

UG _4(Day and Evening shifts)

Pride and Prejudice

__Jean Austen

Q. 1.Discuss "Pride and Prejudice" as Jean Austen's world on "two inches of ivory".

Or

"The world of Jean Austen is a limited world".Illustrate with reference to "Pride and Prejudice".

Jane Austen wrote about her works to her nephew James Edward Austen on Monday 16th December in 1816 as;

"That little but(two inches wide) of ivory in which I work with so fine a brush as produce little effect after much labour."

Austen was a daughter of a country clergyman.she has very less exposure to the world except short visits to London and a few years study at Bath. Hence the world she experienced was very small. In a letter to her niece Jane Austen wrote;

"There are four families in a country village is the very thing to work on"

These three or four families are the kind she knew intimately__the landed gentry,the upper classes,the lower edge of the nobility,the lower clergy,the officer crops of the military.The novels including 'Pride and Prejudice'excludes the lower classes,not only the industrial masses of the big cities,but also the agricultural labourers who must have been numerous around Meryton and Longbourn.she hardly touches the aristocracy like Lady Catherine de Bourgh.The Bennets,the Lucases,the Bingleys and Darcy all belong to the class of landed country gentry, with the Bennets and the Lucases at the lower end of it and the Bingleys and Darcy with their personal fortune at the higher end of it.

The range of her novel is limited by her own circumstances, her own sex, and her position in the society. She confines her characters within the four walls of the drawing room or hall. Edward Fitzgerald states ;

"She never goes out of the parlour".

All of her six novels have many incidents, places which are closely related within her life.Her novel'Emma' is set in the fictional country village of Highbury and the surrounding estates of Hartfield, Randall's and Downwell Abbey and involves the relationship among people from a small number of families.Her another novel 'Sense and Sensibility' sets in London and the action takes place in Norland Park, Barton Park,and Cleveland.The story of the novel revolves around Netherfield Park, longbourn ,Hunsford personage, Meryton and Pemberley.

But there is no reference to nature itself. Although the description of nature at Pemberley is brief and fairly generalized.

Actually Jane Austen keeps her characters imprisoned indoors. The theme of her novels are limited to love and marriage. It was the period of the American war of Independence, of the France Revolution and of the Napoleonic wars. But her characters are blissfully unaware of these tumultuous events. The only relevance of the militia in a Jane Austen novel is its ability to provide girls with handsome military officers to flirt with and if possible to marry- Wickham and other military officers in Meryton in 'Pride and Prejudice' serves as object for flirtation for Lydia and Kitty the younger Bannet girls. There is no discussion of spiritual or metaphorical issues, there is no 'man talk' or description of male sports like hunting. Actually Jane Austen limited her work by 'feminization' of her novels. The setting of novels are the drawing rooms, ball rooms, parks and gardens of a civilized leisure class. Within her limited theme and subject matter, her novels are described all things neatly. Her plot constructions are perfect. On her two inches of ivory, Jane Austen carves with a miniature delicacy to present a polished and refined work of art.

Q. 2. Justify the title 'Pride and Prejudice' of Jane Austen's novel.

Or

To say that Darcy is Proud and Elizabeth Prejudice is to tell but half the story. Discuss.

Ans- Pride and Prejudice was first written in 1797 under the title First Impression. It was a later revised and published under the title Pride and Prejudice in 1813. In the novel we see that Mr. Darcy embodies Pride. When he first appears in the novel he is declared a 'the proudest, most disagreeable man in the world.' Wickham tells Elizabeth that Darcy's Pride is basically 'filial Pride', his pride in his father and 'brotherly pride' his pride in sister, Georgiana. Darcy's pride irritates Elizabeth when he rejected a suggestion by Bingley to dance with her. He rudely remarks, "She is not handsome enough to tempt me." This led to Elizabeth's prejudice against him and she reveals before Charlotte that she is resolved to hate Darcy. While Darcy's pride blinds, it is Elizabeth's prejudice that clouds her judgment. Elizabeth is so blind in her prejudices that she didn't realize the impropriety of Wickham's statement about Darcy.

Darcy's pride piques Elizabeth and her prejudices stems from her feeling that he is all pride. Having been prejudiced against him by his refusal to dance with her, she wilfully misinterprets all his utterances, all his actions. Her prejudice clouds her usually clear judgment she listens to Wickham's biased and she declares Darcy to be 'abominable'. Blinded by prejudice she rejects his proposal. This rejection realizes him the futility of his pride. He feels that something must be wrong with his values. His excessive love for Elizabeth is what cures Darcy of his pride. At Rosings, Darcy is embarrassed by the vulgarity of his aunt Lady Catherine and realized that refinement of manners is no monopoly of the elite, nor their depravity the bone of the law.

Elizabeth's prejudice is neutralized by the revelation of Darcy's character on receipt of his letter. Learning the truth about Wickham, she realizes her own blindness and prejudice in having judged Darcy and Wickham on mere first impressions. It is Darcy's letter which acts as an eye opener for her and she understands his objections to the Jane – Bingley marriage. She is ashamed for being "blind, partial, prejudiced, absurd," She is now prepared to change her opinions. The role played by Darcy in the materializing Lydia's marriage with Wickham completely overwhelms Elizabeth. The Lydia – Wickham episode proves that Darcy has shed his pride fully and have all good qualities for his brother – in-law the man he most despises. Elizabeth's recognition that Darcy was the kind of man, who would most suit her, indicates that her initial prejudice against him is over. It is now time for them to marry.

Pride and Prejudice does not exist only in Darcy and Elizabeth but there are many minor characters who has pride and prejudice. In sum, the title "Pride and Prejudice" every aptly points to the theme of the novel. At the end, the two protagonist struggled to put down their pride and get rid of their prejudice. The novel makes clear the fact that Darcy's pride leads to prejudice and Elizabeth's prejudice stems from a pride in her own perceptions. In a nut she'll, the appropriateness of the title, pride and prejudice is indeed unquestionable and it bears immense significance to the plot.

UG-2(evening shift)

“Swami and Friends”

R K Narayan

Q. 3. The theme of Colonialism, Resistance, Ambivalence, Nationalism, Post-colonialism, Cricket and apolitical activities in R.K.Narayan’s “Swaminathan and Friends”.

RK Narayan’s writing career begins with Swami and Friends. It is the first novel of a trilogy. It is a semi-autobiographical novel. This novel luminously portrays its child protagonist Swaminathan’s adventures in soul making, his skirmishes with his little comrades and reconciliations with his soupy school friends. It also postulates encoded political and cultural resistance. It also reminds us the Nietzschean will to power of the common inhabitants of Malgudi. Narayan has pointed out the various agathokakological entities of human life through the artistic representation of his characters, his celebration of India’s heterogeneous identity, class struggle, the marginalized and peripheralized existence of subaltern voices, politics of colonial masters’ self and the muted other in an unequal power structure where a very limited number of people actually get access to the resources, ambivalence and hybrid identity.

In this novel Swami is a spontaneous, impulsive, mischievous and yet a very innocent child. He is like Ishan of Aamir Khan’s Taare Jameen Par (2007) used to shudder at the very thought of his monotonous school where his wings of freedom used to be crushed under the fatal mill of the authoritarian. The life portrayed in the novel is accurate in its description of the colonial days. He attacks on the British colonial system out of choice or admiration. He has many friends- Somu, the monitor, Mani is the mighty lazy; Sankar, the most brilliant boy of the class and Samuel who is known as the pea. His relationship with each of his friends is dissimilar, but he appreciated them all. Narayan introduces that Rajam is the colonial super power. His mentality is to be the best among his friends, role model to others. He is the son of police superintendent under the colonial administration.

Swami spontaneously decides to join a rebellion against the British. He is not a patriotic person but he was enjoying breaking windowpanes of Albert Mission School by throwing stones. For this reason he was rusticated from the school and admitted to another school. There he proves himself as a dropout student. He appears as a mouthpiece of Swadeshi and Boycott Movement because he had burnt British cap.

The novel describe the heterogeneous Indian identity in the sense that people belonging to various pyramids of power relations in our society. From Rajam and his superintend father who belongs to the centre of a power structure to the bullock car driver Ranga or the subaltern cook who are subjects and marginalised voices and they belong to "on hegemonic groups or classes". Rajam is dress like European boy and it reminds he is different. This attitude of Rajam's is akin to that of the colonizer who come, conquered, made drastic changes in the lives of Indians and left just as abruptly as he had come leaving choas behind. RK Narayan pointed out the condition of Indians in post- Independence British India. He also shows that how earnestly Indians were struggling for freedom as it is seen through children like Swaminathan who are greatly affected by the Nationalist movement. Despite all difficulties, Swaminathan, Rajam and many others have built up cricket club in Malgudi. In this novel we find that their friendship has reconciled each other but there is a huge gap between their friendship.

Q. 4. Discuss the theme of friendship in the novel Swami and Friends.

Ans- " One best book is equal to hundred good friends but one good friend is equal to a library. " - - A P J Abdul Kalam.

Friendship is the real subject of this novel. It has the fantastic tone of childhood friendship. Friendship is an abstract, pure and intrinsic feelings of human mind. The whole world sees their activity ;their grown up from immature to mature. At the beginning of the novel we also find that all children come from different classes but when they meet each other they forget their class, states etc. But they became friend each other. There is always going on a continuous conflict between them to be a best friend. But only Swaminathan and Rajam's friendship exists till the end.

At the beginning we find that Swaminathan has many friends like - Somu, the monitor.,Mani is the mighty lazy ; Sankar, the most brilliant boy of the class and Samuel who is known as the Pea. The five have a very class friendship, despite their differences, which does not seems to follow the phrase, ' Birds of a feather flock together.' Then enters Rajam, a son of police superintendent. Swami was impressed by Rajam's first appearance and wanted to be friends with him. His efforts at solidifying his friendship with Rajam are quite noble and hilarious. He even tries to mimic cat and dog to win his favour and become a bult of jokes. He wants to do something good and unique to increase his worth among friends and even gets accidentally involved in Non cooperation Movement. When he arrested by the police it is Rajam who helps him by discharging him. We also find that Albert Mission rasticated him for his disobedience and he is pressurized by his father to join local school. When Mani, Rajam and Swaminathan have built up a Cricket Club which is Malgudi Cricket Club. It is Swaminathan who leaves his school to attend the cricket match and reunite each other.

When Rajam says that Swaminathan cannot miss a match with another local team, Y. M. U. or else he will not speak to Swami any more. The headmaster of his school, of course, does not allow him to leave early for the cricket game. In anger, he throws his cone out the window. Not wanting to know what will happen next, he runs out of the building and away from the town of Malgudi. He gets lost in his adventure, but is eventually found.

In the final scene, Rajam is on a train leaving for another area in India. Swami tries to convince him, with the help of Mani, that they should stay friends, but Rajam refused to look at him. Among six friends only Swaminathan and Rajam keeps their friendship at the end of the novel. Their friendship surpasses all kinds of barrier and builds an example of true friendship.

UG_6 semester(Day shift)

Marxism

Q. 5. Briefly discuss Antonio Gramsci and Louis Althusser's work on Marxist view.

Marxism is understood as a philosophy of history. It is an attempt to formulate a scientific theory of human societies. It suggests a programme of political action for bringing about the expected change in society by making free the society from exploitation and tyranny. Marxist criticism is distinguished from all forms of idealist, formalist and aestheticist criticism by its belief that 'Literature' is a social and material practice. For Marxism, 'history' does not form a single category or seamless whole: it is grasped, rather, as a field of conflicting interests and forces.

Antonio Gramsci: Antonio Gramsci was an Italian communist thinker. During the period 1929-1935, he was imprisoned by the Fascist government. While in prison, he wrote books on political, social and cultural subjects. These documents are known as 'Prison notebooks'. He gives special stress on the popular. It includes folklore, popular music and cinema. He takes for granted the popular as opposed to the elite elements of culture. Gramsci developed the concept of hegemony which he means that a social class achieves a predominant influence and power not by direct and overt. On the contrary, this class makes itself successful in spreading widely its ideological view of society as a result of which the subordinated classes accept and participate in their own oppression without thinking over it too much.

Louis Althusser: Louis Althusser was a French Marxist structuralist. He gave his views on the relationship between literature and ideology. In the opinion of Althusser art cannot be reduced to ideology. It has, rather, a particular relationship to it. Ideology stands for the imaginary ways in which men experience the real world. Ideology makes us feel like to live particular conditions rather than giving a conceptual analysis of those conditions. But, in the opinion of Althusser, art has a greater function than just passively reflecting that experience. Art is held within ideology. However, it manages to distance itself from ideology. It takes us to the point where it allows us to 'feel' and 'perceive' the ideology from which it springs. While doing this, art does not make us to know the truth which ideology hides. Because for Althusser, 'knowledge' means 'scientific knowledge'. It is the knowledge of capitalism that we get by reading Marx's 'Capital' and not the one that we acquire by reading Dickens' 'Hard Times.' Althusser further comments that the difference between science and art is not that they deal with different objects. But the difference is that they

deal with the same objects in different ways. Science imparts conceptual knowledge of a situation. Art gives an experience of that situation. This experience is equivalent to ideology.

It makes us to 'see' the nature of that ideology. And thus, it begins to move us towards the full understanding which is called as 'scientific knowledge'.