

**WOMAN MAIN CHARACTER'S
AMBITION IN NOVEL “PRIDE AND
PREJUDICE” BY JANE AUSTEN**

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Abstract

The purpose of the thesis is to find out the ambitions of the main female characters that is Mrs. Bennet, the mother of the main protagonist character named Elizabeth Bennet in the novel *Pride and Prejudice* written by Jane Austen and published in 1813. The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative. The techniques of data collection are reading the novel repeatedly and underlying the necessary lines and quotation in the novel. The result shows that 35 utterances can be identified into Mrs. Bennet's type of ambition. There are 9 utterances belongs to the Selfishness, 3 to the Perfectionism, 17 to Workaholic and 6 utterances shows the Type “A” Personality. Thus it can be concluded that

the most type of ambition owned by Mrs. Bennet is Workaholic.

Keywords: *Woman Ambition, Pride and Prejudice*

A. Introduction

"Pride and Prejudice" could be a classic novel composed by Jane Austen and distributed in 1813. This novel tells the love story between Elizabeth Bennet an intelligent and determined village girl and Mr. Darcy a rich and arrogant man. This novel provides an overview of English social and cultural life in the early 19th century. Austen presents a variety of characters representing different levels of society and describes how they interact with each other, including their treatment of social status, wealth, and gender. With her main character Elizabeth Bennet, the second oldest daughter among the Bennet girl, she is charming and intelligent but has a tendency to create a biased and persistent initial impression. The plot develops along with the romance of Mr. Darcy's story. When Elizabeth overcomes her prejudices and Darcy overcomes her pride, their relationship will eventually change as they let go of their love for each other.

Pride and Prejudice tells the story of a woman named Elizabeth Bennet, who tends to be "Prejudice" and sometimes stubborn "Pride". The marker of "pride" in the context of Pride and Prejudice is Elizabeth's personal identity (hard-hearted and always wants to win alone), Pride and Prejudice presents a unique story, especially in the context of a "love relationship" in the midst of middle-class conflicts in English society that became a common marker of the 19th century. This novel was published in the romantic period when love stories were popular.

In addition to talking about romantic stories, *Pride and Prejudice* explicitly involves a narrative of the existence of women that is clearly represented by several women characters in the novel, especially those possessed by Mrs. Bennet.

Being a woman has various life challenges because often women have to follow the culture, norms, rules that develop in society without being able to fight. The women body and self-existence are interrelating and binding parts (Sokowati, 2018; Susilo & Kodir, 2016 in Agustina & Asrita, 2023.). These two things are important issues that are still interesting to discuss. There are still pros and cons about women trying to fight for their rights.

The inherent attributes of women and men are placed in opposite positions. Women are synonymous with feminist concepts and men are synonymous with masculine discourse. Women and femininity are portrayed with negative, passive, inferior things while masculine is positioned positively, actively and superior (Yuniarti, 2020 in Agustina & Asrita, 2023). The labelling is carried out to women in various fields of life, economically, politically, socially, culturally. Women's stories that develop in society are quite interesting to discuss, so they are still worthy of being an issue in novels.

Through this novel, the social pressure of the time is depicted with the fate of women who are only considered an object or only as a complement to the husband, who have demands for marriage and even women do not have the opportunity to take over the business owned by their father until finally they have to be transferred to the future husband from them.

The image of the wife who is only an object is seen in the story of the characters Mrs. Bennet and Mr. Bennet in this novel. Her married life had no

happiness, love or affection. In fact, it can be said very clearly by Mr. Bennet's character that he fell in love because of Mrs. Bennet's face alone, but he did not feel that his wife had any values in him that were valuable when the love for her began to fade over time.

The injustices that women experience in systems and structures occur in all aspects of their lives. This problem makes women often unable to actualize themselves in public spaces. The strong patriarchal culture grows and is constructed continuously in various fields. Women are not expected to have a career, to work, even to choose their own path in life. While men always get the highest position in the structure that is to have a job with a high position (Alzahrani, 2016; Nulman, 2014 in Agustina & Asrita, 2023).

Women and families with low socioeconomic status in the early 19th century lived and were treated, where the social and cultural norms of the time were restrictive. Women were expected to fulfill certain expectations, including marriage and modesty. The quote from Mufa (2016) The difference between male and female characters is social helplessness in difficult and unequal conditions. We can see it through patriarchy that always and explicitly serves men. This out of line framework clears out ladies frail and incapable to get inheritance to be able to require care of themselves. In such a framework, guardians empower their girls to wed into affluent families so that the wealth gained from parents does not fall and increase in number, and arranged marriages often occur.

Pride and Prejudice is a perfect representation of women's predicament in the early 19th century. The patriarchal system makes women have less power and

cannot truly be free to make their own decisions. By making women the caretakers of the household, they never have the opportunity to make themselves proud. I feel this is why today's society is changing so quickly.

The novel *Pride and Prejudice*, was likely written at least in part to depict the negative impact of complex social customs and rules in English society in the early 19th century. Women have few choices in life: get married, stay at home with their parents, or become caregivers or housekeepers. Moreover, even the daughters of rich fathers experienced this limitation, as women could not inherit money or land. Like the character Elizabeth Bennet, a young woman who defies society's expectations by rejecting a marriage proposal from a man she doesn't love. Her independent and strong nature would reflect Austen's progressive views on women's rights.

Within the world, all individuals have ambitions. Overall, desire may be a positive thing that everybody ought to have. Supporting the explanation, Crowther (1995:35) states, "Ambition is strong desire to achieve something."

According to Harvey (2010:12), "Ambition is the instinctual motivation to aspire to things, to make something happen, to have an impact, to count for something in life."

According to Bates & Phelan (2002) ambition is an important characteristic of competition in the labor market. Simply, it can be said that ambition is a character that must exist in a work group to be able competing with other workers group. Meanwhile, according to Locke and Baum (2007), ambition actually implies a solid crave to achieve or move forward something; in this regard it takes after accomplishment inspiration, but ambition has the

included essence of inspiration toward a far off and grand objective. They also say "ambition is a strong desire to achieve or improve something."

Ambition is motivational preparing and speaks to a person's yearning to be an important personality and recognized by others for the truth achievements, important both for the person and for others, Barsukova (2015). Ambition is the force that it allows a person to advance and reach each peak on the ladder promotional and social.

Ambition is closely related to brain research since much obliged to brain research able to know character of a person. Ambition could be a solid want for one to realize what one needs. Related to this want is the support of the soul itself, as long as somebody continuously contains a soul in itself, as long as one has desire, counting the writer's aspiration to select a novel approximately his inquire about.

In conclusion, identified by experts on ambition as a motivation that stimulates the success of individuals. In other words, ambition will enable individuals to achieve higher levels or roles.

The author is interested in analyzing ambition the main character is Elizabeth Bennet in the novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. An ambitious young woman defies society's expectations by rejecting a marriage proposal from a man she doesn't love.

B. Literature Review

1. Literature

Literature is the English word for literature. Sastra is a loan word from Sanskrit, namely shaastra, which means "text containing instructions" or "guidelines". Shaastra comes from the basic words shaas- which means to direct,

teach, give guidance or instruction, and tra which means tools or means. In short, literature is a tool or means of directing, teaching, and providing guidance or instruction.

Roshida (2015:150) states that literature is often defined as the continuous expression in words of certain thoughts or feelings about life and the world. Klarer (2004: 1) states that in many cases literature is considered as written expression as a whole, with the limitation that not all written materials can be classified as literary works in a more precise sense of the term Marcus, G. and Sollors, W. (2009) say that literature means not as it were what is composed, but moreover what is communicated, what is communicated, what is found, in anything shape it is.

According to Wellek and Warren (1963: 22), the term literature seems more appropriate to use if it is limited to the literary arts, i.e. creative literature. Writers' creativity also contributes to the development of literature. Literature is more than just a collection of facts; it is also a compilation of true events that may or may not have happened. Literature can thus build its own universe his imagination is limitless.

Literature, which according to Eagleton it is beautiful writing (beautiful writing) that records something within the frame of dialect compressed, extended, turned, abbreviated and turned, made bizarre or composed in a few other tasteful way with linguistic devices.

Sumardjo & Saini (1997: 3-4) states that writing is an expression of human identity within the frame of encounters, considerations, feelings, ideas, interests, convictions within the shape of

concrete pictures that arouse a fascination for the means of language.

Based on the explanation from the specialists over, it can be concluded that writing may be a work of craftsmanship that contains expressions of human creative ideas expressed in language media, both spoken and written.

2. Psychoanalysis Theory

Psychoanalysis may be a department of science created by Sigmund Freud and his adherents, as a ponder of mental capacities and human behaviour. At first, the term psychoanalysis was only used in relation to Freud, so "psychoanalysis" and "Freud's psychoanalysis" they are synonyms. While some of Freud's disciples later abandoned his teachings and went their own way, they also abandoned the term psychoanalysis and chose a new name for their teachings.

A psychologist, William James (1999: 2) has a statement about Psychology: Psychology is the science of mental life, marvels and conditions. Marvels are things like what we call sentiments, wants, cognitions, thinking, choices, etc.

Richard Mayer, (1981:133) stated that Psychology is the scientific analysis of human mental processes and memory structures to understand human behaviour.

In this case, the author attempted to utilize the psychoanalysis of Abraham Maslow who may be a clinician who assumes that people are really great animals, so that people have the correct to be mindful of their character in arrange to realize self-actualization. Human creatures endeavour to meet

and express their potential and gifts which are frequently hampered by the conditions of society that dismiss them. This condition makes individuals deny their presence and repress themselves from reaching their true selves (Minderop, 2010:48).

Conditions like this could too cause a individual to involvement mental issues and behavioral lopsided characteristics. Such a person needs treatment to be able to precise himself unreservedly and attempt to discharge covered up and maintained a strategic distance from sentiments and contemplations. In the event that he is able to completely acknowledge himself, he will be able to attain a palatable mental integration (Krech, 1974:591).

According to Maslow, human behaviour is more decided by the individual's propensity to attain his or her objectives in arrange to create their lives more joyful and more satisfying. Maslow's hypothesis is communicated in a multi-level and organized way that incorporates physiology, security, cherish and having a place, self-esteem, and self-actualization. In 1945 Maslow made Maslow's Chain of command of Needs which is an exertion to incorporate the thought processes of scarcity and plenitude in one plot. Maslow's scheme holds that the basic rationale of human beings is to precise their possibilities within the most compelling and total frame to meet the requirements of self- actualization.

Based on Maslow's articulation over, this rationale can cause desire in people to be able to meet all their needs. Individuals tend to be superior at actualizing themselves, both within the family and within the work environment with their

capacities. Based on the crave to meet all their needs, people have the desire to attain what they need indeed in case it is exterior the existing rules.

3. Ambition

Ambition is a strong desire or desire to achieve something in life. It involves strong motivation and persistence in setting high goals and working hard to achieve them.

According to Bates & Phelan (2002) ambition is an important characteristic of competition in the labor market. Simply, it can be said that ambition is a character that must exist in a work group to be able to compete with other workers group. Meanwhile, according to Locke and Baum (2007) ambition actually implies a solid crave to achieve or move forward something; in this regard it takes after accomplishment inspiration, but ambition has the included essence of inspiration toward a far off and grand objective.

Ambition is the drive which makes a individual progresses and comes to all the statures of the limited time and social stepping stools.

Supporting the explanation, Widarso (2012: 21) states the types of ambition, namely egoism, perfectionism, workaholics, and type "A" personality.

a. Selfishness

Selfishness is an action that focuses on oneself. In support of this explanation, Crowther (1995:530) says, "selfishness is the lack of consideration for other people". Selfish people have many characteristics. First, people love each other. Second, people will be happy if something is given to them and they will feel sad if something is given to someone else. Third, people discover others for fun.

b. Perfectionism

Perfectionism is the striving to achieve a high position or the striving towards perfection in achievement, rank or quality. As Frost stated (in Sirois and Molnar, 2016:1), "perfectionism can be described as setting and striving for excessively high and often unrealistic standard, accompany by frequent thoughts focused on the attainment of these standards and overly critical self-evaluation". From this definition, we can conclude that perfectionism is a type of negative ambition. Perfectionists always expect everything to be perfect.

c. Workaholic

Workaholic comes from a word that includes work and aholic. To work means to act to do something and an addict means a person who is addicted to being a real worker. Therefore, a worker depends on doing something. There are four reasons that make people passionate about work. The first reason is the desire to raise money. The second reason is the desire to equalize to idealize. Then there is the fear that confronts you. Only the last reason is the inability to find fulfillment. Employees have incomplete lives because they forget about everything else, including themselves. They are not interested in seeking experience outside their profession.

d. Type "A" Personality

People with type "A" personality are aggressive, competitive, and restless people. In other words, people with type "A" personality are always in the stress zone. People with type "A" personality have ambitions to become the

number one person. The same goes for people who love their work and work hard, but what sets people apart from type "A" personality is their stress levels. People with type "A" personality experience higher levels of stress than people who are passionate about their work.

Based on all the explanations above, the writer can conclude that ambition can be caused by many factors such as family background, life background or social conditions where the person lives. Ambition can be positive or negative. Negative ambitions can be caused by four bad mental attitudes, including selfishness, perfectionism, hard work, and type "A" personality.

C. Method of Investigation

The writers apply descriptive qualitative method. The sources of the data are novel entitled *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen which are taken from

<https://books.google.com/vc/books?id=hUZWAAAAcAAJ&printsec=frontcover&hl=id#v=onepage&q&f=false> (Accessed on December 15th, 2023 at 8.00pm). To collect the data, the writers used recording and then repeating the recording to collect data.

To analyze the data, the writers implement these steps: read the novel, identify the ambition of the woman, categorize the data based on the type of ambition, analyze the type of ambition, describe the analysis of the ambition, and conclusion.

D. Findings and Discussion

The study tried to find out the types of ambition contained in the novel *Pride and Prejudice*.

There are four types of ambition focused in this study that are Selfishness, Perfectionism, Workaholic, Type "A" Personality. Here is a discussion of the types of ambition in *Pride and Prejudice*. Based on the research findings submitted by the writerr, there are 35 utterances consisting of 9 Selfishness utterances, 3 Perfectionism utterances, 17 Workaholic utterances and 6 Type "A" Personality utterances. After identifying the sentences in the previous section, the writer interprets the data analysis as follows:

1. Selfishness

The content of the novel itself tells the selfishness of a mother, Mrs. Bennet, who wants her husband's estate not to fall into the hands of Mr. Collins when the husband dies later, Mrs. Bennet also seizes happiness from the child by telling them to follow the will and orders of the mother. Mrs. Bennet did various ways to fulfill her own desires and ideals through her five daughters and husband. Starting from telling her husband to immediately visit Mr. Bingly when he has arrived in Netherfield, because it is impossible if Mr. Bennet does not participate then Mrs. Bennet cannot visit him and it is very unacceptable to Mrs. Bennet for fear that she will lose to other neighbors and family. Finally, the selfishness possessed by Mrs. Bennet was manifested where when her daughter married would get an inheritance not with her because she knew that the husband's inheritance would fall into the hands of Mr. Collins, her five daughters married a rich man even though in the course of the story there were many problems that she and her family faced.

2. Perfectionism

The content of the novel itself tells about the perfectionism ambition possessed by Mrs.

Bennet, where everything must meet the perfection standards of the mother of five. Mrs. Bennet arranged and chose when her five daughters got married to be able to follow the character or example of each of her daughters. When an ambition that Mrs. Bennet has is not fulfilled then she will be restless and unsettled, she is also the one who has been contributing to fighting and choosing which man is suitable and suitable to marry her five daughters, of course, with the most important thing being a wealthy young man.

3. Workaholic

The content of the novel itself tells how the struggle and hard work of Mrs. Bennet who wants her five daughters to one day marry a rich man. Therefore, when she heard the story brought by Mrs. Long that there would be a rich young man who would occupy Netherfield Park, Mrs. Bennet was very enthusiastic to welcome her, even she recounted what she had heard from Mrs. Long to her husband, Mr. Bennet. With her strategy, which is to tell her husband to visit the man first, Mrs. Bennet hopes that one day one of her five daughters can marry the rich young man. Her efforts and hard work have finally paid off, although not with her initial prediction, but still her five daughters will marry rich men.

4. Type "A" Personality

The content of the novel itself tells about Mrs. Bennet's persistence to remain number one, she does not accept when Mr. Darcy compares her village with the city where Mr. Darcy lives. She is also proud that when someone envied the beauty of her daughters, she wanted the public to see that the

Bennet family was a family with very beautiful offspring that he believed came from her beauty.

E. Conclusion

Finally, it can be concluded that ambition is definitely in humans, whether to be number one, ambition to be the most perfect, ambition to work hard to live a decent life and be able to compete with opponents or ambition to benefit oneself through others. Therefore, the writer wrote this thesis to describe and explain the types of ambitions contained in humans.

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