

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CONCLUSION

Having read and analysed the novel, Pride and Prejudice, I would like to draw a conclusion in this chapter. I found that the female protagonist, Elizabeth, is portrayed exactly the same as the Enlightenment feminist womanhood.

The Enlightenment feminists of the eighteenth century are encouraging women to enter the world of reason by requiring morality and reason of women to be equal to those of men. Women in general have been related to passiveness, nature, pathos, and writing while men to activeness, culture, logos and speech. Enlightenment feminism endorses patriarchy and limits women's roles as an affectionate wife and a wise mother. Their maternal feminism, accordingly, is far from modern feminism. However, we need to make it clear what the Enlightenment feminism has contributed to the development of modern feminism.

I assume that the author, Jane Austen, as an eighteenth century woman shows the element of Enlightenment feminism in her novel through Elizabeth. She shows the Enlightenment feminist womanhood. Her reason, sensibility and cynicism are in contrast with her angelic and passive sister Jane. While Elizabeth dramatically succeeds in getting a perfect husband, Darcy, submissive Jane comes close to missing her lover Bingley, by not showing her feeling frankly. Austen

presents a new womanhood through Elizabeth's ordinary face, healthy image, independent mind, firm morality and class equality consciousness.

Furthermore, Austen does not stop but develops Elizabeth's feminine subjectivity. Elizabeth is not passive or sentimental. She has an independent mind and strong self-esteem. She is close to a person of reason not of pathos. In addition, Elizabeth rejects her position as an object of the male-dominant gaze.

In my opinion, Austen is so intrepid as to write such a novel to express her ideal through Elizabeth. As she is an eighteenth century woman, she might have so many troubles and critics in writing her book which offers opposition to men. I believe that the author's intention of creating such a character in the novel is to make readers join the world of reason and find the women's voice towards men. However, the novel is so interesting as to make me read more than once. It is quite easy to understand because the story is about domestic issues. In other words, I could easily imagine the characters' situation and their problems and I think it could happen to me and my family. Like Austen's intention, I come to know better about independence, right judgement, reason and feminism.

When I read the novel for the first time, I could not understand about Elizabeth's refusal to Mr. Collins' proposal and Darcy's first proposal. As it has been mentioned in my analysis, her marrying to Mr. Collins is a pretty good decision and marrying to Darcy is the best chance for her being well-married. However, after reading it several times, I come to agree with her decision which is not a mistake but a perfect judgment. In addition, I, as a shy and passive person, am surprised when Elizabeth talks to Darcy about his pride and misbehaviour. Yet, I discover that her cynicism makes him recognize the right thing and change or

help to make everything run well. I could learn many things from this novel so I appreciate Jane Austen, who has made me understand the real life and right decision for women.

Having analysed the Enlightenment feminism, I eventually find that women in the past and present struggle against the same problem. I feel pitiful that the problem is hard to solve in a short period. However, women should still try hard to be rational ones like Elizabeth.