních dnů před konáním obhajoby zveřejněny k nahlížení veřejnosti v místě určeném vnitřním předpisem vysoké školy nebo není-li tak určeno, v místě pracoviště vysoké školy, kde se má konat obhajoba práce. Každý si může ze zveřejněné práce pořizovat na své náklady výpisy, opisy nebo rozmnoženiny.*

(3) *Platí, že odevzdáním práce autor souhlasí se zveřejněním své práce podle tohoto zákona, bez ohledu na výsledek obhajoby.*

2) *zákon č. 121/2000 Sb. o právu autorském, o právech souvisejících s právem autorským a o změně některých zákonů (autorský zákon) ve znění pozdějších právních předpisů, § 35 odst. 3:*

(3) *Do práva autorského také nezasahuje škola nebo školské či vzdělávací zařízení, ušije-li nikoli za účelem přímého nebo nepřímého hospodářského nebo obchodního prospěchu k výuce nebo k vlastní potřebě dílo vytvořené žákem nebo studentem ke splnění školních nebo studijních povinností vyplývajících z jeho právního vztahu ke škole nebo školskému či vzdělávacímu zařízení (školní dílo).*

3) *zákon č. 121/2000 Sb. o právu autorském, o právech souvisejících s právem autorským a o změně některých zákonů (autorský zákon) ve znění pozdějších právních předpisů, § 60 Školní dílo:*

(1) *Škola nebo školské či vzdělávací zařízení mají za obvyklých podmínek právo na uzavření licenční smlouvy o užití školního díla (§ 35 odst.*

3). *Odpírá-li autor takového díla udělit svolení bez vážného důvodu, mohou se tyto osoby domáhat nahrazení chybějícího projevu jeho vůle u soudu. Ustanovení § 35 odst. 3 zůstává nedotčeno.*

(2) *Není-li sjednáno jinak, může autor školního díla své dílo užit či poskytnout jinému licenci, není-li to v rozporu s oprávněnými zájmy školy nebo školského či vzdělávacího zařízení.*

(3) *Škola nebo školské či vzdělávací zařízení jsou oprávněny požadovat, aby jim autor školního díla z výdělku jim dosaženého v souvislosti s užitím díla či poskytnutím licence podle odstavce 2 přiměřeně přispěl na úhradu nákladů, které na vytvoření díla vynaložily, a to podle okolností až do jejich skutečné výše; přitom se přihlídně k vyšší výdělku dosaženého školou nebo školským či vzdělávacím zařízením z užití školního díla podle odstavce 1.*

## **ABSTRAKT**

Tato bakalářská práce obsahuje informace o novele *Pýcha a Předsudek* od Jane Austenové. Teoretická část zahrnuje stručný pohled na historické pozadí. Kromě toho se zabývá životem Jane Austenové, rolí žen v osmnáctém a devatenáctém století a charakterizací hlavních postav. Praktická část sleduje nejstarší sestry Bennetovy v průběhu děje novely a předkládá příklady jejich reakcí na různé situace jako důkaz jejich povahových vlastností popsaných v teoretické části.

Klíčová slova: Jane Austenová, Regency era, manželství, Elizabeth, Jane, sestry Bennetovy, Pan Darcy, Pan Bingley

## **ABSTRACT**

This bachelor thesis contains information about the novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. The theoretical part includes brief overview on historical background. Moreover, it deals with the life of Jane Austen, the role of women during the eighteenth and the nineteenth century and characterization of the main characters. The practical part follows the oldest Bennet sisters through the novel and gives examples of their reaction on various situations as a proof of their nature described in the theoretical part.

Keywords: Jane Austen, Regency era, marriage, Elizabeth, Jane, Bennet sisters, Mr Darcy, Mr Bingley

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to thank my supervisor, Mgr. Jana Máčalová, for her kind help and support.

## **CONTENTS**

<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>I THEORY .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>11</b>
1.1 Romantic literature .....	12
<b>2 JANE AUSTEN.....</b>	<b>14</b>
2.1 Women in Jane Austen's era.....	16
2.2 Marriage of Jane Austen's point of view .....	17
<b>3 BENNET SISTERS .....</b>	<b>22</b>
3.1 Jane.....	24
3.2 Elizabeth .....	26
<b>II ANALYSIS .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>4 COMPARISON JANE AND ELIZABETH .....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>CONCLUSION .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>43</b>



## INTRODUCTION

Overall aim of this thesis is to compare two female characters from the book *Pride and Prejudice* and illustrates the fact that although they are sisters and have a great relationship, each of them has different character. Jane Austen wrote this book at the beginning of 19<sup>th</sup> century but the nowadays' readers still can find the differences between these two young ladies and understand their relationship.

The theoretical part describes the period of Regency period in which the sisters lived and deal with their roles in this community and with woman's roles generally. Moreover, this part also includes author's viewpoint on behaviour in this period and etiquette between women and men. Next, it describes Jane's optimistic and Elizabeth's realistic worldview. It also shows their characters and variety of their characters by the help of introducing them. In addition, this theoretical part sketches out relationship within Bennets' family, including relationship among sisters.

Practical part shows important dialogues among the characters from the book on which the author illustrates what she mentioned in the theoretical part. Next, it shows behaviour in the society and relationships through the use of parts of the text. It also shows heterogeneity of the oldest Bennet's sisters in the same way.

## **I. THEORY**

## 1 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

During the Romantic period (1789-1832), literary, social and economic revolution appeared. In some sources, the Romantic period is also called “The Age of Revolutions”.<sup>1</sup> Great Britain became the first industrial power in the world. Industrial revolution as well as shift in the powers is significant for this period. Industrial revolution means that the old manufactured production was replaced with factory mass production. Thanks to new technologies, wealth was transferred from aristocracy to middle-class business owners. The population in the cities grew fast, therefore unemployment grew equally. Growing population need to be fed, as a result fields were used for stock raising. Areas of common land disappeared and landowners incorporated them into their large farms. As a result, small independent farmers were ruined and poverty appeared. To feed themselves they started to leave rural areas and started to move to big cities where situation for them was not easy. Regarded as a working class, they had to work long for low wages in terrible working conditions. Cheap child labour was a common matter. They lived in fast built and low quality houses in slums of the industrial cities, where the living conditions were on the lowest level. Consequently, mentality of the community changed. At that time appeared two nations concept<sup>2</sup> which divided people into two groups, poor and rich. Society transformed from traditional to modern society, it means that society change from agriculture to industrial society. Also in politics some change happened. The two-party system was established and Monarchs started to appoint Prime Ministers to head their governments. The first Prime Minister of Great Britain was regarded Sir Robert Walpole.

Time of the industrialization of Great Britain fell into the period of Napoleonic wars (1803-1815). After many years of fighting against France because of the world domination, England defeated France led by Napoleon Bonaparte and won at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. After the war, social unrest started. Soldiers who returned home from the war were not satisfied with their social conditions. It came to a head called “Peterloo Massacre”.<sup>3</sup> In 1819 the large group of workers met in Manchester to call for reforms. Government

---

<sup>1</sup> Andrew Sanders, *The Short Oxford History of English Literature* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), 217.

<sup>2</sup> Sanders, *The Short Oxford History of English Literature*, 218.

<sup>3</sup> Ronald Carter and John McRae, *The Routledge History of Literature in English* (London: Routledge, 2001), 219-220.

troops killed nine of them and injured many of them. The word “Peterloo” ironically recalls the Battle of Waterloo.<sup>4</sup>

## 1.1 Romantic literature

The Romantic period in literature stays in the contrast with the Classical period from the beginning and mid-eighteen century. Romantic literature concentrates on nature, feelings and intuition. Romantic writers often run into their fantasy world and as a result they suffer from conflict between the imagined world and the real world. On the contrary Classic literature, also called Augustan literature, relies on intuition, form and believe that in the centre of all improvements and inventions is a perfect man, whose basic instincts are controlled. Another difference is divergent view on children. In Classic literature a child had no special meaning. The most important at child was the fact that one day he or she will mature and become sophisticated and civilised. Whereas in Romantic literature a child was seen as an innocent creature, which was very close to the God and the only thing being able to spoil his or her innocent nature was civilisation.

Moreover Romantic writers focus on human mind and soul. They believe in supernatural powers and mystical matters, celebrate freedom and human as individualist. In fact, Romantic literature more criticises society than Classical literature, which is based rather on defining society than exploring it. In addition, Classical writers are interested in society having order where everybody knows his place. Classical writers believe in logical and rational matters and focused on outer society. Next difference of these two ways of worldview in literature is language. Romantic writers tended to write in style of language capturing a man experience. Their language was more understandable for common readers and was more similar to everyday language. The Classical writers used ordered and formal writing language.

Generally, the Romantic literature was the answer on historical events of that time. Friendly villages were replaced by modern impersonal society which existence depended on mass production. The Romantic writers tried to bring back to the society the importance of individualism, therefore they celebrated human freedom. Romantic hero wants to change the civilisation but instead of realizing some changes, he escapes to the nature. Nature

---

<sup>4</sup> Carter and McRae, *The Routledge History of Literature in English*, 220.

presents for him ideal place, there he feel the understanding of his identity. Inaccessible or married woman is often seen in Romantic hero's eyes like ideal.

## 2 JANE AUSTEN

On 16 December 1775 at Steventon in Hampshire, England, one of the greatest novelists, Jane Austen, was born as a seventh child of eight. Her father Reverend George Austen was brought up by his uncle Francis Austen after parents death. When he finished his studies at St John's College in Oxford, he married with Cassandra Leigh (1739-1827), Jane's mother. Up to his retirement in 1801, she moved with her family to Bath. In 1805 her father, who supported her in reading, died. Consequently, the family had to leave Bath, moved to Southampton and afterwards moved to Chawton in Hampshire where she wrote *Mansfield Park*, published in 1814, *Emma*, published in 1816, and *Persuasion*, published posthumously in 1818. Austen died in 1817.

She had only one sister, Cassandra Elizabeth (1773-1845), and six brothers. Cassandra was her older sisters as well as the best friend.<sup>5</sup> Cassandra's fiancé was her father's former student Thomas Fowle. He joined a military and was sent to Caribbean where he died because of Yellow Fever. After this tragic event Cassandra started finding support in a close friendship with Jane. They wrote letters nearly every day in case that they were not together. Their friendship was really close. When Cassandra was sent to Oxford to be educated, Jane had to go with her because she cannot stay at home alone. Jane's death caused Cassandra chagrin: "I have lost a treasure, such a Sister, such a friend as never can have been surpassed, - she was the sun of my life, the gilder of every pleasure, the soother of every sorrow, I had not a thought concealed from her, & it is as if I had lost part of myself."<sup>6</sup> Her oldest brother James (1765-1819) was a clergyman and had Austen's first niece Anna who Austen helped wrote a novel. James married again after Anna's mother death and had other two children, James Edward and Caroline also supporting by their aunt in writing. According to Margaret Llewelyn, their relationship is well demonstrated on relationship of Darcy and Georgiana in *Pride and Prejudice*. She said that also the age gap is same in case of Darcy and Georgiana as in case of James and Jane.<sup>7</sup> Next Jane's brother George (1766-1838) was said to be mentally retarded or deaf. Jane's brother Edward Knight (1768-1852) was adopted by wealthy Thomas and Catherine Knight and inherited some assets. Henry Thomas (1771-1850) supported Jane in publishing her novels.

---

<sup>5</sup> Margaret Llewelyn, *Jane Austen: A Character Study* (London: William Kimber & Co. Limited, 1977), 152.

<sup>6</sup> Llewelyn, *Jane Austen*, 152.

<sup>7</sup> Llewelyn, *Jane Austen*, 145.

As a man looking on life from the positive point of view, although he always had not good luck, was Jane's the most favourite brother. Austen's brother Francis William (1774-1865) inspired her for creating character William Price in *Mansfield Park* and Captain Wentworth in *Persuasion*.<sup>8</sup> Last brother Charles John (1779-1852) studied at Royal Navy Academy at Portsmouth as Francis William. Margaret Llewelyn claimed that he is impulsive like *Pride and Prejudice*'s character Charles Bingley.<sup>9</sup>

Character's names similarity with Jane's family names could be often seen in her novels. Consequently, she used Charles seven times, William six times, Henry four times and her own name Jane and sister's second name Elizabeth each twice. Furthermore she used also names of surrounding people. She used three first names of man, whom she refused after his marriage proposal. His full name was Henry Frederick Howard Fitzwilliam of London. Hero in *Northanger Abbey* called Henry Tilney, a character in *Persuasion* called Frederick Wentworth, in *Pride and Prejudice* was a hero called Fitzwilliam Darcy and in *The Watsons*, Mr Howard who married Emma.

Although she never got married, like her sister Cassandra, her novels are written without being compunctious or dissatisfied with her life. The novel *Pride and Prejudice* is a great example of it. It is claimed that Austen wrote *Pride and Prejudice* under the title *First Impressions* but it was not accepted by publisher. Therefore she re-wrote this novel and published it in 1813. *Pride and Prejudice* is about Elizabeth Bennet, smart young lady and Fitzwilliam Darcy, a wealthy gentleman. When they first met at a ball, they did not attract each other. They rather displeased each other. However, their initiatory reluctance change into a deep love after Darcy realizing Elizabeth's intelligence and after Elizabeth understanding circumstances of Darcy's, at first sight, conceited behaviour.

Upper and middle class was often criticised in Austen's novels, however criticism of lower class is not shown in her works. Lower class is portrayed only through servants doing their job. In her novels can be seen real England, even she focuses on few families living close together in some part of Great Britain. This can be reason why critics often censure her for showing only limited world.

Jane Austen could be regarded as one of the best novelist in the Romantic period (1789-1817). Though she lived in this period, her novels are written in a different style.

---

<sup>8</sup> Llewelyn, *Jane Austen*, 153.

“Going against the trend of the novels of her time, she applies the microscope to human character and motivation, with no great didactic, moral, or satiric purpose, but with a gentle irony and perspicacity which make her novels unique, as representation of universal patterns of behaviour and as documentation of an aspect of the provincial society . . .”<sup>10</sup> Additionally, on account her view on family, life conditions and using of strong characters, she is thought to adumbrate Victorian era. Except Romantic period and Victorian era, she could be considered as a member of the Regency era, when her most famous novels, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility* and *Northanger Abbey*, were published.

## 2.1 Women in Jane Austen's era

The Regency era was the time of following strict social rules and respecting social classes. Especially in the middle class, housework was undertaken by women, for whom the great opportunity to meet female friends was attending balls. Moreover, unmarried women had a chance to attract some wealthy man who would be willing to marry them and prevent them from the threat of being without assets. According to the rules of that time, after the death of the oldest male member of a family, money and all possession belonged to the second oldest male relative. In the case of Bennet sisters, money and possession would belong to Mr. Collins, the closest male relative. As Mr Bennet says: “. . . Mr Collins, who, when I am dead, may turn you all out of this house as soon as he pleases.”<sup>11</sup> As a result, women were dependent on men's support.

Unmarried women from middle class like Bennet sisters had to depend on their fathers' fortune. In case of their fathers' death, they could be supported by their brothers or by other relatives if they could afford it. Bennet sisters and also Mrs Bennet, who also had not claim on heritage of Mr Bennet, because of absence of a son or a brother, would be supported by Mr and Mrs Phillips, Mr and Mrs Gardinier and aforementioned heir, Mr Collins.

It seems like unacceptable at that time and it helps understand Mrs Bennet wishful solicitude to marry her five daughters. This eagerness is obvious from Mrs Bennet's reaction to situation when Mr Wickham promises to marry Lydia, in order not to damage her and Bennet family's reputation, after they ran away and lived for a while together:

---

<sup>9</sup> Llewelyn, *Jane Austen*, 157.

<sup>10</sup> Carter and McRae, *The Routledge History of Literature in English*, 236.

<sup>11</sup> Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (Middlesex: Penguin Popular Classics, 1994), 50.



“To know that her daughter would be married was enough. She was disturbed with no fear for her felicity, nor humbled by any remembrance of her misconduct.”<sup>12</sup> She did not care about how much her brother, Mr Gardinier, had to pay to Mr Wickham to marry Lydia, her only care was the nearing wedding.

Financial dependence on men was not caused only by heritage rules but also by limited education for women. For women from middle and upper class there were some possibilities to study such as attending private school or reading books, but with influence on their social condition rather than career life. Acceptable job positions for women were governess or lady's companion, but both of the jobs were connected with threat of not being treated well by employers.

## 2.2 Marriage of Jane Austen's point of view

Marriage is common element in Jane Austen's novels including *Pride and Prejudice*. This novel starts with the very familiar sentence: “It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of wife.”<sup>13</sup> At the first sight it might seem that this statement is a general truth, but it also reveals the Austen's ironic attitude toward marriage. Austen in *Pride and Prejudice* often uses irony to say something which actually means something else. Like earlier mentioned introductory sentence which could be rephrase, in condition of taking irony into consideration, “It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in fame of single ladies.” Through this sentence is shown the close relationship between marriage and possession at the very beginning of the novel.

Aforementioned first sentence reveals not only marriage based on money, additionally it reveals marriage not based on love. Austen's critical view on this fact according to Margaret Llewelyn is in *The Watson* said by Emma: “Poverty is a great Evil, but to a woman of Education & feeling it ought not, it cannot be the greatest. I would rather be Teacher at a school (and I can think of nothing worse) than marry a Man I did not like.”<sup>14</sup>

Marriages presented in *Pride and Prejudice* are all different. Afterwards reading first lines of the book readers could notice Mr and Mrs Bennet whose relationship is well

---

<sup>12</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 234.

<sup>13</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 21.

<sup>14</sup> Llewelyn, *Jane Austen*, 43-44.

visible in this part of the novel. Mr Bennet often uses sarcasm and his character is a combination of vagaries, reserve and caprice. Mrs Bennet does not understand him and she is frequently using her weak nerves as an excuse when she is not satisfied with something:

“Mr Bennet, how can you abuse your own children in such a way? You take delight in vexing me. You have no compassion on my poor nerves.”

“You mistake me, my dear. I have a high respect for your nerves. They are my old friends. I have heard you mention them with consideration these twenty years at least.”<sup>15</sup>

Another marriage is the marriage of Charlotte Lucas, a very good friend of Elizabeth Bennet, and Mr Collins, Mr Bennet's cousin. Mr Collins followed Lady Catherine de Bourgh's advice to marry at his earliest convenience. However, his plan was little bit different. Many happenings predated wedding with Charlotte Lucas. As a compensation for inheriting Bennet's possession after Mr Bennet's death, he decided to marry with one of the oldest Bennet's daughters. When Mrs Bennet mentioned engagement of Jane, Mr Collins had no problem to imagine Elizabeth as his wife. But Elizabeth had:

“You are too hasty, Sir,” she cried. “You forget that I have made no answer. Let me do it without father loss of time. Accept my thanks for the compliment you are paying me. I am very sensible of the honour of your proposals, but it is impossible for me to do otherwise than decline them.”<sup>16</sup>

Mr Collins did not admit the refusal and Elizabeth's negative answer understood like flirting which many young ladies use to make their suitors repeat the proposal. Although it encouraged him in believing forthcoming wedding, Elizabeth insisted on her opinion:

“Upon my word Sir,” cried Elizabeth, “your hope is rather an extraordinary one after my declaration. I do assure you that I am not one of those ladies (if such ladies there are) who are so daring as to risk their happiness on the chance of being asked a second time. I am perfectly serious in my refusal.”<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 6.

<sup>16</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 86.

<sup>17</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 86-87.

Charlotte Lucas took an advantage of Elizabeth's aversion for Mr Collins and devoted her time to him. Elizabeth was deeply appreciative to her without anticipating anything. Soon Mr Collins proposed to Charlotte and this time the answer was positive. For Elizabeth it was something unimaginable that her friend is willing to marry someone without love, someone who is really stupid. However, Charlotte had a different view, rather logical based view on her marriage than romantic based. She was twenty seven years old already and was not very attractive according to her judgement, she did not want to be support from her family for the rest of her life. With these facts and with the small dowry she did not expect true love with a "perfect man". Charlotte explanation makes readers think about it and possibly it can lead to understanding her decision.

Apparently their marriage strengthens their social roles in the regency society where is this type of marriage considered as common. Seems more like rational agreement between Charlotte and Mr Collins but as regards their relationship, it includes some respect and loyalty. Contrary to Lydia immature decision and her view on her marriage with Mr Wickham as a kind of adventure, Charlotte contemplated about wedding with Mr Collins, moreover she is sensible marriageable woman who is not naive and does not live in her imaginations.

Focusing on marriage of Lydia and Wickham, objective readers can presuppose problematic relationship caused with Lydia's immature character and Wickham's missing ability of being self-sufficient. Moreover, their relationship is based only on initial physical attraction: "Lydia was exceedingly fond of him. He was her dear Wickham on every occasion; no one was to be put in competition with him. He did every thing best in the world; and she was sure he would kill more birds on the first of September, than any body else in the country."<sup>18</sup> And the Mr Wickham's need of money: ". . . Wickham has no sixpence of his own".<sup>19</sup>

Jane and Mr Bingley are regarded to have a relationship full of love, harmony and understanding for each other. They represented marriage based on true feelings in this novel. If readers focus on these two characters they can reveal many similarities between them. Both are friendly and patience people with the optimistic view on world around them. When comparing the relationship of Jane and Mr Bingley and Elizabeth and

---

<sup>18</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 244.

Mr Darcy, readers have to notice one disadvantage in relationship of Jane and Mr Bingley on Elizabeth and Mr Darcy. Jane and Mr Bingley met, fell in love, engaged and married thorough Elizabeth and Mr Darcy's relationship had more difficult progression. They did not have to surpass as many obstacles as Elizabeth and Mr Darcy, except the severance when Mr Bingley left the Netherfield.

If Jane and Mr Bingley present ideal couple, Elizabeth and Mr Darcy present ideal marriage. Due to first impression from Mr Darcy, Elizabeth was prejudiced against his behaviour and Mr Darcy was not willing to associate with the girl from middle class family. This impression from the first meeting with Mr Darcy, make Elizabeth easy to believe Mr Wickham's aspersion on Mr Darcy egocentric behaviour. Mr Wickham revealed Elizabeth his truth about relationship with Mr Darcy telling her that they spent childhood together because Mr Wickham's father was a groundsman on Darcy's estate. After his death, Mr Darcy's father became Mr Wickham's godfather and Mr Wickham's name was involved into his last will. However, as Mr Wickham told to Elizabeth, Mr Darcy did not respect the wish of his father after his death because of jealousy:

“A thorough, determined dislike of me – a dislike which I cannot but attribute in some measure to jealousy. Had the late Mr Darcy liked me less, his son might have borne with me better; but his father's uncommon attachment to me, irritated him I believe very early in life. He had not a temper to bear the sort of competition in which we stood – the sort of preference which was often given me.”<sup>20</sup>

Mr Wickham was not involved only in lying and calumniation, additionally seduced Elizabeth's sister Lydia as well as Mr Darcy's sister Georgiana in the past. This situation about Lydia made Elizabeth think that Mr Darcy cannot honour her anymore. Another obstacle in their relationship caused Elizabeth misunderstanding of Mr Darcy's attempt to destroy happiness of her sister with Mr Bingley. The last difficulty was disagreement with their marriage of Lady Catherine De Bourgh: “Let me be rightly understood. This match, to which you have the presumption to aspire, can never take place. No, never. Mr Darcy is engaged to my daughter.”<sup>21</sup>

---

<sup>19</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 233.

<sup>20</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 65.

<sup>21</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 273.

Though Elizabeth and Mr Darcy had to overcome pride and prejudice they finally understood their attachment and married in spite of many obstacles and even if circumstances tried hard to not. For Elizabeth is happy marriage full of love and understanding very important. According to her opinion, marriage based on physical attraction cannot have long duration. Her attitude was well visible when she compared her possible marriage with Mr Darcy and her sister Lydia's incoming marriage with Mr Wickham:

She began now to comprehend that he was exactly the man, who, in disposition and talents, would most suit her. His understanding and temper, though unlike her own, would have answered all her wishes. It was an union that must have been to the advantage of both; by her ease and liveliness, his mind might have been softened, his manners improved, and from his judgment, information, and knowledge of the world, she must have received benefit of greater importance. But no such happy marriage could now teach the admiring multitude what connubial felicity really was. An union of a different tendency, and precluding the possibility of the other, was soon to be formed in their family. How Wickham and Lydia were to be supported in tolerable independence, she could not imagine. But how little of permanent happiness could belong to a couple who were only brought together because their passions were stronger than their virtue, she could easily conjecture.<sup>22</sup>

---

<sup>22</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 239.

### 3 BENNET SISTERS

The plot of Jane Austen's novels mainly focused on family relations. Sisterhood is a very common feature in Austen work, including *Pride and Prejudice*. Sisters grow up together, therefore some relationships are made during their life at home until they marry. In the case of *Pride and Prejudice* there are five sisters, Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, Kitty and Lydia. Especially between the two oldest sisters, Jane and Elizabeth, is a strong friendship even if their different characters. At the beginning of the book Jane was invited to a dinner by Caroline Bingley, Mr Bingley's sister. After obeying an order by Mrs Bennet to ride a horse even if the weather was bad and rain was expected every minute, she caught cold. Jane wrote letter to her family about her illness and not being worry about her, however Elizabeth was not feel good about her. As carriage was not available, Elizabeth decided to go to Netherfield house on foot, though she irritated Caroline Bingley and Louisa Hurst:

“I shall never forget her appearance this morning. She really looked almost wild.”

“She did indeed, Louisa. I could hardly keep my countenance. Very nonsensical to come at all! Why must she be scampering about the country, because her sister had a cold? Her hair so untidy, so blowsy!”

“Yes, and her petticoat; I hope you saw her petticoat, six inches deep in mud, I am absolutely certain; and the gown which had been let down to hide it, not doing its office.”<sup>23</sup>

Jane and Elizabeth supported each other in every situation. Elizabeth was truly happy about her sister's evolving relationship with Mr Bingley as well as Jane was enthusiastic due to Elizabeth relationship with Mr Darcy revealing by Elizabeth when Lydia ran away with Mr Wickham. If mentioned sisterhood, it cannot be omitted relations among younger sisters. Mary, the third oldest sister, prefers reading rather than visiting balls as she answered to her sister Lydia after telling her about visit the Gardiniers in London and about a great fun they had on the way back home: “Far be it from me, my dear sister, to depreciate such pleasures. They would doubtless be congenial with the generality of female minds. But I confess they would have no charms for me. I should infinitely prefer a book.”<sup>24</sup> From this situation is obvious that Mary often moralizes in conversation and tries to be sophisticated in questions of common matters. Studying books is the major field

---

<sup>23</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 30.

<sup>24</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 172.

where Mary excelled, she lacks of Jane's beauty, Elizabeth's critical mind and Kitty and Lydia's eagerness to marry as soon as possible. However, at the end of the novel when Jane, Elizabeth and Lydia married and Kitty often visited the two oldest sisters, Mary stayed home alone disturbing in studying by her mother. Consequently, she came out of her sisters' shadow and began to experience other interests, not only reading books:

Mary was the only daughter who remained at home; and she was necessarily drawn from the pursuit of accomplishments by Mrs Bennet's being quite unable to sit alone. Mary was obliged to mix more with the world, but she could still moralize over every morning visit; and as she was no longer mortified by comparisons between her sisters' beauty and her own, it was suspected by her father that she submitted to the change without much reluctance.<sup>25</sup>

The youngest Bennet daughters, Kitty and Lydia, cannot be omitted. They share same obsession with the officers which is strongly supported by Mrs Bennet. Their relationship is rather based on Lydia's domination over Kitty than pure friendship like in the case of Jane and Elizabeth. Kitty presents only one of the sisters in the novel. She influences nor the plot, neither the decision of major characters. Lydia is a kind of model for her, although she is the youngest of the Bennet daughters. Kitty is often interpreted with Lydia as a lazy, conceited and unprincipled young girl. The end of the novel lets readers know about her character improvement after being kept away from Lydia's influence:

Kitty, to her very material advantage, spent the chief of her time with her two elder sisters. In society so superior to what she had generally known, her improvement was great. She was not of so ungovernable a temper as Lydia, and, removed from the influence of Lydia's example, she became, by proper attention and management, less irritable, less ignorant, and less insipid.<sup>26</sup>

Focusing on Lydia, readers notice her immature character with the lack of understanding of social propriety. She is daughter of her mother within the meaning of finding suitors. Pampering by her mother and neglecting on the part of her father led to her impulsive manners. During the novel, her behaviour becomes more outrageous and led to escape with Mr Wickham. This reckless behaviour might have destroyed her

---

<sup>25</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 297.

<sup>26</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 297.

reputation as well as reputation of her sisters. Consequently, the possibility of Lydia's visit after her marriage at home was strictly rejected by Mr Bennet. However, Jane and Elizabeth made him change his mind, argued about improving her reputation when her family would accept her. On the day of the visit, only Mrs Bennet was keen on Lydia, Mr Bennet was still angry about her and sisters were abashed. According to these facts, Lydia got mixed reaction from her family:

Her mother stepped forwards, embraced her, and welcomed her with rapture; gave her hand with an affectionate smile to Wickham, who followed his lady, and wished them both joy, with an alacrity which shewed no doubt of their happiness. Their receptions from Mr Bennet, to whom they then turned, was not quite so cordial. His countenance rather gained in austerity; and he scarcely opened his lips. The easy assurance of the young couple, indeed, was enough to provoke him. Elizabeth was disgusted, and even Miss Bennet was shocked.<sup>27</sup>

However, this inconsistent invitation did not make Lydia to feel ashamed. Supported by her mother's enthusiasm, Lydia gathered impression that older sisters should be jealous due to her marriage with Mr Wickham. Her immature nature did not allow her to feel ashamedly, she was enjoying the fact of being married with her same tempered mother. This part of the book shows readers many of Lydia's character. Lydia's marriage can represent a kind of warning for the young ladies in the regency era. By escaping with Mr Wickham, only two possibilities left for her according to the rules of Regency era, marriage or a shame.

### 3.1 Jane

Jane Bennet, the oldest from the Bennet's daughters, is above her younger sisters in the terms of beauty and good-hearted nature obvious in every situation in the novel concerning her. She tended to judge every situation or character positively and even if she accepts negativity she continuing to believe in improvements like in the case of Mr Wickham. Her reaction on Mr Gardinier's letter about Wickham's promise to marry Lydia was still positive, even if he got money for this marriage: "I comfort myself with thinking," replied Jane, "that he certainly would not marry Lydia, if he had not a real regard

---

<sup>27</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 241.



for her.”<sup>28</sup> In case of Caroline Bingley, Jane excused her behaviour until she realized that she definitely disagreed with her relationship with Mr Bingley. However when Caroline became her sister-in-law, she accepted a possibility about reconditioning of their friendship.

Jane's beauty plays a key role in her life, although her inactive nature does not allow her to use appearance as an advantage. Her character does not change through the book, she always relies on good manners. As far as her marriage with Mr Bingley was not her worth. At the beginning of the novel Mrs Bennet took a use of a bad weather and sent Jane to Netherfield, whereas she was thinking about Jane's illness which would force her to stay in Netherfield until Mr Bingley would come back home. Moreover her shy behaviour convinced Mr Darcy that she did not share same feelings like his friend Mr Bingley: “. . . though she received his attentions with pleasure, she did not invite them by any participation of sentiment.”<sup>29</sup> Consequently, he prevented Mr Bingley from disappointing and told him his fears. Everything was revealed by Elizabeth when she blamed Mr Darcy for destroying her sister's happiness. Although readers cannot doubt about her interest in marriage with Mr Bingley, she might be considered as a passive character.

Regarding Jane's appearance, it makes Mrs Bennet proud on her daughter. If Lydia is Mrs Bennet's favourite daughter due to same interest in marriage, Jane is Mrs Bennet's favourite daughter due to high probability of realizing her image of ideal marriage with the wealthy man. Nevertheless, Jane is not the same nature as Lydia is. She is good-mannered and genteel. Her shyness is a reaction on Mrs Bennet's unacceptable social behaviour which Mr Bennet hates so much. This situation might influence Jane in a sense to not take an initiative in relationship with Mr Bingley. Influenced by Mr Bennet's criticising of Mrs Bennet, Jane concentrated her energy to become a graceful young lady with the feminine moderation.

Jane's broadminded nature is caused by her self-discipline. At the first impression it might seem that she does not have any intentions, however through her nature and social behaviour she tries to become an ideal young lady as well as a good daughter. Her attitude to social matters forms her identity. She strengthens her image of ideal lady by refusing to react face to face likewise to show disappointment when Mr Bingley left Netherfield:

---

<sup>28</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 233.

“. . . whatever she felt she was desirous of concealing.”<sup>30</sup> These characteristics make Jane to be loved by her sister Elizabeth, attractive to Mr Bingley, acceptable to Mr Darcy and Caroline Bingley.

### 3.2 Elizabeth

Elizabeth Bennet is the major character of the novel *Pride and Prejudice* and she could be considered as the most famous Jane Austen's character. At the beginning of this novel, when Mrs Bennet ask her husband to invite Mr Bingley to fall in love with one of their daughters and marry her, readers could notice Mr Bennet's weakness for his second older daughter:

“I will send a few lines by you to assure him of my hearty consent to this marrying whichever he chuses of the girls though I must throw in a good word for my little Lizzy.”

“I desire you will do no such thing. Lizzy is not a bit better than the others; and I am sure she is not half so handsome as Jane, nor half so good-humoured as Lydia. But you are always giving her the preference.”

“They have none of them much recommend them,” replied he; “they are silly and ignorant, like other girls; but Lizzy has something more of quickness than her sisters.”<sup>31</sup>

His favouring of Elizabeth is mainly based on their similar characters and sense of humour which is obvious during the dinner with Mr Collins' monologue about Lady Catherine de Bourgh: “. . . it is happy for you that you possess the talent of flattering with delicacy. May I ask whether these pleasing attentions proceed from the impulse of the moment, or are the result of previous study?”<sup>32</sup> The following answer fulfilled his expectations. Affirmation of his doubting about Mr Collins' low intelligence made Mr Bennet pleased though this complacence dispensed without any change in his facial expressions “. . . except in an occasional glance at Elizabeth, requiring no partner in his pleasure.”<sup>33</sup>

---

<sup>29</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 154.

<sup>30</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 104.

<sup>31</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 6.

<sup>32</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 55.

<sup>33</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 56.

Although she is the favourite daughter of her father, she is not so loved by her mother. Elizabeth's attitudes to marriage are in contradiction with her mother's attitudes. Elizabeth's decision to marry only a man who will love her and whom she will love, makes Mrs Bennet discomfited. Mrs Bennet looks at a marriage as a way to a better life for her daughters, consequently, she called her daughter a very headstrong and foolish girl<sup>34</sup> when she refused Mr Collins' proposal to marriage.

The relationship between Elizabeth and Mr Darcy shows the complexity of Elizabeth's character during the novel. Elizabeth presents the prejudice in this novel whereas Mr Darcy presents the pride. Their influencing each other leads to realizing the fact of changing their characters. The biggest change in Elizabeth's character happened after reading the letter from Mr Darcy with rationalization of his acts: "She grew absolutely ashamed of herself. Of neither Darcy nor Wickham could she think without feeling that she had been blind, partial, prejudiced, absurd."<sup>35</sup> Consequently, first Elizabeth's impressions about Mr Darcy's pride are replaced by respect and deep love.

Elizabeth exceeds among her sisters with her critical mind which is often expressed through her quick-witted dialogue.<sup>36</sup> Her effortless nature and intelligence attracted Mr Darcy after his initial contempt. This intelligence is demonstrated on her attitudes to marriage. She realizes that life together does not have to make people happy and this decision is proved by the marriage of her parents:

Had Elizabeth's opinion been all drawn from her own family, she could not have formed a very pleasing picture of conjugal felicity or domestic comfort. Her father, captivated by youth and beauty, and that appearance of good humour which youth and beauty generally give, had married a woman whose weak understanding and illiberal mind had, very early in their marriage, put an end to all real affection for her. Respect, esteem, and confidence had vanished for ever; and all his views of domestic happiness were overthrown.<sup>37</sup>

At that time, when a marriage was a life intention for young ladies, Elizabeth's attitudes could be considered as timeless as well as challenging. Her intelligence helps

---

<sup>34</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 89.

<sup>35</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 162.

<sup>36</sup> Marie Kalil, "Character analysis – Elizabeth Bennet,"

[http://www.cliffsnotes.com/study\\_guide/literature/Character-Analysis-Elizabeth-Bennet.id-147,pageNum-519.html](http://www.cliffsnotes.com/study_guide/literature/Character-Analysis-Elizabeth-Bennet.id-147,pageNum-519.html); Internet (accessed 25 March 2010).

her to be strong and self-confident young lady in the patriarchal society. She relies on her ability to judge people's characters. However, in case of Mr Darcy, she had to admit her influencing by prejudices. Since the time she looked at Mr Darcy from different point of view. Her prejudices to his apparent pride disappeared and Elizabeth realized that she loved him.

---

<sup>37</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 183.

## **II. ANALYSIS**

#### 4 COMPARISON JANE AND ELIZABETH

Elizabeth and Jane go along with readers during the whole book. Firstly, Elizabeth and Jane are mentioned at the beginning of the novel *Pride and Prejudice* when Mrs Bennet forces Mr Bennet to introduce himself to their new neighbour Mr Bingley with the clear intention of marrying with one of five Bennet's daughters: "A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girls!"<sup>38</sup> Consequently, Mr Bennet's expression sympathy with his second oldest daughter Elizabeth makes Mrs Bennet stands up for their other daughters. The closer meeting with Jane and Elizabeth takes place at the ball where Mr Bingley and Mr Darcy are introduced. While Mr Bennet attracts rural inhabitants with his friendly nature, Mr Darcy presents himself as pride and bored with rural inhabitants:

Mr Bingley had soon made himself acquainted with all the principal people in the room; he was lively and unreserved, danced every dance, was angry that the ball closed so early, and talked of giving one himself at Netherfield. Such amiable qualities must speak for themselves. What a contrast between him and his friend! Mr Darcy danced only once with Mrs Hurst and once with Miss Bingley, declined being introduced to any other lady, and spent the rest of the evening in walking about the room, speaking occasionally to one of his own party.<sup>39</sup>

At the same time as Darcy's pride appeared, Elizabeth's prejudice against him is also introduced. Elizabeth's attitude towards Mr Darcy begins when she witness a conversation between Mr Bingley and Mr Darcy. Elizabeth did not dance for a while due to disparity of men and women at the ball and Mr Bingley tried to convince his friend Mr Darcy to ask her for a dance: "She is tolerable, but not handsome enough to tempt *me*; and I am in no humour at present to give consequence to young ladies who are slighted by other men."<sup>40</sup> Thanks to Elizabeth lively, playful disposition,<sup>41</sup> she was not sad about his affirmation. However, to the others was his behaviour unacceptable: "His character was decided. He was the proudest, most disagreeable man in the world, and every body hoped that he would never come again."<sup>42</sup>

---

<sup>38</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 5.

<sup>39</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 10-11.

<sup>40</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 11-12.

<sup>41</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 12.

<sup>42</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 11.

After the ball readers could notice differences between Jane and Elizabeth during their conversation. Jane targeted on Mr Bingley and trusted with her sympathy to him to her sister: “I was very much flattered by his asking me to dance a second time. I did not expect such a compliment.”<sup>43</sup> Elizabeth's answer let readers know about her self-confidence which Jane lacks: “Did not you? *I* did for you. But that is one great difference between us. Compliments always take *you* by surprise, and *me* never.”<sup>44</sup> From this affirmation is obvious that she regards herself as an intellectual girl with lower level of suggestibility than her sister. She should be able to resist influencing by others people's opinions as well as social prejudice. However, with Mr Darcy it was not the case as readers will find out later in the novel.

In fifth chapter, Elizabeth's best friend,<sup>45</sup> Charlotte Lucas is introduced. During the conversation about the ball with Charlotte and her family, Mr Darcy's pride and Elizabeth's prejudice against him are mentioned again. Elizabeth's attitude to Mr Darcy, which is obvious thorough the big part of the novel, is revealed in the conversation between Elizabeth and Charlotte. Elizabeth could be understood like independent enough to accept Mr Darcy's expression about herself without any problems:

“His pride,” said Mrs Lucas, “does not offend *me* so much as pride often does, because there is an excuse for it. One cannot wonder that so very fine a young man, with family, fortune, every thing in his favour, should think highly of himself. If may so express it, has a *right* to be proud.”  
 “That is very true” replied Elizabeth, “and I could easily forgive *his* pride, if he had not mortified *mine*.”<sup>46</sup>

Another difference between Jane and Elizabeth is displayed on situation when Miss Bingley and Mrs Hurst visit Netherfield. Jane, by the virtue of her good-hearted nature, invited Miss Bingley and Mrs Hurst's wish to become friends with the oldest Bennet's daughters. “. . . [B]ut Elizabeth still saw superciliousness in their treatment of every body, hardly excepting even her sister, and could not like them.”<sup>47</sup> Elizabeth was aware of the reason why they act so friendly to herself and Jane: “Miss Bennet's pleasing manners

---

<sup>43</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 13.

<sup>44</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 13.

<sup>45</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 16.

<sup>46</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 17-18.

<sup>47</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 18.

grew on the good will of Mrs Hurst and Miss Bingley; and . . . the mother was found to be intolerable and the younger sisters not worth speaking to.”<sup>48</sup> Moreover, she also realizes that Mrs Hurst and Miss Bingley's friendly behaviour was mainly caused by their brother's admiration<sup>49</sup> to Jane. Consequently, Elizabeth mentioned Jane and Mr Bingley's attachment to each other in front of her friend Charlotte:

“It was generally evident whenever they met, that he *did* admire *her*; and to *her* it was equally evident that Jane was yielding to the preference which she had begun to entertain for him from the first, and was in a way not likely to be discovered by the world in general since Jane united with great strength of feeling, a composure of temper and a uniform cheerfulness of manner, which would guard her from the suspicions of the impertinent.”<sup>50</sup>

According to this, Charlotte expressed her apprehension about their future relationship. This apprehension seemed true and caused Mr Bingley's departure from Jane's neighbourhood. In case that Jane did not reveal her feelings about Mr Bingley to Elizabeth, as well readers would not notice Jane's feelings. Her manners does not allow her to show how she really felt. Accordingly, her nature persuaded Mr Darcy to warn his friend Mr Bingley that she does not share same feelings as he does.

In the eighth chapter, readers can notice Miss Bingley's effort to win Mr Darcy's admiration in belittling of Elizabeth. After conversation among Miss Bingley, Elizabeth, Mr Darcy and Mr Bingley about how many cultivated women they know and which requirements they have to fulfil, Elizabeth admitted that she does not know anyone like this, Miss Bingley defamed her: “Elizabeth Bennet”, said Miss Bingley, when the door was closed on her, “is the one of those young ladies who seek to recommend themselves to the other sex, by undervaluing their own; and with many men, I dare say, it succeeds. But, in my opinion, it is a partly device, a very mean art.”<sup>51</sup> Mr Darcy, who admired Elizabeth more and more, answered that there is a meanness in all the arts which ladies sometimes condescend to employ for captivation.<sup>52</sup> This general answer, relating also to Miss Bingley, was not fully understood by her and although she was not satisfied with it,

---

<sup>48</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 18.

<sup>49</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 18.

<sup>50</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 18-19.

<sup>51</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 33.

<sup>52</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 33.



she did not continue with this conversation. The next occasion to humble Elizabeth came after Mrs Bennet and her daughter's visit on Netherfield. Although they were all astonished at Bennet family, especially Mrs Bennet disgusted them with her manners, Mr Darcy could not be prevailed on to join in their censure of her.<sup>53</sup> In the tenth chapter Elizabeth noticed Mr Darcy's gaze on Elizabeth. She did not consider it as anything important. After immediate denial about his affection for her, she found that he has to be outraged with her. However, his growing attachment to Elizabeth can be unacknowledged by Miss Bingley, for who it was sufficient impulsion to start to be jealousy. Consequently, she managed the situation with her advantage in conversation with Mr Darcy about his possible marriage with Elizabeth:

“I hope” said she, as they were walking together . . . “you will give your mother-in-love a few hints, when this desirable event takes place, as to the advantage of holding her tongue; and if you can compass it, do cure the younger girls of running after the officers. – And, if I may mention so delicate a subject, endeavour to check that little something, bordering on conceit and impertinence, which your lady possesses.”<sup>54</sup>

During the conversation in the following chapter with Miss Bingley and Elizabeth, Mr Darcy realized the threat of being with Elizabeth: “He wisely resolved to be particularly careful that no sign of admiration should *now* escape him.”<sup>55</sup> Therefore he was pleased with her leaving from Netherfield: “To Mr Darcy it was welcome intelligence – Elizabeth had been at Netherfield long enough. She attracted him more than he liked.”<sup>56</sup> As well Elizabeth welcomed the returning home due to Miss Bingley's affectation. “Elizabeth took leave of the whole party in the liveliest spirits.”<sup>57</sup>

Elizabeth's prejudice against Mr Darcy grew up with arrival of Mr Wickham. Elizabeth did not doubt about Mr Wickham's truthfulness and due to their shared attitudes to Mr Darcy, Mr Wickham charmed her. Elizabeth, who relied on her good sense, helped the fictional story about injustice on the part of Mr Darcy to form idea about him.

---

<sup>53</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 38.

<sup>54</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 43.

<sup>55</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 49.

<sup>56</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 49.

<sup>57</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 49.

Consequently, Elizabeth allowed that Mr Wickham had given a very rational account of it.<sup>58</sup> In the following chapter Elizabeth told Jane about Mr Wickham's story and in Jane's reaction her good-hearted nature appeared again: "They have both," said she, "been deceived, I dare say, in some way or other, of which we can form no idea."<sup>59</sup> However, Elizabeth influenced with Mr Wickham's manners insisted on her negative opinion about Mr Darcy. Additionally, Elizabeth blamed Mr Darcy for his attendance on Netherfield ball which caused absence of Mr Wickham. This fact made her to feel upset with Mr Darcy and as a result, his application for a dance absolutely shocked her that she agreed. During the dance, Elizabeth mentioned Mr Wickham on purpose to show disagreement with Mr Darcy's behaviour. Her prejudice against Mr Darcy made her believe in his guilt so much that she did not even think about Miss Bingley's advice to not believe Mr Wickham.

The following day after the ball on Netherfield, Mr Collins finally decided to ask Elizabeth's hand. According to her attitude to marriage without love and mutual understanding, readers could not expect anything else than Elizabeth's refusal. Although she did not please her mother with her decision, she found a support from Mr Bennet: "An unhappy alternative is before you, Elizabeth. From this day you must be a stranger to one of your parents. – Your mother will never see you again if you do *not* marry Mr Collins, and I will never see you again if you *do*."<sup>60</sup>

Some time later all inhabitants from Netherfield left, including Mr Bingley. When Jane found out this information from Miss Bingley's letter, she did not express her sadness, although she was very sorrowful. However, Elizabeth knew her sister and knew how she felt. The most painful for Jane was the fact that Miss Bingley did not forget to mention in the letter about beauty of Mr Darcy's sister Georgiana who Mr Bingley admired for a long time:

"Mr Darcy is impatient to see his sister, and to confess the truth, we are scarcely less eager to meet her again. I really do not think Georgiana Darcy has her equal for beauty, elegance, and accomplishments; and the affection she inspires in Louisa and myself, is heightened into something still more interesting, from the hope we dare

---

<sup>58</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 68.

<sup>59</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 69.

<sup>60</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 90.

to entertain of her being hereafter our sisters. I do not know whether I ever before mentioned to you my feelings on this subject, but I will not leave the country without confiding them, and I trust you will not esteem them unreasonable. My brother admires her greatly already, he will have frequent opportunity now of seeing her on the most intimate footing, her relations all wish the connection as much as his own, and a sister's partiality is not misleading me, I think, when I call Charles most capable of engaging any woman's heart."<sup>61</sup>

Elizabeth experienced Miss Bingley's hypocrisy, therefore she refused to believe her. She tried to convince Jane about the fact that Mr Bingley fell in love with her and there could not be any doubt about it, because it was clear all the time which they spent together. Elizabeth even proclaimed: "Could she have seen half as much love in Mr Darcy for herself, she would have ordered her wedding clothes."<sup>62</sup> Jane, who always finds the best in other people, did not believe Elizabeth: "Caroline is incapable of wilfully deceiving any one; and all that I can hope in this case is, that she is deceived herself."<sup>63</sup> This answer satisfied Elizabeth in accordance with Jane's nature. It was the best attitude which Jane could adopt.

After some time Elizabeth started to doubt about Mr Bingley's return. She knew that Jane worried about more than herself and as a consequence they did not talk about him. However, Mrs Bennet did not make this situation easier for Jane. "An hour seldom passed in which she did not talk of Bingley, express her impatience for his arrival, or even require Jane to confess that if he did not come back, she should think herself very ill used."<sup>64</sup>

When finally Miss Bingley sent Jane another letter, Elizabeth found out that Mr Bingley with his sisters and Mr Darcy settled in London during the winter. Miss Bingley also mentioned again about beauty of Georgiana Darcy and although Jane was very sad, her modest answer surprised Elizabeth that she could not do anything else than expressed her admiration: "My dear Jane!" exclaimed Elizabeth, "you are too good. Your sweetness and disinterestedness are really angelic; I do not know what to say to you. I feel as if I had never done you justice, or loved you as you deserve."<sup>65</sup> In addition, during the conversation with Jane, Elizabeth expressed also her disagreement with Charlotte's

---

<sup>61</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 95.

<sup>62</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 95.

<sup>63</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 96.

<sup>64</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 104.

<sup>65</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 106-7.

engagement with Mr Collins, who seemed to Elizabeth like a conceited, pompous, narrow-minded, silly man.<sup>66</sup> In the following chapter Jane left for London with her aunt and uncle. Before it, Elizabeth told about her sympathy with Mr Wickham to her aunt, who advised her to be careful with her feelings for him:

“Do not involve yourself, or endeavour to involve him in an affection which the want of fortune would make so very imprudent. I have nothing to say against *him*; he is a most interesting young man; and if he had the fortune he ought to have, I should think you could not do better. But as it is – you must not let your fancy run away with you. You have sense, and we all expect you to use it.”<sup>67</sup>

When Jane left, Elizabeth visited her friend Charlotte at parsonage near Rosings Park where Mr Darcy’s aunt, Lady Catherine de Bourgh, lived. Mr Collins took her around his home and revealed his passion for gardening which Charlotte supported and Elizabeth understood soon the reason of her foresight: “When Mr Collins could be forgotten, there was really a great air of comfort throughout, and by Charlotte’s evident enjoyment of it, Elizabeth supposed he must be often forgotten.”<sup>68</sup> The next morning they were all invited to have a lunch with Lady Catherine de Bourgh at Rosings. Lady Catherine de Bourgh was above her only in possession and due to this fact, Elizabeth was not nervous about their first meeting. When they finally came to Rosings, Lady Catherine de Bourgh was like Mr Wickham said. “She was not rendered formidable by silence; but whatever she said, was spoken in so authoritative a tone, as marked her self-importance, . . .”<sup>69</sup> When Lady Catherine de Bourgh began conversation with Elizabeth, she was shocked by Elizabeth and her sisters’ education without governess and with her typical self-assurance told Elizabeth that if she had known her mother, she should have advised her most strenuously to engage one.<sup>70</sup> Consequently, Elizabeth shocked Lady Catherine de Bourgh again with her attitude to the social rule ordering to the younger sisters to not be out earlier than older sisters married:

---

<sup>66</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 107.

<sup>67</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 113-14.

<sup>68</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 123-24.

<sup>69</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 127.

<sup>70</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 130.

“Are any of your sisters out, Miss Bennet?”

“Yes, ma’am, all.”

“All! – What, all five out at once? Very odd! – And you only the second. – The younger ones out before the elder are married! – Your younger sisters must be very young?”

“Yes, my youngest is not sixteen. Perhaps *she* is full young to be much in company. But really, ma’am, I think it would be very hard upon younger sisters, that they should not have their share of society and amusement because the elder may not have the means or inclination to marry early. – The last born has as good a right to the pleasures of youth, as the first. And to be kept back on *such* a motive! – I think it would not be very likely to promote sisterly affection or delicacy of mind.”

“Upon my word,” said her Ladyship, “you give your opinion very decidedly for so young a person.”<sup>71</sup>

Two weeks later, Mr Darcy and his cousin, Colonel Fitzwilliam, visited her aunt Lady Catherine de Bourgh and on that occasion they visited also Mr Collins’ parsonage for a moment. When Mr Collins, Charlotte and Elizabeth were invited at Rosings again, Elizabeth and Mr Darcy spent longer time together during the Elizabeth’s play on piano. One day, Elizabeth stayed at parsonage alone and Mr Darcy visited her. Elizabeth did not understand the reason of Mr Darcy’s visit, although to readers, as well as to Charlotte, it has to be clear that Mr Darcy’s admiration for Elizabeth was growing. However, Elizabeth did not believe Charlotte’s explanation even if she met him at her favourite place for walk.

During the one of her walks through the Rosings Park, Elizabeth met Colonel Fitzwilliam and she found out that Mr Darcy persuaded Mr Bingley to leave Jane, considering her family, she was not acceptable bride for him. When Elizabeth realized that Mr Darcy was the cause, his pride and his caprice were the cause of all that Jane had suffered, and still continued to suffer<sup>72</sup>, her hate for Mr Darcy deepened:

“To Jane herself,” she exclaimed, “there could be no possibility of objection; all loveliness and goodness as she is! Her understanding excellent, her mind improved, and her manners captivating. Neither could any thing be urged against my father, who, though with some peculiarities, has abilities which Mr Darcy himself need not disdain, and respectability which he will probably never reach.” When she thought of her mother indeed, her confidence gave way a little, but she would not allow that any objections *there* had material weight with Mr Darcy, whose pride, she was convinced, would receive a deeper wound from the want of importance in his friend’s connections, than from their want of sense; and she was quite decided

<sup>71</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 130.

<sup>72</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 146.

at last, that he had been partly governed by this worst kind of pride, and partly by the wish of retaining Mr Bingley for his sister.<sup>73</sup>

On Mr Darcy's other visit of Elizabeth at parsonage, he finally revealed his feelings for her. Elizabeth was pleased, on the other hand, she could not forget on her sister's unhappiness caused by him and refused him. Consequently, they started a quarrel and Elizabeth blame him of destroying her sister happiness and Mr Wickham life. The following day, Elizabeth obtained a letter from Mr Darcy with the explanation about interference with her sister's relationship to Mr Bingley and about the cause of hate between him and Mr Wickham. After reading it Elizabeth finally realized how prejudiced she was against him and she was ashamed with herself: "How despicably have I acted," she cried.–"I, who have prided myself on my discernment!"<sup>74</sup> Elizabeth put the blame on her vanity that she did not notice that Mr Darcy behaviour was just the reaction on the situations.

When Elizabeth visited Jane in London, she was planning to tell her about Mr Darcy's letter. However, she did not want to hurt Jane and therefore she decided to tell Jane only about Mr Wickham. "What a stroke was this for poor Jane! who would willingly have gone through the world without believing that so much wickedness existed in the whole race of mankind, as was here collected in the individual."<sup>75</sup> During the following conversation between the sisters, Jane finally believed in Mr Wickham bad nature, on the other hand she decided not to tell anybody else about it to safe his face.

In summer, Elizabeth visited with Mr and Mrs Gardinier the Pemberly estate, where Mr Darcy lives. Although she was not keen on it due to possible meeting with Mr Darcy, finally, she was pleasantly surprised with the Pemberly and its natural scenery. When Elizabeth, Mr and Mrs Gardiniers were coming through the Pemberly estate with the maid, who told him about Mr Darcy's kind character, readers could notice a big change in the Elizabeth's attitude to him. She began to feel more pleased with his proposal and she began to respect him as a man of good manners. From that moment, Elizabeth's attachment to him was growing.

---

<sup>73</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 146.

<sup>74</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 162.

<sup>75</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 174.

After the maid's praise, Elizabeth met Mr Darcy. He surprised her with his good manners and with his offer to Mr Gardinier to fishing in the Pemberly's river. In addition to his completely changed behaviour, Mr Darcy's attachment to her overcame her refusal of his proposal and apparently, he was very pleased that he met her again and as a proof of his enjoyment, he invited her to meet with his younger sister Georgiana. This behaviour Elizabeth did not expect as well as she did not understand it: “. . . [I]t was too great for her to know in what manner she acceded to it. She immediately felt that whatever desire Miss Darcy might have of being acquainted with her, must be the work of her brother, and without looking farther, it was satisfactory; it was gratifying to know that his resentment had not made him think really ill of her.”<sup>76</sup> In the following chapters of the novel, the relationship between Elizabeth and Mr Darcy became more intensive and Elizabeth was very confused about his feelings as well as about her own feelings:

She certainly did not hate him. No; hatred had vanished long ago, and had almost as long has been ashamed of ever feeling a dislike against him, that could be so called. The respect created by the conviction of his valuable qualities, though at first unwillingly admitted, had for some time ceased to be repugnant to her feelings; and it was now heightened into somewhat of a friendlier nature, by the testimony so highly in his favour, and bringing forward his disposition in so amiable a light, . . .<sup>77</sup>

From her consideration about her changing feelings to Mr Darcy, was interrupted by Jane's letter about Lydia's escape with Mr Wickham. This is one of the best situation of the book when readers could notice differences of Jane and Elizabeth's natures. Jane's optimistic and Elizabeth's realistic worldview appears simultaneously here. Jane expressed in the letter her hope although they both knew that he had tried to seduce Georgiana only because of her assets: “But I am willing to hope the best, and that his character has been misunderstood. Thoughtless and indiscreet I can easily believe him, but this step (and let us rejoice over it) marks nothing bad at heart. His choice is disinterested at least, for he must know my father can give her nothing.”<sup>78</sup> However, Elizabeth was sure that Lydia is lost forever.<sup>79</sup> “No one but Jane, she thought, could flatter herself with such an expectation.”<sup>80</sup>

---

<sup>76</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 196.

<sup>77</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 203.

<sup>78</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 209.

<sup>79</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 212.

<sup>80</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 213.

Finally, when Mr Wickham agreed to marry Lydia for annual amount of money, both sisters were pleased, although each in a different way. Whereas Jane still insisted on her persuasion about good in every person: “I hope and trust they will yet be happy. His consenting to marry her is a proof, I will believe, that he is come to a right way of thinking. Their mutual affection will steady them; and I flatter myself they will settle so quietly, and live in so rational a manner, as may in time make their past forgotten.”<sup>81</sup> Elizabeth saw the situation differently: “Their conduct has been such . . . as neither you, nor I, nor any body, can ever forget. It is useless to talk of it.”<sup>82</sup>

Moreover, the situation of Lydia's escape is also the moment of Elizabeth's realization that she loved Mr Darcy. According to Lydia's behaviour, she doubted about his attachment to her as well as she doubted about his willing to be in relation with the man, who he hated the most. She was ashamed with her sister Lydia, especially when she found out from Mrs Gardinier's letter that Mr Darcy paid to Mr Wickham to marry Lydia.

After Lydia and Mr Wickham's leaving from the Meryton, Mr Bingley and Mr Darcy visited them. Consequently, Jane and Elizabeth had a conversation about Mr Bingley and his attachment to Jane. Jane refused this idea, however, Elizabeth was sure about that and was right. Their mutual attachment advanced when Mr Bingley made Jane proposal after a few days and Jane, who loved him all the time, agreed. His proposal made her so happy, that she had to confide to Elizabeth that she is certainly the most fortunate creature that ever existed.<sup>83</sup>

Elizabeth loved her sister, therefore she shared the happiness with her even if her chances of the marriage with Mr Darcy seemed to be very small. As a result, she was not able to be fully concentrated on Jane and Mr Bingley's happiness. Moreover, she had to deal with the visitation of Lady Catherine de Bourgh, who believed in her coming marriage with her nephew, Mr Darcy. Lady Catherine de Bourgh planned to marry her daughter with him to preserve descent: “My daughter and my nephew are formed to each other. They are descended on the maternal side, from the same noble line; and, on the father's, from respectable, honourable, and ancient, though untitled families. Their fortune on both sides is splendid. They are destined for each other by the voice of every member

---

<sup>81</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 233-34.

<sup>82</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 234.

<sup>83</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 269.



of their respective houses; . . .”<sup>84</sup> To support her attitudes, she used threats and insulting comments about Elizabeth and her family. As a result, Elizabeth showed her strong personality and expressed disagreement with Lady Catherine de Bourgh's behaviour: “I am only resolved to act in that manner, which will, in my own opinion, constitute my happiness, without reference to *you*, or to any person so wholly unconnected with me.”<sup>85</sup>

Unfortunately for Lady Catherine de Bourgh, Elizabeth's behaviour gave Mr Darcy courage to make Elizabeth proposal again and Elizabeth accepted it. Firstly, she told their engagement to Jane, who was shocked because of conviction about Elizabeth's hate for him. On the other hand, Jane was pleased when she saw the happiness of her sister. Mr Bennet was shocked more than Jane. He was not able to believe that his favourite daughter was willing to marry man only because of his assets. However, after explanation of the situation and obstacles which they had to overcome, he finally agreed: “Well, my dear . . . I have no more to say. If this be the case, he deserves you. I could not have parted with you, my Lizzy, to any one less worthy.”<sup>86</sup> Mr Bennet, after learning about paying Lydia and Mr Wickham's wedding at Mr Darcy's own expense, was more willing to accept Elizabeth's engagement. Consequently, he reacted on the whole situation about weddings of his daughters with his typical humour: “I admire all my sons-in-law highly,” said he. “Wickham, perhaps, is my favourite; but I think I shall like *your* husband quite as well as Jane's.”<sup>87</sup>

---

<sup>84</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 274.

<sup>85</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 276.

<sup>86</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 291.

<sup>87</sup> Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 292.

## CONCLUSION

This bachelor thesis compared two main characters, Jane and Elizabeth Bennet, from the novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.

For adumbration of the time when the novel was written, author briefly mentioned the main historical events as well as the typical features of Romantic literature, shown on differences between the Romantic period and the precedent Classical period. In the next chapter, author was concerned with Jane Austen and her life. Primarily is this part aimed on similarity between her family and characters from her novels. Moreover, this part also dealt with the social roles of women and dealt with question of marriage. In addition, the author introduced Jane Austen's attitudes to marriage based on money and presented the marriages from the novel *Pride and Prejudice*. The last section of the theoretical part is focused on all Bennet sisters. Their natures are described there with the help of passages of the novel *Pride and Prejudice*.

Regarding Jane and Elizabeth, the whole practical part is focused on them. The author used fragments of the novel *Pride and Prejudice* to show their characters with the help of showing their reactions on different situations. In addition, author showed the change of Elizabeth's character during the plot and dealt with Jane's relationship with Mr Bingley and Elizabeth's relationship with Mr Darcy. The oldest sisters' deep and strong friendship is also showed there.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. Middlesex: Penguin Popular Classics, 1994.

Carter, Ronald, and John McRae. *The Routledge History of Literature in English*. London: Routledge, 2001.

Llewlyn, Margaret. *A Character Study*. London: William Kimber & co. limited, 1977.

Marie Kalil. "Character Analysis: Elizabeth Bennet." CliffsNotes.

[http://www.cliffsnotes.com/study\\_guide/literature/Pride-and-Prejudice-Character-Analysis-Elizabeth-Bennet.id-147,pageNum-519.html](http://www.cliffsnotes.com/study_guide/literature/Pride-and-Prejudice-Character-Analysis-Elizabeth-Bennet.id-147,pageNum-519.html) (accessed March 25, 2010).

Sanders, Andrew. *The Short Oxford History of English literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.