

**INTERPRETATION OF WOMAN IMAGE IN ENGLISH ROMANTICISM  
LITERATURE (BASED ON JANE AUSTEN'S BOOK "EMMA")**

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**Abstract.** This thesis deals with the heroes of the novel "Emma", one of the most popular works of English Romanticism literature. There is a comprehensive analysis of female image. A special place in the work of Jane Austen is occupied by the novel o "Emma". She tried to pay attention every detail of that period in order to describe social issues and eternal moral problems among different types of women.

**Keywords:** Jane Austen, Romanticism, female image, social issues, Emma Woodhouse, Harriet Smith, upper class, financial situation.

**Introduction.** In discussing the distinctive style and themes of Jane Austen's novels, I would like to begin by quoting one of her sayings: "I must have my own style and go my own way.

And if I never succeed in that, I am sure I shall fail in anything else." Indeed, Jane Austen, when she entered literature, chose a literary style that was unique to her. Although she did not succeed in this. But she created in a unique and distinctive direction and soon gained popularity.

Austen expands her criticism by emphasizing social hypocrisy through irony; she often creates a tone of irony through speech mixed with the thoughts and words of the characters.

**Main part.** The extent to which feminist themes are reflected in the novels has been widely debated by scholars; most critics argue that some of the novels emphasize how the female characters manage their world. Others consider her physically and spiritually limited. Austen's novels have been variously described as having a political and social outlook.

For example, in a number of critiques, her characters sacrifice their personal desires to serve the established social order, thereby supporting it. Scholars have examined the political issues surrounding the novel, noting that Austen discusses issues related to money and property, particularly the arbitrary nature of property inheritance and the precarious economic situation of women. Throughout her work, there is a conflict between the demands of society and the demands of the individual.

In Jane Austen's Emma, it can be said that the stratified system of Highbury society is depicted as a realistic representation of the society in which Austen lived. . The novel depicts the social culture of families with a relatively good financial situation and its ideals through the interrelationships between the characters and the social acceptance and perception of their actions within the work. More specifically, it depicts their ideas and actions regarding marriage as a social institution. This ideal can be said to depend on the wealth into which the characters were born.

Characters such as Emma Woodhouse and Harriet Smith reflect Austen's ideas about money and society.

The importance of social status in their society and the difference in terms of responsibilities between the two female characters between the upper and middle classes in society reflect the inequality of the social system in Austen's time. This reflects the values that Emma, as an upper class and wealthy woman, should be supported by the readers, such as ignorance towards the lower classes; she has a negative impact on the readers with her upper class ideas that persisted until she met Harriet. Harriet's character can be said to complement Emma's character, as Harriet is very submissive to Emma and listens to her sincerely.

Therefore, it can be said to reinforce Emma's sense of superiority in society and her values, as Harriet is of an unknown class and Emma is of the upper class. This can be linked to the social context in which Austen wrote, which was a time when "democratic" subordination was seen as an insult, social subordination was the organizing principle of many interactions, both public and private. These values can be read through the relationship between Harriet and Emma.

Emma's approach to someone of such class distinction is not considered socially beneficial and is perceived as either charity or mockery - this is seen in Mr. Knightley's response to their friendship; "How can Harriet imagine that she has anything to learn from herself?", showing his understanding of the class system around her, as well as Emma's superiority over Harriet in particular; these values are brought to Highbury society through Emma's separation from the class into which she was born.

This, in turn, may reflect social priorities in Austen's society, particularly the social superiority of women, as marriage was originally seen as a source of financial and social support, as opposed to the religious rite of passage it was originally created to be.

This example can be seen as a path to both financial and social security, which is prioritized over "falling in love", which can be said to be the primary function of marriage in modern society.

The main character Emma stands out from the other characters with her high morals. We can see several qualities in her behavior, such as social class, arrogance, conceit, and overconfidence. We can observe the trait of arrogance in her relationship with Jane Fairfax. Jane's aunt always told her about her niece; because they were peers and friends. But Emma tried not to listen to Miss Bates's opinion.

The differences between social classes are clearly explained to the reader by Emma and Austen's descriptions. At the top of the social class structure are the Wodehouses and Mr. Knightley, at the bottom are the Eltons, Westons, Frank Churchill, and Jane Fairfax, and even lower are Harriet, Robert Martin, and Bates. This social class map becomes important when Emma tries to unite Mr. Elton and Harriet. Harriet, despite Emma's encouragement to believe her, is not a good fit for Elton due to her low status.

**Conclusion.** In this novel, Jane Austen emphasized Emma needs to learn that the moments she has with her family and friends are precious, to stop interfering. The novel presents marriage not merely as a romantic union but as a practical institution closely tied to economic security and social stability.

By contrasting characters such as Emma Woodhouse and Harriet Smith, Austen emphasizes the unequal opportunities available to women based on class origin.

Ultimately, Emma demonstrates Austen's critical engagement with social norms, revealing the tension between individual desire and societal obligation, and confirming the novel's lasting relevance as a reflection of women's social position and class consciousness in 19th-century literature. In particular, the social status of women as interpreted by Jane Austen is realistically depicted.

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