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**CRITICAL ANALYSIS ON THE MEN'S NATURE
IN JANE AUSTEN'S EMMA**

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Abstract

This study aimed to reveal one of the roles of literary works, especially for a novel in order to reveal the depth of someone's natures. Natures in this study will be the trait, personality or the most common known as characters. In this case the characters were from the men's characters in the novel. The source of the data was a novel written by famous English 19th woman author, Jane Austen. The title of the novel in this study was *Emma* that published in 1816. Library research was applied in this study by using the sociology theory and sociology of literature as an approach. The analysis of the study was presented in two parts; first the depth identification of the men characters and the second was the reasons of the men's have such characters. The results of this study showed that there are several characters of the men found in the novel, those are; genteel, ambitious, foolish and funny. Social background, society and economic were the most reasons found of the men have such characters.

Keywords: *Austen, Men, Natures, Emma.*

1. Background

Jane Austen was a major English novelist in her era. She is regarded as one of the best author of her time. Her novels are most well known for the way she makes her character to be realistic and the way she makes fun of the trend and the attitude of her era. One of the Austen's best novels with some critics holding it in higher regard than *Pride and Prejudice* is *Emma*.

Emma is one of the Austen classic novel published in 1815. The novel is about youthful hubris and the peril of misconstrued romance. The main character of this novel is Emma Woodhouse. In *Emma Woodhouse*, Austen describes that woman are not always inferior. Woman should increase herself in all aspect of life. And the man and the woman can be in the same position. But in this novel, the woman is dominated than man.

Austen gives the different characterization of her characters in her works. In men's character there are Mr. Knightley, Mr. Elton, Mr. Churchill, and Mr. Woodhouse. Austen also created the different character of men in this story. Mr. George Knightley is the owner of estate in Abbey Donwell. He is thirty years old and a respected landowner. He is gentlemen, good looking and actually is decent guy. He is Emma's brother in law, care for Emma and the only character who openly critical of her flaw. He didn't agree when Emma makes Harriet refused Mr. Martin. For him, Emma is bad for Harriet and convinced that its proportions are all wrongs in Emma's portrait in Harriet.

Mr. Knightley becomes convinced that Frank's relationship with Jane Fairfax is more than meet the eye. He returns and meet Emma in the garden. He means to console her about Frank. When he knows that Emma doesn't love Frank, he tells her that he loves him and Emma has mutual feeling for him. They get engaged, but they worry about how to tell to Mr. Woodhouse. But in the end, Mr. Woodhouse agrees, and they get married.

Mr. Elton is a parson in Highbury, as the parson holds a respectable in society. He is young, handsome and ambitious man. He likes Emma but never likes Harriet. He's convinced that he can marry Emma. In fact, he can't manage to win Emma's heart. When Emma refused him, he leaves town for a while then he comes back with his new wife, Miss Hawkins. When he comes back, he is like his wife very arrogant. In Weston's party, they snub Harriet. He officiates the wedding of Emma and Mr. Knightley.

Mr. Frank Churchill is Mr. Weston son. He lives at Etscombe with his aunt and uncle. He is friendly to all people, woman and gentlemen, accomplished and obviously smart because he can hide his relationship with Jane (backstreet). He enjoys the music and dance in his life. Emma begins to fall for him and always spent time with him. He tells his father about his engagement with Jane but Emma is the first to know about their engagement. He and Jane are happy in the end of the story.

Mr. Woodhouse is the father of Emma and Isabella and the patriarch of Hartfield, the woodhouse estate. He stays at home because he doesn't like a cold. He cares a lot about his food and his Doctor, Mr. Perry, is his favorite person in the world aside Emma. He mourns about loss Miss Taylor for her sake. He is convinced to go to the Weston's Christmas Party. He is easily feels agitated, even with small things. He doesn't want if Emma get married because he wants her daughter for himself. But finally, he agrees to allow Emma to marry Mr. Knightley.

In *Emma*, besides the woman characters, Austen also created about the men characters. Here, Austen created that men aren't like woman in explain their feelings to other as in reality of human life. It is difficult to guess their feelings. Are they feels happy, sad or disappointed? Unlike women, men never over reacted to explain their feelings. Sometimes the men make us curious about what they are feeling and how actually their characters. That's all makes the men unique and different than women in their characters.

The reason the researcher choose Jane Austen than other is because she is the smart woman in makes her works be different, especially the romance side of the story. She was very detailed in explaining about social condition as in reality. She used realism in her works. She actually showed us about how the interaction of people with each other, their position or status influences their social life. From the novel, the researcher can get characteristic of men clearly, and that is what draw the researcher mostly. So, based on those reasons, the researcher could draw the questions: How are the men characters portraits in *Emma* by Jane Austen? What are the reasons the men have such characters?

2. Method

In this research, the researcher chooses to use qualitative research method to search for, collect, process and analyze data from the research. This research used descriptive method with sociology of literature as an approach and sociology as the theory.

According to Aminuddin (1990:16), the qualitative descriptive method is used to analyze the form of description, not a number or coefficient of relationship between variables. Based on the meaning by Aminuddin, the result of descriptive qualitative describe about data that analyzed like written words and behavior that will be studied. The nature of the men's characters will be depicted through their conversation trough the story. Then, this study sees how the natures in this study will be the trait, personality or the most common known as characters. In this case the characters were from the men's characters in the novel. The last is the conclusion was taken and written down after all the data were analyzed and interpreted.

3. Results and Discussion

The Portrait of Men characters in Austen Emma

a. Genteel

The gentlemen talk about man who is respectful and considerate of those around him. Act politely and treats women with respect. Treating people with respect and being polite. In *Emma* Mr. Knightley portrait as the gentlemen.

“Mr. Knightley, a sensible man about seven or eight-and-thirty, was not only a very old and intimate friend of the family, but particularly connected with it, as the elder brother of Isabella's husband. ’ Mr. Knightley had a cheerful manner, which always did him good; and his many inquiries after "poor Isabella" and her children were answered most satisfactorily.” (C.1/ P.4/ D.1).

Despite portrayed as sensible and a very honest and genteel man, but it does not mean he has no flaw. One of his flaw probably because he is very “forward” in his judgment about Emma. This thing can be seen when he criticized Emma's behavior toward Miss Bates and Miss Fairfax;

...[w]ere she prosperous, I could allow much for the occasional prevalence of the ridiculous over the good. Were she a woman of fortune, I would leave every harmless absurdity to take its chance, I would not quarrel with you for any liberties of manner. Were she your equal in situation—but, Emma, consider how far this is from being the case. [...] Her situation should secure your compassion. It was badly done, indeed! [...] This is not pleasant to you, Emma—and it is very far from pleasant to me; but I must, I will,—I will tell you truths while I can; satisfied with proving myself your friend by very faithful counsel, and trusting that you will some time or other do me greater justice than you can do now (C.54/ P.381/ D.2).

It of absolute truth of Emma's behavior was very bad as a lady. That is probably what Mr. Knightly saying something harsh to her. But the, no matter how genteel and sensible he was portrayed by Austen, no man could be perfect. Moreover his behavior after saying something harsh to her, he indeed moved temporarily to his brother's home in London in order to avoid Emma.

Mr. Knightley, as his name describe also has many knight's behavior that make a lady misunderstood him. He is too genteel too Harriet and too sweet to Miss Fairfax also. Even though the reasons for his behavior are to help the damsel in distress and to do what is “a gentlemen” expected to do, it still cause harm to his relationship with Emma.

b. Ambitious

Ambitious is having a strong wish to be successful or eagerly desirous of achieving or obtaining success. Ambitious is having a strong wish to be successful or eagerly desirous of achieving or obtaining success. The good example for ambitious man in *Emma* was portrayed by Mr. Elton. He is parson of Highbury and he holds a good and respectable place in the society. But, he plans to climb up to upper society by confessed his feeling to Emma:

‘Good Heaven!’ cried Mr. Elton, ‘what can be the meaning of this? Miss Smith! I never thought of Miss Smith in the whole course of my existence; never paid her any attentions, but as your friend; never cared whether she were dead or alive, but as your friend. If she has fancied otherwise, her own wishes have misled her, and I am very sorry, extremely sorry. But Miss Smith, when Miss Woodhouse is near? No, upon my honour, there is no unsteadiness of character. I have thought only of you. I protest against having paid the smallest attention to anyone else. Everything that I said or done, for many weeks past, has been with the sole view of marking my adoration of yourself. You cannot really seriously doubt it. No’ (in an accent meant to be insinuating), ‘I am sure you have seen and understood me’ (C.15/ P.105/ D.3).

His feeling for Emma need to be questioned is purely love or merely a reason to climb into the higher social circle by marriage? We certainly found the answer after the rejection. When he reveals his indifference to Harriet and his desire to marry Emma, only to take a bride at Bath shortly thereafter, he comes to seem proud, conceited, and superficial.

“Mr. Elton returned, a very happy man. He had gone away rejected and mortified, disappointed in a very sanguine hope, after a series of what appeared to him strong encouragement; not only losing the right lady, but finding himself debased to the level of a very wrong one. He had gone away deeply offended, he came back engaged to another; and to another superior, of course, to the first, as under such circumstances what is gained always is to what is lost. He came back gay and self-satisfied, eager and busy, caring nothing for Miss Woodhouse, and defying Miss Smith” (C.22/ P.143/ D.20).

His choice for a wife also makes it possible to see through his motive for marriage. His wife, Augusta Hawkins has the same background as Emma. She has a good fortune and family in Bath. It is the good reason for marriage according to Mr. Elton. So after their marriage they directly come to Highbury to shown their new life as newlyweds to people around them. Then upon this marriage also we certainly can see Mr. Elton characters as ambitious man, who will do anything in order to climb up into the higher society.

c. Foolish

Foolish implies the character of being or seeming unable to use judgment, discretion, or good sense. It is a foolish stunt. The perfect example of this is Mr. Frank Churchill. Mr. Churchill is the son Mr. Weston. He brought up by his aunt, his mother sister because at time his father was unfit, according to his aunt, to raise him properly. After he grows up he even used his aunt’s last name, not his father’s.

Mr. Churchill is, in many ways, could be the perfect gentleman. He’s accomplished and he’s obviously smart. He is also very charming towards everybody.

‘Miss Smith – oh! – I had observed. You are extremely obliging – and if I were not an old married – but my dancing days are over, Mrs Weston. You will excuse me. Anything else I should be most happy to do, at your command – but my dancing days are over’
‘Knightley has taken pity on poor little Miss Smith! Very good natured, I declare’ (C.38/ P.262, 264/ D.8).

Mr. Churchill always plans to visit his father after his marriage, but he always delayed it. So when he finally arrived to visiting his father, all the people at Highbury already feels like they know all about him.

“He came back, had had his hair cut, and laughed at himself with a very good grace, but without seeming really at all ashamed of what he had done. He had no reason to wish his hair longer, to conceal any confusion of face; no reason to wish the money unspent, to improve his spirits. He was quite as undaunted and as lively as ever” (C.26/ P.168,169/ D.6).

Frank Churchill is somewhat shallow, more interested in pursuing pleasure than any concrete pursuits, but he is also handsome and charming enough to attract Emma. He is secretly engaged to Jane Fairfax, but cannot reveal this because the aunt who raised him would strenuously object. He enjoys his own sense of humor so much that he can’t resist putting people into awkward situations. He continually feeds Emma’s witty remarks about Miss Fairfax and Mr. Dixon, even though he knows that they are completely unfounded – and probably embarrass Emma.

In other words, if *Emma* contains characters which are all variations on the theme of social smarts, Mr. Churchill is the right guy. Unfortunately he is also foolish; he never seems to understand the consequences of his knowledge. He even hurt Miss Fairfax-his secret

fiancée-because of his jokes. It could also become one of the factor that makes him complicated characters compared to another men.

d. Funny

Funny is causing amusement or laughter toward another. Funny in this novel related with sarcasm. People use sarcasm as a means of being comedic with group of friends. Sarcasm is a witty form of humor.

Mr. Woodhouse is the father of Emma and Isabella and the patriarch of Hartfield, the woodhouse estate. In the beginning of the novel Mr. Woodhouse is a valetudinarian or someone who over careful of his health in his life. He doesn't have the other activities. But everywhere he loved by people because of his friendliness of his heart and his kind to other.

“The evil of the actual disparity in their ages (and Mr. Woodhouse had not married early) was much increased by his constitution and habits; for having been a valetudinarian all his life, without activity and though everywhere beloved for the friendliness of his heart and his amiable temper, his talents could not have recommended him at any time” (C.1/ P.2/ D.28).

He mourns to loss Mr. Taylor for her sake. And now he just lives with his daughter Emma in his home. He doesn't like the change of everybody and hating to part with them. The marriage is the beginning of change he thinks. He never discuss about his daughter marriage but he love his daughter so much with compassion.

“He was a nervous man, easily depressed; fond of everybody that he was used to, and hating to part with them; hating change of every kind. Matrimony, as the origin of change, was always disagreeable; and he was no means yet reconciled to his own daughters marrying, not could ever speak of her but with compassion” (C.1/ P. 3/ D.29).

In this chapter described that Mr. Woodhouse likes if his friends come and see him even though from his long residence at Hartfield, his friendly from his nature, his house and his daughter. Here also described if he has social interaction with any family in his circles. He likes to make dinner party for the reason his friends visit him on his own terms.

“Mr. Woodhouse was fond of society in his own way. He liked very much to have his friends come and see him; from various united causes, from his long residence at Hartfield, and his good nature, from his fortune, his house, and his daughter, he could command the visits of his own little circle, in a great measure, as he liked. He had not much intercourse with any families beyond that circle; his horror of late hours, and large dinner-parties, made him unfit for any acquaintance but such as would visit him on his own terms” (C.3/ P.14/ D.30).

Mr. Woodhouse cares a lot about his food. Every time that there's any possibility that someone might be sick, he's very excited. And he's got a bowl of gruel ready. The statement before, it be seen that Mr. Woodhouse as the host of a dinner party. His care for their health made him grieve that they would eat. But Emma let him to talk. Mr. Woodhouse's constant concerns and worries about health and other related afflictions.

“Mrs. Bates let me propose your venturing on one of these eggs. An egg boiled very soft is not unwholesome. Serle understands boiling an egg better than anybody. I would not recommend an egg boiled by anybody else – but you need not be afraid, they are very small, you see – one of our small eggs will not hurt you. Miss Bates, let Emma help you to a little bit of tart – a very little bit. Ours are all apple – tarts. You need not be afraid of unwholesome preserves here. I do not advise the custard. Mrs Goddard, what say you to half a glass of wine? A small half-glass, put into a tumbler of water? I do not think it could disagree with you” (C.3/ P.17/ D.31).

Mr. Woodhouse opposed Mr. Knightley and Emma's relationship at the beginning. He is not agrees to them and Emma to try very hard to persuade him to reconcile their marriage. Before it, Emma always said that she would never marry and assured that it would be a great deal better for her to remain single. Suddenly, Mr. Knightley and Emma in love and meditate the marriage. Mr. Woodhouse is old lonely man, she just have Emma now. He doesn't want if Emma like Isabella and Mrs. Weston marriage and leave him.

“Mr. Woodhouse could not be soon reconciled; but the worst was overcome, the idea was given; time and continual repetition must do the rest.—To Emma's entreaties and assurances succeeded Mr. Knightley's, whose fond praise of her gave the subject even a kind of welcome; and he was soon used to be talk by each, on every fair occasion” he began to think that sometime or other, in another year or two, perhaps, it might not be so very bad if the marriage did take place (C.53/ P.375/ D.32).

From the statement before, we can see that Mr. Woodhouse is he is kind-hearted and love people around him. He love his daughter very much and also the person that over careful about his health. He doesn't like the change of every person that he knows especially Mrs. Weston. The reason he doesn't agree about the marriages between his daughter and Mr. Knightley is he afraid to loss his daughter again and afraid his daughter leave him alone as

Isabella and Mrs. Weston before. But in the end he agree, he said that he is very like Mr. Knightley and happy if Mr. Knightley lives with them but however he doesn't like a change of every person. So, Mr. Woodhouse is old man with kind-hearted and valetudinarian that very loves his daughter and also hating the change of everybody. It can call he is a patient man.

Mr. Knightley is sensible and thoughtful, he is too bright in see the disrepute for the other for example Emma and Mr. Churchill. On the other hand, he is doing silly thing that not important because his jealousy to Mr. Churchill and it really funny. Besides that, Mr. Elton doesn't love Emma from his deepest heart. He loves her because she is rich. He never likes Harriet because Harriet is the poor girl and also the reason he snubs her. He loves his wife because his wife is the rich woman but he doesn't truly love her. He is silly man for his snobby arrogance, for him, possessions and solid status are the most important in his life. Mr. Churchill is handsome, friendly, smart, polite, and funny but he's also folly man. He did many stupid things of his duplicitous dealings. And the last, Mr. Woodhouse is old man with kind-hearted and valetudinarian that very loves his daughter and also hating the change of everybody. He is a patient man to lives alone in his home without his daughters.

The Reasons the Men Have Such Characters

Austen work related with reality condition in her era included the characterization that she described in her novel *Emma*. Several reasons that related with the men have such characters in her novel in the nineteenth century. They are;

a. Economic Reason

In the nineteenth century, money was always very important consideration in any marriage, or the social order could not continue. The marriage was an encouraged to be with someone of the same class. Only a few marriages have basic with love. Emma has dowry of 30,000 and she was an excellent match. That's why Mr. Elton wants to court her.

The reason Mr. Knightley have such character is he tried to be perfect because his estate includes most of the property in Highbury. He's the eldest son of his family, which means that he inherited the majestic Donwell. Donwell Abbey happens to be the largest and most prosperous estate in Highbury, which makes Mr. Knightley something like its king. Moreover, Donwell Abbey happens to be everything that's perfect. He also is from the upper classes that handsome, sensible reality to see a situation even he was jealous to Mr. Churchill of Emma intimate with him. He is always willing to behave in a gentlemanly fashion, such as when he invites Harriet to dance with him to save her embarrassment. He dislikes Frank Churchill but he genteel upper class in society. He criticizes his own behavior in lecturing Emma but in the end he too obsessed with her. In the 19th century, the upper classes became a richer as the value of land increased, so did their income from rent which made up the income. Mr. Knightley is the perfect gentlemen with his rich, handsome, polite, kind-hearted and his compassionate. He has such character caused by the social reason.

b. Society Reason

In Nineteenth century the landed gentry were still dominant throughout the country side as is reflected by the highly stylized and hierarchical society in Highbury. There were certain classes people who were socially acceptable, such as, the army, the law and the church while the others were ostracized by the society.

The reason Mr. Elton have such characters is he want to marriage with the rich young woman. And Emma is one of the young beautiful women at the time. He is from middle class. So, he doesn't want to marry with poor woman for example Harriet. He want to high position with marry with upper class. It proves when he returns with his arrogant wife and he also arrogant. He doesn't love his wife truly. He loves her because she is rich. In the Georgian period, clergymen were often the younger sons of nobility or young men of good but poor families. Mr. Elton was from the middle classes. His new wife might just be more of a social climber than he is. The only way for younger sons to get money was often to marry rich women – which is exactly what Mr. Elton does. For the reason Mr. Elton has such character, he is an ambitious man. He is ambitious because his economic reason to increase his social status himself.

c. Social Reason

In the nineteenth century, being connected to respectable families was very important. The society in Regency era was marked by extreme excess in the upper classes and a wide gap between rich and poor. Social status at the time there are upper class, middle class and lowest class.

The reason Mr. Churchill has such characters about fooled everyone except Mr. Knightley is he also tried to be perfect gentlemen because he doesn't want if his aunt know his relation

with Miss Fairfax. He is also don't want to anybody knows his relation with Mr. Fairfax. He is very smart to hide his relationship with Miss Fairfax. He can sing with Emma and ride with Mr. Knightley. He doesn't realize how much pain he's putting Jane through his action. So, from all his action he is gentlemen but he is also foolish man. He got the foolish from how he acts in society.

Mr. Woodhouse has such character because he was an old man that need interest of everybody especially his daughter. Mr. Woodhouse cares a lot about his food. He really hates the change of everyone. The reason he doesn't agree of Emma and Mr. Knightley is he wants Emma didn't like Poor Miss Taylor and Poor Isabella. In the end, he agrees of them of Emma convince him. So, Mr. Woodhouse character is funny that related with his social reason to all people.

4. Conclusion

There are four characters was found in the novel *Emma* by Jane Austen. They are genteel, ambitious, foolish and funny.

Mr. Knightley portraits as sensible man and the oldest son of his family. He is from the upper classes that handsome and see situation in reality. It all, he tried to be perfect because his handsome, polite, kind-hearted and his compassionate. He has such character caused by the social reason. For the reason Mr. Elton has such character because he is from middle class. He likes Emma because Emma is the rich woman. He never likes Harriet. He is an ambitious man. He will doing everything to makes Emma interest to him but Emma refused him. He is ambitious because his economic reason to increase his social status himself.

If Mr. Churchill, he will doing everything to makes the other interest to him even though he is foolish in his sarcasm. From all his action to deceive all people he is gentlemen but he is also foolish man. He got the foolish from how he act in society. Mr. Woodhouse character is gentlemen and kind-hearted. He cares of his health and the other health. He likes make dinner to invite people come to his home. But which he does always funny that related with his social reason to all people. He is funny about what his doing and he said.

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