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A Comparative Study of the Position of Women in Europe throughout
Daisy Miller and Pride and Prejudice

*Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Foreign Languages as a Partial Fulfillment of
the 'Master' Degree in Anglo Saxon Literature and Civilization.*

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Dedications 1

I dedicate this work to:

My dearest parents who provided me with whatever I need and surrounded me with great affection to reach my objectives in my life.

My dear supportive husband.

My sisters and brothers.

All the family “Belkhatir” and “Hassoune”.

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My dearest partner Amina who shares with me moments of happiness and sadness thanks for your supportive, help and advice.

All my friends and neighbors.

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Dedications 2

I am very pleased to dedicate the fruits of my effort to my source of sympathy and love sweet Mum, and the source of advice, safety and financial help Dad.

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To all the family “Belmeliani”.

To my partner Sarah for her help, support and advice.

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Amina

Abstract

Henry James' and Jane Austen's portrayal of women throughout their literary works; *Daisy Miller* and *Pride and Prejudice* respectively presents the woman's situation in the nineteenth century as inferior and victim of social expectations. From *Daisy Miller*, James describes these practices from the eyes of his protagonist Daisy Miller, her behaviors and manners. Accordingly, in *Pride and Prejudice*, Jane Austen established herself as a distinguished feminist novelist in her treatment of women status, especially, the matter of marriage. The theoretical part involves an overview about the Victorian Age in England and American society, the emergence of feminism through its three waves in addition to the development of feminine novel in the nineteenth century by its well known writers. For example; Mary Wollstonecraft, Elizabeth Gaskell, and Charlotte Bronte. Whereas, the Analytical chapter, centers on the study and description of the female characters particularly the American and European female protagonists Daisy Miller and Elizabeth Bennet, their behaviors and manners to fight obstacles and struggles which faced them. Prejudice is one of the barriers from which women suffered. Which end, each writer presents his/ her manners defending women's rights and duties. The study concludes with the assertion that Henry James is a feminist writer after his depiction of his female character

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Introduction

In the nineteenth century, women lived in an age characterized by gender inequality facing hard conditions of life with long suffering and discrimination to find limited recognized place in society. Therefore, male subjects were considered superior while females remained submissive under the conduct of their fathers and husbands. This situation leads to the emergence of many writers who attempted to depict the real image of their societies through their works among them: Henry James and Jane Austen. This study is a comparative study of the representations of the position of women in Europe and who were subject to prejudice and stereotypes, throughout the two works *Daisy Miller's* (1878) and *Pride and prejudice*(1813).

The choice of Henry James and Jane Austen is based on our interest in their literary works which reflects women, their behaviors, hopes, and manners to challenge society and its rules, norms and customs. This research work studies women's status from two points of view and tries to answer the following problematic: How was the situation of woman portrayed in *Daisy Miller* and *Pride and Prejudice*?

The study suggests that Henry James and Jane Austen have chosen female characters as heroines to depict women's status in Europe. In this study, Elizabeth Bennet and Daisy Miller are the two female protagonists who had different qualities. Thus, the main question under examination has been divided into sub questions in the purpose of conveniently achieving this study.

First; in order to study the image of women during the discussed century, a question is raised over the different ways in which nineteenth writers represented the women of their society?

Second, as the two works reflect women who have been subverted by societies, it is important to discuss how prejudices affected women in the two literary works?

Third, starting from the fact that Henry James defended Daisy's behavior as innocent, pure, and natural, Is Henry James a feminist writer?

The questions asked in this research aim to find whether feminism was able to change the stereotypical image of women in Europe, and the impact of prejudices on the female protagonists. They also attempt to approach the writer Henry James as a male author writing about female issues, and the question to be answered in this case is whether he succeeded as a feminist writer. The research hypothesizes that:

First, in the nineteenth century, many feminist novelists emerged defending women's rights with their novels among them, Jane Austen and Henry James as well as other female writers to be discussed as examples used in this research.

Second, the two authors depicted prejudices exercised over the main characters, who were approached with stereotypes and assumptions about their personalities, and which were reflected negatively over their behaviors

Third, Henry James justified his female protagonist's behavior and depicted her as innocent and spontaneous, which suggests that he is a feminist writer while he represents her as pure and honest.

This work is divided into two chapters. The first chapter involves an overview about the Victorian age in England maintaining the situation of women at that time since the author was a member of the discussed society. The study revealed that there is a close relationship between a literary work, the author, and social conditions of the author.

This research work also deals with feminism by giving its definition, origin, and a short explanation of the three waves, focusing on the main objectives of each wave. Feminism was adapted by the female writers of the era in an attempt to influence people's opinion about women to submit them as an important constituent of society.

Moreover, this dissertation centers on the feminine novel in the nineteenth century which considers women's suffering and oppression as a main theme (Salinovic 219). In fact, many women writers fought against the injustice and ill treatment practiced over women and their miserable lives through their novels and other literary works (ibid). They challenged the structure of the male dominated society they lived in.

Among the famous and well known feminists of the nineteenth century, some have been selected and studied in relation to their backgrounds. *The Vindication of the Rights of Women* written by Mary Wollstonecraft, in which she called for education as equal to men (Jenainati and Groves 27), as well as the ability to participate in public life was discussed in this chapter (ibid 28). Elizabeth Gaskell is another feminist writer who shed light on the poor conditions of the working class in her society which had a negative impact on women's status (Showalter 28). Textualized in her novels among them; *North and South*, *Mary Barton* and *Ruth*. Moreover, Charlotte Brontë was an English feminist writer who used her own experience to criticize nineteenth century's social structures. The great literary figure Charlotte Brontë wrote the classic novel *Jane Eyre* to represent women's suffering and submission (927).

Accordingly, in her works, Austen sought to destroy a society that subjected women to merciless treatments practiced by economic and patriarchal authorities (fathers or husbands). She used her works to voice issues about women's roles especially the middle class as is the case of *Pride and Prejudice* mainly her female protagonist Elizabeth Bennet (Austen 5). Marriage was her main theme as an absolute solution to secure her future (22).

In this chapter, male writers also had their own contribution in portraying women. Henry James is an American traveler and famous author who described the life of American young ladies in Europe during the nineteenth century. *Daisy Miller* is one of his major international works, and most charming portrait of the American girl (Mohamadi 8886).

The second chapter or the analytical one concerns the study and description of the main female characters, their behaviors, relationships, and friends of the two novels. The female figures of the novel *Daisy Miller* have been discussed including Mrs. Walker, Daisy's friend, Mrs. Miller her mother, and Mrs. Costello, Mr. Winterbourne's aunt. The female protagonist Daisy Miller has been analyzed in this part of the work separately in order to shed light on her position as subject of prejudice (Matthews 2a). The aim is to represent the feminist view and the real

image of American woman in Europe. Then, the work analyzes the female characters of the novel *Pride and Prejudice*; including the mother, Mrs. Bennet, and the four daughters: Lydia, Catherine, Mary and Jane who are described differently. Jane Austen feminist view is reflected throughout her female protagonist Elizabeth Bennet, who is pictured as intelligent, strong minded and proud (Austen 15).

Moreover, women's status was discussed in a way which sheds light on their oppression by society, generally by women's assumptions and prejudices over the protagonists in a way which victimized them. The chapter discusses the concept of prejudice in the nineteenth century through *Daisy Miller* and *Pride and Prejudice* as a common point between the two literary works.

Pride and prejudice demonstrates marriage as a financial security for young girls (Owen 72). Clearly, Austen believes that women are at least as intelligent and capable as men and considers their inferior status in society to be unfair (Curry 49). Also, she showed that Elizabeth is able to be happy by refusing marriage for financial purposes and only marrying a man whom she truly loves and esteems (Austen 22).

Accordingly, class had a great impact on marriage which generated a form of pressure over women (Datta xii). It is clear that women's status, rights and duties cannot be generalized since they varied according to the social class a woman came from (Austen 7). Finally, the main objective of our thesis is to analyze the feminist interpretations' of the two novels. The work also reveals aspects of feminism and female emancipation in Henry James's *Daisy Miller* throughout Daisy's behavior by doing actions which are contradictory the European's society. The work asserts that Henry James is a feminist male writer through his depiction of his protagonist.

The present research contains two main chapters which discuss the historical and cultural background of the texts in hand, as well as interpretations of events and characters. The first chapter provides a theoretical framework and literary background of the Victorian society and development of feminism. The second

chapter will discuss prejudices in the nineteenth century, the common points between the two female protagonists after their description and study. The most important assumption in this research is the submission of Henry James as feminist.

1. Chapter One: Literary Review

Introduction

Women have been a silent part for the majority of human history, playing only background roles in major events, their thoughts and feelings are not considered being of importance. They passed through many problems, obstacles and barriers to become an important member in the society. Hence, Chapter one reviews both American and British societies in the nineteenth century focusing on social life, economy and literature, especially the novel and the status of woman. The chapter will also discuss the theory to be used for the research study which is feminism and feminine novel in the nineteenth century.

1.1 Victorian Society

1.1.1 America's Nineteenth Century

During the nineteenth century, Americans went through a remarkable period characterized by industrialization and business (Rauchway1). In fact, American city grew to overshadow the farm in which business cycles flourished and expanded. At the same time, the use of modern modes of production turned the United State into almost the most independent national actor on the world stage (ibid). This industrial revolution had a great impact; it had changed the nature of work as well as the status of women had transformed; they entered into the labor force by doing hard jobs. (Woloch13).

By the year 1900, three out of four teachers were women and even more in cities (14). Accordingly, women were allowed to work in domestic service as a major job category such as maids, laundresses, cooks, companions, waitresses and nurses as the only available options for women (ibid). Under those circumstances, women were submissive but through her works, they fought the social forces and attempted to create their own identity. As a result, they wanted other opportunities by developing their own culture that includes: fashion, film and amusement parks (15).Whereas, depression destroyed women's expectations as the economy contracted, numerous

things changed; job opportunities disappeared, hopes of suitable place in economy faded and the wish of a career drooped (Woloch 21).

In short, women in 1920s had many goals and wishes achieved to realized them; the main ones were vocation, made a career and to be independent economically (19). While in the other side, it's necessary to shed light into the Victorian age in England and its main characteristics.

1.1.2 The Victorian Age in England

The Victorian period is the period of the reign of Queen Victoria in 1837 (Fletcher 2002). She had a profound effect on the nineteenth century especially in politics, society and economy that affected the standard of life, in addition to a great impact on the status of women who did not have rights, and were abused and oppressed (Freedman 3).

Along similar lines, William Ralph Inge in his book *The Victorian Age* argued that “one great interest of the Victorian age is that it was the time when a new social order was being built up and entirely new problems were being solved” (5). This quotes means that this period saw great developments and wide spread of technology.

Moreover, it was the period of the Industrial Revolution; this revolution was fundamentally a technological revolution which focused on the sources of inventions (Allen 02). But, women remained at all suppressed, suffered from bad treatment of both men and society who neglected their importance. They faced many restrictions; like the inability to vote or own property exercising accomplishments (drawing and learning piano) or factory and agricultural labor which reduced women to the eternal positions of housekeepers or housewives (ibid).

Accordingly, variety and changes are the main characteristics of the Victorian era had to do with constant change, variety, and self criticism (Trevelyan15). In fact, rights and privileges of Victorian women were limited, for example the wives were under the conduct of their husbands in everything as objects for sex, bringing children

and helping them in domestic labor (Buckner 137). Women were considered as machines as to do domestic affairs.

After a long suffering and discrimination of woman to find limited recognized place in society, woman is nowadays playing an important role in society which realized by the coming of feminism that has generated an ongoing debate in all over the world and it was the voice of women in times they were not able to speak or to express their feelings and wishes.

1.2 Definition of Feminism

Feminism is the struggle to end women's oppression in the nineteenth century, as a movement to resist this discrimination because women had no right at that time searching for equality to men in all fields of life (Freedman 3). It considered women as the main interest of their achievements

Jane Freedman said that feminism combined the French word for women, femme and ism which referred to a social movement or political ideology. Freedman also claimed that feminism is a belief that women and men are inherently of equal worth, in her book *No Turning Back*, she called for gender equality (7).

The term feminism according to *The World Book Encyclopedia* is a belief that women should have political, economic, and social equality with men (49). Likewise, in the same book Feminism is a Political movement that works to gain equality between man and women in economic political and social rights. This movement is sometimes called Women's Movement or Women's Right Movement (ibid).

Feminism also shed light to the bad situation of women with no rights and no equality. Zara Huda Farris explained this idea as "... women need feminism because there are women who suffer injustice ..." (Farris 1) In addition, Zara Huda Farris argued that the term feminism has a long history; it represents women's problems and suffering in addition to their wishes in equal opportunities in society in which man is the boss and the most powerful (ibid 2).

Dr Isam MShada (2009) stated that feminism can be defined as a movement that works and searches for the quality of women's life by defining the norms of society based on male dominance .It also seeks to achieve equality between men and women in all fields of life (121).

The history of feminism went through many stages that are classified in three major periods; they are called The Three Waves of feminism. Thus, the First Wave was in the nineteenth and the early twentieth century's, the Second Wave was in the 1960's and 1970's and the Third Wave was extends from the 1990's to the present (Freedman 03). There are three waves of feminism; each one has her principals and achievements.

1.2.1 Waves of Feminism

1.2.1.1 The First Wave

The First Wave refers to a period of feminist activity during the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century in the United Kingdom and the United States (Freedman3). It is concerned with gaining equal rights for women especially the right of suffrage (ibid). The First Wave feminism started with the publication of Mary Wollstonecraft's *The Vindication of the Rights of women* in response to Jean Jacques Rousseau, the Swiss French Philosopher, who claimed that women were secondary and private could do only domestic jobs (Jenainati, Groves 27). In addition she called for education for women and believed that education is the best way for women to gain their positions in society, in a way to become equivalent with man to participate in public life to be an important and effective member in society (21).

Mary Wollstonecraft was not the only female voice who advocated women's rights and the discrimination against women, Abigail Adams, the wife of John Adams, the second president of United State, also claimed that women lived in bad situation at that time she talked to her husband and urged him to think about women while drafting the Declaration of Independence (22). Finally, in that period women's institutions and organizations started to speak about women's right to vote (Jenainati and Groves21).

Later on, it came a second wave as the widest movement with its successful achievements.

1.2.1.2 Second Wave Feminism

The second wave feminism was the largest social movement in United States history. This period considered as the continuation of the previous one, it began in 1960's and lasted till 1970's (Freedman 4). It claimed that two political movements shaped the Second Wave feminism: The Women's Rights Movement (WRM) and The Women's Liberation Movement (WLM) (ibid). The first one provided theoretical solutions to women's oppression whereas the later was more practical. In addition, this period introduced a new form of radical feminism (Jenainati 87).

The most known feminist writers who played an important role in Women's Liberation Movement were Simone de Beauvoir (*The Second Sex* 1949), Betty Friedland (*The Feminine Mystique* 1963), Kate Millet (*Sexual Politics* 1969) and Germaine Greer (*The Female Eros* 1970). Whereas, the first wave feminism was generally driven by middle class white women, the Second Wave part included women of color (Jenainati, Groves 82 -83). Accordingly, the third wave is the more effective movement than the last two ones.

1.2.1.3 Third Wave Feminism

The Third Wave feminism began in the early 1990's and goes on to the present. Women of the Third Wave tried to avoid the role of victims. Furthermore, the symbol of this period was Rebecca Walker who used the term third wave in 1982 (Walker 70). In addition, the Third Wave feminism allowed new generations of feminist women to be who they wanted to be. They also believed that they should change the ways and the methods of looking for women's rights (ibid). Thus, this was the best way to make this wave more effective than the last ones.

In the period that has followed the Second Wave feminism; the mass media has become a very important source which transferred the real image through many mediums such as news papers, magazines and television. As a result, feminists started

to say “Girl” instead of “women” in order to attract these new generations (Trier-Bieniek 15).

Finally, the three waves of feminism had important roles in feminists’ theories and politics from 1960 until now; also they had the same goal to change and ameliorate the profile and the image of woman (Freedman 03).

Women’s writing is the most crucial medium that has really brought women to the center stage of social reality. Furthermore, women’s writing helps both men and women to be aware about the visibility of women to be an effective participant in society.

1.3 Feminine Novel in the Nineteenth Century:

Many women writers emerged and fought against the injustice and the bad situation of women during the Victorian era through their novels. They challenged the structure of the male dominated society they lived in. It is also impossible to give the right and exact number of these women writers. For instance, Elaine Showalter (1977) claimed that the nineteenth century was the time of the female writers like Jane Austen, Mary Wollstonecraft, Charlotte Bronte, George Eliot and others (Salinovic 219). He said that the situation of women writers was very difficult but their novels were the only way to escape from the patriarchal society and to criticize women’s oppression (219). In fact, these female writers use their novels to express their voices demanding equality between men and women and avoiding oppression and suffering.

1.3.1 Mary Wollstonecraft

Mary Wollstonecraft was one of the famous female voices who fought against the dangers and social discrimination against women during the nineteenth century. She was influenced by the ideas of American and French Revolutions focusing on the necessity of women’s participation in all fundamental rights as equal as man (Cathia Jenainati and Groves 24). In addition to the right of vote and owning property. (28).

The publication of Mary Wollstonecraft’s *The Vindication of the Rights of Women* is her main novel in which she depicted women’s submission and stereotypes.

She emphasized on education as the best way to constitute an identity and an individual personality (Jenainati, Groves27). Another main feminist writer appeared in the nineteenth century to call for education as an essential women's right is Elizabeth Gaskell.

1.3.2 Elizabeth Gaskell

Elizabeth Cleghorn Stevenson¹ was an English novelist, she was very interested in social problems, industrial life workers, and women in general as she did in her novels *North and South*, *Mary Barton* and *Ruth*; she is a example of many feminist writers, especially with her novels *Ruth* and *Cranford* during the Victorian era. (Gaskell, 301-311).

Accordingly, *Ruth* was a good example of women in Victorian society in which the main heroine, Ruth suffers from the loss of her parents'. On the other hand, she becomes a mother; and her child is illegitimate. Elizabeth Gaskell wrote about the "fallen women" who are rejected by people because Victorian society did not accept women with illegitimate children (308). On the subject of *North and South*, Elaine Showalter claimed that Elizabeth Gaskell portrayed the "oppression of women" and shedding lights on the poor conditions of the working class in her society (Showalter 28). Thus, *North and South* is an industrial novel as well as romantic in which Gaskell used Margaret as heroine who faces a big change in her life when her family moves from the south to the north of England, and her novels were a mirror of the reality of her time.(ibid).

Finally, Elizabeth was a friend of Charlotte Bronte, Jane Austen and other women writers who called for equality between men and women in all field of life (Showalter 27). Accordingly, Charlotte Bronte has a special way of writing characterized clearly in her literary works.

¹Elizabeth Cleghorn Stevenson was born in 1810 in Lindsay Row, Chelsea. Elizabeth.

1.3.3 Charlotte Bronte

Charlotte Bronte was an English novelist who challenged the norms and conventions of her society against women during the Victorian era. As a feminist writer, she used her own experience in most of her novels as she did in *Jane Eyre*. It is also her famous and influential work at that time, in which the main character challenges men's authority. In addition she has the courage to fight for her rights and love (Wang 1830).

As a conclusion, these women are just a few from all women writers who fought against the inferior position of women and criticized the nineteenth century's social structure. As a result, they wanted to change the position of women in the Victorian society and the world although all the difficulties and obstacles (ibid).

1.3.4 Jane Austen

Jane Austen was one of the most famous women novelist of the nineteenth century and the most feminist writers who gained a place in the history of English literature, and used her works as a tool to voice her issue about women role and gender in society especially the middle class and the upper –middle class, so most of her novels were about women in society (Alka 134). The important themes in her novels were marriage and male dominance in all fields of life. In addition Jane Austen dealt with the subject of marriage as the only solution for women in the Victorian age by using her own social critic in *Pride and Prejudice* translation Studies (ibid).

In her most novels, Jane Austen portrayed the oppression of women in nineteenth century and explained to the reader her personal view about this dire situation, She rebelled against this oppression and the dominance of males towards women because they were treated as "second class citizen" (Alka 135). As a feminist writer Austen explained and condemned the oppression of women. It is clear that Austen's heroines convey her opinion that women should resist oppression and injustice in her life and search for happiness. She created female figures in order to prove that women are also capable of being reasonable and rational (ibid).

In her writings Jane Austen was influenced by Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication Of The Rights of Women* and her ideas about the situation of women in society. Most of Austen's characters want to marry and always marry for love which was impossible during Austen's time (Shring 103-105).

Jane Austen's most famous novel *Pride and Prejudice* describes the life of young ladies. Then, the main issue in this novel is a woman who couldn't inherit land so for this reason the mother Mrs. Bennet search for a wealthy husband to her daughters (Shogskola 17).

1.3.4.1 Perceptions of *Pride and Prejudice*

The critic H. Lewis was one of many critics who claimed that he is very positive about Jane Austen and her novels especially in his article titled "The Novel of Jane Austen" declared that most of her writings were inspired of her life time using her own experience to advocate women's rights. Along similar lines, Lewis supported the Austen's way of challenging interesting themes which made her works a part of literary canon". (Shogskola p6-23). Charlotte Bronte criticized harshly all novels of Jane Austen and claimed that the characters of Austen's novel had no souls. (Wang 1828). On the other hand, among many earlier male writers was called Henry James.

1.3.5 Henry James

Henry James was one of the most famous American novelist during the nineteenth century who could write about their traveling because Henry James himself was an American abroad, also lived both in American and European society (Lodge xv). In addition he was known as "The master of showing the American Abroad" who means that he was the best writer of international novels (Mohamadi 8886). In fact, Howells (1837-1920) claimed that Henry James's most novels related to American young ladies to mention the contact between America and Europe (ibid).

The main issues of James' works are: *Daisy Miller*, *The Portrait of a Lady* and *The Wings of the Doves* are examples of his best works in which he used Daisy Miller, Isabel Archer and Milly Theale as heroines to explain the situation of ladies and how

they were treated by Europeans (ibid). *Daisy Miller* is one his major international works and “most charming” portrait of the American girl (Suyatna 2004).

1.3.5.1 Perceptions of *Daisy Miller*

Henry James considered as the only writer who was capable to practice and analyzes the international theme in his international novels (Mohamadi 8886).

Through this international theme he shows that his protagonists understood that Europe is not a paradise and their decision to travel to Europe was a big mistake and for James it was a lack of knowledge and experience (ibid).

All in all, feminist en general including male and female writers have generated an ongoing debate in all over the world and they emerged to solve women’s problems in addition to put an end to the injustice treatment towards women. Their works considered as the voice of women in times they were not able to express them.

2. Chapter Two: Analysis and Interpretations

Introduction

In *Daisy Miller* and *Pride and Prejudice*, the two writers Henry James and Jane Austen used their female protagonists Daisy Miller and Elizabeth Bennet to represent the status of women in Europe describing their behaviors, characteristics and their relationships with their relatives and friends. First and foremost, the chapter deals with description of the main female characters of both works. Then, the study of the female protagonists.

2.1 Study and Description of *Daisy Miller*'s Female Characters

2.1.1 Henry James's Female Characters

The female characters in *Daisy Miller* by Henry James were: The protagonist Daisy Miller, Mrs. Walker, Mrs. Costello and Mrs. Miller. Most of them were American who had lived in Europe except Daisy Miller who was just a new visitor (James 7).

2.1.2 Mrs. Costello

Mrs. Costello is Winterbourne's aunt (16). She is an American woman but she had European characteristics, her nephew, Winterbourne is the main male character in the novella *Daisy Miller* who was more attentive (ibid). In this novella Mrs. Costello dislike the protagonist Daisy and described her as ignorant (James 17), and all the Miller family because they were wealthy in addition she disliked their good relation with their courier because of his nice appearance, well dressed like a "gentleman" was in their services all the time behaved as a member of family (ibid).

2.1.3 Mrs. Walker

Mrs. Walker is another American woman lived in Europe and has the same values and characteristics of European society, for example she blamed Daisy of her late walk with a gentleman (37). Furthermore, she was daisy's first acquaintance in Vevey, and found that Daisy was ignorant and very innocent and "very crazy" (42).

2.1.4 Mrs. Miller

Mrs. Miller is Daisy's mother represented in the novel as an example of the American mother who cannot control her family, especially her daughter Daisy by allowing her to do everything she wanted (James 44). Then, she was not capable of her responsibility towards her daughters (47).

Mrs. Miller gave her daughter her freedom to behave as she liked and believed that it was the right thing to be done. Thus, James describes her as bad mother and an ignorant wife who stands for the American mother and has no control over her daughter (48).

2.3 Henry James's Female Protagonist

2.3.1 Daisy Miller

Daisy Miller is the main character in the novella. She visited Europe with her wealthy family, going first to Switzerland then she visited Rome where she did not follow the norms and costumes of the city (James 4).

Along similar lines, Daisy took her total freedom to behave as she wanted in Europe but as new tourist, she was expected to follow the culture and the values of her new society; that is, Switzerland and Rome (54). In *Daisy Miller* to show that Daisy is free, James describes her when she enjoyed walking with the Italian man Giovanelli in Mrs. Walker's party defending she said: "I am more than five years old" (43). As Mr. Winterbourne insisted to go with her she refused. In other words, Daisy did not care about people's thought of her behavior.

On the other hand, James described Daisy as natural and innocent. In fact, Daisy was a nickname while her real name is "Annie P. Miller" (James 09). The writer justified the Daisy's behavior and defended her manners as much as possible. At the end, Henry ended the story with the death of Daisy of a fever Rome. In her funeral Giovanelli explained her innocence to winterbourne, saying: "She was the most beautiful lady I ever saw and the most amiable also naturally!" (63).

As a female protagonist, Henry James describes Daisy as an innocent girl (James 42). As a result she disobeyed most of customs in Europe. The main male character in Henry James's novella, Winterbourne who liked Daisy and explained to her aunt that Daisy's behavior was just a sort of ignorance and innocence (33).

Finally, James describes Daisy as a pure lady because she did not accept to include European culture into her personality (James 63). He explains her point of view when she did not accept the advice of Mrs. Walker who warned her from walking to the Pincio at a late hour in the afternoon with a young man (37). Yet Daisy insisted to take that walk challenging European norms and codes (43). Thus, Daisy as a female protagonist behaved freely with own personality and purity refusing to do something related to Europeans culture until she died as her mother claims "It was evident that Daisy was dangerously ill" (62).

As a conclusion, Henry James showed that there is a difference between American and European society. He used Daisy Miller who represented American ladies in Europe and portrayed the life and the situation of these ladies in Europe. In addition, it is clear that there is a clash of culture between American and European societies because each one has its own norms.

2.4 Study and Description of Jane Austen's Female Characters

2.4.1 The Female Characters in *Pride and Prejudice*

Pride and Prejudice is the story of the Bennet family, composed of the parents and five unmarried daughters: Jane, Mary, Catherine, Lydia and the protagonist Elizabeth Bennet. Austen portrayed her characters differently as the Indian critic Bhattacharyya Jibesh claimed in her book *Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice* that Jane Austen has given a multitude of characters, they are characterized with good manners that reflect them "discriminated" full of humor (94). Accordingly, she added that Jane Austen had a wonderful capacity of portraying her characters describing her as a "genius" novelist (ibid). Therefore, each female character has her individual and special characteristics:

2.4.2. Mrs. Bennet

She is a tiresome character, noisy and foolish, the mother of Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, Catherine and Lydia. Mrs. Bennet is a woman consumed by the desire to see her husband and daughters with large fortune (Austen 4). For example, in her conversation with her husband about Mr. Bingley she considers his large fortune as his most important quality and which should be the property of one of their daughters (ibid). Her greatest joy was to see the engagement of Jane and Elizabeth to Bingley and Darcy respectively. In general, she was a woman of "mean understanding", "little information" and "uncertain temper" as described by the narrator in the novel (6).

2.4.3 Jane Bennet

Jane Bennet is the oldest of the Bennet sisters. She seems almost pretty and elegant as Mr. Bingley considers her "quite beautiful" (13). And her mother is proud of her, by saying Jane was "so admired" by the people surrounded her (ibid). She falls in love with Mr. Bingley who is known by his simplicity and modesty despite his huge wealth, he places no great weight on social standing. (Florman and Kestler). She is perfectly beautiful, sweet-tempered as Mr. Darcy thought of her as the "...handsome girl in the room" during the dance (Austen12).

2.4.4 Charlotte Lucas

She is Elizabeth's best friend, described as gentle, and a good woman (Austen 18). She is also honest and rational with a good way of expression; she defended her personality having good qualities (19-20).

2.4.5 Caroline Bingley

She is Mr. Bingley's sister, a rich woman of a wide fortune. She owns beauty and education, she and her sister had a chance for education in high college (Austen 16). She was partial and arrogant, jealous from Elizabeth and tries to undermine her because she wants Darcy for herself. He and her sisters played a great weight on social standing. (ibid 16) That leads her to be prejudiced and proud with her high status and large fortune.

2.4.6 Mrs. Gardiners

She is an exemplary wife, Elizabeth's aunt. She is valued for her wisdom and a mother of four happy children. Mrs. Gardiners helps a lot Jane and Elizabeth a lot and provides them with pieces of advice and affection (353).

2.5 The protagonist Elizabeth Bennet

Elizabeth is one of the five Bennet sisters. She is the protagonist in *Pride and Prejudice* and. She is described as smart and the favorite daughter of her father for instance by having "something more of quickness" (5). Furthermore, Austen herself described her as the most well known female characters "appeared in print" (qtd. in Andrew 37-38). She acts decidedly and certainly about her actions. For example, she quiet and calm stood up to Mrs. Bennet over Collins's proposal of marriage (Austen101). This quote seems too emphasized on the seriousness of Elizabeth in her refusal of Mr. Collins proposal of marriage giving her all the reasons to do so.

Elizabeth is known by her intelligence, well mannered thoughts and brilliant conversations with honest instructions. For instance when giving her opinion about Mr. Bingley as handsome gentleman (15). Accordingly, rational thinking differentiates

Elizabeth from other girls as the only woman who is looking for a man without paying attention to his wealth insisting on the marriage of love (Austen22). Moreover, the protagonist is described as clever with "... a lively, playful disposition" concentrating on the important things that are beneficial neglecting the unreasonable ones (12).

Elizabeth also loves reading and walking outdoors between woods .In fact, in "Not a Day Went By Without a Solitary Walk," Mary Jane Curry declared that Austen focuses on the moral side of human being rather than appearance and materials (49). This means that Elizabeth preferred individuality spending most of her time walking outdoors which contribute her ability of understanding the issues she is facing (ibid). Another thing, Elizabeth has pride with a high soul of challenging the others (Bernard 177) when she says: "I could easily forgive his [Mr. Darcy] pride, if he had not mortified mine" (Austen 20). This quote represent that Elizabeth dislikes the persons who exaggerate in her pride of their property because this has a harmful influence on the others. That causes ignorance and unawareness.

"Women Characters in *Pride and Prejudice*", English Professor Karriya Dhimant refers to the numerous qualities of the heroine as sensible and well mannered. Her spirited independence thus puts her in a category of her own (Bohlin 60). In other words; Elizabeth Bennet recognizes the reality of situation and is able to understand people well. And tried to find her existence and at the end, she gained her power and married for love (Austen 351).

2.6. Prejudices in Nineteenth Century

2.6.1. Definition of Prejudice's

Cambridge Online Dictionary defines prejudice as "an unfair and unreasonable opinion or feeling, especially when formed without enough thought or knowledge" (*Cambridge University Press*). In fact, prejudice has a negative impact and harmful influence on people. It is a common characteristic of many novels written during nineteenth century. The novels *Pride and Prejudice* and *Daisy Miller* are no exception as they seem to reflect social prejudices and assertions over women in a way which intends to denounce such practices.

2.6.2 Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*

As the novel's title implies, prejudice goes hand in hand with pride which leads its protagonists into making wrong assumptions about each other's (Florman, Kestler). Hence, in this novel, Darcy and Elizabeth are both guilty of pride and prejudices. Accordingly, pride is related to the nature of human beings according their way of thinking, as said in the words of Mary Bennet at the beginning of the novel "human nature is particularly prone to pride" (Austen 20). Otherwise, in most cases pride stands as an obstacle against realizing aims in life. In this novel, pride prevents the characters from seeing the truth and achieving happiness. For instance, pride blinds Elizabeth and Darcy to their true feeling about each other because Darcy's pride about his position in society leads him initially to neglect the poor class (22). Pride and Prejudice In other words, Darcy is depicted as a superior wealthy man, which makes him neglect and ignore Elizabeth because she is a middle class woman with low capacities (12).

Correspondingly, Elizabeth saw Darcy as unpleasant and unlikable man saying "the proudest, most disagreeable man in the word" (11). On the other hand, Elizabeth takes so much pride in her ability to judge others but she is very often mistaken in her beliefs and conclusions about others (333).

In Short, *Pride and Prejudice* is a novel about the overcoming of the vices of pride and prejudice in the protagonists Elizabeth and Darcy, in order to encounter true love (Austen 342). For example, Darcy is considered as disagreeable because he cannot habituate with the social routines; he has little interest in dancing, visiting new places and playing cards (Gregory 54). Hence, at the end, the two lovers are able to overcome their pride and had a happy ending characterized in their marriage for love and happiness. Each has learned from his/her error, and Elizabeth learns not to place too much weight on her own judgments to be able to continue her life without problems, thus avoiding peoples' misunderstanding. (Chin-Yi 933).

2.6.3 Henry James's *Daisy Miller*

Prejudices in *Daisy Miller* refer to the characters' way of judgment towards each other based on first impressions, preconceptions and other beliefs. (Florman, Kestler). *Daisy Miller* is a story about women's status written by the American figure Henry James, where he maintains his portrayal of women and depicts prejudices in society (Matthews 2a). The basis of the story is Daisy Miller. Accordingly, in the Article, "Daisy Miller: a Study of Changing Intentions", Carol Ohman claimed that Henry James identified Daisy with mixed interpretations; as naïve and unaware (1). Daisy is wary about her appearance and prettiness to express her femininity which attracted Winterbourne (James 5-6). James claimed that Daisy's behavior affected the relation between her and other characters especially with Winterbourne who was shocked by her awful actions (qtd.Orlich 229-230). Especially when walking alone with Giovanelli in isolated places with total freedom (James38). Additionally, Randolph Miller, Elizabeth's brother is a subject of prejudices. He prefers a special individual style and believed that American are "the best" he declared (Austen15). In Short, the pride of Daisy and the prejudices of Winterbourne as well as other characters such as Mrs. Walker, and Mrs. Costello cause a conflict between these characters due to their different behaviors and qualities.

2.6.4 Daisy and Elizabeth as Victims of Prejudices

The social world of *Daisy Miller* and *Pride and Prejudice* is one in which women status was discussed in a way which sheds light on their oppression by society generally by women's assumptions and prejudices over the protagonists who become victims. In *Daisy Miller*, the female protagonist Daisy Miller suffered from prejudices. She faced many obstacles and barriers throughout the novella. While visiting Europe, Daisy behaved freely, innocent and spontaneous (James 33). Daisy suffered a lot with the wrong assumptions made toward her that lead European rejected her, for example, Mrs. Costello criticized Daisy as uneducated and saying to Winterbourne that he must keep himself as far as possible from Daisy and avoid her by anyway (17). Accordingly, in *Pride and Prejudice*, the two protagonists Elizabeth and Darcy against

characters For example, Elizabeth's initial prejudice against Darcy is rooted in pride of her own quick and severe ability of perceptions (Austen 15). Elizabeth's pride makes her misjudge Darcy while Darcy neglects her because she was a middle class woman with poor social standing (12).

In Short, Daisy and Elizabeth were sufferers from prejudices and the mistaken preconceptions formed toward them that provoke many problems and misunderstandings. Also, prejudice is illustrated not only in Elizabeth's behavior but in Darcy's and lady Catherine's reactions to the status of Elizabeth as well (29). As a female writer, Jane Austen describes women as what they really are and advocates a new idea of love and marriage.

2.7 Women and Marriage:

“It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife” (Austen 01). From these opening lines, it is clear that marriage is the main theme of Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* which depends on economic basis providing social as well as financial stability (Gast 5). Furthermore, David Owen claimed in his book *Reading Between The Lines* that the first sentence of *Pride and Prejudice* gathered marriage as the main theme, irony as the tone in a romantic novel (72). Thus, marriage was the ultimate goal of young girls, because women were generally limited to home and family, and females had little opportunity for employment (Chin- Yi 933). Also, marriage at the time of Jane Austen was basically a synonym for economic security within society (ibid). As a result, wives had a special place and a decent position while daughters or unmarried women remained neglected and ignorant (Gast 4). For instance, Lydia confirms that: “Ah, Jane, I take your place now and you must go lower because I am a married woman (Austen 265). This means that Lydia is secured after marriage .Moreover, Mrs. Bennet insists to marry her daughters and en particular Elizabeth to a wealthy man because she is worried about her daughters' future and considered marriage as an appropriate solution to get wealthy and secured (99).

Accordingly, in her article “The Feminist Bias of *Pride and Prejudice*”, Marian Fowler considered marriage as the only available career for women as its chief aim (48). In fact, Jane Austen insists on marriage and family as the essential frame work of moral life (Pearce ix). On the other hand, Elizabeth is convinced that her future happiness must rest in large part upon the character of her husband as a matter of chance (Austen 24). For her, the character of husband is most important than wealth or prestige.

In short, women have to depend on their husbands for living; this kind of dependence forced them to take marriage as a career. Moreover, Austen learned from her experience as unmarried woman that marriage and building a family are the most important things in life (Pearce IX). In fact, marriage is essential at that period as Mary Wollstonecraft declared in his book *Thoughts on the Education of Daughters* that “so if a woman did not marry nor was from a wealthy family that could support her financially, she did not have an easy existence a head of her” (110-112). Marriage in the Nineteenth Century was related to the class woman came from which lead her to be domestic and oppressed.

2.7.1: The Impact of Class on Marriage:

Class, or social class, is another genre of oppression towards women from which they suffered. In fact, society was divided into the wealthy people and the less fortunate ones. From *Pride and Prejudice*, it is clear that the Bennet family is depicted as middle class with less fortune and wealth while Darcy and Bingley families belong to the upper class with high reputation in the community (Notes, T.C 2012). For instance, the Bingley sisters have enormous respect of Darcy, but look down upon the Bennets family with their “low” social standing. (Datta, xii). In other words, the wealthy women, with large luxury, have more opportunities (education, work.....) than the less fortunate ones who remain secondary deprived from their essential rights in life (ibid). Moreover, marriage also counts on class because women aimed to marry as wealthy as possible, which is considered as an absolute necessity to get a secured life (ibid). As the case of Elizabeth Bennet, the Bennet’s fortune is to be entailed to Mr. Collins because there is no son to the Bennet estate (Austen 7).

Likewise, in the article “Gender and Class Oppression in Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*” the Indian doctorate Chung Chin Yi refers to women’s oppression, their roles minimized into housewives or mothers under male domination (936).

All in all, Austen wrote in this novel about the effect that class have on marriage, and marriage on class (“social class in pride and prejudice”***). In other words, the status of women, their rights and duties cannot be generalized since they varied according to the social class a woman came from.

2.8 Henry James as a Feminist Writer in *Daisy Miller*’s Novella

The novel *Daisy Miller* describes the daily life of the young American girl named Daisy; she went to Europe for a holiday with her wealthy family as tourists (James 7). They visited Switzerland then Rome as a second place where she did not respect the norms and values of the city (32).

Accordingly, James shows his feminist ideas by manifesting Daisy as a basis of the novella and explaining the position of women in her new society. He describes her as an active character who loves freedom and who is full of happiness (12). The whole story is a representation of a clash of cultures between the European and American societies. This clash was a part of his feminist view, because he mentions the difference between the low societies in many aspects especially in the way American woman should behave respecting the norms and customs (Matthews 2a).

Daisy Miller is the symbol of the great difference between American and European norms, and James portrayed the consequence of this clash of cultures on the female protagonist when Mr. Winterbourne, the American man who lived in Europe for a long time tried to decide if Daisy is bad or not. This appears when she asked him to go on a trip after knowing him for a short time (James 6). Furthermore, he met her with Mr. Giovanelli, the Italian man, alone because it is not acceptable in the nineteenth century Europe for young girl to do such behavior (37). But at the same time Winterbourne had a doubt if Daisy was really bad or not decided that she was an innocent and ignorant lady. (James 17). Thus, James used the male protagonist

Winterbourne to defend Daisy and express his feminist ideas when Daisy said: "I am more than five years old" (43).

Moreover, another aspect of James's feminist view appeared in Winterbourne's aunt Mrs. Costello who criticizes Daisy and claims that she was "uncivilized" girl who means that Daisy was oppressed and neglected by her relatives (James 33).

In addition, Henry James in *Daisy Miller* portrayed the American woman whose ignorance and innocence made her suffer and live hard conditions in a new society because she did not adapt the new culture, also the traditions and the norms there (Barnett 281). So, the author explained that the American women in Europe were rejected.

As a feminist writer Henry James represented Daisy and her way of life and said that she wanted to be free and behaved as she liked especially when she enjoyed having a walk with Mrs. Giovanelli in Mrs. Walker's party. She refused to be dependent to anything or to anyone with self confidence (James 40), which means that the American woman in Europe in nineteenth century searches and wants to be free by anyway.

In *Daisy Miller*, the author described woman as pure, because she refuses to include European culture into her personality, which means that during the nineteenth century, women tried to be strange keeping their identities everywhere (63). As a result, James portrays the American women at that time who challenges the norms and the traditions of European society (ibid).

As a conclusion, in this novel, Henry James describes the clash of cultures between America and Europe in which he represents the ill treatment of Daisy by European community defending her innocent behavior, which was rejected by European community and dubbed as ignorant (James 17).

Conclusion

Conclusion

Our work has aimed to examine and compare the development of women's position with European societies in the nineteenth century using female characters from the two literary works *Daisy Miller* and *Pride and Prejudice*. The two novels depicts women who had little opportunities such as education and work in general. The works are significant because they reflect to a certain extent European societies.

We have illustrated in the first chapter, the social condition of the two literary works. The discussion covers the Victorian age in Britain because an author in general is inspired in his work of art by the reality he faces and the social conditions which surround him. Furthermore, we shed light on the development of feminism during the nineteenth century as a reaction against women's oppression. It sought to change their profile in which many feminist writers emerged using novels as mediums to make their silenced voices heard. These writers fought against injustice and gender inequality which harmed women and minimized their positions in society as wives or mothers.

Then in the second chapter, the two writers regards their female characters as the central parts of the novels. Henry James and Jane Austen gave intellectual freedom to their protagonists. In that case, we have studied the main female characters of each work and more importantly, their female protagonists Elizabeth Bennet and Daisy Miller who suffered prejudices and wrong assumptions formed against them in their societies. Besides, Jane Austen describes women as what they really are and advocates a new idea of love and marriage rather than of stability and want of wealth. She focused on the impact of class on marriage because a recurrent theme throughout *Pride and Prejudice* was woman and marriage. In the novel, women should be intelligent and sensible. Jane is always defending women, her main focus was on their personalities, manners and their intentions toward each other in order to establish feminist authority and deconstruct male consciousness. As a result, Jane Austen is a remarkable woman in the literary realm and like other feminists, she cared about

women's social position and claimed for women's right to be equal to men financially (mainly their right to own property) and her point of view was reflected in her novels.

At last, the study has come to the conclusion that Henry James is a feminist writer and Daisy Miller is one of the greatest female protagonists able to voice women's problems both in Europe and in America since he was American in the first place. She behaved without changing her personality as innocent and spontaneous; she could make any claim to get her right to be equal to men. Thus, Henry James gave his heroine freedom to do whatever she wanted and challenged the European society, its norms, and rules.

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