

## ЛІТЕРАТУРОЗНАВСТВО ТА МЕТОДИКА ВИКЛАДАННЯ ЛІТЕРАТУРИ В КОНТЕКСТІ МІЖКУЛЬТУРНОГО ДІАЛОГУ

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### **FAMILY RELATIONSHIP IN THE NOVEL “PRIDE AND PREJUDICE” BY JANE AUSTEN**

Jane Austen is an English writer who describes people's life and relationship. In most of her books she focuses on the family and the role it plays in shaping a person's development and future life, particularly in the book “Pride and Prejudice”. It was written in 1813 and shows the daily life and values of the English middle class. The theme of family relationship is central in the novel, as it reveals the lives of the characters and social norms of England in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Marriage is viewed not only as a union between two people, but also as an important social and economic institution. Through the descriptions of various families, the author demonstrates how family norms shape children's personalities, their relationship with one another and their perception of society. The aim of the article is to analyse the models of family relationships in Jane Austen's novel “Pride and Prejudice” and to determine how they influence the characters' personalities, views on marriage, and moral development.

In the centre of the novel, we follow the Bennet family. They live in Netherfield, but their estate is not very big. The family consists of the parents: Mr. Bennet and Mrs. Bennet and their five daughters: Jane Bennet, Elizabeth Bennet, Mary Bennet, Kitty Bennet and Lydia Bennet. Parents are quite different. Mr. Bennet is calm with a sense of humor: *“Mr. Bennet was so odd a mixture of quick parts, sarcastic humour, reserve, and caprice, that the experience of three-and-twenty years had been insufficient to make his wife understand his character”* [1, p. 5]. Mrs. Bennet is emotional, prone to anxiety, her biggest dream is to get her daughters married as soon as possible. This is evident throughout the novel: *“Mrs. Bennet treasured up the hint, and trusted that she might soon have two daughters married; and the man whom she could not bear to speak of the day before, was now high in her good graces”* [2, p.

90]. She also shows her preferences for her younger daughters, while at the same time she often shows disrespect for Elizabeth, does not appreciate her beauty and intelligence, and does not take her opinion into account: *"Lizzy is not a bit better than the others: and I am sure she is not half so handsome as Jane, nor half so good-humoured as Lydia"* [1, p. 5]. The family often highlights the contrast between reason, sarcasm and emotionality.

There is also a strong connection between sisters Jane and Elizabeth. They are always ready to support each other, ask for advice, and share their feelings and thoughts. They are even ready to sacrifice themselves for one another: *"He could not help seeing that you were about five times as pretty as every other woman in the room"* [1, p. 19].

The Bennet family influences their daughters in positive and negative ways. The mother, Mrs. Bennet often shows frivolity and an obsession with marriage for financial gain, which encourages her daughters, especially younger ones, to judge men superficially and has also made them obsessed with the idea of marriage. Mr. Bennet takes a more passive approach when it comes to his daughters, he considers his younger daughters to be foolish and believes they should learn from the own experiences and realise their mistakes on their own: *"Lydia will never be easy till she has exposed herself in some public place or other, and we can never expect her to do it with so little expense or inconvenience to her family as under the present circumstances"* [1, p. 288].

Elizabeth knows well what their family was really like. When her father was young, he married a beautiful but shallow young woman, so the love quickly disappeared. As a result, he turned his attention to books and would only mock his wife over silly thoughts.

One of the key themes in the novel is marriage, this is precisely where Jane Austen begins her novel. In England at that time, marriage was almost the only way for women to have a stable future. This is evident in the case of Bennet family, without a son, their future depended on their daughters marrying well, because they would not inherit the house after their father's death: *"Austen's female characters are fully integrated into their society, and they have the same goal as any other woman: marriage. If they play the courtship game right, they may be lucky enough to secure a pleasant life through marriage"* [2, p. 13]. In this novel, the author criticizes marriages without love, for money and women's dependence on men and the family's financial situation.

In the novel, the reader finds several love stories. The themes of pride and prejudice can be seen in the example of Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy. Their relationship begins with misunderstanding and contrasting personalities. Mr. Darcy is calm, does not like to show his emotions, and sometimes can be arrogant, whereas Elizabeth is sociable and sincere. At the moment of the first proposal, his arrogance and lack of tact are evident, while Elizabeth shows pride, she has no intention of accepting a proposal from a man who points out her family's low social status: *"His sense of her inferiority, of its being a degradation, of the family obstacles which judgment had*

*always opposed to inclination, were dwelt on with a warmth which seemed due to the consequence he was wounding, but was very unlikely to recommend his suit*" [1, p. 237].

Over time, Mr Darcy comes to realise his behaviour and his feelings, and proves his intentions through his actions by helping her younger sister. Elizabeth re-evaluates her attitude and realizes what she feels. Mr. Darcy is a persistent man, and he talks about his love once again – this time Elizabeth says about her love. Jane Austen shows a relationship that has blossomed despite difficulties – a man who loves a woman even though her family is not wealthy and has suffered some disgrace. They both realise that they behave badly toward each other: *"The conduct of neither, if strictly examined, will be irreproachable; but since then we have both, I hope, improved in civility"* [1, p. 452].

In Jane Austen's novel "Pride and Prejudice" models of family relationship serve an important function: through them the author explores society's moral norms and the criteria for a harmonious marriage. By comparing different types of marital unions, she concludes that only relationships based on respect, emotional maturity, and the capacity for self-awareness can be stable and happy. Thus, the family in the novel appears not only as a social institution but also as a space for personal development.

#### REFERENCES:

1. Jane Austen. *Pride and Prejudice*. London, 1813. 476 p. URL: <https://surl.lt/dvwjxo>
2. Liaño Riera S. *Marriage in Pride and Prejudice: Reflection or Critique? A Study of Austen's Intentions in Portraying Marriage*. 2025. URL: <https://surl.li/penjrc>

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#### **EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION IN MALE AND FEMALE SPEECH (BASED ON "THE HUNGER GAMES" BY SUZANNE COLLINS)**

Emotions in literary discourse are not only described but also constructed through language. The way characters speak – their choice of words, sentence structure, and stylistic devices - plays a crucial role in expressing emotional states. Modern linguistic studies emphasize that "emotions are encoded in language through multiple levels, including lexical, syntactic, and pragmatic choices" [5, p. 69]. As noted by Eckert and McConnell-Ginet, "language plays a central role in the construction of gender identity" [3, p. 101].

Therefore, the analysis of how language represents emotions allows for a deeper understanding of gendered communication patterns.