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*Heroines and Heroes of Jane Austen as they are mirrored in her art  
(mentors and lovers in Northanger Abbey, Pride and Prejudice, Mansfield  
Park and Emma)*

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Prohlašuji, že jsem diplomovou práci vypracovala samostatně a uvedla v ní všechnu použitou literaturu.

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## Introduction

Jane Austen is one of the few writers, who became an icon of a specific era, as her books bring the reader back to the long-ago, 18th century England with its values, attitudes and involvements. In other words, her "realism, biting social commentary and masterful use of free indirect speech, burlesque, and irony have earned her a place as one of the most widely read and most beloved writers in English literature." (Southam, "Criticism, 1870-1940", *The Jane Austen Companion*, 102.)

One of the main reasons why the novels, which describe ordinary lives and problems of people in a time that seems to be long gone, are so popular, is this very difference of those times. Times where there still was a sort of order, which one side imposed limitations on man's and especially women's lives. On the other hand it gave them a system they could appreciate enough until the modern times have come and people come back to what they regard as being a clear time. This escape, is what Daiches refers to, "in order to forget the clamorous disorders of the world we live in, and to move for a brief period in amore confined and assured society." ("Jane Austen, Karl Marx, and the Aristocratic Dance," *Jane Austen: Critical Assessments*, ed. Ian Littlewood , vol 2 (Bodwin:MPG Books Ltd. , 1998) 25.)

It is not uninteresting, that the novels can be distinguished in two groups with typical characteristics of what and Austen felt at the particular point of time, as Bradley points out, her books can be disposed in two different parts which quite a long period sets apart. "She came of age in December 1796, in that year and the following she wrote *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Northanger Abbey*. None of the three was published at once: but in 1809 she began to revise the first two for the publication, and then she composed, in the order, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma* and *Persuasion*, which was finished in 1816. Thus, to put it roughly, the first group of three were written between between the ages of twenty and twenty two, and the second group between the ages of thirty –five and forty. " ("Jane Austen: A lecture," *Jane Austen: Critical Assessments*, ed. Ian Littlewood, vol.2 (Bodwin:MPG Books Ltd, 1998) 199.)

These novels appeal especially to women, who are not only given a portrait of position of women as it once was, but also can amuse themselves with observation of various types of characters, that are each of them individual and beautiful in its own sense.

In this thesis, each of the principal female heroines and their male companions will be looked into from different appoints of view, the psychological aspects will be the concern. As

Peprník points out, once we start looking inside a mind of a character, a reader or author himself, we imply psychological approach; actions, thoughts and attitudes will be therefore the essential.

Not only the characters will be in the concern, I will also look for specific events and aspects that move the relationship forward or back, as each of the pairs of characters has gone through a progress in their relationships, on one side very complicated and full of turning points, on the other side some of them very quiet and steady, some of them are barely relationships or are entirely negative in the beginning, and are fully shaped at the very end of the book, after certain circumstances happen and the heroes undergo psychological and emotional change.

As far as the female heroes themselves, Even though they, as mentioned earlier, have their own specific characteristics, however some of the features are the same for all.

## Life of Jane Austen

As the 7<sup>th</sup> child of the not very well-off parish rector Reverend George Austen, Jane Austen was born 16<sup>th</sup> December 1775 at Steventon, village, where she spent the largest part of her not very long life. Both of her parents had background in the rural landowning classes. Reverend Austen tutored his sons, however Jane and her three years older sister Cassandra were educated firstly by their mother, the girls went on being educated at boarding schools, first at Oxford and Southampton in 1783, in Reading from 1785 to 1786. They were given quite a good-class education in what was desired of young ladies of their rank, needlework, English, French, Italian, possibly music, drawing and besides that some history. She was also very fond of reading.

At an early age in the years 1787 or 1788 and 1792, Jane Austen began her writing from which three volumes of stories and verses survive. They were written with the desire to entertain the family and with their encouragement, second volume are stories in letters of short fiction titled 'Love and Friendship', the third is already a cultivated short novel 'Catherine, or the Bower'. Another short novel was written in 1794 known as 'Lady Susan'. Soon after, in 1795 and 1796 'Elinor and Marianne' and *First Impressions* were written, although were revised and published much later in 1811 as *Sense and Sensibility*, 1813 as *Pride and Prejudice*. Despite some disappointments with not publishing, another novel was completed novel 'Susan', which was published in 1817 posthumously as *Northanger Abbey*.

After her father having retired in 1801, the whole family including her sister-the closest friend Cassandra, mother moved to a fashionable resort, Bath. Tomalin points out that the resort itself was not the only reason, it also speculated that another reason could have been so the daughters had better opportunity to meet potential husbands. (Jane Austen: A life, 174) During the years 1795-1796, at the age of twenty, she met Tom Lefroy and was seriously involved with him, however his relatives prevented their marriage. At a visit at Steventon a proposal was made by a wealthy son of landowning family, Mr. Bigg-Wither. Despite the fact that he was accepted, Jane Austen declined his proposal next day.

In Bath she spent only 4 years, during which was successful in selling her first novel, 'Susan', which was however not published. After the father's death, herself, Cassandra and her mother moved around. All her life as well as Cassandra's, they had to be guided by a man- at first by their father, and then by their brother. When Mrs. Austen's second son was adopted by their relative Mr. Knight, who invited them to settle in Chawton, Hampshire in

1809. Apart from occasional visits to London, she remained here. It was here, where she revised *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Northanger Abbey* for publication, wrote another three novels, *Mansfield Park* (written in 1811-13, published in 1814), *Emma* (in 1814-15, published 1815), *Persuasion* (in 1815-16, published posthumously in 1817).

In May 1817, being ill, she moved again, to Winchester to have her doctor at disposal. Here she died on 18 July 1817 at the age of 41. The cause of her death is not known for sure, however symptoms like weariness, tendencies to depression according to some experts lead to Addison's disease.

According to Tomalin and other bibliographers, Austen's creativity was dependent on the her rural, social surroundings, as her unhappiness in town prevented her from writing. (Jane Austen: A life, 169) Moreover, it is possible that the public entertainment in Bath and Southampton were distracting her from writing, and the fact that she was moving a lot influenced her too.

## *Times of Jane Austen*

Speaking of the era of the second half of the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century in England it is essential to mention the age, that though might not have had such dramatic consequences to England itself as to the rest to the Europe, still changed the course of the century, aftermath of the French revolution 1789.

Jane Austen was born in 1775, in the year before the American Declaration of Independence. The United States Declaration of Independence is a statement that was adopted on July 4, 1776 by the Continental Congress, which proclaimed that the thirteen American colonies then at war with England were now independent states, and thus no longer a part of the British Empire. In 1789 she was thirteen when the Bastille was attacked on July 14., which marked the French Revolution. French Revolution was a period of political and social turn and radical change in France, during which the French governmental structure, before an absolute monarchy that privileged the aristocracy and Catholic clergy, went through radical change in the form of Enlightenment principles of citizenship and inalienable rights. On the other side, these changes were succeeded by violent unrest. At the age of seventeen when Great Britain went to war with France in reaction to the execution of Luis XVI in January 1793 and to the policy that was accepted by the revolutionary government which involved slaughter and repression at the Reign of Terror. Though not being the direct witness, her and the rural rectory must have been conscious of the dangers in that time, as in 1794 a husband of her cousin Eliza was guillotined in consequence of bribery attempt towards an official not to try an elderly marquise for his assumed high treason. Soon after, in 1795 her brother Henry as an officer in the Militia, witnessed an execution by firing squad of soldiers, who were associated with the poor in rioting for food, who were in his own regiment. (Tomalin,104) Most of her life was happening along the Napoleonic wars, her brothers Francis and Charles were often in peril on the sea.

The following events of the French Revolution that can be traced to the Napoleonic Wars, which include series of conflicts involving French Empire of Napoleon and changing groups of European allies and confronting coalitions in the time from 1803 to 1815. Napoleon's power due to his war skills and policy rose quickly, on the way overpowering most of Europe, however this achievements stopped rapidly after a disastrous invasion to Russia in 1812. Napoleon's empire eventually took a total military defeat, which in France resulted in the restoring of the Bourbon monarchy. Moreover, the dissolution of the Holy



Roman Empire also took place in this period. Meanwhile, in Spain as the French occupation of Spain abated, Spain's occupation in its colonies was weakening too, which opened a way for nationalist revolutions in Latin America. One of the straight effects of the Napoleonic wars was that for the next century, the British Empire was in the position of the first world power. Jane Austen died in 1817, two years Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo in 1815 and the Second Treaty of Paris completed.

In connection with the political situation, an intensive ideological disputations on the theme of the personal meaning together with the political one also took place. *Reflections on the Revolution on France*, concerning aristocracy traditional role of family in the centre of political agenda, by Edmund Burke was published in this he expressed his opinion at the substitution of the rights of man for the rights of kings, for the institution of liberty at the expense of traditional authority. In connection with this, Thomas Paine's *The Rights of Man* was published.

It is also a period of Mary Wollstonecraft with her initial answer to Burke published in 1790 under the title: *A Vindication of the Rights of Men*, stating her dissent with him, talking about the aristocracy being displaced as decadent in France and mentioning the suffering of women under the old regime. Mary Wollstonecraft came with another response in 1791, called *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, where she with her arguments emphasized the need and value of female emancipation. After her visit to France in 1792, she published, with reserved optimism, *An Historical and Moral View of the Origin and Progress of the French Revolution*, in which she tried to parallel her image at the blood of the Revolution with her faith in innovation, she believed that the fundamental basis of humanity was good, that even the "chaotic mass" could end up in "a fairer government."

As far as position of women and female writers, Jane Austen could not be unaware of what trends were highly discussed at that time. As Margaret Kirkham points out, Jane Austen was brought up in a time of controversial movement, on side feministic, on the other, antifeministic. "Novel itself was of particular importance to the debate. Since the publication of *Pamela* in 1740-41, questions of feminist concern, such as the moral status and education of women and the right basis of marriage and authority within the family, had formed an important part of the ethical subject matter of fiction, but by the end of the century women themselves had found a public voice as novelists.. While it would be misleading to speak of a well-defined school of eighteenth-century feminist thought in England, it is possible to see some development of ideas and practical concern, goin back to Mary Astell's feminist treatises

written between 1694 and 1705, continuing in their lives, letters, and other writings of the learned ladies associated with the bluestocking salons, and emerging in a more controversial way in fictional and theoretical works by women at the end of the century."("Jane Austen and Contemporary Feminism, "Jane Austen: Critical Assessments, ed. Ian Littlewood, vol.2. (Bodwin: MPG Books Ltd, 1998) 169.)

From the cultural point of view, this period in which Jane Austen was living the first half of her life, was a time Georgian style, which dates from 1700 to 1800, in this period terraces and town houses were popular, also The importance of country homes very important. In this style, influences of Roman and Greek architecture can be seen, Palladianism, which is a simple elegance using classical orders, was used distinctly. To the time, when Jane Austen was living, also the Regency period also belongs, two major streams of style appeared, the Gothic Revival and the Classical Regency. Gothic Revival lived far on into the Victorian period and carried into the homes of the United States. Inspiration came from the typical English medieval Gothic churches of the late 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. To imitate the decorative elements of the churches was very popular, but at a much lower cost, therefore, stucco took the place of the typical medieval stone. In the Classical stream of the Regency period the same Greek and Roman influences as the Georgian period were applied, but was also a "cheap substitute" for the original was used.

As far as clothing, even here was inspiration of classical Greek and Roman period, women wore elegant long simple gowns, were wearing corsets, and men wore long trousers and short coats that were cut be long at the back, usually a long black hat was part of the outfit.

## Pride and Prejudice

Probably the most popular novel of Jane Austen, published in 1813, was originally called *First Impressions*, however, this novel was never published under this title, in following revisions the title was changed to *Pride and Prejudice*. It is story of Elisabeth Bennet, country gentleman's daughter in 19th Century Hertfordshire. Elisabeth has 4 sisters Mary, Kitty, Lydia, Elisabeth and Jane and her mother, whose only concern is to marry them as best she can. One of the possible matches comes to the scene in with the appearance of wealthy Mr. Charles Bingley, who with his sister is to let an estate in their neighborhood and who interests himself in Jane and soon falls in love with her. On one of the balls Mr. Darcy is introduced, extremely rich and distance keeping man, whom soon all people consider to be proud, Elisabeth especially. On the other side Elisabeth becomes fond of a soldier, Mr. Wickham, from whom she hears a story how Darcy broke his father's promise and took away his inheritance. Mr. Bingley suddenly leaves never to come back without endeavor to contact Jane. Moreover, Elisabeth finds out details of his departure when she comes to visit a friend at the estate of Darcy's aunt from Darcy's cousin that it was the idea of Darcy that Bingley should leave. Suddenly, Darcy proposes to Elisabeth, who of course declines him and questions him about Wickham and Bingley. The result is a letter from Darcy, where he explains that with Bingley it was a service of a friend, because he believed Bingley's love was not requited. With Wickham he tells her the truth that Wickham's character is false and he spent all money Darcy gave him. After some time Elisabeth encounters him while being on the trip with her aunt and uncle. Darcy's impression improves. All of a sudden they hear the news about Lydia, who has run away with Mr. Wickham. Immediately Elisabeth returns home. This situation is saved due to Darcy's effort, which Elisabeth later finds out. By virtue of interference of Darcy's aunt Darcy learns about Elisabeth's attachment and proposes.

## Elisabeth Bennet

Elisabeth is one of the most interesting characters of Austen's novels, due to her complexity and roundness, representing the liveliness of young people. With her sophisticated temper and attitudes, Elizabeth perceives the limits of the family and social state, being aware of her qualities, it is a matter for her how to achieve the self-fulfillment in her life. What is helping her to cope with such a family and state is the ironic view, as Mudrick points out: "She observes, and her shield and instrument together is irony." ("Irony as Discrimination: *Pride and Prejudice*," Littlewood, vol.3, 288.)

It is not only the Elizabeth's skill of having the ironic overview that spares her from pain, it is also the self-confidence, as she declares Jane herself: "Compliments always take *you* by surprise, and *me* never."(16). In the view of talking about Miss Bennet, it is interesting how different these two sisters are, while Jane is all praising, Elizabeth "was not convinced; (...) with more quickness of observation and less pliancy of temper than her sister, and with a judgement too unassailed by any attention to herself, she was very little disposed to approve them."(17)

As far as Elizabeth's concern of men, she can appreciate among other aspects that a favourable man should have also physical qualities, as in the sisterly discussion with Jane about Mr.Bingley: "He is also handsome (...) which a young man ought likewise to be, if he possibly can. His character is thereby complete."(16) Elizabeth also understands that relationships are not a simple matter, when talking with Charlotte about Jane not helping Bingley, she also adds: "If a woman is partial to a man, and does not endeavour to conceal it, he must find it out."(23) As Charlotte suggests Jane should make Bingley attached to her as much as possible, she can then fall in love with him, Elizabeth agrees and links this to herself, "Your plan is good one, where nothing is in question but the desire of being well married; and if I were determined to get a rich husband, or any husband, I dare say I should adopt it." (23)

As a very skilful observer of human natures, Elizabeth is able to distinguish particular characters around her even though the social manners can easily deceive those who cannot read between the lines and can disguise those who want to dissimulate. Elizabeth therefore can chose the best manner how to behave to them, what and if any liberty she can take towards them. For example, the female assembly of Netherfield Mrs.Hurst and Miss Bingley, Elizabeth does not like much from the beginning, in spite of Jane defending them and the ladies' wish to become better friends with the two sisters, "Elizabeth still saw superciliousness in their treatment of every body; hardly excepting even her sister, and could not like them."(22) Although Elizabeth later slightly changes her attitude towards them, seeing they behave very nicely towards Jane because of Bingley, it is after Jane falling ill at Netherfield, when Elizabeth again sees again through them and stops thinking well of them once more. On hearing she is not better, the sisters only several times express their displeasure over her illness and then drop the matter."Their indifference towards Jane when not immediatly before them, restored Elizabeth to the enjoyment of all her original dislike."(34) Even though

Elizabeth tries to find a neighbourly way how to communicate with them, after hearing that they might have something to do with Bingley's departure from Netherfield, she resumes to dislike them again, Elizabeth fears that they can be successful in delaying him from returning back to Jane. This dislike towards them changes anger when another letter arrives, confirming that Bingley is partial to Miss Darcy, sister of Mr. Darcy.

In addition, Elizabeth spending every day with Jane, she is for her the endless source of the enjoyable observation, as "Jane united with great strength of feeling, a composure of temper and a uniform cheerfulness of manner, which would guard her from the suspiciousness of the impertinent." (22) Elizabeth also points out, that Jane does not and cannot take fancy to Bingley for the time being after such short acquaintance, only to get husband is not her only objective, "These are not Jane's feelings, she is not acting by design. As yet, she cannot even be certain of the degree of her own regard, nor of its reasonableness." (23) According to Elizabeth, Jane is a very sensitive person, who does not want to bother others with her personal feelings. For example, having received the letter that informs her of Bingley withdrawal from Netherfield, Jane tries to join the general conversation, however on the subject Elizabeth feels the anxiety from her.

Moreover, Elizabeth amuses herself by watching Bingley what attention he pays to Jane, since Bingley is not an uneasy person to observe, "It is generally evident whenever they met, that Jane was yielding to the preference which she had begun to entertain for him from the first, and was in a way to be very much in love." (22) With Bingley, it is not only the matter of him being in love that Elizabeth takes notice of, she is well acquainted with his nature even in other respects, for example, when Bingley states, that whatever he does, he makes it in hurry, therefore if should leave Netherfield, he should do so in five minutes, despite this, he seems to be quite fixed to this locality, Elizabeth decisively claims that what he says is exactly what she should expect from him, moreover, she later confidently declares that she understands his nature perfectly. In spite of the fact, that this information makes Bingley dissatisfied, Elizabeth continues: "It does not necessarily follow that a deep, intricate character is more or less estimable than such a one as yours." She later adds, that "intricate characters are the *most* amusing. They have at least that advantage." (42) The first nice impression of Bingley in Elizabeth's eyes terminates when Bingley shows himself as being easy to manipulate with, sacrifices his happiness and leaves Netherfield, the matters get worse when Miss Bingley writes how Bingley is partial to Miss Darcy. Her skill of observing people she finds very useful especially when she meets Miss Darcy in person with Bingley and she

does not find anything from their un verbal signs that confirms this theory of them being in love.

When Darcy points out that there is less variety in country people than it is in a city, Elizabeth resolutely opposes: "But people themselves alter so much, that is something new to be observed in them for ever."(43) When her mother's behaviour starts to be exceedingly intolerable and a possible danger occurs of Mr.Darcy being insulted, Elizabeth for saving the situation takes Darcy's sides by saying: You quite mistook Mr.Darcy. He only meant that there were no such a variety of people to be met with in the country as in town, which you must acknowledge to be true."(43) With the change of the subject the situation was then ward off.

On one side Elizabeth tries to save some situations from embarrassment, on the other, she sometimes almost promotes them herself. For example, when talking about a young gentleman who fell in love with Jane, however wrote her only several verses and with this his attachment was terminated, Elizabeth says: "And so ended his affection.(...) I wonder who first discovered the efficacy of poetry in driving away love!"(44) Darcy then opposes that poetry should be the essence of love, for Elizabeth this is no argument and does not change her opinion of this at all, in addition she adds her own argument, "Of a fine, stout, healthy love it may. (...) But if it be only a slight, thin sort of inclination, I am convinced that one good sonnet will starve it entirely away."(44) Thereby Elizabeth makes he point and thus ends the conversation.

Though Darcy is on higher level of rank than she is, she still keeps her own dignity, in little situations like the one at Maryton, when Sir Lucas tries to give her hand to Mr.Darcy so they could join the dance, in the twinkling of an eye Elizabeth draws back and claims she is not on the the mood of dancing, "I entreat you not to suppose that I moved this way in order to beg for a partner."(27) Being confident, it is impossible for Sir Lucas to persuade her. Moreover, on statement of Mr.Darcy having no objection, Elizabeth, smiling, only half-ironicly responses that Darcy is all politeness. When Sir Lucas asks provoking question of who would make an objection to such a partner, Elizabeth glances round with a double-meaning looked and turns away. This how Elizabeth demonstrates her confidence and the fact she does not feel inferior, by not excepting to dance with someone, meaning Darcy only out of pity, due to lack of dancers. Another instance where Elizabeth apart from others does not accept to be recognized as inferior is at Rosings, when they are to meet Lady Catherine de

Bourgh, aunt of Mr.Darcy. All others are startled by the grandeur surrounding them and by the legendary reputation of lady Catherine, however not Elizabeth, she behaves like an equal to the scene.

Among other aspects so appealing on Elizabeth is her spontaneity, for example when she receives the letter from Jane, informing about her state unfavourable conditions of her health, Elizabeth does not linger and sets off to see her immediately, she does not care what other people think, as she answers her mother about being dirty and not being fit to be seen there, "I shall be very fit to see Jane-which is all I want (...) The distance is nothing, when one has a motive.(32)

At Netherfield, though received politely, Elizabeth feels that she is not at all of the assembly welcomed. Mr.Darcy says not much, only in Mr.Bingley behaviour she can see kindness and well-meant manners, "his anxiety for Jane was evident, and his attentions to herself most pleasing, and they prevented her feeling herself so much an intruder as she believed was considered by the others."(35) Especially by Miss Bingley, who, encouraged by jealousy towards her and Mr.Darcy, expresses herself, that her manners are inferior, "mixture of pride and impertinence; she had no conversation, no style, no taste, no beauty."(35) Moreover, though Mrs.Hurst does not find Elizabeth appealing as well as Miss Bingley, she at least can appreciate some of her qualities and adds: "She has nothing, in short, to recommend her, but being an excellent walker."(36) The sisters judge her for coming alone in such a weather so far in the course of the morning, and they try to decode what she could mean by a such informality, Miss Bingley sees in it disgusting kind of an arrogant independence.

Independence it can be, sometimes as presented bordering with obstinacy, for example when Elizabeth reacts on Bingley's comment:"Miss Eliza Bennet despises cards. She is a great reader and has no pleasure in anything else."(39) Elizabeth stubbornly refuses her being only a reader with no other interests, "I am not a great reader, and I have pleasure in many things."(30) Later, for example attending her sister is mentioned as one of those things. The general opinion mainly of female part of the Netherfield assembly comes again to the point, where Miss Bingley express her judgement on Elizabeth:"Eliza Bennet is 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. (...) It is a very mean art."(40)

Elizabeth is not to be easily frightened as not to speak openly of her feelings and confessions. When in some of the discussions at Netherfield the dominant theme is Bingley's humility in writing letters, Elizabeth points out to Bingley that "Your humility, Mr. Bingley, must disarm reproof." (47) With the following Mr. Darcy's speech about Bingley only praising himself Elizabeth does not interfere, only when Mr. Darcy says that Bingley if invited by a friend to stay a week he would be prone to stay a month, Elizabeth expresses one of her many dissents in opinion with Darcy, turning Darcy's censure into a compliment, "You have only proved by this that Mr. Bingley did not do justice to his own disposition. You have shewn him off now much more than he did himself." (48) After Bingley's saying Darcy would rather have him decline the offer, Elizabeth, referring more to Darcy than Bingley, ironically asks if Mr. Darcy would then take into account the precipitation of Bingley's original design as atoned for by his stubbornness in adhering to it. Darcy then tries to make clear his attitude, claiming that, if a friend wishes another friend to return home, he should not hinder him in doing it. Hearing it, Elizabeth immediately remarks: "To yield readily- easily- to the persuasion of a friend is no merit with you." (49) Darcy then opposes too and the conversation turns out to other dimensions, being about other matters, fundamental attitudes, knowing them is as important for Darcy as for Elizabeth in creating an opinion of each other. Having heard enough in this dispute, according to her general pleasure Elizabeth starts again to analyze his personality, representing exactly how she feels about him at that point of time, "You appear to me, Mr. Darcy, to allow nothing for the influence of friendship and affection. A regard for the requester would often make one readily yield to a request, without waiting for arguments to reason one onto it." (49) As conclusion of this meaning-full discussion Elizabeth sees Darcy smiling, though it is not very clear to tell, she is suspicious about his smiling and apprehends that he might be offended and hence checked her laugh.

Mr. Wickham and Mr. Darcy are not the only men in Elizabeth's personal environment, a distant cousin Mr. Collins sets foot in her life soon. He is seeking a wife for his rectory and when Jane is soon to be engaged he chooses Elizabeth as an agreeable alternative. When Elizabeth finds it out, she takes decision not to act on it, "Elizabeth however did not chose to take the hint, being well aware that a serious dispute must be consequence of any reply." (87) This is a typical sign of Elizabeth's nature, Elizabeth does not have the inclination to solve matters until it is needed.



In spite of how decisive Elizabeth may seem, her personality more often than not turns her decisions into something else, in a way protecting her from bad temper. For example when Elizabeth finds out that Wickham is not present at the Netherfield ball, her disappointment is such that it sharpens her dislike towards Darcy, who is the probable motive why Wickham is absent. She therefore resolves not to communicate with Darcy at all and turned away in a disagreeableness. However Elizabeth's nature is not a bad-tempered one, hence she tells all her griefs to Charlotte, her spirits improve.

Another element that protects her is her courage, for example when Elizabeth is exposed to play with her imperfect playing skills in front of everyone at Rosings and Mr.Darcy comes apparently to terrify her. Though busy playing, Elizabeth claims: "There is a stubbornness about me that never can bear to be frightened at the will of others. My courage always rises with every attempt to intimidate me."(170)

Walking to Netherfield, shockingly all by herself in mud so early in the course of the morning is not the only way how Elisabeth dares to go against the tide. Despite the family and her social position, where a young lady like her would be grateful to accept a proposal from a someone like Mr.Collins, ridicule clerk and cousin of Bennets. Elisabeth obstinately refuses him despite rather intensive persuasion on the part of her mother Mrs.Bennet, in this manner she shows her independence and intention not to be only compatible with 'modesty' and 'economy'. Even though Mr.Collins maintains his opinion, that Elisabeth behaves only according to pattern of young ladies, Elisabeth clearly states: "Do not consider me now as an elegant female intending to plague you, but as a rational creature speaking the truth from her heart.(...) I would rather be paid a compliment of being believed sincere."(106) She is eventually successful in persuading Mr.Collins not to accept her, however another set of attacks comes from her mother, who is not prone to authorize her refusal. No type of upbraid takes effect on Elisabeth, she sometimes takes it with consideration, sometimes with airy cheerfulness always being determined not to change her mind.

At this time, Jane receives the letter about Bingley leaving Netherfield and Elisabeth hears about engagement of Charlotte and Mr.Collins, which more than surprise her, however she eventually wishes them happiness. Seeing the marriage of Collins and Charlotte Lucas and Bingley's apparent abandonment of Jane, in connection with her ability to observe human nature, Elisabeth is forced to conclude, "The more I see of the world, the more am I dissatisfied with it; and every day confirms my belief of the inconsistency of all human

characters, and of the little dependence that can be placed on the appearance of either merit or sense."(121)

Among Elisabeth's decisive theories come the one, when talking about Charlotte being married to Mr. Collins, "You shall not, for the sake of one individual, change the meaning of principle and integrity, nor endeavour to persuade yourself or me, that selfishness is prudence, and insensibility of danger, security for happiness. "(133)

Elisabeth as well as Darcy likes to make comments on general themes, such as marriage of young people, for example, when talking with her aunt, Elisabeth states that "since we every day that where there is affection, young people are seldom withheld by immediate want of fortune, from entering into engagements with each other, how can I promise to be wiser than so many of my fellow-creatures if I am tempted or how am I even to know that I would be wisdom to resist? "(143) Within the context of what men Elisabeth has a chance to encounter, the impression of them created an opinion which she presented as having a poor opinion of Derbyshire men and of Hertfordshire men too, being fed up with them.

Another instance when Elisabeth likes to generalize and all at once to link it with her own experience is when lady Catherine wonders why are all sisters already out, Elisabeth without hesitation claims that it would not encourage sisterly affection if the younger ones would have to stay at home only because the older ones do not tend to be married.

It is interesting how Elisabeth can cope with problems. She is not that kind of person who would for long time remain in a troubled state of mind. For example, when she does not meet Wickham at the ball, after some time she is cheerful again; when she is not successful in persuading her father not to let Lydia go to Brighton to see militia, she is compelled to be satisfied, she has fulfilled her duty and does not linger for long time to bother with it. Another instance is when Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner plan their vacation with Elisabeth, Elisabeth is disappointed, however once again due to her temper disposed to be cheerful, she does not worry about it for a long time.

Despite the independence of Elisabeth, she is not fully unconventional, as she chooses to be married in a marriage that is in a way conventional, like Mrs. Bennet comments on it that Jane's marriage is nothing in comparison with marriage of Elisabeth.

What is unusual about Elisabeth is not only her special psychological qualities however she is unusual also in the respect of not being a very accomplished young woman, as young ladies ought to be. As well as her other sisters apart from Mary, who is plain but working hard for knowledge and accomplishments, Elisabeth does not exceed in playing the piano and singing, as at Sir Lucas's "her performance was pleasing, though by no means

capital."(25) Despite this matter, Elisabeth's playing achieves greater success than Mary's due to her character and the fact, that Elisabeth does not simulate someone she is not, for "Elisabeth, easy and unaffected, had been listened to with much more pleasure, though not playing half so well."(26)

### Relationship with Darcy

Elisabeth first encounters Darcy at Meryton ball, their meeting can be seen as the time-honoured paraphrase on Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, two people from different spheres, their relationship offending some people, like Lady Catherine, a moneyed aunt of Darcy, who having arranged his marriage to her daughter clearly disapproves and against her will sets up the events going for the benefit of Elisabeth and Darcy.

From the beginning, Elisabeth has no reason, why to feel inclined towards Darcy, not even take major notice of him, especially, when Darcy expresses himself unflatteringly of her, as "tolerable, but handsome enough to tempt *me*"; "(13) Any other young lady could be crushed by this statement, however Elisabeth is not, she is not attached to him by this time, for "Elisabeth remained with no very cordial feelings towards him." By telling her friends 'with great spirit', she uses her ability to turn an unpleasant experience into an amusing story, "for she had a lively, playful disposition, which delighted in any thing ridiculous."(14) Consistent with this attitude, Elisabeth later observes on this inconvenience with half-seriousness: I could easily forgive *his* pride, if he had not mortified *mine*."(21) According to the general opinion of Darcy, Elisabeth does not consider it as a dreadful experience at all, as her mother says: "Lizzy does not lose much by not suiting *his* fancy; (...) So high and so conceited that there was no enduring him!"(15).

Not being aware of what feelings are growing inside of Mr.Darcy, Elisabeth unceasingly stands to the ill-favoured opinion of him, "to her, he was only the man who made himself agreeable no where, and who had not thought her handsome enough to dance with."(24) The first sign that could indicate his amendment of his opinion comes to her at large party in the form of Darcy willingly joining the conversation of Charlotte and Colonel Foster. Even though she thought some impression the act brings along, as "his going so drew her notice", this treatment however does not bring the desired effect entirely. Despite the fact, that Charlotte opposes, Elisabeth provokes Darcy by saying: "Did you not think, Mr. Darcy, that I expressed myself uncommonly well just now, when I was teasing Colonel Foster to give us a ball at Meryton?" As opposite to what is expected, Darcy does not seem to be offended and calmly

replies: "With great energy;- but it is a subject which always makes a lady energetic."(25)To this, Elisabeth ironically responds that he is severe on them.

Elisabeth's attitude does not change even when certain signs are drawn to her through Darcy's behaviour. When Darcy is closely looking at her, she does not suspect a slightest intention of his and gives it a credit only as a sign of his despising her. None the less, Elisabeth for a moment feels a sudden feeling that it might be about something else indeed, however this does not last long, Elisabeth is not yet in the position to conceive other designs. "Elisabeth could not help observing how frequently Mr.Darcy's eyes were fixed on her. She hardly knew how to suppose that she could be an object of admiration to so great a man; and yet he should look at her because he disliked her, was still more strange. She could only imagine however at last, that she drew his notice because there was something about her more wrong and reprehensible, according to his ideas of right, than in any other person present. The supposition did not pain her. She liked him too little to care for his approbation. "(50)

To the signs of his interest belongs a singular situation that walls of Netherfield have not seen until then, Mr.Darcy addressing Elisabeth himself and moreover, wishing for a dance with her. For this Elisabeth is not prepared at all, however, after having recovered her wits, she is ready to put Darcy's personality on test again, by not answering immediately to his request and when he in surprise repeats the request she takes a decision not to accept it due to her ambition for unusual behaviour to turn it against him. "I heard you before; but I could not immediately determine what to say in reply. You wanted me, I know, to say 'Yes', that you might have the pleasure of despising my taste, but I always delight in overthrowing those kind of schemes, and cheating a person of their premeditated contempt. I have therefore made up my mind to tell you, that I do not want to dance a reel at all- and now despise me if you dare. "(50) His answering that he would not startles Elisabeth, such gentleman-like diversion of provocation she does not expect. This is probably the first time when she is not successful in offending him. Moreover, Elisabeth has such a personality that despite her occasional unsocial behaviour it itself promotes thoughts in a man's mind that it is troublesome for her to offend anybody. In addition, another time when Darcy asks her to dance is at Netherfield ball, Mr.Darcy could not chose a better moment to ask for a dance with her than when she is relieved from dancing with Mr.Collins, she spontaneously agrees. This is a moment of forthcoming overturn, Elisabeth is confused that she might find a man whom she is determined to hate as an agreeable one.

From this advantage Elisabeth profusely derives benefit, especially towards Darcy, when talking about him not to be laughed at, Elisabeth ironically comments on him and smoothly comes to talk about herself: "Mr.Darcy is not to be laughed at! That is an uncommon advantage, and uncommon I hope it will continue, for it would be a great loss to me to have many such acquaintance.I dearly love to laugh. "(56)

After meeting Wickham, Elisabeth does not think of Darcy any better, Wickham tells Elisabeth untrue facts of Darcy and she blankly believes him, being infatuated by Wickham. Despite the fact she was the first one to attract his attention, she has not fallen in love with him, as she later confesses in her own specific way that she has never been much in love and if she had, she would loath his name and wish him all kinds of evil. Although she is not in love with him, she experiences the opposite affection - dislike towards Darcy, whose behaviour and looks only support the untrue word of Wickham. This stays unchanged until Darcy writes the momentous letter, explaining his steps and attitudes.

When she happens to dance with him, for the time being she wants to put him in another test again and oblige him to talk. As yet their personalities have not agreed in many points, however Elisabeth with her efficient ability to observe natures in their conversation mentions that they still have some features in common: "I have always seen a great similarity in the turn of our minds.-We are each of an unsocial, taciturn disposition, unwilling to speak, unless we expect to say something that will amaze the whole room,and be handed down to posterity with all the eclat of a proverb."(90) Elisabeth, thinking that it would be a punishment for Mr.Darcy to speak, not only Elisabeth makes him do it, she even irritates him by saying that there are no other people in the room who would have less to say each other. The discussion does not end very well, on both sides dissatisfied

Elisabeth is also a very emphatic person, as in the scene Darcy declaring love she is able to put herself in the Darcy's place, despite of her deeply-rooted displeasure towards him, she could not be insensitive to the compliment of such a man's attachment, she was from the beginning sorry for the pain she was to give. None the less, with arguments having been put by Darcy in an inappropriate way, Elisabeth to the end of the dialogue does not feel pity at all, however, even she does not convey the attitude properly, saying:"You are mistaken, Mr.Darcy, if you suppose that the mode of your declaration affected me in any way, than as it spared me the concern which I might have felt in refusing you, had you behaved in a more gentleman-like manner."(188)

A letter, which brings down Elisabeth to the worst state of confusion, astonishment, even horror she has ever experienced, comes from Darcy after this tensioned discourse. Whatever feelings this letter executed, it has the desired effect on Elisabeth, she eventually knows the truth about Bingley and Wickham. Following the letter, however stubborn Elisabeth may seem, she is able to learn from the mistakes, being confused by the unverbally appearance and other circumstances of Mr. Darcy, and by deceptions of Mr. Wickham, "Of neither Darcy nor Wickham could she think, without feeling that she had been blind, partial, prejudiced, absurd.(...)Till this moment I never knew myself. " (201, 202) From this point on, Elisabeth has different approach towards Darcy, though still full of embitterment, she considers how unjustly she has treated him, her anger is turned to herself. It is here, when she starts to have inclination to be sorry for his disappointed feelings, even though she still cannot approve him.

As far as the relationship towards Darcy, Elisabeth experiences the final turning point in regarding him at Pemberley, when she passes by his portrait which amazingly evokes the image of Darcy as she has known him in a positive light, from this point on the part of Elisabeth it is only genuine admiration towards him. "At last it arrested her- and she beheld a striking resemblance of Mr. Darcy, with such a smile over the face, as she remembered to have sometimes seen, when he looked at her.(...) There was certainly at this moment, in Elisabeth's mind, a more gentle sensation towards the original, than she had ever felt in the height of their acquaintance. "(240) With change of attitude, Elisabeth notices a change in his behaviour too. When he speaks to her he seems to be even-tempered and with proficient civility. However, Elisabeth, bearing in mind what she has been through with him and having been found as unexpected guest in his house by Darcy, feels very uncomfortable and embarrassed, thinking if she is still dear to him. The fact that he has made such a presentation to his sister that she immediately longs to meet her Elisabeth flatters very much, though she cannot still feel comfortable. Her feelings in time improve even better and she feels respect, esteem and gratitude towards him.

Another stage of her emotional progress towards him reaches its point after a letter of Lydia's runaway comes to her hands. Being in a desperate state, Elisabeth for the first time honestly thinks she could have loved him, if it were not for this incident. It is now, when she casts away all the negative feelings. This gratefulness is multiplied after his saving the face of Lydia when he arranges her wedding with Wickham and all necessary matters connected with it. Her thoughts are such that she would even except his proposals. "He was as generous, she doubted not, as the most generous of his sex. (...) 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.(...) From his judgement, information, and knowledge of the world, she must have received benefit of greater importance."(295)

The climax is about to reach its point when Lady Catherine storms into Bennet's house and assaults Elisabeth that she has been spreading the rumours of her being engaged to Darcy, Elisabeth refuses this charge and declines to make a promise not to enter in such an engagement. A free way is opened to the young couple to agree on engagement with each other.

In conclusion, Elizabeth is probably the most popular heroine if Jane Austen, therefore the reader is charmed by her spontaneity, courage, self-consciousness, caring personality and focuses on that, however Elizabeth, as well as other heroines goes through emotional and psychological progress and is not faultless. She may seem a little shallow in the beginning, as she is carried away by general opinion and first impression of Mr. Darcy, who on the other side only helps this opinion. Elizabeth does not respect ranks, even though he is on higher level than she is, she provokes him. In the end she is more mature and still keeps the lightness of her nature.

### *Fitzwilliam Darcy*

Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy, a well known man, a man of 'ten thousand a year', whose rather unfavourable reputation is soon to be spread across the county, is rather a mystical creature, due to his introverted character and seldom insights to his mind. At first introduced at the Meryton ball, Mr. Darcy comes as an acquaintance of Mr. Bingley, who is entering the ball room as the principal and wealthy target of young ladies. As far as looks of Mr. Darcy, his 'first impression' is that "he soon drew the attention of the room by his fine, tall person, handsome features, noble mein."(12) Apart from Mr. Bingley, who "was lively and unreserved, danced every dance", Mr. Darcy with his reserved manners dances only 2 dances, "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." To this abnormal behaviour are not the visitors of the ball used to and Mr. Darcy is almost immediately ranked as "the proudest, most disagreeable man in the world." (13)

After Bingley's request to make Darcy dance, Darcy shows a little of his introvert character and replies: "You know how I detest it, unless I am particularly acquainted with my partner. " (13) However, he declines to be acquainted with any lady in the room, especially to one,

Elisabeth, who is at disposal, sitting down because of the lack of gentlemen to dance with, by coldly saying: "She is tolerable, but handsome enough to tempt *me*;"(13) As far as dancing, one of the reasons why Darcy needs to know his partner more than generally, can be the fact that he strongly dislikes dancing, he admits it himself when talking to Sir Lucas about dancing as a compliment to the place: "It is a compliment which I never pay to any place if I can avoid it."(26) Another instance when Mr.Darcy does not seem to be content with his surroundings is at Netherfield, when talking with Elisabeth about her being studier of characters, he points out: "The country can in general supply but a few subjects for such a study. In a country neighbourhood you move in a very confined and unvarying society."(42)

As entirely different man can be Mr.Darcy seen from the point of friendship with Mr.Bingley. With the deep and steady friendship, these two men can support each other perfectly, "Bingley was endeared to Darcy by the easiness, openness, ductility of his temper, though no disposition could offer a greater contrast to his own, and though with his own he never appeared dissatisfied. (...) Bingley had the firmest reliance, and of his judgement the highest opinion."(18) The differences between the two gentlemen cannot be more greater, none the less they quite match, "In understanding Darcy was the superior. Bingley was by no means deficient, but Darcy was clever."(18). Typical were the manners of Darcy at Meryton, since even in other places "He was at the same time haughty, reserved, and fastidious, and his manners, though well bred, were not inviting. (...) Darcy was continually giving offence." (18) The cause for this impression is with all probability rooted in his shyness when meeting new people beyond his party, as he later admits, that he finds himself ill qualified to make his acquaintance to strangers.

Among other contrasts with Bingley belongs the fact, that Mr.Darcy can see just and only what his eyes want to see. Moreover, in inferior society nothing is good enough for him, since in Meryton he "had seen a collection of people in whom there was a little beauty and no fashion, for none of whom he had felt the smallest interest, and from none received either attention or pleasure. Miss Bennet he acknowledged to be pretty, but she smiled too much. " (18) Moreover, later, Mr.Darcy himself contributes to this attitude, as a reaction to Sir Lucas's statement, that dancing should be the elegance of sublime societies, Darcy says: "and it has the advantage also of being in vogue amongst the less polished societies of the world.- Every savage can dance."(26) With this attitude, it is not surprising that Mr.Darcy does not feel inclined towards talking to ball assembly, one lady even expresses a statement about Mr.Darcy, sitting next to her for a half an hour without opening his lips, apart from one



occasion, when he is obliged to answer: "She asked him at last how he liked Netherfield, and he could not help answering her;- but she said he seemed very angry at being spoken to. " (20) Darcy's behaviour with his uncivil closeness, now labeled as the one "ate up with pride" can be however interpreted also in a different way from those who know him well enough to read between the lines of his behaviour.

It is apparent, that Darcy, certainly being influenced by his pompous aunt, was brought up to be aware of his position and fortune. In the present time he has this approach so deep in his subconsciousness that he is unknowingly effected by it. Indeed, when talking about the library in Pemberley being of the finest, Mr.Darcy is proud of his family achievements, "it ought to be good, it has been work of many generations."(38)

Apart from momentous exceptions, when Mr.Darcy speaks unreservedly and reveals his emotions openly, for the greater part his behaviour is introvert. Even though he is capable of great feelings, he often keeps them to himself. A typical instance for him is a situation at sir Lucas's, when Elisabeth and Mary are playing, whereas Mr.Darcy stands deep in thoughts and disregards the social activity around him, since "Mr.Darcy stood near them in silent indignation at such a mode of passing the evening, to the exclusion of all conversation, and was too engrossed by his own thoughts to perceive that sir William Lucas was his neighbour" (26). It is here, where Darcy and Elisabeth could take part in dancing together, when Darcy is once more taken aback, after Sir Lucas tries to give Elisabeth's hand to Darcy, she refuses to dance with him in a quite decisive manner. Has someone else done it to him, Darcy would most surely be offended, however not with Elisabeth, "Her resistance had not injured her with the gentleman, and he was thinking of her with some complacency."(27)

With the character of Darcy as he makes himself felt, one could think that an ideal woman for him would be the one, who is submissive, obedient and takes interest of him herself. In fact, there is such woman, who would match the characterization, fore mentioned Caroline Bingley. Despite some attempts to catch his eye, Darcy is insusceptible to her endeavour, he even does not look up to her when reading, Caroline, driven by jealousy because of Elisabeth, invites her to take a walk across the room. Only then his attention is drawn to the ladies.

Famous is the discussion of Darcy and Elisabeth at Netherfield concerning women. It is in evidence, that Darcy does have high expectations of women, in the sense of the Darcy's opinion, it is not comprehensible why exactly Elisabeth is the one, who holds his interest.

Elisabeth claims that she has not heard of any young lady not being called accomplished, on this Darcy responds, that he does not know more than six ladies who would be accomplished. According to him, through the words of Miss Bingley, an accomplished lady is the one, who has "a thorough knowledge of music, singing, drawing, dancing, and the modern languages, to deserve the word; and besides all this, she must possess a certain something in her air and manner of walking, the tone of her voice, her address and expressions, or the word will be but half deserved." (39) He himself adds that, "to all this she must yet add something more substantial, in the improvement, of her mind by extensive reading." (39) Elisabeth again very decisively opposes, "I am no longer surprised that you know *only* six accomplished women, I rather wonder now at your knowing *any* (...) I never saw such a woman, I never saw such capacity, and taste, and application, and elegance, as you describe, united." (39) This conversation being over, Miss Bingley claims in address towards Darcy, that Elisabeth is one of those girls, who undervalue themselves to draw attention of men, Darcy avoids a specific answer and responds in general, "there is meanness in *all* the arts which ladies sometimes condescend to employ for captivation. Whatever bears affinity to cunning is despicable." (40)

Elisabeth and Darcy have not only different estimation of what a respected woman should be like, if people are more varied in the city or in a country, another matter is their perception of some aspects of love draws apart in long distance in the question of love verses. Elisabeth states that verses that were written by a young man and dedicated to her at that time too young sister Jane put an end to their love. In spite of Darcy's seeming hardshell image, Darcy uncovers his sensitive nature by saying: "I have been used to consider poetry as the *food* of love." (44) In all likelihood Darcy is not in a mood of disputation, therefore to Elisabeth's continual dissent he only smiles. Despite the lasting opposition, Darcy does not seem to be changing opinion of her. When the Bennet family departs, Darcy knows very well that female assembly of Netherfield will propose to be talking about them and decides not to take part in it, "Mr. Darcy (...) could not be prevailed on to join in their censure of *her*, in spite of all Miss Bingley's witticisms on her *fine eyes*." (45)

It seems that their divergence of views ever and again comes to light, in inconspicuous points in conversation, like in one at Netherfield when talking of Bingley's humility about writing letters, Elisabeth tells Bingley that his humility must prevent reprehension. As if addressing to Elisabeth, Darcy with his tendency to generalize interposes by saying: "Nothing is more deceitful, than the appearance of humility. It is often only carelessness of opinion, and sometimes an indirect boast." (47) As Elisabeth does not respond, he then talks to Bingley himself and tells him that his case is the one of the pride, "you are really proud of your defects

in writing, because you consider them proceeding from a rapidity of thought and carelessness of execution, which if not estimable, you think at least highly interesting. The power of doing any thing with quickness is always much prized by the possessor, and often without any intention to imperfection of the performance."(47)

Darcy is a skilled observer of human characters as well as Elisabeth, moreover, apart from her he can involve his developed logic, as he himself says, that his observations and decisions are not usually affected by his hopes and fears. Knowing Bingley very well long enough to speak to him in a straightforward and informal way, Darcy is familiar with weak and strong aspects of his nature, for example when he continues in his utterance he analyzes his behaviour from the morning: "When you told Mrs. Bennet this morning that if you ever resolved on quitting Netherfield you should be gone in five minutes, you meant it to be sort of panegyric, of compliment to yourself- and yet what is there so very laudable in precipitance which must leave very necessary business undone. (...) I am by no means convinced that you would be gone with such celerity.(...) if a friend were to say, 'Bingley, you had better stay till next week', you would probably do it (...) another word might stay a month."(48) Bingley himself later says that Darcy would think of him more positively if in this case Bingley were to in all conscience decline and ride away. Elisabeth takes Bingley's sides and asks Darcy if he would look over Bingley's intentions if he tried adhering to it, Darcy in double-meaning responses: "You expect me to account for opinions which you chuse to call mine, but which I have never acknowledged. (...) You must remember, Miss Bennet, that the friend who is supposed to desire his return to the house, and delay of his plan, has merely desired it, asked without offering one argument in favour of its propriety."(49) When Elisabeth afterwards opposes that to persuade a friend is not a virtue to him, Darcy disapproves as well, stating that "To yield without conviction is no compliment either."(49) Darcy later declares that Bingley has a natural modesty and he tends to depend on Darcy's judgement than on his own. As Elisabeth is not afraid to speak up what are her views, Darcy is progressively learning it too. "Will it not be advisable, before we proceed on this subject, to arrange with rather more precision the degree of importance which is to appertain to this request, as well as the degree of intimacy subsisting between the parties?"(49) With his ability to observe people, as contrast with Elisabeth, Darcy on basis of his observations of Jane not seem to be attached to Bingley, Darcy manipulates with their lives and persuades Bingley to leave. Another instance where Darcy shows his ability to recognize characters, especially Elisabeth is at Rosings, when Elisabeth declares she is not frightened at the will of others, Darcy leisurely states that

Elisabeth occasionally tends to imply thoughts that are not hers and neither of them like to perform to unknown people.

As far as Mr.Darcy's interests it is not an obvious choice to say, as Mr.Darcy does not often manifest his amusements, however, time and again some of these aspects appear, for example the fact, when talking about playing the cards he declines, thereby he is not very fond of cards.

Another typical situation occurs, when Elisabeth hears Mr.Darcy is not to be laughed at, Darcy shows his ability to make an unobtrusive comment back to Elisabeth, Darcy replies, alluding to Elisabeth that the most sensible men's actions, may be shown ridiculous by someone whose objective on life is a joke. He then goes on saying that he finds vanity a weakness, however concerning pride, it will be under control if there is a true superiority of mind. Minute later he connects the formulation to himself, saying: "I have faults enough, but they are not, I hope, of understanding. (...) I cannot forget the follies and vices of others so soon I ought, nor their offences against myself. (...) My temper would perhaps be called resentful.-My good opinion once lost is lost for ever. "(57) Despite the multi level conversation on a serious topic of characters, even here they both can lighten the mood, which indicates that their relationship though full of misunderstandings with not all positive feelings on both sides is undergoing a progress. It is done through a little note said with smile that people prone to have natural defects, Mr.Darcy having inclination to hate everybody, and Elisabeth expressly misunderstanding the defects.

Mr.Darcy with his reserved nature sometimes puts himself in a mystical shadow, for example when Mr.Wickham comes to light Mr.Darcy's reaction to him is extraordinary and by not making it clear until it is necessary helps to promote Elisabeth's feelings towards him. However this is only natural progress of situation due to Darcy's introversion and good manners. As opposite to Wickham, he, as a true gentleman, never complains. Therefore Wickham's judgement on Darcy is not favourable, in his eyes Darcy is manipulator, "The world is blinded by his fortune and consequence, or frightened by his and imposing manners, and sees him only as he chuses to be seen. "(77)

When Netherfield ball comes, Darcy makes another attempt to attract Elisabeth to dance with him and this time he takes her by surprise so she agrees.The conversation does not go very

smoothly and when Elisabeth says they have nothing to say each other he unexpectedly asks if she liked books, smiling.

Mr. Darcy being in love shows other dimensions of his personality, he not only against his will opens up, but one can see how he reacts when something he wants is not willing to comply. Where else he can show he is capable of overwhelming feelings, such as anger, being unquestionably refused by Elisabeth? "His complexion became pale with anger, and the disturbance of his mind was visible in every feature." (186)

Throughout the book, the pride of Darcy confused may be with his confidence, apparently being encouraged since his infancy due to his social position, as when revealing his affections "He *spoke* of apprehension and anxiety, but this countenance expresses real security. ." This aspect is also visible when after having proposed to Elisabeth "as he said this, she could easily see that he had no doubt of a favourable answer." (185)

His relationship with his sister is very sincere and honest, as she looks up to him as a variation of father, and taking care of her he considers as his duty, which he gladly fulfills. For example as their housekeeper mentions, Darcy, whenever he has a chance please her, he takes care of it within a moment, he would do for her anything in the world.

On the bright side Darcy does not change his behaviour back, on the contrary, he improves his behaviour notably, as giving the impression of Elisabeth words of being wish-ful to please, not tensed. In spite of this change, for Darcy it is sometimes difficult to solve crisis situations, for example when Elisabeth receives the letter informing her of Lydia's impertinent runaway with Wickham, and bursts into tears, Darcy does not basically know what to do, says something indistinctly of his care and then in silence observes her.

To compare Wickham and Darcy from the point of their looks, Wickham has in this view an advantage, as Elisabeth herself states, that Mr. Darcy is no as good-looking as Wickham, in other words, Darcy has not Wickham's features, as Wickham has perfect looks.

## Mansfield Park

*Mansfield Park* was published in two editions, the first in 1814, the second in 1816. The two main characters are Fanny Price and Edmund Bertram, who are considered as one of the most unusual and atypical characters of novels of Jane Austen. The plot most of the time takes place at *Mansfield Park*, home of wealthy sir Bertram, who has four children and lady Bertram as his wife. Their newcomer is his poor niece Fanny Price who is to live with them who becomes every day more attached to of his sons Edmund. As the time flies, new neighbors come to scene- young Mr. Henry Crawford and his sister beautiful Mary Crawford. Sir Bertram has duties on plantations in Antiqua and therefore has to set for it. His absence initiates disengagement of the routine and of the general mood that a home theatre of Elizabeth Inchbald's play *Lovers' Vows* is to be played. This is however put to an end by sir Bertram's arrival. In this time, Mr. Crawford has a flirt with Maria, the oldest daughter of Bertrams, and leaves, so Maria marries not very quick-witted Mr. Rushworth, whom she was earlier engaged. Henry then comes back to Mansfield to amuse himself to make Fanny fall in love him, in which he does not succeeds. With refusing him, Fanny is thereafter sent to her original home, Mr. Crawford soon following her to prove his attachment. Again he fails and after this an affair of Henry and Maria comes to light, which ends up in scandalous divorce. Moreover, the oldest brother Tom is taken ill and Fanny is called back to help. With Mary Crawford, who behaves unseemly, and her brother all bonds are dissolved. When right time comes, "at exactly the time it should be so, and not a week earlier"(484) Edmund begins to appreciate Fanny's qualities, nature and his proposal of marriage is heartily accepted.

## Fanny Price

Fanny Price is a heroine, who is entirely dissimilar to others of Jane Austen. She is brought up in simple conditions among many of her brothers and sisters when she is at the age of ten brought to her aunt's mansion- Mansfield Park. Here she is to spend many years with her cold cousins, strict uncle sir Bertram, vexatious Mrs. Norris and strange lady Bertram.

As opposite to other heroines of Jane Austen, Fanny is in a position to be in touch with Edmund everyday since infancy as she lives with him together at Mansfield Park. Apparently, Edmund means for Fanny more than anything in the mansion, with intolerable aunt Norris, distance-keeping uncle, absent-minded aunt Bertram, disrespectful cousins, Edmund represents values and emotional background of what a family can be. Only he sets much on her, seeing what she cannot see and admits in one of the discussions, "As to your

foolishness and awkwardness, my dear Fanny, believe me, you never have a shadow of either, but in using the words so improperly. (...) You have a good sense, and a sweet temper, and I am sure you have a grateful heart, that could never receive kindness without wishing to return it. I do not know any better qualifications for a friend and companion." (27) When talking with Miss Crawford, she asks him about Fanny being out or not, that she talks so little. Edmund replies that Fanny is an adult woman with the right age and intellect.

Instances like the one, when Fanny is given a horse thanks to Edmund promote her cordiality towards him. Her gratefulness is enormous." Edmund's mare was far beyond any former pleasure of the sort. (...) She regarded her cousin as an example of every thing good and great, as possessing worth, which no one but herself could ever appreciate, and as entitled to such gratitude from her, as no feelings could be strong enough to pay. Her sentiments towards him were compounded of all that was respectful, grateful, confiding, and tender. "(38)

Though her relationship towards Edmund is steady most of the time, even so devoted a person as Fanny is can be resentful towards him. When she receives letter from him, Fanny as well as Catherine in Northanger Abbey wishes not to obtain any letter in future, as it brings no positive information. Edmund informs her that he will stay longer away from her, which Fanny drives to anger, dissatisfaction with Edmund. The real pain in fact is that he professes his attachment to Miss Crawford instead of to her.

Towards the end, Fanny's feelings as Edmund's feelings change are impassionate. "Timid, anxious, doubting as she was, it was still impossible that such tenderness as her's should not, at times, hold out the strongest hope of success, though it remained for a later period to tell him the whole delightful and astonishing truth. "(485)

As far as Fanny herself, it is not uninteresting how Fanny reacts in situations she does not like when for example after five years of living at Mansfield Park a decision has been made for her that she is to live with aunt Norris, whom never loved or who never expressed kindness to Fanny. Her reaction is typically sheepish with an effort not to manifest her true feelings, as Fanny only with faltering voice claims she will be very to go away from Mansfield and does not demonstrate any other opposition, only with Edmund she is open and declares her opinion that she cannot like living with aunt Norris. Her own opinion of herself is similar to how she behaves, her estimation of herself is not exquisite, as she tells Edmund that she will never get on well with aunt Norris because she cannot be important to anyone because of her situation, foolishness and awkwardness.

With a pleasing impression of Fanny and her submissive nature, Fanny is within the bounds of possibility quite popular with her aunt and occasionally when something is needed with her other relatives at Mansfield. Her aunt is especially fond of her, as Fanny is a very obliging assistant to her, when they are to part because Fanny should live with Mrs. Norris, aunt Bertram replies to Fanny that she hopes Fanny is not ungrateful and she always has found her a very good girl. As much as aunt cares about Fanny, less is popular among her cousins. In their opinion she is inferior, for example when they see red eyes because of crying, they ascribe it to her hypocrisy. Even Edmund unconsciously once treats her as somebody inferior, when the home theatre at Mansfield is being rehearsed, though Fanny has an excellent memory, knows most of the lines, everyone uses her only as assistant, part of the scene, as well Edmund tries to persuade her to participate in one small part due to lack of the actors, which Fanny refuses. This is surprise for others as they are used to Fanny to oblige. His statement can represent his opinion of her at this point of the time. "Indeed you must, for we cannot excuse you; it is a nothing of a part, a mere nothing, not above half of dozen speeches altogether, and it will not much signify if nobody hears a word you say, so you may be as creepmouse as you like, but we must have you to look at."(149)

Her personality is not only formed by how others behave to her but also how they do not behave, as they do not invite Fanny to come with the daughters to balls and she stays at home with lady Bertram and does not get used to be in the company, be in the center of attention until her uncle organizes a ball for her, which only horrifies Fanny. Other pieces of experience of social gatherings are conveyed to her through Edmund or her brother William. Due to her scarce visits to society, Fanny is very fond of books and nature, even the drive in the carriage is an adventure for her.

Fanny is a very emphatic person, she easily puts herself in other people's places, and she can also recognize when she should feel something herself and she does not, as when her uncle, who though is loving however is too great authority for Fanny so she could feel without restraint with him, leaves Mansfield because of the business abroad. Fanny feels upset because she is not miserable enough, moreover she is relieved. "Fanny's relief, and her consciousness of it, were quite equal to her cousin's, but a more tender nature suggested that her feelings were ungrateful, and she really grieved because she could not grieve. (...) it was a shameful insensibility."(33) Contrary is the case, as Fanny is very sensitive, sometimes oversensitive, every emotion being professed through tears. When her uncle, who treats her how some would call coldly, tells her that he hopes that she convinces her brother who is to



come, that the years spent on her uncle's expense have not been a waste, even though he fears that in some respects she is much the same as at the age of ten, which later moves her to tears. When he comes back from business journey, he regards Fanny in different view, he cares about her more though does not understand her. It is he, who wants Fanny to marry Mr. Crawford, and when Mr. and Miss Crawford depart from Mansfield, he follows attentively her behavior and seeks its alternation, but finds none. "She was always so gentle and retiring, that the emotions were beyond his discrimination."(376)

Fanny likes to be useful, which is not difficult, as most of the Mansfield assembly treats her between borders of family relative and better servant, that Fanny passes over this and considers it as a matter of fact. Moreover, she misses the Mansfield especially when she comes back home. " (...) bad air, bad smells, substituted for liberty, freshness, fragrance, and verdure, was infinitely worse; - but even these incitements to regret, were feeble, compared with what arose from conviction of being missed, by her best friends, and the longing to be useful to those who were wanting her!"(445) A typical situation indicating that Fanny is not considered as equal partner for decisions is when a plan for going to Sotherton is being discussed, the assembly does not approve of Fanny to be joining them in the trip, Fanny with her modesty agrees to stay with lady Bertram, only Edmund takes her sides and persuades them that there is no reason why Fanny should not come too. "Fanny's gratitude when she heard the plan, was in fact much greater than her pleasure. She felt Edmund's kindness with all, and more than all, the sensibility which he, unsuspecting of her fond attachment, could be aware of; but that he should forego any enjoyment on her account gave her pain, and her own satisfaction in seeing Sotherton would be nothing without him." (82) Another instance when he defends her is when sir Bertram comes back home from business trip and being distressed, discovers the home theatre, Edmund points out that Fanny was against the theatre from the very beginning.

What forms the nature of Fanny are not only her own characteristics but also the way she is brought up at home and later at Mansfield. These two elements come together at her original home, when Mr. Crawford comes to dinner. Fanny now can contrast these two entirely different environments, seeing how inferior is her original home. She becomes ashamed of her family, of their manners, cuisine, to eating at the table Fanny is not still used to. "*She* was nice only from natural delicacy, but *he* had been brought up in a school of luxury and epicurism."(420)

Fanny is a loyal partner, she dotes on her brother William, whom Fanny fearlessly opens with all hopes, fears, home problems, who would give her full information of their family. This relationship has not suffered by separation and represents her connection with home, where she was treated as equal.

In spite of Fanny's submissive character as for demands for behavior suited for her, her position and organizational matters, Fanny is able to be uncompromising when it comes to her suitors, who are represented by Mr. Crawford. Fanny with her genuine heart and observational skills is not willing to accept a man, who apparently is unstable when it comes to women and whose qualities are not trustworthy, in spite of the view of uncle's vexation. Fanny approves herself to have an excellent ability to judge characters, her suspicion of Mr. Crawford is proved to be right when Mr. Crawford gets tired of courting and has a flirt with the oldest married daughter of Mr. Bertram. However, several months after this scandal, her innocent character becomes more precious to him, knowing what he has lost. "A very few months had taught him, by the force of contrast, to place a yet higher value on the sweetness of her temper, the purity of her mind, and excellence of her principles."(482)

Differences between Fanny and Miss Crawford are remarkable. Due to her simple and modest character, Fanny is content with Edmund's future profession, as opposite to Miss Crawford who regards clergy as deficient in earning sufficient amount of money. Fanny therefore encourages Edmund in his career. Moreover, Fanny takes count of his advice and thoughts, while Miss Crawford hopes to change Edmund according to her wishes. Fanny is in sense passive when it comes to sexual relationships, she hardly crosses the borders of friendship and family bounds with Edmund, apparently with fear of losing him, even when she receives a letter informing her that Edmund has the intention to propose in future to Miss Crawford, even in this fear of losing him to another woman Fanny is not able to express her emotions. While Fanny is introvert, Miss Crawford has no constraint to encourage attention of Edmund to herself, likes to amuse herself, be active. Unlike Fanny she is not afraid to say aloud what she thinks.

As in rejecting Mr. Crawford Fanny shows that she follows her principles. Being jealous because of Edmund's attention to Miss Crawford, Fanny takes advantage of his care for her health and tries to draw attention to herself by saying when walking with Edmund and Miss Crawford that the walk tires her and she would like to sit down as soon as possible. However, Edmund offers his arm to Miss Crawford too, so is Fanny's plan unsuccessful. Fanny does not gain her point even at a ball when she tries to engage his mind by window

view. "Here's harmony! Here's repose! Here's what may leave all painting and all music behind, and what poetry only can attempt to describe. Here's what may tranquilize every care, and lift the heart to rapture!"(116) Again, Edmund is being captivated by Miss Crawford's singing. As opposite to Fanny, Mary Crawford's plans to draw attention as in this case are more effective, especially with Edmund. Another distinction between Fanny and Miss Crawford is that the less Fanny likes to be in city and prefers life in a country, the more Mary Crawford is fond of living in a spirit and traffic of a city. (453)

Fanny is an example of influence of upbringing. Even though she has some inborn characteristics, these are intensified by the way she is brought up. She comes to Mansfield to a place of wealth but impersonal people with a feeling of being given up by her family, which itself would cause damage on her mind. The more she uncritically sets much on Edmund, the only person who treats her well and as equal. Another aspect is that Fanny almost never gets into society and therefore has not a chance to learn to communicate self-consciously and meet other men. On one side she is given good education however this isolation from normal world and other people creates her very submissive and sheepish. In consequence Fanny is very glad to help and does not mind being treated like a servant. Some things are told her, some she follows according to Edmund, but at least once she resists constraint of others and follows her heart and which she refuses to give someone like Mr. Crawford who is rich but objectively not trustworthy. As to Edmund she is passive to make any action not to threaten their relationship. Fanny is also very patient and as to waiting on decision of Edmund which is lucky enough to get.

#### *Edmund Bertram*

Edmund is the second son of lady and sir Bertram, in his position he is not to inherit the property like his brother Thomas, therefore his choice of profession comes to clergy, as he says because of his role in society- to guard religion, morality.

From the very beginning Edmund has gained a special place in Fanny's life. At first he is the only person who behaves nicely to her, then in time their bond grows stronger and as Fanny does not have any other that powerful source of wisdom and information than from Edmund, she becomes quite dependant on him, which Edmund appreciates.

When Edmund is talking with Miss Crawford, he from to time reveals what Edmund thinks of himself. When she invites him to say something for amusement, he admits that he is not much for jokes. "You need not hurry when the object is only to prevent my saying a bon-mot, for there is not the least wit in my nature. I am a very matter of fact, plain spoken being,

and may blunder on the borders of a repartee for half an hour together without striking out."(96)

As far as his relationship with Fanny, from Edmund's side for a long time there is no sexual tension between him and Fanny, as he considers himself to be a protector of her in situations where others discourage her, as the one when Fanny is to leave Mansfield and live with aunt Norris, he talks of her not as a lover but only in terms of Fanny being a good friend and companion. Another instance where he shows his attitude towards her is in one of the letters where he addresses her as his "only sister", "only comfort now".(458) He dotes on her very much as a sister, he is the one, who is her private advisor.

Before he can come to discover Fanny as a woman, he goes through a relationship with their new neighbor Miss Crawford who lives with her brother. Miss Crawford is a charming lady, who, though is completely different than Edmund and has high expectations in men, bewitches him. In spite of one moment, where Miss Crawford considers herself to be in love with Edmund, she does not have any serious thoughts with him, which end when her true worldly-minded nature comes to light. As far as experience with women, Edmund is naïve until he wakes up from the blindness with Miss Crawford, she does not fulfill his expectations when it comes to women. He tells her so when they are to part for good, informing her that he hopes she will think in future more justly, and she does not have the most valuable knowledge any one can gain in their lives, speaking of the knowledge of themselves, their duty with the lesson of distress.

Having gone through dissatisfactory experience with Miss Crawford, Edmund is ready, as well as Mr. Crawford is at one point of the time, to honour Fanny's simple character and desires to marry her. As opposite to Mr. Crawford, his affection is not a result of a moment's inclination, however Edmund regards Fanny as his making, having helped with her upbringing and having formed her present self by his thoughts. Edmund has a special liking in Fanny not only because of her nature, but also because he is in a similar position in the family as she is, as he being the second son has no right to inherit the Mansfield property.

Having married Fanny does not change much the character of their countenance. "Loving, guiding, protecting her, as he had been going ever since her being ten years old, her mind on so great a degree formed by his care, and her comfort depending on his kindness, an object to him of such close and peculiar interest, dearer by all his own importance with her than any one else at Mansfield, (...) he should learn to prefer soft light eyes to sparkling dark ones. – And always being with her, and always talking confidentially, and his feelings exactly in that favourable state which a recent disappointment gives, those soft light eyes could not be very

long obtaining the pre-eminence."(484) While with Miss Crawford Edmund is never entirely certain of her affection, but once he becomes conscious of his own towards Fanny, he can be sure that Fanny will not decline his offer of marriage."(485) No doubts of her deserving, no fears from opposition of taste, no need of drawing new hopes of happiness from dissimilarity of temper. Her mind, disposition, opinions, and habits wanted no half concealment, no self deception on the present, no reliance on future improvement."(485) Apparently, Edmund is not aware of Fanny's feelings, which were so well hidden from him until he is told and his amazement is astonishing. "His happiness in knowing himself to have been so long the beloved of such a heart, must have been great enough to warrant any strength of language in which he could clothe it to her or to himself."(485)

Edmund is sometimes too rigorous person. seen as the one who does not take notice of a suitable woman who standing next to him and only in the end he realizes it but needs to be disappointed with another woman before. Edmund therefore goes through a progress like Tilney in *Northanger Abbey*, as Edmund as the same as Henry spends large amount of time with the lady and it is in the end when realizes she is the one. However, Edmund's relationship with Fanny is without any sexual tension, probably due to the fact that they grew up together and he perceives her as a protector and tutor. Edmund seems to be very dutiful and respects principles very much. He is at first attracted to charming and extravagant Miss Crawford, but that he sees in her only what he wants to see he is very surprised to find out her true nature in the end. It is after this instance that he appreciates Fanny's modesty, obedience and simple nice character.

## Emma

First published in December 1815, Emma presents a story of a young and rich lady living in village in Surrey with her father, and amuses herself by finding the matches for her acquaintance. Her new friend Harriet is right for her job, she become acquainted with local vicar Mr. Elton, who is the exact opposite of her simple character. This match does not turn out to be a success of Emma, Mr. Elton leaves. New impulses come from a new neighbor Frank Churchill, with whom Emma later thinks she is in love with, but who is at this time secretly engaged to Jane Fairfax, another new member of community, an orphaned, reserved, beautiful niece of Emma's impoverished and talkative neighbor Miss Bates, for who Emma does not have much respect apparently because of her origin, music talent Emma does not possess and her coldness, meanwhile Frank tries to disguise his love by flirting with Emma. With Frank Churchill, after the trip to Box Hill Emma decides that he would suit Harriet better after the situation when Frank 'saves' Harriet from a group of Gypsies. Jane is said to have become ill, however refuses to see Emma or accept her gifts. Emma believes that Jane's behavior has its origins in Emma's previous neglecting of Jane, moreover her coldness towards Jane must have had some effect too. Suddenly Jane also accepts an offer for a governess position from a friend of Mrs. Elton's. When Harriet comes to confide that in her eyes Mr. Knightley is in love with her, with danger of losing him, Emma now realizes that she loves him herself. Mr. Knightley has been in love with Emma for a long time and with the engagement of Jane and Frank being revealed, nothing remains but to propose to her. Soon after this Harriet reconciles with Mr. Martin, young farmer, which is followed by Jane and Emma' reconciliation.

## Emma

At the very beginning o the book Emma is presented as "handsome, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition."(23) Her true inside character is not very much in evidence, as apart from other heroines of Jane Austen, Emma is well off, therefore deals with different types of problems. Moreover, she has been living in her house all her life and has not experienced any extreme events outside her own neighborhood, does not happen to be stressful situations. The existential matters do not bother her that much as for example Fanny in *Mansfield Park*, who is besides that taken away from her natural background.

With not many exciting events to reflect upon after the marriage of her very good friend and former governess Miss Taylor, for which Emma gives herself credit, she is glad to have a new companion, Henrietta, who is poorer, less educated and less witted than Emma, hence a good material for Emma to work with and modify according to her wishes. Like Edmund in *Mansfield Park*, where Fanny looks up to him incontinently, Emma likes to be adored by Harriet too. Henrietta uncritically listens to what Emma says and this was she is being manipulated by Emma, she even declines an offer of marriage that she would otherwise accept, because in Emma's eyes Henrietta is worth more.

As in many aspects Emma and Knightley agree, however- Harriet, Mr.

Mr. Knightley has known Emma for long time enough to distinguish her good and bad qualities, with his realistic approach he can relatively skilful observer of Emma. As far as her friendship with not very sharp Henrietta, who should be taught by Emma to be reading more, Mr. Knightley has his own opinion of Emma's interest in reading. He claims Emma is not able to keep on doing an activity with patience. "Emma has been meaning to read more ever since she was twelve years old. I have seen a great many lists of her drawing up at various times of books that she meant to read regularly through (...) very well chosen and very neatly arranged- sometimes alphabetically, and sometimes by some other rule. (...) She will never submit to anything requiring industry and patience, and a subjection of the fancy to the understanding." (47)

As with Edmund and Fanny in *Mansfield Park*, there is not much a sexual tension between the two, as they grew up together and do not perceive themselves to be potential future partners from the beginning, only Mr. Knightley being quite older than Emma

In contrast with Mr. Knightley, Emma is more liberal when it comes to marriage and relationships. It is her, who suggests Henrietta to decline the offer of marriage and defends her approach when talking about with Mr. Knightley. "It is always incomprehensible to a man that a woman should ever refuse an offer of marriage. A man always imagines a woman to be ready for anybody who asks her." (65) Emma has not only wit, she can defend her attitudes assertively, for example when Mr. Knightley expresses his displeasure with Henrietta's refusal, Emma brightly silences Mr. Knightley when she point out his friendship towards that gentleman and then declares her positive estimation of Harriet and meanwhile refers to Mr. Knightley's lack of information about her. "Harriet's claims to marry well are not so contemptible as you resent them. She is not a clever girl, but she has better sense than you are aware of, and does not deserve to have her understanding spoken so slightly. (...)" (67)

What Emma thinks of men in general is very specific. "It appears that men are much more philosophic on the subject of beauty than they are generally supposed; till they fall in love with well-informed minds instead of handsome faces, a girl, with such loveliness as Harriet, has a certainty of being admired and sought after, of having the power of choosing from among many, consequently a claim to be nice. (...) I am very much mistaken, if your sex in general would not think such beauty, and such temper, the highest claims a woman could possess."(68)

As well as Elisabeth in *Pride and Prejudice*, Emma is given a lesson to learn from her mistakes, the two heroines both misjudge the impressions

Emma is being also practical, she wants for Harriet all the best with the possible marriage with Mr. Elton, she considers important. "This is a connection which offers nothing but goo. It will give you every thing you want- consideration, independence, a proper home- it will fix you in the centre of all your real friends, close to Hartfield and to me, and confirm our intimacy forever."(76)

Apart from other heroines, Emma is not so keen to be married as soon as possible, and is liberal enough to picture herself as not being married after the age of 40 without the slightest problem. Although she sees herself as enchanting, she does not seem to show any sort of endeavour to let herself be captivated by a man. "My being charming, Harriet, is not quite enough to induce me to marry; I must find other people charming – one other person at least. And I am not only, not going to be married, at present, but have very little intention of ever marrying at all."(84) As well as Elisabeth in *Pride and Prejudice*, Emma does not have small demands on qualities of men. "I must see somebody very superior to any one I have seen yet, to be tempted; (...) and I do not wish to see any such person. I would rather not be tempted. I cannot really change for the better. If I were to marry, I must expect to repent it."(84) She does refuse men who are not special in her eyes and who do not impress her, one of them is Mr. Elton, who takes interest in her and declares it, however Emma regards him as inferior in many aspects, such as fortune and family history and importance. "How very much he was he inferior in talent, and all the elegancies of mind.(...) He must know the Woodhouses had been settled for several generations at Heartfield, the younger branch of a very ancient family – and the Eltons were nobody."(122) Such are her thoughts when there is no one who would hold her interest. This all changes at least for some short time when Mr. Churchill's name comes to be discussed. In spite of the fact that Emma has never met him in person, she takes interest in him because of the estimation of others, apparently Emma can be carried away by this subjective impression of other people without critical confirmation.



"Now, it so happened that in spite of Emma's resolution of never marrying, there was something in the name, in the idea of Mr. Frank Churchill, which always interested her. (...) If she *were* to marry, he was the very person to suit her in age, character and condition. He seemed by this condition between the families, quite to belong to her. (...) She had a great curiosity to see him, a decided intention of finding him pleasant, of being liked by him to a certain degree, and a sort of pleasure in the idea of their being coupled in their friend's imaginations." (110) Her impression of him when meeting him is positive too and to such a degree that she considers herself to be in love with him - with the changing intensity. However, this affection seems to be monitored and controlled by rational mind, as Emma works out reasons why she likes him is aware of his bad features, and when she imagines their meetings it always results in a break up.

Emma not only is not attracted to marry, she seems to be delighted with idea of being an old maid, as to her the only objection of being satisfied will be the property matters, otherwise she will be glad to take care of her sister's children and other activities. "It is poverty only which makes celibacy contemptible to a generous public! (...) a single woman, of good fortune, is always respectable, any may be as sensible and pleasant as anybody else." (85) Moreover, Emma is not afraid to praise herself, as she knows Harriet will not protest. "If I know myself, Harriet, mine is an active, busy mind, with a great many independent resources; and I do not perceive why I should be more in want of employment at forty than one- and- twenty.(...) If I draw less, I shall read more; if I give up music, I shall take to carpet-work. And as for objects of interest, objects for the affections, which is in truth the great point of inferiority, the want of which is really the great evil to be avoided in *not* marrying. I shall be very well off, with all the children of a sister I love so much, to care about." (85)

Emma is also skilful in consoling a distressed person, which is often useful when being with Harriet, who is distressed often enough, partly because of Emma's mistakes, as the one when she tried to bring together her and Mr. Elton. From this mistake Emma learns a lesson and endeavours not to commit such an error again, in which she is not that successful as she would hope to be, as in the end when Mr. Churchill and Jane Fairfax's engagement comes to the light, Harriet is upset and Emma with her, reproaching to make her distressed again only because she acted in unreasonably without any background.

To more of the positive qualities of Emma belongs the care of other people around her, especially those who are inferior to her, for example Henrietta, who she tries to marry off well, but also poor people, who she tries to encourage even with her financial means." Emma

was very compassionate; and the distresses of the poor were as sure of relief from her personal attention and kindness, her counsel and her patience, as from her purse. "(86) In addition, Emma is able to detect the cases, where it is especially of consequence to follow the decorum, as when she has to disregard Mr. Elton's flattery and respects, which she would like to exclude from her mind, were it not for his staying close to her at all times."For her own sake she could not be rude; and for Harriet's, (...) but it was an effort."(109) Even when she is put in the place in decision about Harriet and Mr. Knightley, where Mr. Knightley is given the preference in spite of ruining the friendship with Harriet, Emma still feels concerned about her.

As Emma finds out she is not such an unmistakable observer as she would think, when she finds out the truth about Mr. Elton, his character and his not being in love with Harriet but herself, she even misjudges Harriet, who declines offer of marriage from Mr. Martin, simpler and less wealthy than Elton but in the end she accepts it and is satisfied.

One of those people who meet Emma quite often to get to know her is also Frank Churchill, who has knowledge of her weak points to make her temporarily fall in love with him. Though his intentions are not pure from the beginning, in the end when he is settled he regards Emma even higher after how he behaved to her. In a letter to one of Emma's friends informing about his secret engagement with Miss Fairfax that is kept in secrecy till the last moment and to abstract attention from Miss Fairfax was the matter of flirting with Emma, he mentions: "Amiable and delightful as Miss Woodhouse is, she never gave me the idea of a young woman likely to be attached; (...) She received my attentions with an easy, friendly, good humoured playfulness" (346) Concerning his engagement of which nobody knew, he has the impression that Emma suspected his secret. "She may not have surmised the whole, but her quickness must have penetrated a part." (346) For how he regarded Emma he is sorry and thinks of her as a brother thinks of a sister. "Emma Woodhouse, whom I regard with so much brotherly affection, as to long to have her deeply and as happily in love as myself." (347) To such professions of love Emma is not able to be strict and does not seem to be angry with Frank any more.

Though Emma does not behave with Knightley as with her future husband till the end, she can be confidential and personal with him, she for example shows him the letter from Churchill explaining his actions with Emma and Miss Fairfax, seeking his opinion of it. Emma, similarly as Edmund in *Mansfield Park*, can appreciate Mr. Knightley after some time,

specifically after the provocation from Harriet's side, who would like to have him, however is stopped by Emma, which causes their disaffection.

One side Emma is very liberal as far as marriage, on the other, she follows conventions as far as bonds to her family and is decided to stay with her father despite her engagement. Even though Emma is sometimes influenced by prejudice in the positive sense as with Frank before his arrival and in the negative sense as with Jane Fairfax, in the end even with Jane Emma is able to make her peace.

Emma is content among the people who respect her and when possible look up to her. That is very Emma is a little prejudiced towards Jane Fairfax, like with Mr. Elton, whose gallantry she has to cope with politely, she tries to be polite to Jane too, however Emma's opinion of her does not improve among others because of Jane's talent for music, which is better than Emma's and Jane's coldness only add to her poor impression with Emma.

In conclusion, from the beginning of the story, Emma is on one side attractive but a reader cannot take her too seriously as she deals with inconsequential problems for example like Fanny. She considers herself to have power over inferior people, like the poor ones or Harriet, whom she fills in her free time. Even though she means it well, her interference causes only misunderstandings, for which Emma tries to take a lesson. Probably that she has known Mr. Knightley all her life, she considers him for the largest part of the story as her father. Only the menace of losing in the form of Harriet's interest makes her realize her feelings. In the end Emma seems to a mature woman, who tries to take some things seriously, at least not to interfere with the lives of other people.

*Mr. Knightley*

Gentleman-like Mr. Knightley is quite popular among those who surround him. Mrs. Weston can understand him and makes comments on him when talking about the new friendship between Emma and Henrietta, which he disapproves of. Mrs. Weston interprets his lack of understanding of his not being accustomed to stay with someone longer. "You are so much used to live alone, that you do not know the value of a companion; and perhaps no man can be a good judge of the comfort a woman feels in the society of one of her own sex."(47)

Mr. Knightley, like Emma, amuses himself with relationships and people. Apart from Emma, who is liberal in relationships and ranks, Mr. Knightley has a strict view of division of ranks, which is one of the reasons he does not like Henrietta, the more she is close to Emma.

Apparently his sense of being older and his relationship towards her that sometimes resembles a father giving advice to his child, "I think her the very worst sort of companion that Emma could possibly have."(49)

With his ability of observing people and opinion of rank and fortune, when he hears about Henrietta's refusal of marriage from a man who is on higher rank than she is he considers it a mistake, a chance for Henrietta that might not be repeated. In his eyes, this man does not deserve Henrietta. "He is not her equal indeed, for he is as much her superior in sense as in situation. What are Harriet Smith's claims, either of birth, nature or education, to any connection higher than Robert Martin? She is the natural daughter of nobody knows whom, with probably no settled provision at all, and certainly no respectable relations. (...) She is not a sensible girl, nor a girl of any information. (...) She is pretty and she is good tempered, and that is all."(65) To all appearance, Mr. Knightley is very much engaged in property relations, however the position of Henrietta does not have to be the only reason why he is so dissatisfied with her. Another matter can be the fact, as Emma uses as argument that is a good friend of the rejected gentleman and sympathizes with him.

When Emma defends Harriet, he rationally adds that there can be danger of Emma suggests too high expectations to Harriet, who will decline all offers and be disappointed with the reality of not coming more offers of marriage then. He declares his own personal view, though talks in general terms. What he thinks of men in general."Nothing so easy as for a young lady to raise her expectations too high. (...) men of sense (...) do not want silly wives. Men of family would not be very fond of connecting themselves with a girl of such obscurity – and most prudent men would be afraid of the inconvenience and disgrace they might be involved in, when the mystery of her parentage came to be revealed."(68) His rational mind comes to work when Emma starts her plan to marry Mr. Elton and Harriet. It is he, who has better perception of him than Emma, suggests Emma the true nature of Elton, that this man would never marry indiscreetly, this idea is proved to be right. Marriage of Elton and Harriet's is not the only one of which Mr. Knightley disapproves, he also disagrees with the engagement of Frank and Miss Fairfax, mainly because of Frank's personality. His rational thinking of a person who was not in love with Mr. Churchill comes to be useful when Mr. Knightley is shown a letter from Frank Churchill defending his behavior towards Emma and Miss Fairfax. Mr. Knightley is not deceived by his apologies. Mr. Knightley is not only logical, he is also very good at solving the problems with regard to feelings of other people,

especially those who are concerned, as Emma's father. He makes a plan not to disturb him and with the engagement continue living at Heartfield,

As far as his romantic approach of Emma, he admits it himself to be only her friend and a advisor he supposes she needs, he does not claim any demands for her as he would with his wife. None the less he considers her to be very pretty. "I do not know what I could imagine, but I confess that I have seldom seen a face or figure more pleasing to me than her's. But I am a partial old friend." (49)

Mr. Knightley does not seem to be of the sociable sort of people, on the ground of his living alone, and when the planned ball is cancelled, he cannot say he will grieve about it, even Emma knows him well enough to estimate that he likes to have a quiet time. Knightley, looking relieved, at least express his feelings for those who experience such an disappointment. On the other side, he has a good time talking with Emma, as he says when Emma wants him to read and consider a letter, he points out he likes talking with her much better than reading a letter. He then critically looks on the letter and at first he is not severe on him and only wonders on his fine flattery from the beginning of the letter, with his liberal conception of writing he refers to variety of men's writing and Frank has a special style. Then he is stricter, "He trifles here, as to the temptation. He knows he is wrong, and has nothing rational to urge." (351) Knightley, as a gentleman, does not remind Emma that he was right about Frank that he made an excuse not to come until he had Miss Fairfax, Emma instead of him mentions it. To sum up the letter, Knightley remarks that Frank too much relies on his good intentions to excuse his actions. Moreover, as a good observer of human characters and with his experience he looks into Frank's nature: "Too much indebted to the event for his acquittal.- no judge of his own manners by you. – Always deceived in fact by his own wishes, and regardless of little besides his own convenience. Fancying you to have fathomed his secret. (...) his own mind full of intrigue, that he should suspect it in others." (352) In the passage where Frank declares his happiness which he does not deserve, Mr. Knightley appreciates his honesty and believes his character approves when being with Miss Fairfax.

Similarly to Edmund in *Mansfield Park*, Mr. Knightley likes to give Emma a lecture of distinguishing good from bad. For example Mr. Knightley is apparently the only man, who can express his opinion of her to her face and being here in a position as her father when she scolds her because of her insulting behavior towards Miss Bates. On the basis of Frank's instance, and moreover he says aloud what he appreciates with Emma- their honest communication. "My Emma, does not every thing serve to prove more and more the beauty of

truth and sincerity in all our dealings with each other?" (352) Because of his relationship, he does not want to hurt Emma, when reading the passage of the trip to Box Hill, where she ridiculed one lady of her acquaintance, for which she is ashamed of, Mr. Knightley only looks up to her with a glance but does not say anything.

When proposing to Emma, Mr. Knightley is steady, confident and rational. "It was plain, unaffected, gentleman-like English, such as Mr. Knightley used even to the woman he was in love with, how to be able to ask her to marry him, without attacking the happiness of her father." (354)

Mr. Knightley takes highly his duties and expects other to consider them seriously too. For example when Frank Churchill makes an excuse not to come to see his father, Mr. Knightley strongly disagrees. "There is one thing, Emma, which a man can always do, if he chuses, and that is, his duty; not by maneuvering and finessing, but by vigour and resolution. It is Frank Churchill's duty to pay this attention to his father. He knows to be so, by his promises and messages." (129) He dutifully thinks of Emma's father when they discuss where should they move, they respect his needs.

What Emma thinks of him is very positive, she regards his rationality, experience, their history, however sometimes for her it is necessary not to take him very seriously. For example, when he gives a speech about duties of sons towards their fathers, he says what Frank should say, that is a loud professional utterance similar to a political one, which Frank in Emma's eyes would never convey.

Mrs. Weston is one of the few people who suspect Mr. Knightley to have feelings for Emma before he admits it. Emma makes the most of him when all has been solved. "Mr. Knightley, always so kind, so feeling, so truly considerate for every body, would never deserve to be less worshipped than now." (355) Similarly, Harriet's view of Mr. Knightley is very grateful, she takes interest in him as a protector, who saved her on one of the balls by inviting her to dance.

Mr. Knightley is in many ways similar to Colonel Brandon in *Sense and Sensibility*, he is older than his beloved, he is attached to her for a long time before his bride elect shows an affection to him. He is also very rational and not so sparkling as Mr. Churchill, who is like Willoughby inconstant, however Churchill approves himself more sincere than Willoughby. Knightley has more authority with Emma than Marianne and Colonel, due to his long-lasting position of a family friend. He therefore participates on Emma's improvement by scolding her because of her improper behaviour. Mr. Knightley does not mature much in the novel, by his

nice thoroughful behavior he wins Harriet's heart, which only gains positive points in the reader's mind.

## Northanger Abbey

Although Jane Austen had previously made a start on *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*, *Northanger Abbey* was the first of the novels of Jane Austen to be completed for publication in 1817. It tells a story of Catherine Morland, her family friends Mr. and Mrs. Allen and their visit of Bath, where seventeen year-old Catherine delights in spending her time visiting newly-made friends, Isabella Thorpe, and in having good time at balls. Catherine happens to be the subject of interest of Isabella's brother John Thorpe, whom she does not like, and by Henry Tilney, who impresses her entirely. In addition, she also comes to be friends with Henry's younger sister, Eleanor Tilney. Meanwhile, Henry captivates her mind with his view on novels and his general knowledge of history etc. General Tilney, who is the father of Henry and Eleanor, invites Catherine to visit their estate, abbey, for which Catherine is very excited. The visit passes in good mood, with occasional Catherine's tour around the abbey, seeking facts about the death of general's wife, which should have been his fault, however this is not proved. Suddenly, after general's arrival from London, Catherine is impolitely banished from the abbey by general, because he finds out about her financial position. At home Catherine is crushed but is immediately visited by Henry, who declares his love. In the end, even general approves of their engagement, because Eleanor becomes engagement to a wealthy man, and even Catherine's financial situation is not so desperate.

## Catherine Morland

Catherine Morland is as other heroines of Jane Austen very interesting character, and as all heroines of Jane Austen she is different from others. As far as Catherine's looks, as for it is known she is not a glorious beauty, her characteristics are not of those of typical ideal of beauty, with her "awkward figure, a sallow skin without colour, dark lank hair, strong features." (3) How she amuses when she is a little girl is very unusual and it forms her nature as well as the way she is brought up. "She was fond of all boy's plays, and greatly preferred cricket not merely to dolls.(...) Indeed she had no taste for a garden, and of she gathered flowers at all, it was chiefly for the pleasure of mischeaf - at least so it was conjectured from her always preferring those which she was forbidden to take.(...) She never could learn or understand anything before she was thought; and sometimes not even then, for she was often inattentive, and occasionally stupid." (3) Although she has an exciting childhood of not having a great brain, being occasionally 'stupid', Catherine is by no means a bad person, moreover



she has a personality that is very pleasant for every day life."She had neither a bad heart nor a bad temper; was seldom stubborn, scarcely ever quarrelsome, and very kind to the little ones, with few interruptions of tyranny; she was moreover noisy and wild, hated confinement and cleanliness, and loved nothing so well in the world as rolling down the green slope at the back of the house."(4) Although her life and childhood is interesting, she in fact stays a child to the age of seventeen, as she has almost no experience at all when it comes to men and relationships. This unfamiliarity with such matters causes her problems in future as she does not really know to expect and is not aware of difficulties that a relationship can bring. "She had reached the age of seventeen, without having seen one amiable youth who could call forth her sensibility, without having inspired one real passion, and without having excited any admiration but what was very moderate and transient.(...) Her heart was affectionate, her disposition cheerful and open, without conceit or affectation of any kind- her manners just removed from awkwardness and shyness of a girl; her person pleasing, and, when on good looks, pretty – and her mind about as ignorant as unformed as the female mind at seventeen usually is."(7)

Her sociable temper begins to spring out at the ball, where she however does not know anyone at all, Catherine feels herself in high luck when meeting Tilney, as she is bored at the ballroom."This sort of mysteriousness (...) threw a fresh grace in Catherine's imagination around his person and manners, and increased her anxiety to know more of him."(20)

Catherine inclines to give the preference to a clergyman profession, as she declares herself, however she "was not experienced enough in the finesse of love, or the duties of friendship, to know when delicate raillery was properly called for, or when a confidence should be forced."(21) None the less, her type of men is not only being the clergyman but as far as looks she is fond of men with brown not fair and not very dark hair.

Catherine's inexperience causes her to act abnormally, for example when two young men are watching her and her friend Isabella closely, they rather move away from them and Catherine's employment is to monitor their proceedings.

Catherine as well as Fanny in the *Mansfield Park* sets much on her family, especially her brother, who comes to her unexpectedly, but is welcomed by Catherine with the liveliest pleasure. In addition, at home among caring and loving family, who are only stunned what three months have done to their daughter, she feels better and is given the encouragement, she appreciates their support especially when she comes back from Northanger Abbey after shocking experience of being expelled from there.

Even though Catherine sometimes happens to be in an inconvenient situation, she never expresses a complaint. Moreover, with the advancement of Catherine and Tilney's relationship, Catherine finds herself to be very fond of him, especially when being in a company she needs to escape as in being among two older ladies. Catherine appreciates it as a rescue of her when Tilney comes and talk to them and then take her to dance, for which she longed for a long time.

In spite of some limits of Catherine's character, she can be very appreciated as a companion for talking, especially when being introduced to someone who is likeable, Catherine with profound delicacy and generous heart can make a light of the obligation. An example of this could serve meeting with Miss Tilney, an amiable sister of Mr. Tilney, who Catherine desires to encounter. With such people surrounding her, it is not surprising that Catherine very easily becomes closely acquainted and talks a great deal whenever she can think of something and has courage to say it aloud.

Due to Catherine's inexperience, she has to deal with some unpleasant situations which in other was would not occur. For example when a potential suitor of her Mr. Thorpe, takes her to ride on his carriage, she finds herself too young to be frightened, which she eventually becomes, being afraid her brother's gig will break down and is cross because of the irresponsible behavior of Thorpe. "She had no been brought up to understand the propensities of a rattle, nor to know to how many idle assertions and impudent falsehoods the excess of vanity will lead. " 45 Mr. Thorpe does not give a very astonishing impression, and were she a little more experienced she would refuse him immediately, however by the time being she finds him quite agreeable. "Little as Catherine way in the habit of judging for herself, and unfixed as were her general notions of what men ought to be, she could not entirely repress a doubt, while she bore with the effusions of his endless conceit, of his being altogether completely agreeable."46 Her feelings undergo a progress and after several days Catherine has a clear approach towards all her men- she wants to avoid Thorpe and in possible catch the eye of Tilney and longs to dance with him once again- on this plan she lays all her hopes, which are later fulfilled.

Her incautiousness of what she says and thinks that is considered by her as not consequential causes her another unpleasant situation with Thorpe, as he comes to her and impliedly he asks her if she would like to see him, which she approves of. However she does not mean it that way how it is understood and therefore has to go through with uncomfortable explanation to his sister and her friend Isabella to set the matters right.

As Catherine has not much experience of dealing with men, who are about to propose to her, she unconsciously encourages them, such as Mr. Thorpe attempts to suggest the option of engagement. When he implies that *she* might be glad to see him in their house, Catherine cheers up his spirits when she confirms it, saying that there are not many people she would not like to see, that any company always please her. This supportive utterance is later decisively denied by her. "I never thought, nor expected, nor wished for anything of the kind of him. I am excessively concerned that he should have any regard for me- but indeed it has been quite unintentional on my side. "(101) Even though the degree in which she is stunned is considerable, Catherine still stands for her principles not to accept a man for money without any attachment.

Catherine's naivety sometimes makes it easier to be manipulated with, which causes her to be in situations she does not want to approve. For example, when waiting for the Tilneys, Catherine is pushed by Thorpes to come with them on trip, on the basis of their unconfirmed arguments and information, Catherine, feeling cornered, agrees. Even though calming down that she is not going anything wrong, Catherine is dealing with mixture of feelings. She regrets to lose one nice pleasure, she is sure of gaining another, which does to get because what Thorpe said is not true and by chance they meet Tilneys on their way to her house. Thorpe refuses to stop the carriage and Catherine is left only to remorse and anger. Catherine does not bear to leave this rudeness unsolved and comes to the house of Tilney to apologize. Though not being received nicely, Catherine does not give up and explains everything. It is here, when Catherine, feeling upset and hurt, with her inexperience to solve critical situations needs to be supported by Mrs. Allen, as everything she says she did must confirmed by her, even those things Mrs. Allen does not know, for example that the whole situation is not her fault, that she would rather have been with them, that when she saw them she immediately demanded Thorpe to stop. With acquirement of whole range of experience, next time Catherine is exposed to persuasion by her friend Isabella, her brother and brother of Catherine, to give a preference to her and not Tilney, she handles it self-confidence and resolution. "Catherine felt herself to be in the right, and though pained by such tender, such flattering supplication, could not allow it to influence her.(...)" (68) Isabella then tries another method of reproaching which is not successful either. Catherine even starts to question her friendship and wonders about friendship in general. "Catherine thought this reproach equally strange and unkind. Was it the part of a friend thus to expose her feelings to the notice of others? Isabella appeared to her ungenerous and selfish, regardless of everything but her own gratification."(68)At one moment they manage to make her feel softened, however at another

she is irritated; but always steady, saying that she only is doing what she believes is right. The climax of her patience reaches its peak when Thorpe announces that without consultation he has gone to Tilneys and told them she has changed her mind. This act against her will annoys Catherine to such a degree that she immediately wants to set off to settle the matter. From this point on her resistance becomes a physical one, as she is kept by hands of others. "Away walked Catherine in great agitation, as fast as the crowd would permit her, fearful of being pursued, yet determined to persevere.(...) It was painful to her to disappoint and displease them, (...) but she could not repent her resistance.(...) She had not consulted merely her own gratification;(...) she had attended to what was due to others, and to her own character in their opinion."(71) By this quick act, Catherine once again manages to save the situation, again being given support of her conduct from Mr. Allen.

Despite the fact that Catherine has not been given proper education, with her romantic conception the question of money and fortune is not main goal for her. When she hears the news of her brother and friend Isabella's intention to get married, she points out that the difference of fortune cannot be any importance. She later confirms it when talking with Thorpe: "If there is a good fortune on one side, there can be no occasion for any on the other. No matter which has it, so that there is enough. I hate the idea of one great fortune looking out for another. And to marry for money I think the wickedest thing in existence."(89) In connection with gaining experience and being among better educated people, Catherine starts to realize her handicap in want of education, is ashamed of her ignorance. For example when Tilneys are talking about art, Catherine is lost and even though she underestimates herself, she has nothing to say on this subject." Catherine does not know her own advantages- did not know that a good-looking girl, with an affectionate heart and very ignorant mind, cannot fail attracting a clever young man, unless circumstances are particularly untoward."(79)

Catherine is not only impressed by his wide knowledge of general themes, she is also fond of his taste and sees beauty in everything that he admires. Moreover, Catherine as Fanny in *Mansfield Park* strongly believes that Henry can never be wrong, although she does not trust him so blindly as Fanny to Edmund. "Catherine, (...) enjoyed her usual happiness with Henry Tilney, listening with sparkling eyes to everything he said; and, in finding him irresistible, becoming so herself."(91) Catherine's thoughts of him are positive and she defends his unusual behavior, "His manner might sometimes surprise, but his meaning must always be just:- and what she did not understand, she was almost as ready to admire, as what she did." (81)

One of the moments, when Catherine is happiest in her life is on the way to Northanger, she finds herself sitting next to him. Because of her experience with Thorpe's unbearable driving, Catherine is impressed by the calmness of Henry's style of driving. "Henry drove well, - so quietly without making any disturbance, without parading to her, or swearing at them." (47)

Seeing how supportive Henry is and his other qualities, Catherine yields to fall into his power entirely. His persuasion towards her to stay only confirms her that he loves her, and even his family is in favour of her being there longer. Therefore her doubts become only formal irritation. This elation of soul does not linger for a long time, as when because of old Mr. Tilney she is to part with him without a word of goodbye, that brings her to a state of an absolute grief. Another change to the though high but moderate spirits of Catherine comes with the invitation to Northanger Abbey, home of the Tilneys, which raises her spirits even higher. She is so happy as to have her feelings and preferences returned- she is to spend several weeks under the same roof, roof of an abbey with legends, with the man, whose society she appreciates the most. Only the word abbey arouses the adventurous side of her temper, expectations built up by reading of novels she longs for to fulfil.

Catherine has partly due to her youth and inexperience sometimes foolish notion of matters, for example when talking with Henry about his own house, Catherine replies that after being brought up in an abbey living anywhere else but in an abbey must be very unsatisfactory. Her idea of living in an abbey is of a very adventurous character, having read about hunting, Catherine does not feel terrified to enter such residence, because it does not entirely fulfil conditions of a horror. "I do not think I should be easily frightened, because there would be so many people in the house- and besides, it has never been uninhabited and left deserted for years, and than the family come back to it unawares, without giving any notice, as generally happens." (111) On the other hand, practice teaches Catherine and she is not deceived as she would be by a letter from Isabella, who defends herself, her arguments have no effect on Catherine, who does not change the bad opinion of her.

This rational side of her is sometimes overpowered by passionate clearly subjective side, as being in the abbey uncovers other aspects of her personality, where curiosity is stronger than rational brain and with developed fantasy Catherine sets off to several courageous trips over the abbey, for example exploring the contents of a strange chest. After substantial effort she manages to open the chest only to find some manuscripts. This disappointing experience changes her, she is no longer that naïve and she is now aware of the folly of her fantasies. "Such was the collection of papers (...) which filled her with

expectation and alarm, and robbed her of half her night's rest! (...) Could not the adventure of the chest have taught her wisdom? (...) Nothing could now be clearer than the absurdity of her recent fancies. "(121) Even though Catherine appears to have her fantasies under control, in fact she fantasies have sometime under control her. When Catherine hears about the strange conditions of Mrs. Tilney's death, Catherine immediately starts to build up theories that it all was Mr. Tilney's fault. She feels persuaded that the marriage was not happy, a portrait of Mrs. Tilney being the proof, which shows a departed wife, whose husband must have been cruel to her. This prejudice to him is later overcome by Henry's explanation and arguments.

If the chest adventure is not a corrective experience enough for her and her fantasies, having made a fool of herself when Henry found her in front of his mother's room with unbelievable aim makes her feel humble, "It was not only with herself that she was sunk – but with Henry. Her folly, which now seemed even criminal, was all exposed to him, and he must despise her for ever. (...) She hated herself more than she could express."(141) The evening passes quietly and due to Henry's regard she comes to a state of a moderate calmness, which eventually brings her to resolution to act only by the wisest sense. As another fearful situation comes, when someone is approaching her door in a very strange manner, Catherine keeps her imaginations down indeed and stays calm. She later finds out there is nothing to be worried about, it is Eleanor. Moments later for her to act by reason is when she is told that she has to leave the abbey at the nearest convenience that is the next day, without any said reason or excuse. She afterwards finds out that the reason was her lack of wealth. On such an insult Catherine here behaves bravely, she says she is not offended and tries to take the situation from the positive view and encourage her friends. It is in the carriage where Catherine relieves her emotions and bursts into tears with grief and agitation.

When Henry announces his short-term departure for his house, the spell of the abbey fades away for Catherine, she leaves the romantic vision of an abbey only to consider it as an ordinary house. Moreover, she sets her mind on Woodston, where stands the house of Tilney, apparently thinking of it as potential future home, as a place of connection and comfort. Later, her impression of it is more than a positive one, with her honest simplicity she praises every room.

On account of this fear of losing Henry because of her folly with his mother's room, Catherine is very fond of positive relationships, and reacts emotively when a letter from her beloved distressed brother James, informing her that the relationship between him and her friend Isabella is over. Not only is Catherine tearful for her brother, she is also unsettled because she has not been so deceived by anyone's nature in such manner before.

At home when her mother suggests they could meet after few years, Catherine's thoughts are led to him, even though she does not expect to ever see him again. "She could never forget Henry Tilney, or think of him with less tenderness that she did at the moment; but he might forget her; and it that case to meet! Her eyes filled with tears as she pictured her acquaintance so renewed." (169) How amazed is she when Henry himself steps to their house and assures anxious, cheerful, feverish Catherine of his affection.

Catherine with her simple character easily impresses people around her. One of those who will miss Catherine most are those who she comes to Bath with, Mr. and Mrs. Allen. "Mr. and Mrs. Allen were sorry to lose their young friend, whose good-humour and cheerfulness had made her a valuable companion, and in the promotion of whose enjoyment their own had been gently increased."(108)

### Henry Tilney

Henry Tilney is a gentleman apparently about the age of four or five twenty, a son of a wealthy man, who lives in an abbey. However Henry Tilney has already his own house. As far as his amiable looks, he "was rather tall, had a pleasing countenance, a very intelligent and lively eye, and if not quite handsome, was very near it. His address was good, (...) He talked with fluency and spirit- and there was an archness and pleasantry in his manner which interested, though it was hardly understood by her. "(12) He is also quite original when talking to some lady and occasionally he can seem to be cheeky, for example when talking with Catherine in one of their first dialogues, about his impression that evening. "I see what you think of me, 'said he gravely- 'I shall make but a poor figure in your journal tomorrow.(...) queer, half-witted man, who would make me dance with him, and distressed me by his nonsense. "(15) In addition, in another discussion with Catherine about muslims - "as soon as I am authorized to tease you on this subject whenever we meet, and nothing in the world advances intimacy so much."(16)

It is not uninteresting how different Tilney and another suitor of Catherine Mr. Thorpe are, the reasons why Catherine chooses Tilney instead of Thorpe are not far to seek. As opposite to Thorpe, Tilney is more gentlemanlike, knows how to speak to women and how to treat them. Tilney does not follow all her steps in hope to impress her, his manners are of good breeding, when Tilney speaks his style of speech is polished, even though he can be speaking of some subjects that are not from the elegant ones, however Tilney does not address a lady as a farmer in a country, as when Thorpe comes to Catherine to pray for a dance, he

asks her in an unscrupulous manner. As opposite to Thorpe, his looks are more amiable than Thorpe's.

One of the typical characteristics of Tilney is the one that he has no bashfulness to express his opinions, which also serves as an example of his gallantry towards women, as when Catherine is being annoyingly addressed by Thorpe, Tilney waits for the right moment and claims that he has no business to draw off the attention of his partner from him.

As an amiable man to be married some day, in this discussion he also presents his attitude to marriage, he compares a country dance and marriage as an emblem of it. "Fidelity and complaisance are the principal duties of both; and those men who do not chose to dance or marry themselves, have no business with the partners or wives of their neighbours. (...) You will allow, that in both, man has advantage of choice, woman only the power of refusal; in both, that in both it is an engagement between man and woman, formed for the advantage of each; and that when once entered into, they belong exclusively to each other till the moment of its dissolution; that is their duty, each to endeavour to give the other no cause for wishing that he or she had bestowed themselves elsewhere, and their best interest to keep their own imaginations from wandering towards the perfections of their neighbours."(54) He also rational enough to distinguish some differences too. He thinks that a man's part it to support the woman, to purvey; and woman is supposed to smile and make home comfortable for her husband.

In addition, Henry sets much on women in general, as he says himself, "No one can think more highly of the understanding of women than I do. In my opinion, nature has given them so much, that they never find it necessary to use more than half."(81)

What moves forward his relationship towards Catherine, is an inconvenience, which almost destroys all the attachment. It is when Catherine is forced to go away with Thorpe and is seen by Tilney and his sister, even though they had plans together. Tilney becomes very cold towards Catherine, does not even look at her and only coldly bows. When being convinced of innocence he starts to reply with less affected reserve which later fades away entirely.

Moreover, Henry, due to his superior position given by his knowledge and fortune, is very pleased with Catherine's behavior, as he does not evade her attention, as she likes everything he admires and to this he gives a credit of her natural taste.

Tilney has a tendency to vaunt from time to time, especially in a lady's presence. For example, when talking about books with Catherine and his sister, he praises himself to have read many, more than the two ladies. "I myself have read hundreds and hundreds.(...) if we



proceeded to particulars, and engage in the never-ceasing inquiry of "Have you read this?" and "Have you read this?" I shall soon leave you far behind me. (...) I had entered on my studies at Oxford, while you were a good little girl working your sampler at home!"(77) It is apparent because of his feeling of being better educated than the ladies that he tends to correct them, Miss Tilney sums it up when she says that it is typical of him to treat her in this manner, finding at all times mistakes in her, inaccuracy of her language and this way he is about to treat Catherine. Another instance when Henry takes advantage of his wider knowledge and at the same time compliment his own personality is the one where he confuses the ladies when saying that government approves of murder. After leaving them puzzled for a moment he claims: "Come, shall I make you understand each other, or leave you to puzzle out an explanation as you can? No – I will be noble. I will prove myself a man, no less by the generosity of my soul than clearness of my head. I have no patience with such of my sex as disdain to let themselves sometimes down to the comprehension of yours."(80) That Henry is cleverer than Catherine is in evidence for example when she is caught by him on the entrance to his passed away mother, he suspects something and Catherine has no other chance but to confess her intentions to find out more about her death. He is watching her closely however has understanding for her behavior, only is shocked by her suspicion of his father has something to do with his mother's death, which he immediately contradicts. As opposite to her, who lets herself carried away by fantasies, he uses his logic thinking and gives arguments why this would have been impossible, as the age and country they live in, being English and Christians, with open roads and houses. Henry is not only a gentleman, he is also emphatic like Catherine, when she comes to dinner looking miserable. He, on the contrary of what she would expect from him, pays her even more attention than usually.

In addition, Henry shows his brightness of mind when Catherine comes with the letter from her brother, which contains information about his failure of relationship with Catherine's friend, without reading it, Henry apprehends what is the matter.

Tilney has a pleasure in generalizing. When he is to set for his own house because of some organizational matters he says to Catherine and his sister: " I am come, young ladies, in a very moralizing strain, to observe that our pleasures in this world are always to be paid for, and that we often purchase them at a great disadvantage, giving ready-monied actual happiness for a draft on the future, that may not be honoured."(149)

Henry Tilney is a man of action, when he hears of Catherine's departure, he is almost immediately away to seek her and to tell her about his feelings." His affection originated in

nothing better than gratitude, or, in other words, that a persuasion of her partiality for him had been the only cause of giving her a serious thought."(175)

Despite the fact that he appears at Catherine's home out of the blue, with his situation and pleasing manners as Catherine's future husband Tilney has good impression. What Mr. and Mrs. Morland think of him is of a very positive character: "His pleasing manners and good sense were self-evident recommendations; and having never heard evil of him, it was not their way to suppose any evil could be told."(178)

## Conclusion

All the heroines develop throughout the individual novels and also throughout the novels as a whole. Despite the fact that in the beginning of the story each heroine is different from the other, but all of them are in the beginning inexperienced in a way. As the story continues, the heroines are influenced by the events that are happening to them, by people around them or by their own incapability, ignorance or their determination as far as own decisions awaits to be evolved.

What the heroines have in common is that they are all of them by some means unique and individualistic.

The instance like in *Sense and Sensibility*, when remaining female members of Dashwoods are not in an encouraging situation, as having their home taken away they are left with negligible income, is not the first time this theme appears. As Doody points out, that a family or at least some members happen to be without home or at least are frightened of losing it, as it is in *Pride and Prejudice*, when they still have their home but will lose it after Mr. Bennet's death, as in *Persuasion* when the family will lose home if they do not find financial means, in *Mansfield Park* is only Fanny who is brought away not from home but also from her family and therefore suffers emotionally.

Almost not one of the heroines has problem-free families. In some cases one of the principal members is missing, like mother of Anne in *Persuasion*, of Emma in *Emma*, father of Marianne, Elinor and Margaret in *Sense and Sensibility*. Even if they have a complete family there is another problem even though it does not effect these heroines fundamentally to such a degree like the ones without a parent. It is the case of *Pride and Prejudice*, Elisabeth has both parents but she is not satisfied with the family, especially her mother. Only Catherine's family in *Northanger Abbey* resembles a functional family.

Therefore, all the heroines come from abnormal family conditions, in spite of the fact that all the heroines have a psychological and emotional background of some kind, even Fanny, who has a family that would love her but is willing to give her up, however they either do not have a whole family, where one member is missing like Anne, Elinor and Marianne, Emma, or their conditions are not from the suitable ones or the family, though being whole, does not behave in a proper way, like Elisabeth's or Fanny's when she is there from Mansfield.

Despite the fact that the heroines do not present themselves to care much about money, with the exception of Elinor, whose Edward is disinherited, and maybe Fanny, whose Edmund as the second son does not inherit as the first one does, but is able to set his own living, the heroines manage to get married with quite wealthy gentlemen.

In connection with the social rules, all heroines, however active are, it is not them, who bring up the first suggestion to finally get back together and get engaged. It is on the other hand men, whose business it is and until they decide to take the action, usually something unforeseen happens like Marianne's illness, Edward or Edmund's break up his girlfriend, or Harriet's interest in Mr. Knightley, Catherine being impolitely sent off from the abbey, or another impolite behavior like Lady Catherine as she storms in Elizabeth's house to question her. This happens, however in the end the heroine only can wait for the proposal to come.

As far as male personalities and their characteristics, they differ from female ones for example from the amount of opportunities they have at disposal, though not all of them make use of it. Concerning work of the male characters is not put much emphasis on it, since "There is hardly a single male character in her novels who does any work; to work at all is, indeed, almost incompatible with the status of a gentleman. She [Austen] recognizes as socially possible only the following professions: the army and navy, the Church, and with some reservations, the law." (Leonard Wolf, "The Economic Determination of Jane Austen," *Jane Austen: Critical Assessments*, ed. Ian Littlewood, vol.2 (Bodwin:MPG Books Ltd., 1998) 21.)

Male characters do not change that much as female ones, most of the time they either do not know through social barriers how to communicate as the heroine does not like him very much as Darcy or Colonel. In some cases they see them in a different light and then they fall in love with them like as with the heroines something extraordinary happens that moves on the plot like a provocative discussion Anne and Frederic's friend, or break up of Edmund with Miss Crawford that he sees Fanny in a different light, or dismissal of another engagement as Edward has a free way for Elinor. However, apart from heroines, male heroes have the privilege to make the final decision of life and make the final act of proposal.

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**Anotation:**

The thesis focuses on the importance of good manners as opposed to goodness of heart as they are presented in the Austen novels mentioned above. It is important to recognize that females in the 18<sup>th</sup> century very often lacked guidance when it came to social forms and expectations and had to rely for guidance not on their inadequate fathers but their future partners in marriage.

**Key words:** woman writers, 19<sup>th</sup> century prose, domestic novel, social classes