

## CHAPTER FOUR

### CONCLUSION

After having discussed the two novels in the previous chapters, I have come to some conclusions which will be discussed in this chapter.

In *Pride and Prejudice*, Austen portrays the protagonist to have different characteristics from the stereotypes of women during the first half of the nineteenth century that mainly affected the young middle class women. Lizzy is portrayed as a rational, incomplicant, outspoken and persistent woman. All these characteristics are proven from the events in the novel. Her being rational is proven by her family. Her incomplicance can be seen when she gives opinions that are against the societal customs at that time. Her being outspoken can be seen when she is having a conversation with Lady Catherine. Lizzy says her opinion regarding the custom at that time and the reason why she thinks it is not a good idea. Lastly, her persistence can be seen when she refuses two marriage offers because she does not love the suitors.

In *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*

Brontë also portrays the protagonist differently from the commonly believed and accepted stereotypes of women that influenced young women from middle class. Helen is portrayed as a strong-minded, brave, independent and incompilant woman. Her strong-minded characteristic is shown when she does not change her decision of not marrying someone she does not love even that someone is an eligible gentleman. Her being brave is clearly seen when Helen – who is now married to Arthur Huntingdon and has a son – decides to leave her husband in order to protect her son from the bad influence of his father. Her independence is proven by the fact that she manages to make a living by selling her paintings instead of relying on someone else. Lastly, her being incompilant is stated by Arthur’s friend, Mr Hattersley and Arthur himself.

There are some similarities in the two novels discussed. The first similarity is both of the protagonists are women in their twenties. Secondly, both of the protagonists are from the middle-class. Thirdly, both of the novels are set in England at the first half of nineteenth century. The next similarity is that both of the protagonists are portrayed to be different from the stereotypes of women during the first half of the nineteenth century. For example, at the time when marriage was seen as an opportunity for women to be socially and financially secured, both the protagonists want to marry for love. Lizzy and Helen also act and think differently from the societal expectation of women then, thus, proven themselves to be different from the other women around them because of their characteristics. The last similarity is both the authors have the same purpose of creating the protagonists, that is to encourage and show women that being different in today’s standard is alright and it can also bring happiness. Austen and

Brontë show the readers how women were treated and stereotyped during the first half of the nineteenth century, yet, both of them created the protagonists that are against the stereotypes to convey their ideas of how a woman should react to the treatment.

Although the two novels have some similarities, there are also some differences. One of the differences between both of the protagonists that I can find is their marital status. Lizzy is portrayed as a single woman whereas Helen is portrayed as a married woman. The different marital status leads to an effect which influences one of the protagonists. That is one of the protagonist is more lively and cheerful than the other. I think that is because this protagonist is still a single woman while the other is more serious and quiet because she is a married woman. I also think that the authors have deliberately created their protagonists this way because the authors want to focus on particular aspect. Austen puts her focus on the life of single woman in the first half of nineteenth century while Brontë focuses on the life of a married one. Regardless the different marital status of the protagonists, both of the authors eventually show the readers that women still received the same treatment even that it was generally believed that a marriage would result in a better life for a woman.

I find that the purpose of the authors to encourage women is accomplished through the portrayal of both the protagonists. Both of the protagonists represent women who lived at the time when they were believed to be inferior and stereotyped as the opposite of men's good traits; yet, both of the protagonists manage to maintain their characteristics and eventually achieve their happiness. I hope that by reading these two novels, readers worldwide – especially women –

will get encouragement to be themselves rather than forcing themselves to be ideal women according to society. I also hope they will understand that society can sometimes be wrong for labelling people based on gender. Women can also be happy even if they think, act and behave differently, as long as it is still in a good way, from the societal expectations.

I find both novels are enjoyable. Austen and Brontë created interesting storylines that can immerse the readers. Both Austen and Brontë have successfully portrayed the protagonists in accordance with their purpose. In my opinion, both the novels are worth reading and analysing.