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**ВІДТВОРЕННЯ МОРАЛЬНИХ АСПЕКТІВ ЛЮДСЬКИХ
ВЗАЄМОВІДНОСИН В РОМАНІ ДЖЕЙНА ОСТІНА “ГОРДІСТЬ ТА
УПЕРЕДЖЕННЯ”**

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Студентки IV-го курсу

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Department of Philology**

**THE MORAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IN THE
REFLECTION OF J. AUSTEN’S “PRIDE AND PREJUDICE”**

Bachelor’s Thesis

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014 Secondary education. English language and literature

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INTRODUCTION

Literature is one of the most excellent means of expression. When we write a poem, a short story or a book, we can unleash our imagination, describe our emotions and thoughts. And when we read a novel, we can gain insight into the writer's time, his or her thoughts, the social situation and the spirit of that era. Although the emergence of the English novel in the first half of the 18th century is mainly attributed to Daniel Defoe, Henry Fielding and many other prominent novelists, it was the influence of the English writer Jane Austen that gave to the novel its distinctive modern form, with everyday yet unique characters and settings, providing a realistic picture of everyday life and the most significant questions of principle. This is the overall picture we get in one of Jane Austen's most famous novels, *Pride and Prejudice*, which is the basis of the current thesis.

This topic is vital and relevant because English literature and novel plays decisive role in intellectual development, language learning, vocabulary development and the expansion of historical, social and cultural knowledge.

The aim of the thesis is to deal with the times and society in which Jane Austen lived, to investigate the genre in which she wrote and the novels that continue to have a profound impact on readers today.

The subject matter of the present thesis is to study the 19th century literature in Britain and particular J. Austen's "*Pride and Prejudice*", to discuss the moral aspects of human relationships in the novel.

The object matter of the present thesis is the historical, social and literary background of the British society of the 19th century and its impact on one of the most significant British novel "*Pride and Prejudice*".

The aim, the subject and object matters of the thesis determine the formulation and solution of the following tasks: to investigate the period in which Jane Austen lived, the life and work of the author, her famous novels and their impact on the development of British literature, to analyze the features of the writer's artistic manner.

The theoretical value of the thesis lies in the research questions related to Jane Austen's main artistic features, moral values and principles.

The practical value of the thesis lies in the possibility of usage the results on statistics and evaluate the level of pupils' knowledge about the novels and epoch where Jane Austen lived. To investigate the specific motives and themes, and reasons for reading her novels.

In recent years, there has been an increasing interest in Jane Austen's novels. Therefore, many researchers have worked on this topic, such as J. L. Newton, J. Sherry, Lloyd W. Brown, E. Zimmerman and many others.

In order to obtain accurate, actual and valuable information, the methods used are comparative, statistical, descriptive and synthesis of the collected data.

The thesis has been divided into an introduction, three parts, conclusion, list of references and Ukrainian summary. The first part deals with the life and literary career of the famous novelist Jane Austen. Furthermore, it presents information about her biography, her family background, living conditions, and how, under what external or internal influences, her novels were created.

The second part of the work presents Jane Austen's most famous novel, *Pride and Prejudice*. It describes the history of its creation, its characters, its main themes and symbols and also introduces the moral aspects of human relationships.

In developing the topic and conducting the research, the following hypothesis arises: Jane Austen's work is still popular and influential on her readers and literature today, and her books are still read with pleasure and enthusiasm by many young people.

The third part is practical and consists of a questionnaire conducted in eleventh-grades of secondary schools with the Ukrainian language of instruction and Hungarian language of instruction. One of the main tasks of this part is to find out how well known and respected Jane Austen is among secondary school students and to explore students' interest in reading, to assess how comprehensible and entertaining such a novel and its characters for young people.

In developing the topic and conducting the research, I would like to corroborate the following hypothesis: Jane Austen's work is still popular and influential on her readers and literature today, and that her books are still read with pleasure and enthusiasm by many young people.

PART 1

JANE AUSTEN IN THE 19TH CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE

1.1. Jane Austen and features of her literary style

One particularly significant change in Austen's life was the spread of literacy and print culture in the 19th's century in England. By 1800, almost everyone in the middle and upper classes could read, and literacy in the rest of the population steadily increased. At the same time, from 1780, the number of newly published novels increased steadily, so that by the end of Austen's life the novel had become the most prominent and leading literary form in England. The rise of the novel was stimulated in part by new forms of printing, which made books cheaper and attracted a readership. Smaller format books were more portable and therefore in greater demand. Likewise, novels became more accessible with the proliferation of different modes of access, including libraries and periodicals, which made literature affordable in an era when books were often prohibitively expensive. Despite this, works such as Austen's novels were considered unaffordable for a large part of the population. This was particularly true in the early 19th century, when publishers raised the price of paper, newspapers and other texts. Indeed, these publishers were at their peak during Austen's career. This was partly because they wanted to limit the lower classes' access to information in response to the French Revolution and the disorder at home. Although the late 18th and early 19th centuries saw a rapid increase in the reading of novels, it was not until the mid-19th century that affordable novels became widely available. The realistic novel, defined by its objective narrator, precisely developed characters and realistic descriptions of family life, was introduced in part by Austen in *Pride and Prejudice*, and dominated English literary life for the rest of the 19th century with this and his other novels. The novel is also overshadowed by domestic anxieties about property, money and status, which shed light on the changing social situation in late 18th and early 19th century England. Austen's novels depict the gentry, a broad social class that included those who owned land as well as the professional classes who did not own land. (Aschkenes, 2013)

Although industrialisation and urbanisation had already begun in the late eighteenth century, the most influential social stratum in Austen's time was the landed gentry. Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, English land ownership was in the hands of a relatively small landowning class, who retained control of the land through a system that encouraged the expansion of estates by establishing strict inheritance laws. The types of inheritance referred to in the novel were created during this period to increase the overall wealth and estates by allocating wealth to male children or relatives rather than carving it up and distributing it among

family members. In this way, Mr Bennett's land is left to Mr Collins rather than his daughters, ensuring that the wealth remains within the family line, while Elizabeth and her sisters are left out of the inheritance. The large country estates, such as those held by Mr Darcy, and which Mr Bingley would like to purchase, are present in the novel as symbols of the wealth and power of the landed gentry. (Aschkenes, 2013)

At that time, land ownership and inheritance issues were closely intertwined with marriage. By the end of the 18th century, ideas about the English family and the role of women had changed as British culture became increasingly focused on the accumulation of wealth within the family. For families, one way to accumulate wealth quickly was through marriage of convenience. As a result, the position of daughters within the family changed, as they became the means through which the family could acquire greater wealth. Family aspirations and the growing dependence of women's financial status on marriage placed courtship at the centre of women's lives. (Aschkenes, 2013)

However, the late 18th century saw a change in the perception of women's rights following the publication of Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* in 1792. In this work, Wollstonecraft argues, in the language of Enlightenment thinkers such as John Locke, that women should be treated as rational equals of men. Elizabeth Bennett is a striking example of the controversial transformation of women's roles that took place in the late 18th century. Deprived of her father's fortune, Elizabeth is financially independent and in fact depends on an advantageous marriage for her future survival. Yet throughout the novel, she retains her intellectual and moral independence, reflecting a Wollstoncraftian understanding of gender politics. (Aschkenes, 2013)

1.2 Jane Austen's Life and Her Literary Career

Her Life. Jane Austen was born in the Hampshire village of Steventon on 16 December 1775. Her mother was Cassandra Austen (maiden name Leigh) and her father was the Reverend George Austen (1731–1805), an Anglican parish priest. Jane was born the seventh in a family of eight, with five brothers, a brother and a sister. Their father was a scholar, a man of letters, who brought up his children to love learning. He received a handsome salary, well supplemented by his pupils who lived in the house. Nevertheless, he was not a wealthy man, so he could not have given many dowries to his daughters. (Makai, 2005)

Jane's eldest brother, James (1765–1819), was a diligent student who was admitted to Oxford University in 1779 at the age of 14 and ordained a priest in 1787. He also tried his hand at writing, and in 1789-90, together with Henry, Austen's favourite brother, they edited a university

magazine, *The Loiterer*, which appeared in nearly 60 editions. After his father's retirement, James took over the parish of Steventon. His second wife Mary Lloyd was not one of Jane Austen's favourites. James' daughter Anna (1793–1872) was Jane Austen's first niece. She dedicated some of her works from *Juvenilia*, then in its infancy, to him. During Jane's lifetime, Anna worked on a never-completed novel called "Which is the Heroine?", which her aunt helped her with, but after Anna's death Jane destroyed the manuscript. (Makai, 2005)

His younger half-sisters, James Edward (1798–1874) and Caroline (1805–1880), listened to their aunt's opinion in their youthful endeavours. James Edward also wrote a poem after learning that Aunt Jane had written the novels *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice*. Later, Caroline wrote down her memories of Jane Austen and James Edward, who took the name Austen-Leigh after his aunt and uncle, wrote a memoir in which he remembers Jane Austen. (Makai, 2005)

Edward (1767–1852) was a sober and businesslike man who was adopted in the early 1780s by Thomas and Catherine Knight, the wealthy, childless cousins of the Austen family. First sent on a grand tour of Europe from 1786–1788, he inherited their Kent estate, Godmersham, and took the Knight name. Edward's eldest child, Fanny (1793–1882), was Jane Austen's favourite niece, along with Anna. Some of the *Juvenilia* was dedicated to her when Fanny was an infant. Her mother died before Fanny was sixteen. She asked Aunt Jane for advice about several of her suitors: whether or not to break up with them. She eventually married a baronet – after Jane's death. His son edited the first edition of Jane Austen's letters in England, and one of their descendants married the daughter of Prince Philip and Elizabeth II's cousin, Louis Mountbatten of Burma. (Makai, 2005)

Henry (1771–1850) was Jane's dearest brother. He was a bright and enthusiastic young man, but not always successful. Admitted to Oxford University in 1788, he later married Eliza de Feuillide (1761–1813) and eventually became a clergyman after his business bankruptcy in 1815. After Jane Austen's death, he oversaw the publication of *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*. (Makai, 2005)

Frank (1774–1865) and Charles (1779–1852) both entered the Royal Naval Academy in Portsmouth at the age of twelve, served in the British Navy during the Napoleonic Wars, and both eventually achieved the rank of Admiral. Nelson once described Frank Austen as an "outstanding young man". The influence of this naval connection can be felt in *Mansfield Park* and *Persuasive Arguments*. Frank served in the Far East between the ages of 14 and 18. (Makai, 2005)

Makai (2005) considers that Cassandra Elizabeth (1773–1845) was Jane's only sister and chief confidante. More than a hundred of Jane's letters to Cassandra survive, giving us a glimpse into the more intimate details of the writer's life. Cassandra's fiancé, Thomas Fowle, died of yellow

fever in the Caribbean during 1797, where he was serving as a military chaplain. Cassandra's experiences may have been the convincing arguments Fowle and Cassandra remained engaged until 1794 due to the family's lack of money, and did not marry afterwards. Like Jane, he often visited his siblings and their families, relatives and friends. Their correspondence necessitated some visits to which either Jane or Cassandra could not go.

Jane's lively and loving family background was an inspiration for her writing. In fact, her extensive family and friends connections took her experiences far beyond the parish of Steventon. It was from this world that he drew the settings, characters and themes of his novels. More than one reader has wondered how much Catherine Morland's childhood in Northanger Abbey resembled her own, at least in detail. The Catherine of the novel liked to roll down the hillside behind her house and preferred cricket and baseball to children's games. (Makai, 2005)

Makai (2005) states that the most important entertainment for the family was theatre. Between 1782 and 1784, plays were staged in the parish church at Steventon, and during 1787-88, under the influence of Jane's cousin Eliza de Feuillide (to whom Austen dedicated *Love and Friendship*, one of her letters from her youth), who had refined taste, increasingly elaborate performances were staged. This fact sheds interesting light on Jane Austen's apparent dislike of amateur dramatists, which she expresses in her novel *Mansfield Park*. It is true that *Mansfield Park* was written twenty years later, in a moral spirit much closer to the Victorian. It is worth noting that in 1788, Charlotte Anne Frances Wattell fled to Scotland with a band of Twistletons, notorious for scandal. The Twistleton family were related by blood to Jane Austen, and Mr. Twistleton and Miss Wattell had previously acted together as amateur actors.

In 1783, Jane and her sister Cassandra moved briefly to live with one of their uncle's sisters, Mrs. Cawley, to study. Mrs. Cawley lived in Oxford and later moved to Southampton. Between 1785 and 1786, Jane and Cassandra were enrolled at Reading Abbey College, which was certainly similar to the school of Mrs. Goddard in *Emma*. Jane was considered too young to be of any use to the school, but according to their mother, 'if Cassandra's head had been taken, Jane would have cut off her own'. In addition to the family upbringing, during which the two girls learned to draw and play the piano, among other things, Jane Austen studied there alone. (Makai, 2005)

Austen read quite a lot of both popular and fiction literature of her time. Her father had a library of 500 books by 1801, and Jane mentions in a letter of 18 December 1798 that she and her family were avid readers of novels, and not ashamed of them. Although she chose a decorous tone in her own novels, she was also well acquainted with eighteenth-century works, such as those of Henry Fielding and Samuel Richardson, which were much more unscrupulous than the later Victorian novels. He often re-read Richardson's *Grandison* and the novels of Fanny Burney,

also known as Madame D'arblay. One of the phrases in Burney's *Cecilia* inspired the current title of the novel, then called *First Impressions*, *Pride and Prejudice*. (Makai, 2005)

According to Makai (2005), Austen's novels deal in depth with love and marriage, it is not entirely futile to try to describe her love relationships accurately. Unfortunately, there is little tangible material evidence, because her sister Cassandra was a jealous guardian of the secrets of her sister's private life, and the letters that remained after Jane's death were censored: some were destroyed, others were shredded. But the novels themselves are clear evidence that their author knew both love and unrequited love. She began writing her earliest novel, *Sense and Sensibility*, around 1795, as an epistolary novel, naming her protagonists Elinor and Marianne. Jane Austen loved social gatherings, and her early letters tell of balls and dances in Hampshire, and visits to London, Bath and Southampton to see plays.

Between 1795 and 1796 Austen flirted with Thomas Lefroy, an Irish relative of her old friend Mrs. Anne Lefroy. Yet it was always clear that Tom could not afford to marry Jane. After becoming Irish Lord Chief Justice, he confessed to his nephew that he had a "boyish love" for Jane Austen. A year later, Mrs. Lefroy, who disapproved of Tom's behaviour towards Jane, tried to set him up with the Reverend Samuel Blackall, a fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, but Jane was cold to his advances. (Makai, 2005)

Makai (2005) discusses that between October 1796 and August 1797, Austen completed the first draft of *Pride and Prejudice* (then called *First Impressions*). In 1797, her father wrote to a London publisher to inquire about the possibility of publishing the novel, but received no reply. The last of Austen's early novels, *Northanger Abbey*, was written around 1798-99, and its original title may have been *Susan*.

In the late 1800s, his father, who was approaching seventy, suddenly decided to retire to Bath, and the family moved there the following year. During their years in Bath, they travelled to the seaside every summer, and it was on one of their holidays that Jane's most intriguing love affair occurred. All that is known of it is what Cassandra told her nieces after Jane Austen's death, and it was not written about for years afterwards. While the family was on the coast (probably west of Lyme, south of Devonshire), Jane met a young man who seemed to have fallen in love with her. Cassandra later spoke highly of him and thought he would have made a good party for Jane. Caroline said they had parted, but Jane was determined to see them again. Nevertheless, the news of his death was reported shortly afterwards. (Makai, 2005)

A more famous incident occurred on 2 December 1802, when Jane and Cassandra were visiting the Bigg family at Manydown, near Steventon. Harris Bigg-Wither, six years her junior, proposed to Jane, to which she said yes, though she did not love him. The next day, however, she changed her mind and unexpectedly appeared with Cassandra in Steventon (where their brother

James was already the minister) and insisted that they leave the area the next day and go to Bath. Such an affair was considered a disgraceful thing, but Jane seems to have been unimpressed, for although Mr. Bigg-Withers was rich, he was also 'bulky and disagreeable'. As is well known, none of Jane's letters to Cassandra between June 1801 and August 1804, in which she could have mentioned her amorous escapades, have survived. Finally, like Cassandra, Jane never married. (Makai, 2005)

In 1803, she sold the manuscript of *Susan* to Richard Crosby for the unpromising sum of £10. The publisher wanted to publish it immediately, and although it was advertised, it mysteriously never appeared. In 1804, Jane began her novel *The Watsons*, but soon abandoned it. In 1804 Jane's dearest friend, Mrs. Anne Lefroy, died suddenly, and in January 1805 her father died in Bath. As would have been the case in *Pride and Prejudice* in the event of Mr. Bennet's death, the salary for the remaining family at home was substantially reduced, as Mr. Austen's income came from ecclesiastical benefices, which ceased after his death. They therefore had to survive on a grant from the Austen brothers and a relatively small sum left to Cassandra by her fiancé. This amounted to a total of £450 a year. During the rest of 1805, James Austen's wife's sister Martha Lloyd moved in with Mrs. Austen after her mother died. In 1806 they moved from Bath to Clifton and then to Southampton. Two years later, in a letter to Cassandra, Jane recalls leaving Bath 'with 'the great happiness of escape'. Southampton was quite close to the naval base at Portsmouth and to Frank and Charles who served there. (Makai, 2005)

Makai (2005) says that in 1809, Jane's brother Edward provided the family with a small house on his Hampshire estate in the village of Chawton, not far from Steventon. Before leaving Southampton, she exchanged letters with the reluctant publisher of *Jane Susan*, to whom she had sold her work, but received no satisfactory reply. The hope of settling in Chawton gave her life a new purpose, and she began to prepare her novel *Sense and Sensibility* for publication. Two years later, Thomas Egerton agreed to publish *Sense and Sensibility*. The book was published without the author's name ("from the pen of a lady") in November 1811. Initially, only the immediate family knew who the author was.

Fanny Knight, in her diary of 28 September 1811, remembers a letter she received from Aunt Cass, who asks not to mention that Aunt Jane wrote *Sense and Sensibility*. She also recalls a day in 1812 when Jane, Cassandra, and their niece Anna, while in a bookshop in Alton, had thrown a copy of *Sense and Sensibility* for sale on the floor and 'called it nonsense, to the great amusement of their aunts standing by. Two of the most important critical journals of the time, *Critical Review* and *Quarterly Review*, nevertheless welcomed the clever mix of instruction and entertainment. The first edition made £140 for Jane. Encouraged by its success, Austen began revising *First Impressions*, and the novel, later christened *Pride and Prejudice*, was sold in

November 1812 and published at the end of January 1813. She had already begun work on *Mansfield Park* in 1812, and only completed it in 1813. It was also during 1813 that the identity of the author of *Pride and Prejudice* began to be widely revealed. Since Austen had sold the copyright to *Pride and Prejudice* well in advance for £110 (probably to get a handsome payment as soon as possible rather than wait for the profits from the sale to slowly trickle in), she received nothing when it was published for a second time in 1813. (Makai, 2005)

The second edition of *Sense and Sensibility* was published in October 1813. Henry, who was living in London at the time, often acted as an intermediary between Jane and the publishers, and occasionally Jane would go to London to check the revised text. These years brought Jane Austen success and esteem. She was pleased to see her books published, well reviewed and widely read. The Prince Regent, later King George IV, loved her works so much that he kept a Jane Austen series in each of his castles. It was also in October 1813 that one of the Prince Regent's doctors was called to treat Henry's illness. This is how Jane came into contact with Mr. Clarke, the Regent's librarian, who conveyed the Prince's request that he dedicate his next work to her. *Mansfield Park* was published in 1814 and sold out in six months. By then Austen was working on *Emma*. (Makai, 2005)

At one time, in Steventon, after his brothers had moved away, he and Cassandra had their own 'dressing room' next to their bedroom, in the relative solitude of which he wrote *Juvenilia* and earlier versions of his first three novels. Chawton had no such study, and we know the story of the famous creaking door from *James Edward*. The door was not repaired at Jane Austen's own request because it warned her of approaching visitors in time for her to hide the manuscript before they entered the room. In addition to his literary work, he often visited his brothers and their families, as well as other relatives and friends, who sometimes visited Southampton or Chawton themselves. Jane was known as a woman who kept young children well entertained, and was particularly fond of her eldest nieces Fanny and Anna. (Makai, 2005)

In December 1815, *Emma* was published and dedicated to the Prince Regent. The second edition of *Mansfield Park* was published in February 1816, but was not a success. The reissue of *Mansfield Park* lost what *Emma* had initially earned. Critics praised her novels for their moral insight and amusing tone, admired Austen's skill at characterisation, and welcomed the simple realism of his books, which were a refreshing change from the romantic melodrama then in vogue. For the last eighteen months of her life, Austen was busy writing. In early 1816, at the onset of his terminal illness, she began to work on one of her ideas for a novel. (Makai, 2005)

She began writing *Persuasive Arguments* in August 1815 and finished it exactly one year later, although she became increasingly ill during 1816. In early 1816 Henry's business went bankrupt and Edward lost £20,000. In early 1817 Austen began work on another novel, *Sanditon*, but had

to abandon it in March. On 27 April she wrote her will, leaving almost everything to Cassandra. On 24 May she was taken to Winchester for treatment, where she died on Friday 18 July 1817, aged forty-one. It is not known for certain what caused her death, but it seems likely that she was suffering from Addison's disease. She was buried in Winchester Cathedral on 24 July 1817 (women of that age were not usually allowed to attend funeral services, so Cassandra was not present). (Makai, 2005)

Her works. Jane Austen wrote six major novels, all of which are among the best books ever written in English. The novels are as follows: *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Persuasion*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey* and *Mansfield Park*. (Sandoval, 2017)

Jane loved reading from a young age and was writing stories by the age of twelve. In addition to her novels, she wrote many short stories as a teenager. She wrote these between 1787 and 1793 and later compiled them into three bound notebooks, now known as *Juvenilia*. She started writing her first novel, *Elinor and Marianne*, when she was 20 years old, and it is now known as *Sense and Sensibility*. (Sandoval, 2017)

Her main novels, originally published under the pseudonym 'A Lady', have inspired generations of theatre productions, films and modern adaptations. Narratives and memorable characters, such as the independent-minded Elizabeth Bennet and the generous Emma, bring Jane's world to life. She portrays middle and upper class English society in the early 19th century in a way that still feels real today. They show that while societies and cultures change over time, people don't. (Sandoval, 2017)

Sense and Sensibility (1811). Austen's first published novel, *Sense and Sensibility* is a wonderfully entertaining story of light-hearted love and folly, following the lives and daily lives of two very different sisters, Elinor and Marianne Dashwood. While Elinor is thoughtful, considerate and calm, her younger sister is emotional and fiercely romantic. Both are looking for husbands, but neither Elinor's common sense nor Marianne's passion will help them find perfect happiness – Marianne falls for an unscrupulous rogue, and Elinor becomes attached to an already engaged man. (Nattress, 2014)

Pride and Prejudice (1813). Tells the story of the fiercely independent Elizabeth Bennet, one of five sisters who must marry a rich man, and who charms and attracts the attention of the arrogant, wealthy Mr. Darcy. What follows is one of the most delightful and intriguing literary courtships Austen has written since she was only twenty-one. (Nattress, 2014)

Mansfield Park (1814). Is about money and marriage and how they affect and influence each other. Shy, fragile Fanny Price is the poor relation. She is sent to live with her wealthy uncle Thomas Bertram, where she clashes with his spoiled, selfish daughters and falls in love with his son. Their lives are further complicated by the arrival of a witty, sophisticated London couple whose flirtatious tendencies clash with the quiet, conservative country lifestyle of Mansfield Park. (Nattress, 2014)

Emma (1816). The beautiful, clever and rich, Miss Emma Woodhouse, who thinks herself insensitive to romance, tries to arrange a rich marriage for her poor friend Harriet Smith, but refuses to acknowledge her own feelings for her nearby gallant neighbour, Mr. Knightley. What ensues is a delightful series of intrigues, each social plot infused with Austen's delicious irony. (Nattress, 2014)

Northanger Abbey (1817). The heroine of the story is Catherine Morland, an innocent seventeen-year-old girl from a rural parish. While Catherine spends a few weeks in Bath with a family friend, she meets Henry Tilney, who invites her to his estate, Northanger Abbey, and she falls in love. Once there, Catherine lets the shadowy atmosphere of the old mansion fill her mind with suspicion. Questions such as the mystery surrounding Henry's mother's death, whether the family is hiding a secret in the vast building, or whether Henry can be trusted, are on her mind. Catherine also finds terrible omens in almost every event, until Henry points out the danger of confusing life with art. (Nattress, 2014)

Persuasion (1817). Tells the story of the romance between a 27-year-old girl, Anne Elliot, and the handsome naval officer, Captain Frederick Wentworth. They were happily engaged until Anne's friend Lady Russell convinced her that Frederick was unworthy and unworthy of her. Eight years later, Frederick returns, a wealthy captain in the navy, while Anne's aristocratic family is on the verge of bankruptcy and she retires to Bath. They still love each other, but past mistakes threaten to keep them apart. (Nattress, 2014)

1.3. The Impact of Jane Austen's Literary Style on the Development of the Literature

The Impact of Personal Experience. The impact of personal experience can be divided into two parts: growth environment and emotional experience. (Zhang, 2019) These two factors largely determine the character, appearance and status of the characters in the works, the setting, the plot, and the way the action unfolds, and they also convey the personal values of the author.

Jane was brought up in a clergy family, where she lived a quiet, peaceful, happy and prosperous rural life. There were eight children in the family, she was the sixth. She did not attend school regularly and was sent to her sister's school at the age of nine. She had a particularly good relationship with Cassandra, who was her best friend. But she owed her enlightened education more to her father. Jane has always loved reading and writing, and began to create at the age of eleven. When she grew up, she and her family moved around a lot, mainly because of her health problems. The writer never married. Jane read a lot of popular novels from an early age, and as a little girl she amused herself by making fun of them. (Zhang, 2019)

Because Austen lived a quiet and comfortable life in a small town, surrounded by small landowners and clergymen, there is no great social contradiction in her novels. She observed everything carefully, and in her works she portrayed the world around her in an accurate and realistic way, especially marriage, courtship, love complications and disagreements between ladies and gentlemen. The author's novels were a departure from other novels of her time, which depicted the everyday life of the British, a rural style that had not yet been hit by the capitalist industrial revolution. In contrast, Austen's works are witty and comic, mocking people's snobbish, blind attitudes and making these situations surreal and ridiculous by presenting comic scenes. The works primarily reflect moral and family values through the social communication and everyday dialogues of ladies and gentlemen. (Zhang, 2019)

When Jane was twenty, she met Lever Roy. She immediately fell in love with the smart, shrewd, humorous lawyer, but their family forced them to break off their relationship. Austen decided never to marry. She put all her emotions, loves, happiness and disappointments into her novels.

The Impact of Social Environment. The influence of society on the human being, the individual, is always apparent. In the case of the writer, the result of this influence is reflected in his or her works. Thus, Jane Austen's works depict 19th century British society, the atmosphere of which permeates all her novels.

The political situation in Britain greatly influenced Jane Austen's writing style and her works. The country flourished during the Victorian era. Political, cultural and economic development made Britain one of the world's greatest powers. The writer grew up in such a world, in such an environment. People were only concerned with the industrial revolution and how the value of money was rising or falling. Jane was very observant, so she could see the situation of people, especially women, at that time. She noticed how women were ignored, how insignificant they had become. Young girls had been brought up to think that money and status were more important than anything else, so they looked for suitors with considerable wealth, disregarding love. Jane Austen, who was educated and well-mannered, would not have wanted to become

such a person. Literacy and proper thinking enabled her to put her emotions, desires and thoughts on paper. As a result, she produced many extraordinary and outstanding works. In 1800, Jane's father retires and they move to Bath. They find themselves in a completely new and unfamiliar environment, where good company and prosperity come at a price. Austen finds it difficult to adapt, she cannot get used to the new situation, and soon after her father dies, Jane falls into a depression. As a result, she abandoned her work "The Watsons" and was unable to finish her last novel, "Sandition", as she died in 1817 at the age of 42. (Zhang, 2019)

Furthermore, the traditional thinking of the middle class has influences on the works of Jane Austen. In terms of morality and religion, Jane's attitude is rather conservative. Austen's childhood tradition of moral and ethical education, which praised by society, had a very strong rationality that was not available to ordinary people, and her conservative tendencies in morality and religion, the value of people being able to live their own lives and environment, in accordance with the norms of behaviour, speak and behave rationally. According to the generally accepted moral norm of the time, virtue is the necessary criterion of life. (Zhang, 2019)

The Impact of Religion. Jane Austen's work is certainly influenced by religion, as she grew up in a religious environment, her father being a priest. As we know, the author's life was a time of the rise of religion in Britain. Although Jane Austen rarely expresses a religious view in her work, even in these few instances she does not espouse any religious principles. She did not include religious themes or theories in her works.

Jane Austen's novels are fictional, but the situations are real, drawn from real life, mostly middle class or landlord. Most of these are members of the Church of England. The author uses them to portray moral thought and ethical identity, and highlights the differences and similarities between them. The character and behaviour of the hero illustrates these moral standards, as defined by the author and as consistent with the moral requirements of the Church of England. Jane Austen's novels can be divided into two categories, the active and the passive. Active protagonists always make repeated mistakes, but at a critical moment, they may unexpectedly make the right decision; the passive protagonist is the one who makes the right judgement, but unable to do the right thing, destined to passively endure doubt rather than take the initiative. They are incapable of overcoming the dilemma until the surrounding environment unexpectedly intervenes in their favour. For the active hero, i.e. the protagonist of the initiative, the turning point in their fate is that they humble performance and self-control after the deed, which is a virtue of Christians, it is reflected in the time and randomly in the progression of the plot. And passive heroes always possess Christian humility and self-control, but these virtues are usually ignored for a long time and only unfold at the last moment. (Zhang, 2019)

PART 2

THE MORAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IN THE NOVEL PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

2.1. The History of the Creation of the "Pride and Prejudice"

A romantic novel by Jane Austen, published anonymously in three volumes in 1813. One of the greatest classics of English literature, it is written with humour, irony, wit and excellent characterization. It centers on the love affair between Elizabeth Bennet, the daughter of a country gentleman, and Fitzwilliam Darcy, a wealthy aristocratic landowner. When it was first published, *Pride and Prejudice* was a critical and popular success. All copies of the first edition sold out in the same year and the novel is still in print worldwide. The original title of the work is *First Impressions*. The novel is the second of four works the author published in her lifetime. At the heart of the work, she has created a character so well imagined and crafted that she immediately captivates and enchants the reader, even the most critical one. It is largely because of Elizabeth that Jane Austen's novel has become so well-known and popular. Even the writer herself considered Elizabeth her favorite heroine. Another reason why the novel is so popular is the well-conceived and told happily ending love story, which is appealing to both men and women. (Dillon, 2021)

Brief Summary of the Novel. *Pride and Prejudice* begins with the Bennet family's violent reaction to a social rumour that nearby Netherfield House has been rented to Mr. Bingley, a wealthy and single young man. Mrs. Bennet is convinced that the young man will fall in love with one of her daughters. At a neighbourhood ball, this is confirmed, where Bingley and the elder Bennet girl, Jane, fall in love at first sight. At the same ball, the strong-willed and intelligent second daughter, Elizabeth Bennet, is confronted by the contempt of Bingley's arrogant, antisocial friend Darcy. (Prahl, 2020)

Caroline Bingley and Mr. Darcy persuade Mr. Bingley that Jane is not interested in him and, as he is easily influenced, they separate the couple. Elizabeth's resentment is compounded to Mr. Darcy when she befriends Mr. Wickham, a young soldier who claims that Darcy has ruined his livelihood out of spite. Darcy expresses an interest in Elizabeth and confesses to the girl that he has tender feelings for her, but Elizabeth firmly rejects Darcy's marriage proposal. (Prahl, 2020)

The truth soon came out. It was discovered that Wickham had spent all the money Darcy's father had left him, and then tried to seduce and take Darcy's sister with him. On a trip with her aunt and uncle, Elizabeth visits Darcy's estate in Pemberley, where she begins to see things more clearly about Darcy. Her positive impression of Darcy grows and strengthens when she learns

that he has secretly given Wickham a substantial sum of his own money to marry Elizabeth's sister, Lydia Bennet, rather than leave her. Darcy's aunt, Lady Catherine, demands that Darcy marry her only daughter, but this does not happen, and instead Darcy and Elizabeth, like Jane and Bingley, find true love and happiness. (Prahl, 2020)

2.2. The Main Characters

Pride and Prejudice is set in 19th century rural England and follows the Bennet family, a family of five very different sisters. The eldest, Jane, is kind, devoted, enthusiastic and modest, sometimes naive and always positive. She is the confidante and best friend of her sister Elizabeth. Elizabeth, the heroine of the novel, is intelligent, mature-minded, affectionate and generous. She agrees with her father's dislike of society's traditional views, which value only wealth and rank. The third daughter, Mary, is simple, bookish and perhaps a little pretentious, while Lydia and Kitty, the two youngest, are whimsical and immature. (Dillon, 2021)

Mr. Bennet is the head of the family. He likes his two eldest daughters, especially Elizabeth, but takes less interest in the younger ones, considering them foolish and reckless and ultimately unable to control their childish instincts. Intelligent but with an eccentric sense of humour and sarcastic, he disregards social expectations and rules and mocks his wife's obsession with finding a suitable, wealthy husband for her daughters. However, in some ways Mrs. Bennet is right to be concerned. A will has left the modest family estate to William Collins, Mr. Bennet's nephew and the next male in line. Unfortunately, Mrs. Bennet's over-zealousness and inconsiderateness often work against her ultimate goal. A woman of little sense and much self-pity, she herself does not realise that she is spoiling her youngest daughters. (Dillon, 2021)

According to Dillon (2021), throughout the novel, the Bennet sisters meet a number of eligible bachelors, including Charles Bingley, Mr. Darcy, George Wickham and Mr. Collins. Bingley has recently rented the Netherfield estate, which is next door to the Bennet home. Austen describes him as handsome and gentlemanly, and of easy, friendly manners. His wealth came to him through his family's commercial interests, which were not considered a very respectable means of acquiring wealth, like inheritance, as his friend Darcy had done. Darcy is obviously an example of this hierarchical, superior thinking, the natural superiority of the wealthy landed gentry. He is arrogant but rational and insightful.

Mr. Darcy's estate was once managed by Wickham's father, but he and the officer are no longer on good terms. Wickham's attractiveness, charm and charming manner make him instantly popular with the women in the town of Meryton, where he and the rest of the regiment are stationed. Collins, on the other hand, is not a man of much intelligence, and his lack of character, i.e. his not very pleasing external features, have not been helped much by his education or social

standing. A clergyman, he is supported by the strong-willed, confident and controlling Lady Catherine de Bourgh, Darcy's aunt. (Dillon, 2021)

Other minor characters in the novel include: a dear friend of Elizabeth's, Charlotte Lucas, whom the author describes as intelligent but approaching the age when she has little chance of marriage; Charlotte's parents, Sir William and Lady Lucas; Mrs. Bennet's brother Edward Gardiner, who works as a merchant, and his wife, both of whom are generous, adventurous and resourceful. Also appearing are Bingley's sisters, the snobbish and scheming Caroline and Louisa Hurst. Last but not least is Darcy's 16-year-old sister, the good-natured Georgiana, who is sometimes overly shy but good-humoured and pleasant company. (Dillon, 2021)

2.3. The Thematic World of the Novel

Dillon (2021) states, that Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is a classic comedy of manners that both depicts and satirises 18th century society, moral standards and, in particular, the expectations placed on women. The novel, which follows the romantic relationships of the Bennet sisters, explores themes of love, class and, obviously, pride and prejudice. Austen describes all of these with her characteristic wit, including the literary device of free indirect speech, which allows for a distinctive style of profound, sometimes satirical narrative.

Love and Marriage. As you would expect from a romantic comedy, love, and in this case marriage, is the central theme of *Pride and Prejudice*. In particular, the novel focuses on and details the different ways in which love can develop, grow or disappear, and the place, if any, of romantic love and marriage at the same time. We can see love at first sight in the case of Jane and Bingley, love that grows and unfolds steadily, as in the relationship between Elizabeth and Darcy, and love that fades in the short story of Lydia and Wickham, or has faded, in the case of Elizabeth's parents Mr. and Mrs. Bennet. Throughout the story, it becomes clear that the novel, and therefore Jane Austen herself, argues that love based on real relationships and feelings is the ideal. The marriages of convenience are portrayed in a negative light: Charlotte marries the obnoxious and petty Mr. Collins for economic gain and confesses this to her friend Elizabeth, while Lady Catherine's imperious attempts to persuade her nephew Darcy to marry her daughter in order to unite estates and increase wealth are presented as outdated, unfair, forced and, in fact, a failed power grab. Like many of Austen's novels, *Pride and Prejudice* draws the reader's attention to the dangers of falling in love with overly charming people. Wickham's suave manner easily charms Elizabeth, but it turns out that he is deceitful, dishonest and selfish, and not nearly

a good romantic match for her. The novel shows that true love lies in the compatibility of character, in the similarities: Jane and Bingley are matched by their absolute kindness and charming naivety, and Elizabeth and Darcy discover that they are both strong-willed, determined, ambitious but kind and intelligent. Ultimately, the novel makes the case that love is the most basic foundation of marriage, something that was unheard of in the era. (Prahl, 2021)

The Cost of Pride. According to Prahl (2021), the title makes it quite clear that pride is one of the central themes, but the message is more nuanced and varied than the term itself. Pride seems perfectly reasonable on one level, but when it gets out of hand it gets in the way of the character's happiness. The novel thus argues that excessive pride gets you into trouble. In *Pride and Prejudice* there are many characters who possess this trait, especially those at the top of the social ladder. Pride in social position is the most common moral failing: both Caroline Bingley and Lady Catherine feel superior because of their considerable wealth and social privilege; they are also vain because they obsessively try to maintain this image. Darcy, on the other hand, is very proud but not vain: though he initially overestimates his own and others' social standing, this pride initially costs Elizabeth, and only when he learns to temper his pride with compassion does he become a worthy partner.

Prejudice. Prejudice in *Pride and Prejudice* does not mean the same thing as it does in today's parlance. Here, the theme is more about prejudice and snap judgments than about racial or gender bias. Prejudice appears in the characters of several characters, but it is primarily the main characteristic of our protagonist, Elizabeth. She prides herself on her ability to judge people's character, but her observations lead her to be very quick and prejudiced. The most striking example of this is her immediate prejudice against Mr. Darcy because he rejected her at the ball. Having already formed this opinion, she tends to believe Wickham's lies without thinking twice about the situation. Because of this, she judges him unfairly and rejects him partly on the basis of inaccurate information. Prejudice is not necessarily a bad thing, but like pride, it is only good as long as it is reasonable and realistic. For example, Jane's complete lack of bias to think well of everyone is not good for her happiness. Even Elizabeth's prejudices against Darcy are not entirely unfounded: he is in fact proud and considers himself superior to everyone else, and indeed does his best to keep Jane and Bingley apart. Generally speaking, common-sense prejudice can be useful in knowing people, but if left unchecked it can also get in the way of happiness. (Prahl, 2021)

2.4. The Main Motives

Social Status. Austen's novels generally focus on nobles, landowners and people from different social backgrounds. The gradations between the wealthy nobles, such as Darcy and Bingley, and the less wealthy, such as the Bennets, serve to distinguish between sub-layers within the nobility. (Prahl, 2021) Austen's portrayal of nobility is somewhat satirical. For example, there is Lady Catherine, who at first seems formidable. When she then tries to stop the romance between Elizabeth and Darcy, she is completely helpless and can do nothing but shout.

Although Austen indicates that love is the most important factor in the choice of a couple, she matches her characters with socially appropriate partners: successful couples are all of the same social class, even if they do not have the same material resources. When Lady Catherine insults Elizabeth, claiming that she would not be a suitable wife for Darcy, Elizabeth calmly explains that he is a gentleman and she is a gentleman's daughter. Austen does not completely subvert the social order, but rather moderately mocks people who are too obsessed with social and material status. (Prahl, 2021)

Social Problems in *Pride and Prejudice*. In this novel, Jane Austen perfectly illustrates the social problems of the time through the events, the processes and the characters. There are three main social problems: the position of women in society, the significant differences between the upper and lower classes, and the question of matchmaking and marriage.

Women's Position and Economic Dependence. Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice* highlights the disadvantaged position of women. In the work, she depicts the situation of the time when women were totally dependent on men, especially for their livelihood. The social morality of the time did not allow women to be financially independent at all, because this was unthinkable and unacceptable at the time. In contrast, men had complete financial independence, they were the heads of the family, in fact they had unlimited power. (Ispryani, 2008)

The problem of the Bennet family is a perfect example. There are five daughters in the family, but no heir to a son. The consequence is that the father, Mr. Bennet's few possessions and his house will pass to the next man in line, Mr. Collins, when Mr. Bennet dies. This also shows that under no circumstances can daughters inherit land, property or anything. Mrs. Bennet tries to remedy the problem by marrying Elizabeth to the heir. It can be seen, therefore, that the only chance for women to retain wealth, or to acquire any material background, is an advantageous marriage.

At that time, every family hoped to have at least one son who would inherit the family fortune. Austen (2015) illustrates this in the novel in the following way:

When first Mr. Bennet had married, economy was held to be perfectly useless, for, of course, they were to have a son. The son was to join in cutting off the entail, as soon as he should be of age, and the widow and younger children would by that means be provided for. Five daughters successively entered the world, but yet the son was to come; and Mrs. Bennet, for many years after Lydia's birth, had been certain that he would. This event had at last been despaired of, but it was then too late to be saving. Mrs. Bennet had no turn for economy, and her husband's love of independence had alone prevented their exceeding their income.(p. 328)

Purpose of Marriage. In those days, women were definitely the weaker party. The novel also shows that a woman is totally dependent on her husband, as only he can provide her with a secure financial background, a home, security and well-being. For a girl to achieve a standard of living appropriate to her age, she had to marry to her advantage. Thus, finding a husband who is as wealthy as possible becomes a girl's main goal in life. Mothers, of course, are eager to choose the candidates they consider suitable. Love plays no part in their decision. This can be seen in the following passage from Austen (2015):

Exceed their income! My dear Mr. Bennet," cried his wife, "what are you talking of? Why, he has four or five thousand a year, and very likely more." Then addressing her daughter, "Oh! my dear, dear Jane, I am so happy! I am sure I shan't get a wink of sleep all night. I knew how it would be. I always said it must be so, at last. (p. 373)

This quote shows the mentality of the time. Now that one of her daughters, Jane is married to a wealthy man, and thus has an advantageous marriage, all the mother's worries are gone. She is much happier with a secure financial background than with her daughter's happiness.

And when it turns out that Elizabeth is marrying Mr. Darcy, she is overjoyed. She completely forgets how much she scolded him for his unpleasant manners and behaviour. She's only preoccupied with the amount of money her daughter has made by this marriage.

In Austen's (2015) novel *Pride and Prejudice*, this is expressed as follows:

Good gracious! Lord bless me! only think! dear me! Mr. Darcy! Who would have thought it! And is it really true? Oh! my sweetest Lizzy! how rich and how great you will be! What pin-money, what jewels, what carriages you will have! Jane's is nothing to it – nothing at

all. I am so pleased – so happy. Such a charming man! – so handsome! so tall! – Oh, my dear Lizzy! pray apologise for my having disliked him so much before. I hope he will overlook it. Dear, dear Lizzy. A house in town! Every thing that is charming! Three daughters married! Ten thousand a year! Oh, Lord! What will become of me. I shall go distracted. (p. 405)

Being Beautiful and Accomplished. In *Pride and Prejudice*, we see the expectations that a woman must meet at all costs. It was expected that a woman should always be immaculate in the company of men. Her appearance, her dress, her posture had to be right. In addition, she must always smile, speak with charm and kindness, be able to speak on any subject, but also be humble and modest. (Ispriyani, 2008)

They also expect a woman to be good at housework. Cleaning, cooking, washing. She must also have artistic skills. She must be able to sing, play the piano, paint, embroider and dance. These qualities were taken into account when it came to the suitability of a lady. (Ispriyani, 2008)

Gap between the Upper and Lower Social Classes. Every person is different, but we all live in one big community, one society. This means that people form a big group, but each person brings his or her own personality, family and financial situation to it, and therefore certain social differences, social classes, are formed.

Social differences play a big part in Jane Austen's novel. It shows the seemingly unbridgeable gap between the higher and lower social classes. Social differences play a big part in Jane Austen's novel. It shows the seemingly unbridgeable gap between the higher and lower social classes. Lady Catherine de Burgh and Mr. Darcy are certainly in the upper echelons.

According to Ispriyani (2005), the work presents three types of social behaviour: dictatorial, proud and insulting. The most notable feature of the two social classes was that marriages between people of different ranks were forbidden, or at least not socially accepted at all.

Lady Catherine is one of the finest examples of how people in high places treated people in low places. Having inherited a huge fortune, she held herself in high esteem, was proud and treated anyone with less wealth than herself with contempt and condescension. This is how Mr. Wickham describes her in Jane Austen's book (2015):

...her manners were dictatorial and insolent. She has the reputation of being remarkably sensible and clever; but I rather believe she derives part of her abilities from her rank and fortune, part from her authoritative manner, and the rest from the pride for her nephew, who chooses that everyone connected with him should have an understanding of the first class. (p. 94-95)

This attitude, the dictatorial tone, is also displayed when the Lady appears at the Bennets' house to question Elizabeth and forbid her to marry Darcy. She speaks to the girl in a dismissive and uncontradictory manner, ignoring the bad timing, the insulting tone and more.

We can also observe pride in her character. The way she treats people with condescension. Mr. Collins, Charlotte, not to mention Elizabeth. She finds it unacceptable, for instance, that she and her sisters have no governess and that all five of them go out at the same time. She calls the family immoral.

Another great example of insulting people is the person of Miss Bingley. In the novel, you can read how many disparaging remarks she makes about Elizabeth, and also about Jane. Her case is different in that she makes disparaging remarks largely out of jealousy and not out of sheer dislike.

Matchmaking. Parents always want the best for their child. Happiness, material well-being, a nice house, a good husband. This is also true in the novel, just not in that order. In the work, material security, prosperity and money always come first for the parents. The example of Mrs. Bennet, who was determined to find a wealthy husband for her daughters, is the best example of this.

In *Pride and Prejudice*, we can observe two types of marriages: marriages within the social class (a good example is the marriage between Mr. Darcy and Miss de Burgh, which was only planned but never consummated), and marriages between the lower and upper classes (Mr. Bingley and Jane, and Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth). As we know, the latter marriages were for love, while the former would have been a marriage of convenience if they had occurred.

Moral Aspects of Human Relationships in *Pride and Prejudice*. Ispriyani (2008) states, that the moral aspects of human relations can be divided into five categories in *Pride and Prejudice*: social relationship, friendship, personality, sisterhood and marriage.

Social Relationship. Human relationships are based on many factors. The first factor that is of great importance is judgement by appearance.

People unwittingly form opinions about everything and everyone. This is called a first impression. Most of the time, it is based on a person's dress, appearance, speech and behaviour. In the case of Jane and Mr. Bingley, this worked out very well, they fell in love at first sight. But first impressions can easily fool anyone. We often find that someone is not what we think they are based on our previous experiences. This is what happens in *Pride and Prejudice*. Elizabeth thought Darcy was haughty, stubborn, aloof and proud after their first meeting. Despite Darcy's

tender feelings for Elizabeth from the first time they met, he was afraid to express them to her, and perhaps even to admit them to himself at first. At the time, neither of them had any idea how similar they really were. As time went on and one thing happened after another, Elizabeth realised how much she had misjudged him, and that he was in fact very kind, intelligent, devoted and loyal. Despite all the misunderstandings and prejudices, they eventually fell in love and found happiness together.

In the work, there is also a sense of pressure, of forcing in the role of Lady Catherine. The haughty, rich woman believes that people of lower rank are not worthy of her company and that she can do anything to them, use them for her own benefit, control them. She considers the mixing of social classes to be a serious flaw, which is a major setback to social progress. We see the same imposition, the disregard for the feelings of others, when Mr. Collins and Mrs. Bennet try to force a marriage of convenience on Elizabeth.

Austen includes both understanding and incomprehension in the novel. To understand and accept someone's personality requires openness on both sides. Mrs. Bennet finds it hard to understand her husband, she doesn't understand how he can be so uninterested, why he doesn't care about his daughters, Elizabeth doesn't understand Darcy, she can't identify with his personality, his pride, his behaviour, his outlook. (Ispriyani, 2008)

As can be seen in the following dialogue in *Pride and Prejudice* (2015):

'May I ask you what these questions tend?'

'Merely to the illustration of your character,' said she, endeavouring to shake off her gravity. 'I am trying to make it out.'

'And what is your success?'

She shook her head. 'I do not get on at all. I hear such different accounts of you as puzzle me exceedingly.' (p. 106)

Friendship. Everyone needs friends. Someone to share your feelings, your joys, your sorrows. There are many true friendships in Jane Austen's novel, including the long-standing friendship between Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley. The two men are very different, yet, perhaps because of this, they get on very well together. This is how Jane Austen (2015) describes their friendship:

Between him and Darcy there was a very steady friendship, in spite of great opposition of character. Bingley was endeared to Darcy by the easiness, openness, and ductility of his temper, though no disposition could offer a greater contrast to his own, and though with his own he never appeared dissatisfied. On the strength of Darcy's regard, Bingley had the firmest reliance, and of

his judgement the highest opinion. In understanding, Darcy was the superior. Bingley was by no means deficient, but Darcy was clever. He was at the same time haughty, reserved, and fastidious, and his manners, though well-bred, were not inviting. In that respect his friend had greatly the advantage. Bingley was sure of being liked wherever he appeared, Darcy was continually giving offense. (p. 18)

Personality. A person's personality is influenced by many factors. First of all, the experiences and events he or she has gone through, and secondly, the things he or she has learned from other people's lives and mistakes.

In *Pride and Prejudice*, we learn from Lydia's mistake, for which she must suffer for a lifetime for making a rash decision. She was disgraced and disgraced her family name simply because she wanted to compete with other girls and because she wanted to attract the attention of an officer at all costs. Her sisters could learn from the incident so that they don't make the same mistake, but it was also a lesson for her parents. They did not pay attention to their daughter, they did not raise a girl with enough self-awareness, good behaviour and good sense. (IsPriyani, 2008)

It could be said that Mr. Darcy's personality changed the most in the novel. In Jane Austen's (2015) novel we read that his father was a fortunate man who knew how to make money, but he raised his son with the wrong values, which is why he became aloof, proud and selfish. Darcy himself tells Elizabeth this in one chapter:

Painful recollections will intrude which cannot, which ought not, to be repelled. I have been a selfish being all my life, in practice, though not in principle. As a child I was taught what was right, but I was not taught to correct my temper. I was given good principles, but left to follow them in pride and conceit. Unfortunately an only son (for many years an only child), I was spoilt by my parents, who, though good themselves (my father, particularly, all that was benevolent and amiable), allowed, encouraged, almost taught me to be selfish and overbearing; to care for none beyond my own family circle; to think meanly of all the rest of the world; to wish at least to think meanly of their sense and worth compared with my own. Such I was, from eight to eight and twenty; and such I might still have been but for you, dearest, loveliest Elizabeth! (p. 395-396)

As you can see in Darcy's life, a parent's upbringing does a lot and influences a child's whole life, but as an adult you can confront yourself and decide to change.

Sisterhood. Although this is not the main theme of the novel, Austen also emphasised the importance of family. Elizabeth and Jane's relationship is an example for the reader to follow. There are five daughters in the family, their parents, especially their mother, are busy looking for a husband, the girls are spirited, each has her own difficulties, yet Lizzy and Jane can rely on each other in any situation. They discuss the day's events, seek each other's advice, support each other and do everything for each other. For instance, when Lane is staying with Mr. Bingley's family and falls ill, Elizabeth walks the long way to nurse her sister.

Marriage. Before someone gets married, they take many factors into account. First of all, whether they really love the person they have chosen, whether they want to live with them for the rest of their lives, whether they can compromise, what they can do to build a future together, etc.

In *Pride and Prejudice* we observe two types of marriage: that of Mr. Wickham and Lydia, and that of Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth. They took completely different paths to marriage. Lydia is young and naive, desperate to have a man in her life and to get married as soon as possible. She immediately falls for the first man she meets, he turns her head and it is only thanks to Darcy that she avoids a scandal and gets married. We can see from the start that their marriage is not going to be a happy one. The other example is much more positive. Although Elizabeth and Darcy went through a lot together, they finally got to know each other, fell in love, were willing to sacrifice for each other and look forward to a happy future together.

There are many lessons hidden in Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice* that are still relevant today. Although it is more than 200 years old, it shows the true meaning of true love and true friendship, how people often make the same mistakes, or how they learn from their mistakes and put their lives right. This novel holds up a mirror to the reader. In the life story of any of the characters, you can learn about yourself and change your life by learning from it. The world, moral norms and society are constantly changing, but there are some eternal truths that the author has perfectly captured in her novel *Pride and Prejudice*.

PART 3

”PRIDE AND PREJUDICE” IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

3.1. Participants of the Research

The sample consisted of 34 students. The questionnaire was filled in by 8-11 grade students. All of the participants were aged between 14 and 17 at the beginning of the study.

80% of the survey participants were girls and 20% were boys, however this data does not affect the result of the research.

3.2. Research Instruments

In this study, the data were collected by using a closed-ended questionnaire. The questionnaire contains seventeen questions. This research method is one of the most common and effective methods.

Completing a questionnaire is easy and does not require much time. This can be used to obtain the exact data needed for the research. The questionnaire is well transparent, so it is not difficult to summarize the data collected. The questions are designed to gauge, in a simple and understandable way, the students' opinions and the information they have acquired about the research topic.

3.3. Procedures of the Research

The questionnaires were completed in March 2022 between 8-11 grade students. Participants were given clear and precise instructions to read everything carefully. If something is not understood, they can ask their questions.

It took about 10 minutes to complete the questionnaire. Everything was clear to the students, they could easily answer the questions.

3.4. Findings of the Research

The questionnaires were completed in April 2021 by the students of Transcarpathian Primary Schools. Of the 34 participants, 80% were girls and 20% were boys. This information does not affect the results of the research. The youngest member of the research is 14 years old and the oldest member is 17 years old. This section presents the analysis of the collected information.

The first question measures the average age of the students in the survey. The results show that the majority of students, 40.6% to be precise, are 16 years old. Then, in descending order, 17-year-olds, followed by 15 and 14-year-olds.

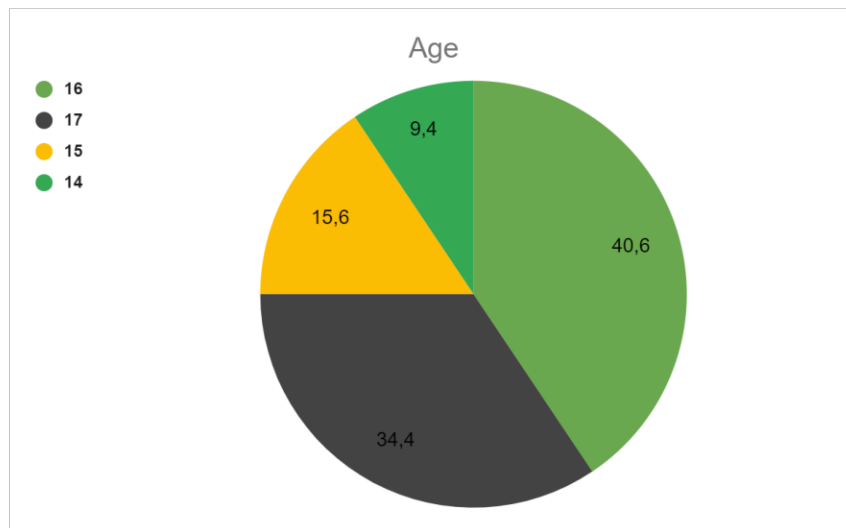


Figure 1. Age

The second question asks how many boys and how many girls participated in completing the questionnaire. The results show that 81.3% of the participants were girls and only 18.7% were boys. This result, which are shown in the Figure 2, does not affect the research at all.

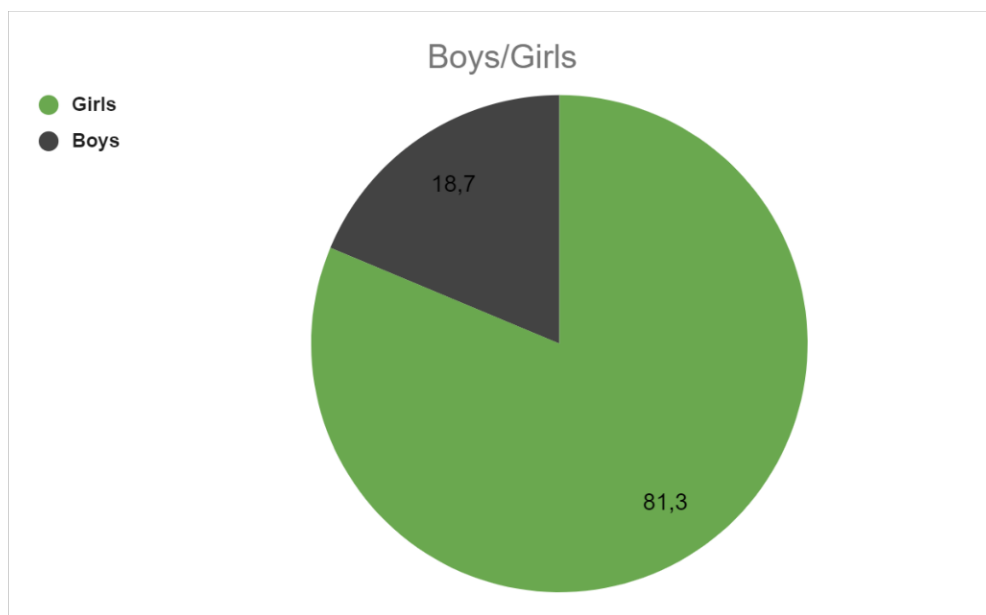


Figure 2. Boys/Girls

The third question asked how many students knew who Jane Austen was. The result was 100%, as most of them had heard of the author. It can therefore be said that Jane Austen is well known among 14-17 year olds.

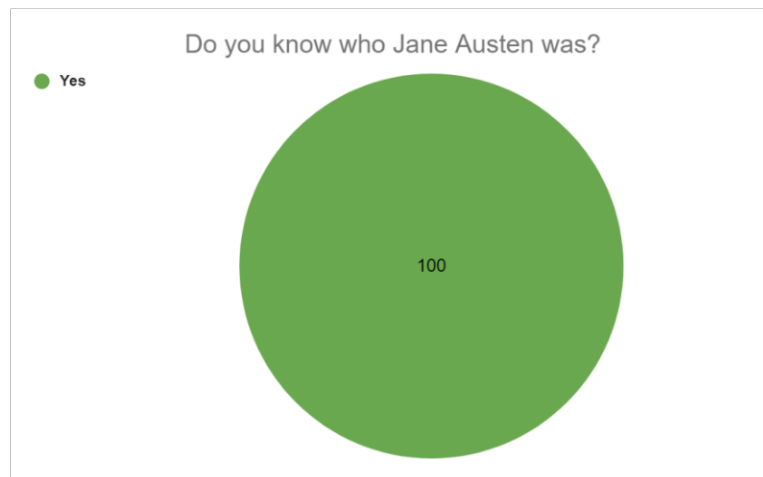


Figure 3. Do you know who Jane Austen was?

In the next question, seven literary genres were listed and students were asked to select the genres in which Jane Austen had written. The following literary genres were listed: romance novel, horror, satire, progress novel, science fiction, etiquette novel, epistolary novel. Romance novels were selected by 100% of students, etiquette novels by 93.8% of students, progress novels by 87.5% of students, epistolary novels by 84.4% of students and satire by 75% of students. Of course, horror and science fiction were not ticked by any of the respondents, as Austen did not write in these genres.

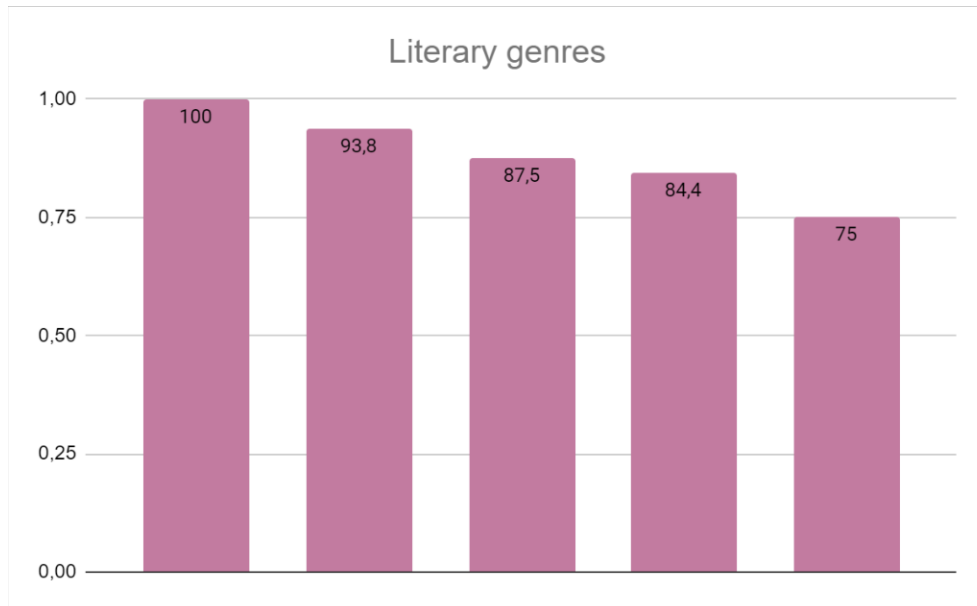


Figure 4. Literary genres

Question five: what is typical of Jane Austen's work, in other words, what are the distinctive features of her works? The possible answers are: romantic relationships, humour, landscape, love affairs, social differences, irony. 100% of respondents mentioned romantic relationships, 96.9% humour, 90.6% love affairs, 78.1% irony and 75% social differences.

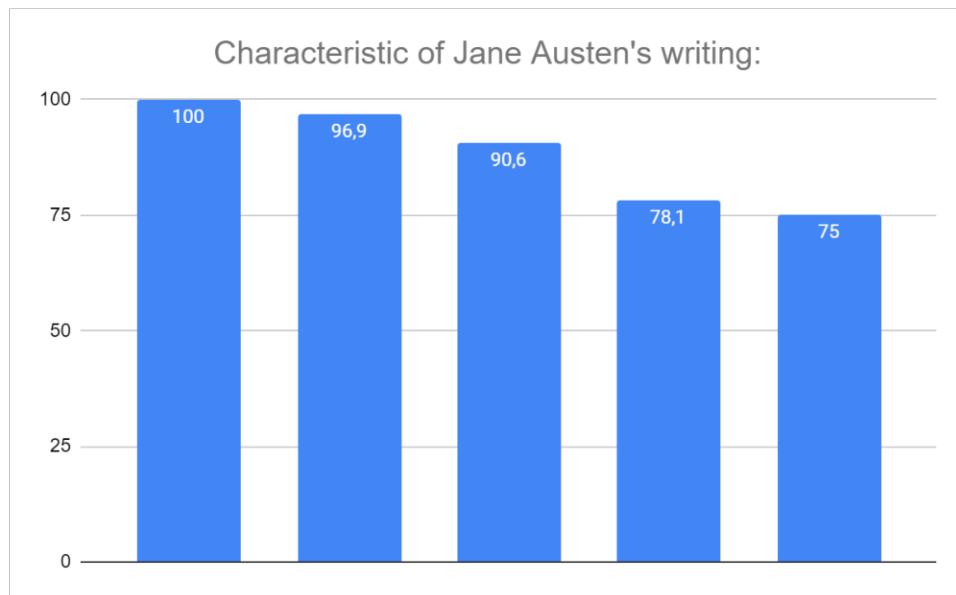


Figure 5. Characteristic of Jane Austen's writing

In the next question of the questionnaire, students were asked to identify the books written by Jane Austen that they knew. The following books were listed: Northanger Abbey (71,9%), Pride and Prejudice (100%), Emma (100%), Sense and Sensibility (100%), Lady Susan (50%), Mansfield Park (70,9%) and Persuasion (62,5%). The books ranked in order of popularity are Pride and Prejudice, Sense and Sensibility, Emma, Northanger Abbey, Mansfield Park, Persuasion, Lady Susan.

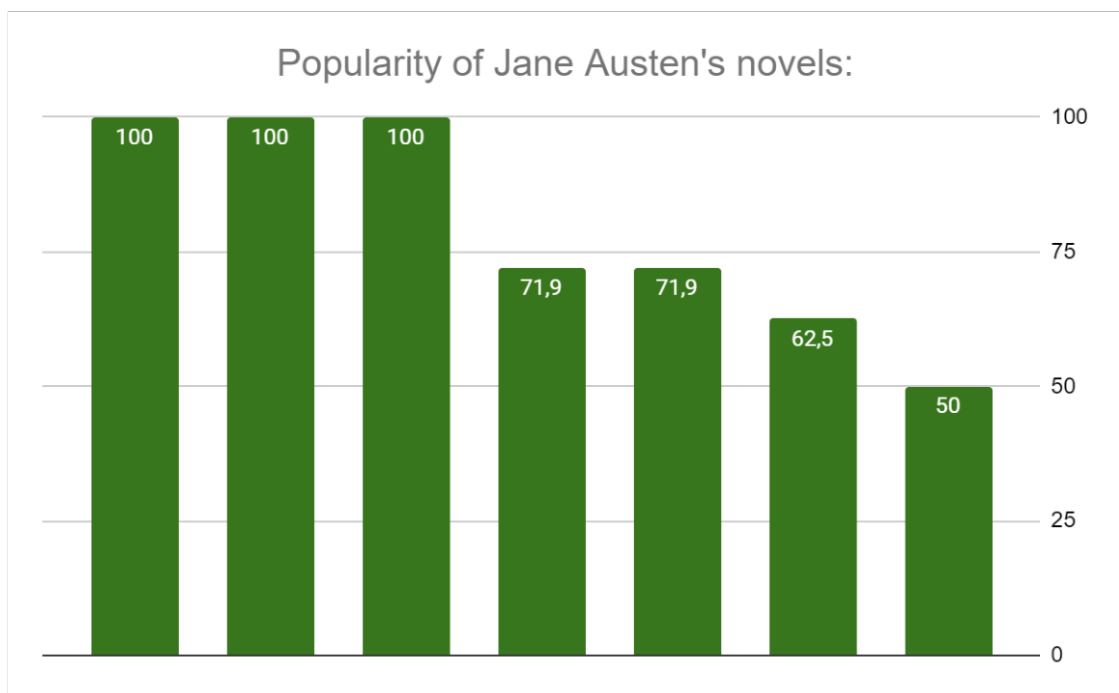


Figure 6. Popularity of Jane Austen's novels

Question seven asks whether students have read Jane Austen's famous novel, *Pride and Prejudice*. The result shows, that 71.9% have read it and 28.1% have not. The result of the question is shown in Figure 7.

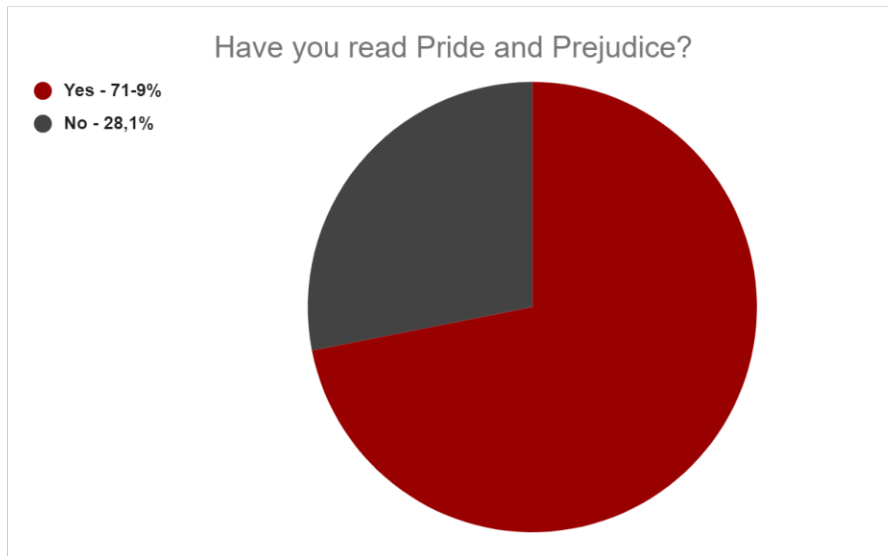


Figure 7. Have you read *Pride and Prejudice*?

In the next question, they had to finish the first sentence of the novel, so they had to choose the correct one from the three given options. "It is a truth universally acknowledged..." The three options: that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a property, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a house or that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife. This question was filled in 100% correctly.

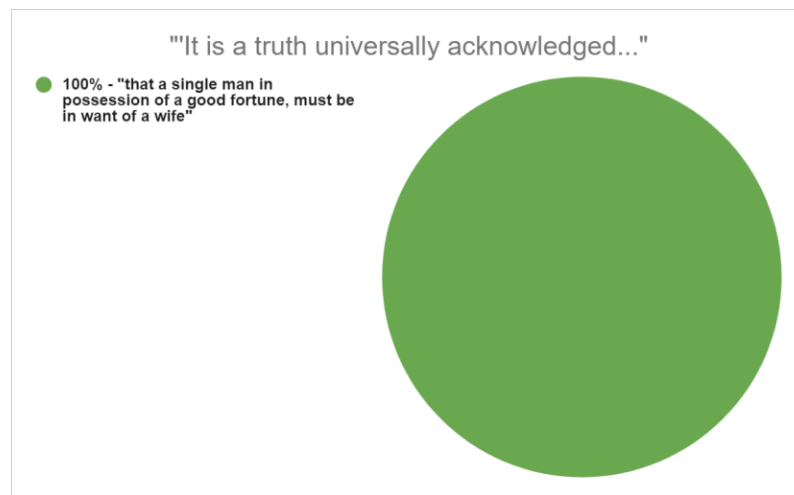


Figure 8. "It is a truth universally acknowledged..."

The ninth question of the questionnaire asks who was the character in the novel *Pride and Prejudice* that you liked the most. Respondents ranked Elizabeth, Mr. Darcy, Jane Bennet, Mr. Bingley, Mr. Bennet.

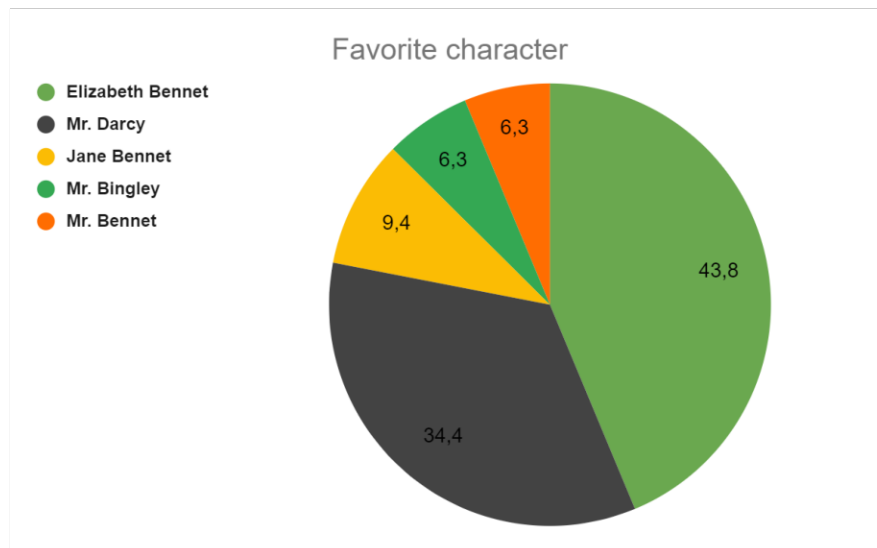


Figure 9. Favorite character

The next series of questions focuses on the norms of behaviour of the characters in the novel. Question 10: How would you describe Elizabeth Bennet? The answers are: smart, proud, good judge of character, affectionate, persistent, stubborn, honest, humorous.

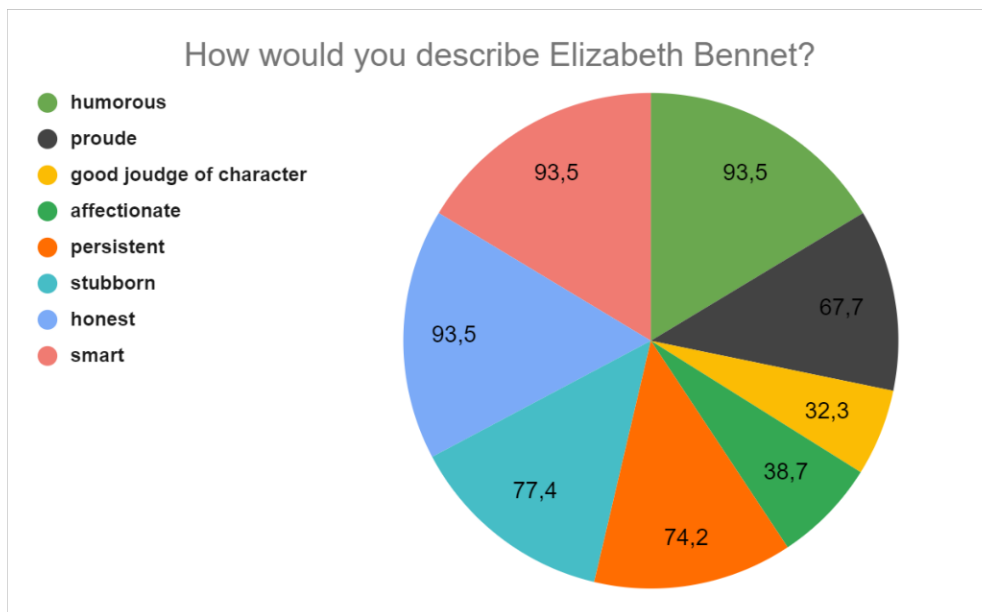


Figure 10. How would you describe Elizabeth Bennet?

Question 11: How would you describe Mr. Darcy, his character? The possible answers are: proud, conceited, kind-hearted, intelligent, devoted, loyal, reserved. This was the result of the questionnaire:

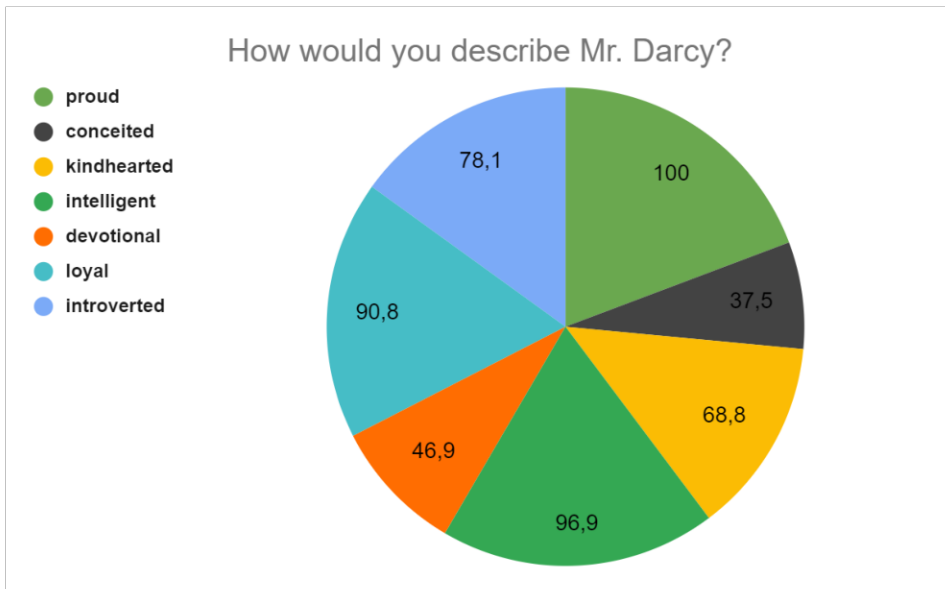


Figure 11. How would you describe Mr. Darcy?

Question 12: How would you describe Jane Bennet, her character? The possible answers: shy, humble, naive, kind, helpful, devoted, sensitive. The survey resulted in the following response:

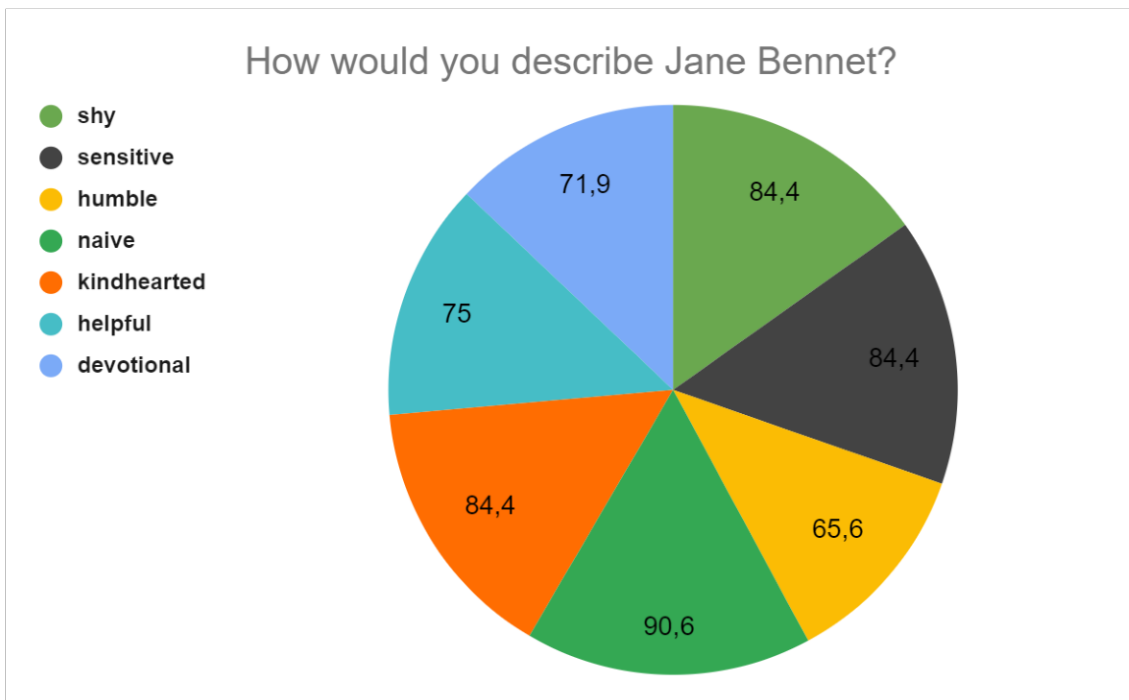


Figure 12. How would you describe Jane Bennet?

Question 13 is: How would you describe Mr. Bingley, his character? The options given for the questionnaire are: direct, kind, naive, helpful, enthusiastic, conscientious, cheerful. The results are the following:

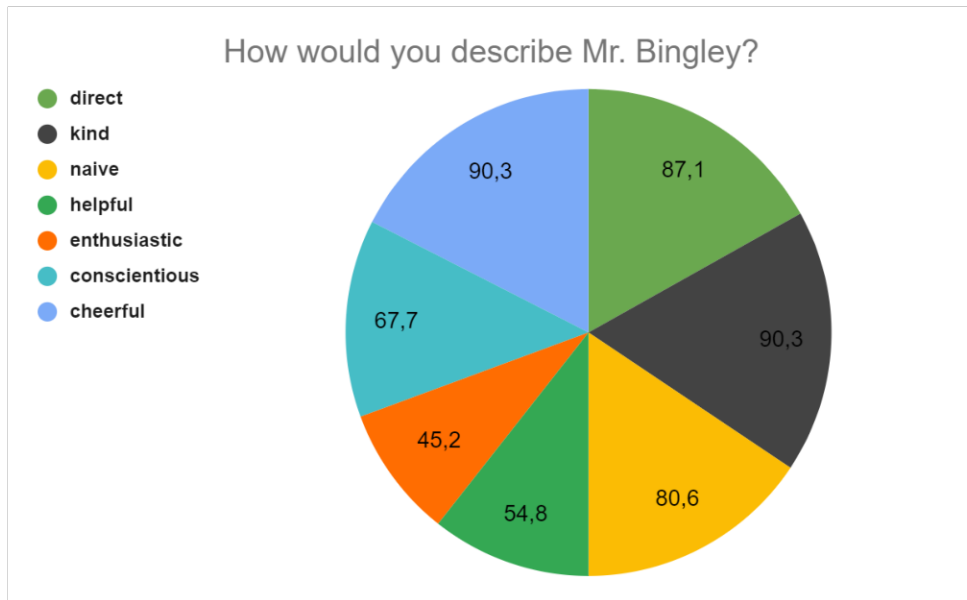


Figure 13. How would you describe Mr Bingley?

Question 14 of the questionnaire is how would you describe Mr. Bennet and his character. The pre-set answer choices are: intelligent, humorous, caring, stubborn, aloof. Question result:

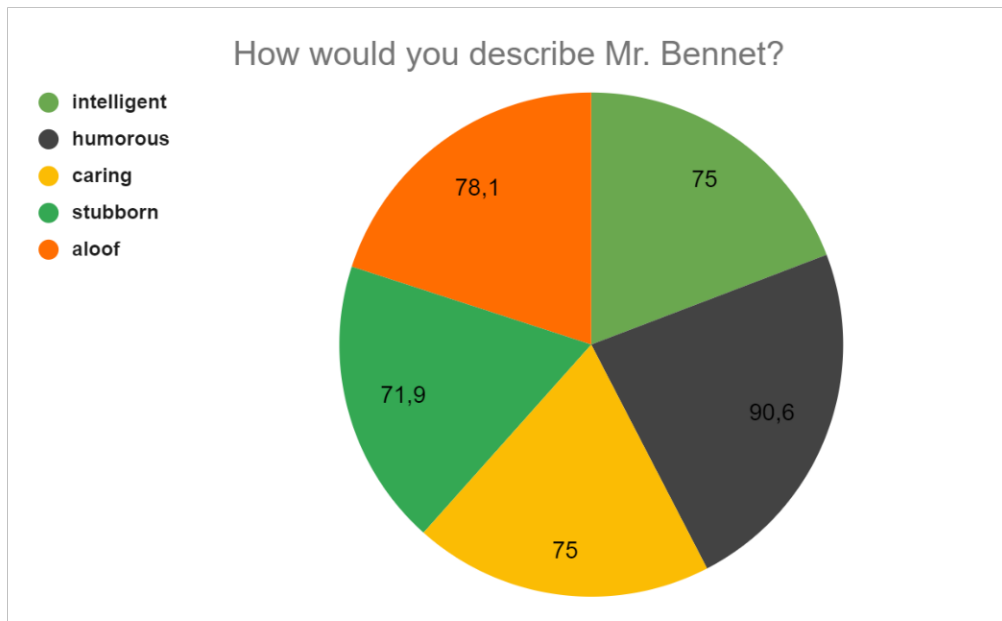


Figure 14. How would you describe Mr. Bennet?

Question 15: How would you describe Mrs. Bennet? Answer options in the questionnaire: absent-minded, gossipy, impetuous, caring, affectionate. Result of the question completed by the students:

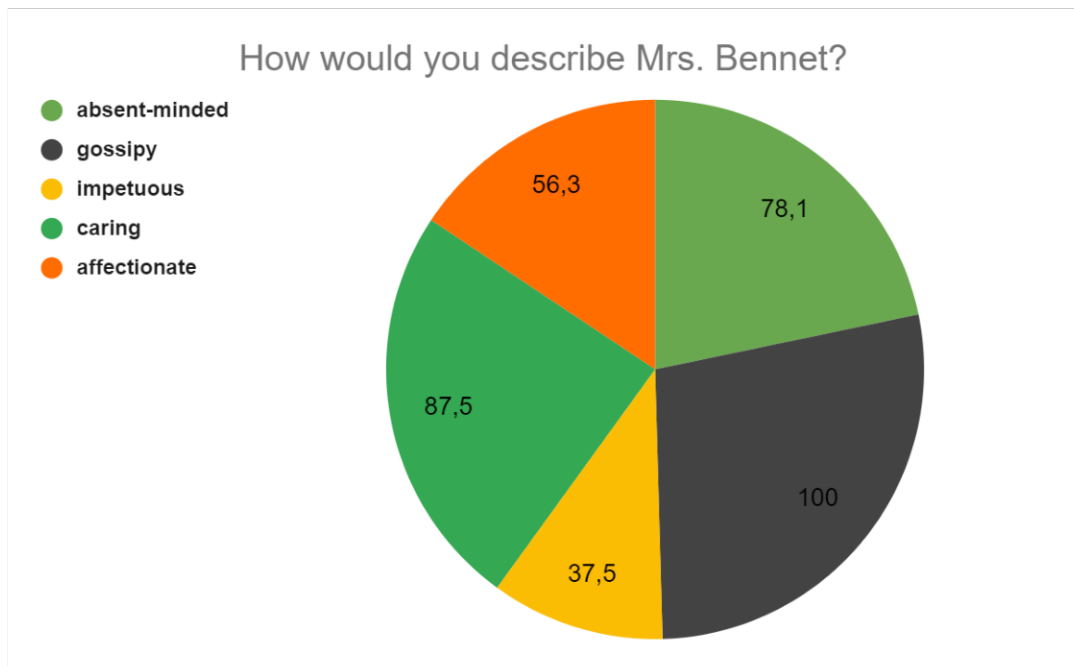


Figure 15. How would you describe Mrs. Bennet?

Question 16: How would you describe Mr. Wickham? Answer options given in the questionnaire: calculating, duplicitous, ambitious, money-addicted, greedy. The result of the question completed by the students:

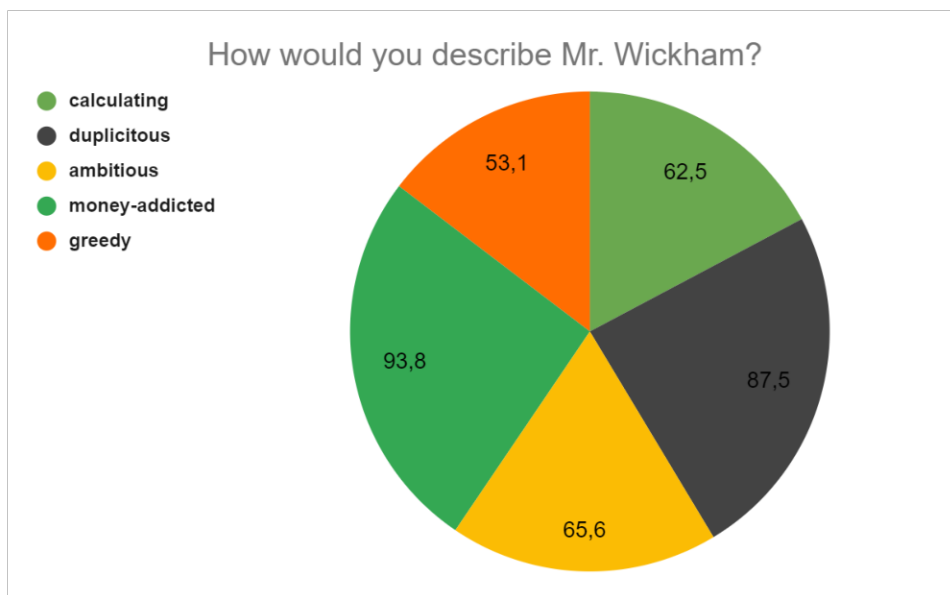


Figure 16. How would you describe Mr. Wickham?

The last question, question 17, is what are the most important factors that appear in the novel Pride and Prejudice. The possible answers are: social differences, love, feuds between ranks, misunderstandings, love feuds, characters with different personalities, contemporary descriptions. Result of the last question of the questionnaire:

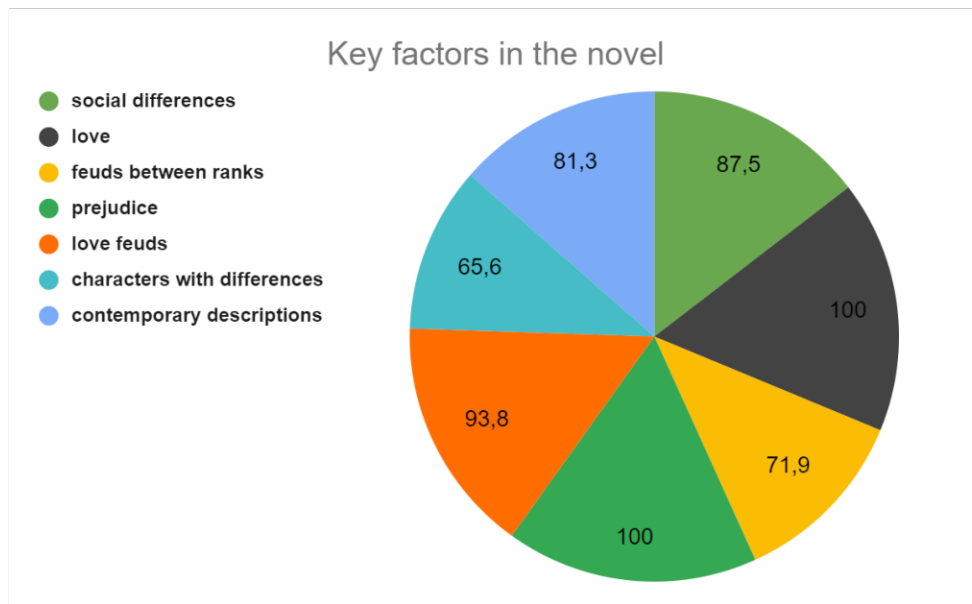


Figure 17. Key factors in the novel

3.5. Discussion and Interpretation of the Research Results

This study deals with Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice*, and within it the social problems and moral aspects of human relationships.

The aim of the research is to assess students' knowledge of one of the most recognized authors in English literature and her work, to assess students' interest in the genre of the romance novel and satire, also to assess their understanding of the message of the novel and their perception of the characters.

The sample consisted of 34 students. The questionnaire was filled in by 8-11 grade students. All of the participants were aged between 14 and 17 at the beginning of the study.

80% of the survey participants were girls and 20% were boys, however this data does not affect the result of the research.

The questionnaire showed that young people aged between 14 and 17 who took part in the survey were familiar with Jane Austen and many of her works. As the research showed, his most famous and widely read work is *Pride and Prejudice*, but she is also known for other novels such as *Sense and Sensibility*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Emma* and *Mansfield Park*. So it does not seem as if her works are about to disappear from the public consciousness, in fact, some books have been shown to have enduring stories and testimonies. It also revealed that the twenty-first century generation is still reading the author's books, including *Pride and Prejudice*, which is still available in print shops, bookshops and on people's shelves.

According to the results, most of the pupils consider the life, mindset and determination of the novel's protagonist, Elizabeth Bennet, a good example to be followed. It motivates graduates to

perseverance and determination. They also found that they could identify with the pride and prejudice in the title. The plot and the conclusions that could be drawn from it, served as a lesson and an example for them to follow. They felt that the story presented real life situations that anyone could easily identify with.

Another particularly popular character, according to the students, was Fitzwilliam Darcy, who underwent a huge personal development in the course of the novel's plot. In addition, the lesson of his story, according to the research participants, is that anyone's personality can be misjudged on first impressions, so special care should always be taken not to judge.

The novel also featured characters whose stories served as a cautionary tale for the students. The case of Lydia Bennet was the one most often mentioned, as her ambition, lack of attention and recklessness led to a sad and unhappy fate.

According to the survey, *Pride and Prejudice* presents the reader with real problems and difficulties, but also with real joy and happiness in human, friendship and love relationships. These encourage students to stop making the mistakes in real life that appear in the story and to strive to develop relationships such as those of Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth and Mr. Bingley and Jane. At first glance it seems a simple story on the surface, but also a book with a much deeper message. As the reader reads and reflects on the stories, difficulties and life situations of some of the characters, realises how realistic they are, and how many parallels can draw with his or her own life.

Jane Austen has created a lasting and compelling novel whose story and lessons are still relevant today and can serve as an example for all to follow.

CONCLUSION

Literature has been present in society for thousands of years. There are countless writers who have left us real treasures in the form of books. Nowadays, everyone's home has at least one bookshelf full of books. The question is, do we just keep them on the shelf or do we read them?

The aim of the thesis is to deal with the times and society in which Jane Austen lived, to investigate the genre in which she wrote and the novels that continue to have a profound impact on readers today.

This is the main reason why it is worthwhile and useful to study this topic and why it is particularly relevant.

The thesis has been divided into an introduction, three parts, conclusion, list of references and Ukrainian summary. Furthermore, it researches her society and age, her biography, her family background, living conditions, and how, under what external or internal influences, her novels were created.

The second part of the thesis presents Jane Austen's most famous novel, *Pride and Prejudice*. It describes the story of its creation, its characters, its main themes and symbols and also introduces the moral aspects of human relationships in the novel.

The third part of the study is a survey to find out how well known and respected Jane Austen, the English writer is among secondary school students and to explore students' interest in reading, in the genres she represents, like romance novel or satire, also to assess how comprehensible and entertaining such a novel and its characters for young people.

The result of the questionnaire showed that young people aged between 14 and 17 who took part in the survey were familiar with Jane Austen and many of her works. It also revealed that the twenty-first century generation is still reading the author's books, including *Pride and Prejudice*, which is still available in print shops, bookshops and on people's shelves.

The hypothesis put forward at the beginning of the work was supported, as the study and research proved that Jane Austen and her novels are still popular among young people and influential on her readers and on literature today, also her books are still read with pleasure and enthusiasm by many people.

Ultimately, it can be concluded, that without literature, we would be much poorer intellectually, because it is through books that we learn about the past, about old societies and moral customs, and from the history of others that we learn not to make vain mistakes but nevertheless to follow examples that are eloquent and appropriate.

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РЕЗЮМЕ

Література тисячоліттями присутня в суспільстві. Багато письменників залишили для нас справжні скарби у вигляді книг. На сьогодні у кожній домівці є хоча б одна книжкова полиця заповнена книгами. Питання полягає в тому, чи тільки тримаємо їх на полицях або й читаємо? Завданням цієї роботи є за допомогою роману “Гордість та упередження” представити епоху Джейн Остін та моральні норми цього часу, а також їх вплив на людські взаємовідносини.

Це і є головною причиною, чому корисно вивчати цю тему та в чому полягає її актуальність. Твір складається з трьох частин.

В першій частині детально представляємо життя та творчість відомої письменниці. Ознайомлюємо з біографією, сімейним життям та життєвим становищем, під якими внутрішніми та зовнішніми впливами створювались всесвітньо відомі романи.

Друга частина роботи представляє найвідоміший роман Джейн Остін “Гордість та упередження”. Знайомить з історією створення, головними героями, темами та символами, а також про моральні актуальності людських стосунків.

Третя частина роботи є опитуванням, метою якого є виявити наскільки відома та знайома англійська письменниця Джейн Остін серед молоді, зацікавити їм жанр, який вона представляє, наприклад романтичний роман або сатиру та дослідити наскільки зрозумілий та розважальний такий роман для молоді. Анкета показала, що серед молоді віком 14-17 років, які взяли участь в опитуванні є відомими багато творів Джейн Остін. Виявилось, що покоління 21 століття читає книги письменниці, серед них «Гордість та упередження» і інші, які доступні в книжкових магазинах, громадських та домашніх бібліотеках .

Зрештою, можна встановити, що без літератури ми були б духовно біднішими, адже за допомогою книжок впізнаємо минуле і минулі покоління та їхні моральні звички, а за допомогою історії інших вчимося, як не робити зайвих помилок але слідувати за правильними прикладами.

APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE

THE MORAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IN THE REFLECTION OF J. AUSTEN'S "PRIDE AND PREJUDICE"

1. How old are you?

- a) 14
- b) 15
- c) 16
- d) 17

2. Your gender:

- a) Male
- b) Female

3. Do you know who Jane Austen was?

- a) Yes
- b) No

4. What literary genres did Jane Austen work in?

- a) Romance novel
- b) Horror
- c) Satire
- d) Progress novel
- e) Science fiction
- f) Etiquette novel
- g) Epistolary novel

5. What are the distinctive motifs of Jane Austen's novels?

- a) Romantic relationships
- b) Humour
- c) Landscape
- d) Love affairs
- e) Social differences
- f) Irony

6. Which of the Jane Austen books listed do you recognize?

- a) Northanger Abbey
- b) Pride and Prejudice
- c) Emma
- d) Sense and Sensibility
- e) Lady Susan
- f) Mansfield Park
- g) Persuasion

7. Have you read Pride and Prejudice?

- a) Yes
- b) No

8. Finish the following sentence: “It is a truth universally acknowledged...”

- a) “...that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a property”
- b) “...that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a house”
- c) “...that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife”

9. Who is your favourite character from the novel?

10. How would you describe Elizabeth Bennet?

11. How would you describe Mr. Darcy?

12. How would you describe Jane Bennet?

13. How would you describe Mr. Bingley?

14. How would you describe Mr. Bennet?

15. How would you describe Mrs. Bennet?

16. How would you describe Mr. Wickham?

17. What are the most significant key factors of the novel?

- a) Social differences
- b) Love
- c) Feuds between ranks
- d) Misunderstandings
- e) Love feuds
- f) Characters with different personalities
- g) Contemporary descriptions