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Department of English

Beyond the Surface: Unveiling the Complexities of
Characters in Pride and Prejudice, and Tess of
the D'Urbervilles

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Presented by

TABET DERRAZ Amina

Supervised by

Prof. Ghouti HADJOU

Board of Examiners

Prof. Daoudi FRID

Professor

President

Prof. Ghouti HADJOU

Professor

Supervisor

Prof. Mohammed KHELLADI

Professor

Examiner

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Contents table

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| 1 | Setting the Stage : Societal Constraints and the Power Dynamics | 9 |
| 1.1 | Introduction | 10 |
| 1.2 | Summary of the two novels..... | 10 |
| 1.2.1 | Pride and Prejudice : A Dance of Wit and Class..... | 10 |
| 1.2.2 | Tess of the D'Urbervilles : A Tale of Tragedy and Resilience..... | 10 |
| 1.3 | The Nature Of The Two Novels..... | 11 |
| 1.3.1 | The biography of Jane Austen..... | 11 |
| 1.3.2 | The nature of Pride and Prejudice..... | 11 |
| 1.3.3 | Important features of the nature belonging to Pride and Prejudice | 12 |
| 1.3.4 | The biography of Thomas Hardy | 14 |
| 1.3.5 | The nature of Thomas Hardy Tess of d'Urberville..... | 15 |
| 1.3.6 | Important features of the nature belonging to Thomas Hardy Tess of d'Urberville | 15 |
| 1.4 | Plot setting..... | 17 |
| 1.5 | Conclusion..... | 19 |
| 2 | Analysis of the characters in the two novels | 21 |
| 2.1 | Introduction | 22 |
| 2.2 | Characters In Both Novels | 22 |
| 2.3 | Portray of the characters..... | 25 |
| 2.4 | Key Differences in Characters | 28 |
| 2.4.1 | Social Standing and Agency..... | 28 |
| 2.4.2 | Internal Versus External Conflict | 29 |
| 2.4.3 | Innocence and Experience..... | 29 |
| 2.4.4 | Nature of Heroine..... | 29 |
| 2.4.5 | Growth and Change | 29 |
| 2.5 | Similarities in Characters | 30 |
| 2.6 | The technique of describing | 31 |
| 2.6.1 | In Pride and Prejudice..... | 31 |
| 2.6.2 | In Tess of d'Urberville | 33 |

| | | |
|----------|--|-----------|
| 2.7 | Conclusion..... | 34 |
| 3 | Chapter 03 : comparison of the two novels “Pride and Prejudice” and “Tess of d’Urberville | 37 |
| 3.1 | Introduction..... | 38 |
| 3.2 | Comparison of the novels differences and similarities..... | 38 |
| 3.2.1 | Differences..... | 38 |
| 3.2.2 | Similarities..... | 43 |
| 3.3 | Conclusion..... | 44 |

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Dedication

To my mother, whose boundless love, sacrifices, and endless encouragement have been the foundation upon which I have built this journey. Her resilience and unwavering belief in my potential have been my guiding light, inspiring me to persevere through every challenge and strive for excellence.

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Amina TABET DERRAZ

General Introduction

The nineteenth century England was an era marked by strict social codes, particularly for women, whose lives were shaped by rigid expectations regarding marriage, social status, and propriety. Literature from this period offers valuable insights into the tension between personal fulfilment and societal constraints. This study focuses on two significant works from the era: Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) and Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (1891). Although both novels centre on female protagonists navigating social pressures, they adopt contrasting narrative approaches. Austen's work offers a satirical yet hopeful exploration of the possibilities for personal growth and happiness within the confines of social norms. In contrast, Hardy's novel presents a more tragic portrayal, emphasizing the devastating consequences of rigid societal expectations on women's lives.

By engaging in a comparative analysis of the two novels, this study aims to uncover how both Austen and Hardy depict the complexities of character development in their respective social milieus. *Pride and Prejudice* focuses on the challenges faced by Elizabeth Bennet as she negotiates societal expectations of marriage while seeking personal fulfilment. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, on the other hand, tells the story of Tess Durbeyfield, whose struggle against oppressive social forces leads to her ultimate downfall. Despite these contrasting trajectories, both works provide a rich commentary on themes of love, class, morality, and gender. This thesis seeks to explore the ways in which the two novels portray female agency, societal pressures, and personal identity in 19th-century England, thereby offering insights into the broader cultural values of the time.

The central research question guiding this study is: How do Austen and Hardy depict societal constraints through their characters, and what do these portrayals reveal about gender, class, and personal fulfilment in the 19th century? The analysis will explore the ways in which the characters' journeys reflect and resist the social conventions of their time. Austen's characters manoeuvre through a world where marriage is both a personal and social imperative, while Hardy's protagonist is trapped by the moral codes and economic realities that shape her tragic fate.

The aim of the study is to compare the narrative techniques, thematic concerns, and character portrayals employed by Austen and Hardy to reveal both the contrasts and overlaps in their depiction of societal expectations. Through this comparison, the thesis will illuminate how these authors critique the limitations imposed by class and gender while simultaneously offering insights into the possibilities for personal fulfilment. By analysing the heroines' struggles, the study also aims to highlight the emotional and psychological costs of conforming to—or resisting—social norms.

The research methodology employed in this thesis involves a comparative literary analysis. First, the study examines the historical and cultural contexts of both novels to understand the social frameworks within which the characters operate. It then undertakes a close reading of the texts, focusing on narrative structure, character development, and the use of social commentary. Special attention is given to how the protagonists evolve in response to the pressures of their environment and how the authors use plot and character interactions to engage with broader themes of love, power, and morality. By juxtaposing the experiences of Elizabeth Bennet and Tess Durbeyfield, the study seeks to offer a nuanced understanding of how literature reflects and critiques the gender dynamics and class structures of the period.

Through this exploration, the thesis aims to contribute to the understanding of 19th-century English literature and its engagement with issues of personal identity, gender roles, and societal expectations. It seeks to demonstrate that while *Pride and Prejudice* offers a vision of transformation and fulfilment, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* reveals the harsh realities of social oppression and the limits placed on individual agency. Together, these novels provide complementary perspectives on the female experience in 19th-century England, offering timeless insights into the human struggle for self-determination and the consequences of societal constraint.

Chapter 1

Setting the Stage : Societal Constraints and the Power Dynamics

1.1 Introduction

The nineteenth century in England experienced a fascinating dance between society expectations and the desire for personal fulfilment. This chapter examines two opposing but thematically relevant novels : Jane Austen’s “Pride and Prejudice” and Thomas Hardy’s *Tess of the d’Urbervilles*. While Austen creates a funny portrayal of landed aristocracy focused with marriage and social standing, Hardy delves into a harsher reality, examining themes of social injustice and the weight of womanhood in a male-dominated world.

Despite their disparate backgrounds, both novels provide penetrating analyses of their own cultures. We will look at how Austen and Hardy use social criticism and narrative to highlight the difficulties women have in negotiating the complexity of love, marriage, and cultural expectations. By juxtaposing these perspectives, we obtain a better understanding of the whole range of female experiences in nineteenth-century England.

1.2 Summary of the two novels

1.2.1 **Pride and Prejudice : A Dance of Wit and Class**

Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* is a witty social commentary that explores the complexities of love and societal expectations. Elizabeth Bennet, a spirited and intelligent young woman, finds herself entangled with the aloof and wealthy Mr. Darcy. Their initial clashes stem from pride and prejudice, but through clever conversations and evolving understanding, their feelings deepen. The story also follows the romantic journeys of Elizabeth’s sisters, showcasing the challenges and social pressures faced by women in the early 19th century. Filled with sharp dialogue and insightful observations, *Pride and Prejudice* celebrates the importance of overcoming first impressions and embracing the true value of character beneath the surface [1].

1.2.2 **Tess of the D’Urbervilles : A Tale of Tragedy and Resilience**

Thomas Hardy’s *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* paints a poignant picture of social injustice and the harsh realities of life in the late 19th century. Tess Durbeyfield, a beautiful and innocent young woman, falls victim to the deception of her wealthy relative, Alec D’Urberville. Her life takes a tragic turn as she faces societal condemnation and personal hardship. The story follows Tess’s struggles for survival and her search for love with the idealistic Angel Clare. *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* delves into themes of fate, resilience, and the struggle against a system stacked against the working class. It is a powerful and thought-provoking novel that exposes the dark underbelly of Victorian society.[17]

1.3 The Nature Of The Two Novels

1.3.1 The biography of Jane Austen

Jane Austen was born on December 16, 1775 in Steventon, Hampshire, England. she was an English writer who first gave the novel its distinctly modern character through her treatment of ordinary people in everyday life. She published four novels during her lifetime : Sense and Sensibility (1811), Pride and Prejudice (1813), Mansfield Park (1814), and Emma (1815). In these and in Persuasion and Northanger Abbey (published together posthumously, 1817), she vividly depicted English middle-class life during the early 19th century. Her novels defined the era's novel of manners, but they also became timeless classics that remained critical and popular successes for over two centuries after her death. These works reflect her enduring legacy. She died on July 18, 1817 in Winchester, Hampshire)

Early Novels

From 1796-1798, Austen wrote her first three novels Northanger Abbey (originally titled Susan), Sense and Sensibility (originally titled Elinor and Marianne), and Pride and Prejudice (originally titled First Impressions) but none was published until later. Northanger Abbey, which was published posthumously in 1818, satirizes the Gothic novels that were popular at the time by presenting a heroine whose overactive imagination and love of Gothic novels lead her to see mysteries where none exist when she stays at Northanger Abbey. In Sense and Sensibility, published in 1811, Austen examines the contrast between two sisters who represent reason (sense) and emotion (sensibility) as they deal with being forced to live on a meager amount of money after their father dies.

Later Works

In 1800, Austen's father decided to retire and move the family to Bath, a sea resort. Moving from the home she loved was difficult for Jane, especially because the family lived in several different places until 1809, when Mr. Austen died. During that period of nine years, Austen did not write. After her father's death, Austen and her mother and sister moved to Chawton, a country town where Austen's brother lent the family a house he owned. There Austen was able to pursue her work again, and she wrote Mansfield Park, Emma, and Persuasion [6].

1.3.2 The nature of Pride and Prejudice

One way to classify the novel «Pride and Prejudice" is as a romantic comedy of manners. Written by Jane Austen, it was released for the first time in 1813. The story is around the life and relationships of the Bennet family and it is set in early 19th-century England. Elizabeth Bennet, the main character, and her romantic relationships with the distant and wealthy Mr. Darcy are given special attention. Austen explores humans' intrinsic attributes, showing characters with varied degrees of pride, prejudice, humor, and sensitivity. The story highlights the negative effects of pride and prejudice on interpersonal relationships and social interactions while reflecting the cultural norms and expectations that were common in the aristocratic society of the day.

Through the portrayal of characters such as Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy, Austen's astute observations of human nature demonstrate the transformational power of self-awareness, reflection, and personal growth. Furthermore, the picturesque landscapes described in the novel serve as a backdrop that mirrors the characters' emotions and inner conflicts, adding depth and symbolism to the narrative.

Ultimately, "Pride and Prejudice" underscores the worth of self-examination empathy, and understanding in negotiating the difficulties of relationships and societal expectations, spite of exploring the complexity of human nature[2].

1.3.3 Important features of the nature belonging to Pride and Prejudice

Social commentary

This work provides a perceptive sociological critique of the British landed gentry during the Regency period, highlighting topics like morality, marriage, class, and gender roles in particular, Here are among some of the major societal concerns she tackles

- A patriarchal society's plight for women. Though many of Austen's heroines are sharp and self-reliant, they are nevertheless limited by societal standards of the time, To maintain their social standing and financial stability, they must get married.
- The significance of money and class. Marriage is frequently viewed as a business transaction, with people judged on their wealth and social standing.
- Hypocrisy among the upper class. Austen reveals the arrogance, elitism, and selfishness of many members of the gentry.

Romantic Themes

"Pride and Prejudice" is fundamentally a love narrative, with themes of attraction, courting, and marriage. It explores the complexity of romantic relationships, miscommunication, and personal development. Here are some of the fundamental romance themes she touches.

- While Austen's novels glorify love, they also highlight the need of reason and societal awareness in romantic relationships. Characters who are impetuous or blinded by passion frequently make terrible decisions, whereas those who balance emotion and reason experience more enjoyment.
- Marriage in Austen's novels is about more than just romantic love ; it also involves social standing and economic security. Austen's heroines frequently struggle with the pressure to marry for financial security or social position, even if it means foregoing their passionate inclinations.
- Austen's characters frequently go on journeys of self-discovery as they traverse the difficulties of love. They learn to acknowledge their own imperfections and make decisions that are authentic to them.
- Austen's works are full of witty social commentary and her thoughts on love and relationships are frequently funny and insightful. She satirizes the excessive ideals of romantic love and the social forces that might impact romantic decisions.

Character Development

A particular technique used by Jane Austen to reveal character development is free indirect style, in which the narrator conveys a character's thoughts and feelings without attribution. This can be confusing since the reader may misinterpret the character's thoughts as the narrator's. Austen employs this strategy to give readers insight into the brains of her characters. For example, in *Pride and Prejudice*, the narrator presents Elizabeth's thoughts regarding Mr. Wickham as facts, yet they are actually Elizabeth's perspective.

Spirited Heroine

One literary technique employed by Jane Austen is the free indirect style, which permits the narrator's voice to convey the characters' emotions and thoughts to the reader without explicitly informing them. This is seen in *Pride and Prejudice*, as Austen depicts Elizabeth's sentiments for Mr. Wickham through a free-form indirect style. Though Austen does not always credit the speech or thinking to the character, it is vital to highlight that the reader must pay attention to context in order to recognize that the thoughts and feelings being portrayed belong to the character and not the narrator.

Universal themes

Jane Austen's novels explore a number of universal themes that continue to resonate with readers today. Among the most prevalent themes occur as follows

- Love and Marriage : While Austen's novels are well-known for their love plotlines, they also provide a sophisticated examination of the intricacies of relationships and the influence of social status in creating them.
- Class and Social Status : Austen's novels depict the difficulties that members of various classes experienced as well as the strict social hierarchy of Regency England.
- Money and Inheritance : Many of Austen's characters, especially women, are concerned about their financial security. Marriage is frequently viewed as a means for women to advance their social position and secure a livelihood.
- Manners and Morality : Austen's characters are evaluated by their manners and behavior, which reflect their moral character.
- Education and Self-Discovery : Austen's novels frequently include narratives who learn and grow throughout the story's progression.

The Importance of Family

Familial ties are crucial in Austen's novels. For example, the Bennet family's different parenting techniques, motivated by Mrs. Bennet's fascination with affluent suitors and Mr. Bennet's aloof attitude, have a considerable impact on their daughters' personalities and chances [2].

1.3.4 The biography of Thomas Hardy

Thomas Hardy was born on June 2, 1840, in Higher Bockhampton, Dorset, England. Despite being frail in his early years, Hardy grew up in a rural environment that deeply influenced his writing, absorbing local customs, dialects, and traditions. His father was a stonemason, and his mother, ambitious for her children, managed the family's finances and education.

Hardy initially trained as an architect, moving to London in 1862 to work for Arthur Blomfield. During his time in London, Hardy was exposed to the city's vibrant cultural life, but he eventually returned to Dorset due to his declining health and a desire to write. His early novel, "The Poor Man and the Lady," was never published due to its critical tone, but he found success with "Desperate Remedies" in 1871.

In 1874, Hardy married Emma Lavinia Gifford, whose support helped him transition

CHAPTER 1. SETTING THE STAGE : SOCIETAL CONSTRAINTS AND THE POWER DYNAMICS

from architecture to full-time writing. They had a tumultuous relationship, marked by mutual devotion and estrangement. Hardy's novels, including "Far from the Madding Crowd" (1874), "The Return of the Native" (1878), and "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" (1891), explored themes of social criticism and human suffering, earning him the title "The Wizard of Wessex."

Hardy abandoned novel-writing after the controversy surrounding "Jude the Obscure" (1895) and focused on poetry, where he became recognized as a significant 20th-century poet. After Emma's death in 1912, Hardy married Florence Dugdale, who became his secretary and companion.

Thomas Hardy died on January 11, 1928, at the age of 87. His ashes were interred in Westminster Abbey, while his heart was buried in his birthplace of Stinsford, in accordance with his wishes. Hardy remains celebrated as both a major Victorian novelist and an important modern poet, whose work captures the complexities of human experience and the changing rural landscape of England[8].

1.3.5 The nature of Thomas Hardy Tess of d'Urberville

Tess of the d'Urbervilles is a novel written by Thomas Hardy and originally published in 1891. It has been viewed as one of Hardy's essential works, and it is frequently interpreted as a dark and depressing novel. The novel delves into the essence of good and evil, the role of fate in human existence, and the devastating influence of societal tradition. The novel's protagonist, Tess Durbeyfield, is a young woman who is attracted by her wealthy relative, Alec d'Urberville. Alec abandons Tess when she falls pregnant, forcing her to raise her kid alone. Tess eventually marries Angel Clare, who initially draws her to her innocence and purity. However, Angel abandons Tess when he realizes she is not a virgin. Tess is eventually driven to kill Alec in a fit of wrath, and she is then hung for murder.

Hardy's writings are serious, frequently tragic, yet they also contain witty dialogue and humorous moments. He balances social norms, class, poverty, education, and the nature of love with ordinary images from his fictitious Wessex area. His beautiful style is minimalist and romantic, but it can also be incredibly current. Ultimately, "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" is a powerful and thought-provoking novel that blends tragedy, social commentary, and an examination of the human condition. Hardy's distinct writing style and ability to develop unforgettable characters have established this work as a timeless classic[8].

1.3.6 Important features of the nature belonging to Thomas Hardy Tess of d'Urberville

"Tess of the d'Urbervilles" by Thomas Hardy exhibits several essential characteristics that indicate the author's subject concerns, narrative style, and philosophical worldview. Here are several crucial features.

Social commentary

"Tess of the d'Urbervilles" is a satire of Victorian society, emphasizing the rigid class structure, moral hypocrisy, and patriarchal oppression. Hardy exposes women's and working-class inequalities, as well as the upper classes' moral deterioration and corruption. Tess's experiences reflect bigger social and cultural themes of the time, such as female exploitation and societal norms' restrictions.

Tragic Realism

One of the most striking aspects of "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" is its sad realism, Hardy paints a severe and unvarnished picture of rural life in late Victorian England, highlighting the trials, tragedies, and injustices endured by ordinary people, notably women like Tess. The novel's melancholy tone arises from Tess' unavoidable spiral into ruin, despite her virtues and efforts to overcome adversity.

Romanticism

The book has aspects of romanticism despite its tragic undertones, especially in the way it depicts Tess's idealistic love for Angel Clare. Even though their romance is set in a harsh and brutal environment, it contains themes of love, passion, and longing.

Character Development

The character development in Tess of the d'Urbervilles employ psychological realism to illustrate a character's complex inner world as she faces significant difficulties and transformations throughout the novel. Each characters dealing with their own moral quandaries, wants, and weaknesses. Tess is a complex heroine divided between her sense of obligation and her desire for independence and pleasure. Other characters, such as Angel Clare and Alec d'Urberville, go through moral and emotional transformations as they face their own flaws and struggle with their conscience.

Spirited Heroine

Thomas Hardy likely employs a rich tapestry of techniques to craft Tess as a spirited heroine throughout the novel. One strategy can be juxtaposition, in which Tess's indisputable physical beauty and innate purity are set against the hard reality she must face. This highlights her resilience in the face of difficulty. Furthermore, in order to emphasize Tess's agency and unyielding resolve, Hardy may describe her acts using powerful verbs and the active voice. If she has any interior monologues, they could show the depths of her inner fortitude and unshakable perseverance as she struggles with her situation. Additionally, dialogue might be used to highlight Tess's assertiveness and refusal to accept her circumstances as a helpless victim. Finally, to convey Tess's wild energy and unyielding resolve, metaphorical language—such as similes drawing comparisons between her and strong natural phenomena like storms or wild animals—might be used. By combining these literary devices, Hardy probably creates an intricate and engrossing portrayal of Tess, a heroine whose spirit endures in spite of the harsh reality she lives in.

Universal themes

Tess of the d'Urbervilles likely tackles a multitude of universal themes, prepare to encounter Tess's unwavering quest for justice in the face of social pressures and a restricted sense of free will. It is likely that the harsh Victorian social structure, with its emphasis on gender and class, will be criticized for having played a significant role in her unfortunate outcome. The complex themes of love, redemption, and the possibility of forgiveness are probably discussed, entwined with the loss of innocence and the lingering effects of trauma. Hardy probably creates a dramatic examination of the human condition by tying these and maybe other themes together, challenging readers to consider age-old issues like justice, social pressures, and the resiliency of the human spirit.

The Importance of Family

Tess of the d'Urbervilles investigates the intricate interplay between familial and cultural pressures. Tess, who supports her siblings, is struggling financially because of her father's alcohol consumption and delusions. The Victorian emphasis on genealogy also adds to her demise. The novel focuses on the contradictory essence of family[3].

1.4 Plot setting

— Pride and prejudice : A Witty Dance in a Rigid Social Landscape

Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* unfolds in the early years of the 19th century

CHAPTER 1. SETTING THE STAGE : SOCIETAL CONSTRAINTS AND THE POWER DYNAMICS

(around 1811-1813) amidst the picturesque countryside of rural England. The story centers around the Bennet family, particularly their five unmarried daughters : Elizabeth, Jane, Mary, Kitty, and Lydia. Their lives revolve around the ever-present societal pressure for young women to secure advantageous marriages.

The arrival of two wealthy gentlemen, Mr. Bingley and Mr. Darcy, throws the local social scene into a flurry. Elizabeth, the second eldest daughter, develops a strong dislike for Mr. Darcy, perceiving him as arrogant and aloof. This initial prejudice is fueled by lies and misunderstandings, particularly from the charming but deceitful Mr. Wickham. Meanwhile, her elder sister, Jane, becomes smitten with Mr. Bingley, but their potential romance is threatened by social pressures and misunderstandings.

The plot revolves around a series of social gatherings, witty conversations, and mistaken impressions. Elizabeth and Darcy engage in sharp verbal exchanges, revealing their intelligence and underlying attraction despite their initial dislike. Through these interactions, the novel delves into the complexities of human nature and the importance of seeing beyond first impressions. As Elizabeth learns the truth about Darcy's actions and character, her prejudice starts to crumble. Darcy, in turn, overcomes his pride and expresses his genuine admiration for Elizabeth. The story culminates in multiple happy marriages, reflecting the triumph of true love and character development over societal expectations. The world of *Pride and Prejudice* is heavily influenced by the rigid social hierarchy of the time. The landed gentry, like Mr. Darcy and Mr. Bingley, hold a significantly higher social position than the Bennets. Proper conduct and conversation are essential for navigating these social circles. The story cleverly employs this social context to create humor and expose the limitations placed upon women during this era. The contrast between the peaceful rural setting and the bustling social scene of London further highlights the complexities of social dynamics and individual choices [7].

— Tess of the D'Urbervilles : A Tragic Tale in a Changing Social Landscape

Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* paints a starkly different picture, set in the fictional region of Wessex, England, during the late 19th century (around the 1870s). The story revolves around Tess Durbeyfield, a beautiful young woman from a poverty-stricken family. Tess's life takes a tragic turn when she discovers she is a descendant of a noble family, the D'Urbervilles. This revelation leads her to Alec D'Urberville, a wealthy relative who callously seduces and abandons her.

Despite this devastating experience, Tess finds a glimmer of hope when she falls in love with Angel Clare, a compassionate young clergyman. However, Angel's rigid moral code and his inability to accept Tess's past lead to his departure, leaving Tess heartbroken and alone. Tess attempts to rebuild her life, but Alec's relentless pursuit and her desperate struggle for survival culminate in a tragic act of violence. Driven to desperation, Tess kills Alec to protect herself, setting in motion a chain of events that lead to her capture and execution. Angel, finally understanding Tess's character and the injustices she faced, reunites with her shortly before her demise, adding to the poignancy of the ending.

CHAPTER 1. SETTING THE STAGE : SOCIETAL CONSTRAINTS AND THE POWER DYNAMICS

The setting of *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* plays a crucial role in reflecting the harsh realities of rural poverty and the vast socioeconomic divide of the time. Tess's struggles and hardships are a stark contrast to the privileged life of Alec D'Urberville. The natural world surrounding Tess becomes a powerful symbol, mirroring her emotional state and the relentless cycle of life and death. While the story is rooted in the traditions and social norms of the late 19th century, it also hints at the changing social landscape. The rigid class structures are beginning to show cracks, paving the way for a more nuanced exploration of human relationships and societal injustices.

Understanding the setting of *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* gives for a more in-depth comprehension of Hardy's ideas. The individuals' troubles are inextricably related to the social and cultural environment of Victorian England[8].

1.5 Conclusion

In conclusion, this exploration of *Pride and Prejudice* and *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* has revealed two distinct literary worlds. While both novels center around female protagonists navigating love and societal pressures, their approaches differ vastly. *Pride and Prejudice* offers a witty and satirical social commentary, celebrating wit and the power of seeing beyond initial impressions. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*, on the other hand, adopts a darker and more tragic tone, highlighting the harsh realities of class disparity and the struggle for survival. By comparing these contrasting narratives, we gain a deeper appreciation for the diverse ways literature can explore themes of love, loss, and the human condition.

Chapter 2

Analysis of the characters in the two novels

2.1 Introduction

Elizabeth Bennet and Tess Durbeyfield, two iconic heroines from Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* and Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, are introduced to us. In this analysing the characters we delve into two distinct literary worlds that offer rich, contrasting portraits of human experience. Austen's literary works showcase a diverse range of individuals maneuvering through the social complexities of Regency England, wherein their fates are largely shaped by their wit, personal development, and society expectations. In contrasting contrast, individuals in Hardy's story are embroiled in the harsh realities of Victorian society, where their futures are determined by rigid class systems and social injustice. We learn a great deal about the contrasting themes of "Pride and Prejudice" and "Tess of the d'Urbervilles," which are the unwavering fight against societal tyranny and the quest of love and self-fulfillment, respectively, via the investigation of these characters. This analysis emphasizes the distinctive features of each author's characterizations while simultaneously highlighting the social commentary pieces' ongoing significance.

2.2 Characters In Both Novels

Pride and prejudice characters

- Elizabeth Bennet : The novel's protagonist. Elizabeth is Mr. and Mrs. Bennet's second daughter and the most intelligent and sensible of the five Bennet sisters. She is well-read and quick-witted, but her tongue can be a little too sharp at times. Her recognition of Darcy's basic decency gradually overcomes her initial prejudice against him.
- William Darcy Fitzwilliam : The master of Pemberley, a wealthy gentleman, and Lady Catherine de Bourgh's nephew. Despite his intelligence and integrity, Darcy's arrogance makes him despise others who are less fortunate in society. He gradually loses his sensitivity to class over the book and comes to respect and like Elizabeth for her inner strength.
- Jane Bennet : The most attractive and senior Bennet sister. Jane is kinder and more restrained than Elizabeth. The casual ease with which she and Bingley converse stands in sharp contrast to the mutual dislike that characterizes Elizabeth and Darcy's interactions.
- Charles Bingley : Darcy's best friend Charles Bingley, who is a considerable affluent man. The tale begins with Bingley's acquisition of Netherfield, an estate close to the Bennets. He is a kind, well-meaning guy whose laid-back manner contrasts with Darcy's initially ungentle manner. He is blissfully oblivious to social classes.

- Mr. Bennett : The Bennet family's patriarch was a modestly-paid gentleman with five single daughters. Mr. Bennet intentionally irritates his wife with his cynical, sardonic sense of humor. Even though he adores his daughters—Elizabeth in particular—he frequently falls short as a parent, choosing instead to distance himself from the women in his immediate vicinity and their never-ending marital woes.
- Mrs. Bennet : Mr. Bennet's wife is a foolish, boisterous woman whose one ambition in life is to see her daughters married. Mrs. Bennet frequently repels the suitors she seeks to obtain for her daughters because of her low breeding and often unseemly behavior.
- Lydia Bennet : The youngest Bennet sister, she is gossipy, immature, and self-centered. Lydia, unlike Elizabeth, throws herself headfirst into romance and ends up running away with Wickham.
- George Wickham : A handsome, fortune-seeking militia officer. Wickham's excellent looks and charm first entice Elizabeth, but Darcy's disclosure of Wickham's disreputable past exposes his true nature while also drawing her closer to Darcy.
- Charlotte Lucas : Elizabeth's close friend. Charlotte, who is six years older than Elizabeth and pragmatic where Elizabeth is romantic, does not believe that love is the most important aspect of marriage. Her primary concern is having a cozy home. She agrees to Mr. Collins' proposal as a result.
- Mr. Collins : A pretentious, typically dumb priest who stands to inherit Mr. Bennet's property. Although Mr. Collins's social standing is nothing to be proud of, he goes to considerable lengths to inform everyone he knows that Lady Catherine de Bourgh is his patroness. He is the epitome of snobbishness combined with obedience.
- Miss Bingley : The pretentious sister of Bingley. Miss Bingley despises Elizabeth's middle-class upbringing with an extreme degree. Darcy is impressed by Elizabeth's self-possessed nature even more as a result of her conceited attempts to attract his attention.
- Lady Catherine De Bourgh : A wealthy, bossy noblewoman who is Mr. Collins' patron and Darcy's aunt. Lady Catherine exemplifies class snobbery, especially when she tries to keep the middle-class Elizabeth away from her well-bred nephew.
- Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner : Mrs. Bennet's brother and his wife. The Bennet daughters frequently find that the Gardiners—who are kind, understanding, and wise are better than to Mr. Bennet and his wife as parents.
- Georgiana Darcy : Darcy's sibling. She is really attractive and equally bashful. She excels at playing the pianoforte.
- Mary Bennet : The middle Bennet sister is academic and pompous.
- Catherine Bennet : The fourth Bennet sister. Like Lydia, she is enamored with the warriors[2].

Tess of the d'Urbervilles characters

- Tess Durbeyfield : Tess Durbeyfield is a 16-year-old simple country girl, the eldest daughter of John and Joan Durbeyfield. The narrator describes Tess' physical appearance for the first time. Throughout the narrative, he discusses her appearance several times ; he looks at her as a girl who was a lovely and handsome girl—not as attractive as some others, perhaps—but her flexible peony mouth and huge naive eyes brought eloquence to colour and shape. She wore a red ribbon in her hair and was the only one in the white company with such a prominent ornament.
- Angel Clare : Angel, a well-educated and idealistic young man, falls in love with Tess. Angel's idealism is tested when he learns about Tess's history. Angel's character development centers on his effort to balance his beliefs with the realities of the world.
- Alec d'Urberville : Simon Stokes, a wealthy trader, has a handsome and amoral son. Alec is not truly a d'Urberville ; his father simply adopted the name of the ancient noble family after completing his mansion and retiring. Alec is a deceptive, evil young man who does everything he can to lure Tess, who is new to his family's business. When he eventually has his way with her in the woods, he attempts to help her but is unable to win her heart.
- Mr. John Durbeyfield : Tess's father is a sluggish peddler in Marlott. John is naturally swift, but he despises effort. When he discovers that he is descended from the noble line of the d'Urbervilles, he immediately seeks to profit from the link.
- Mrs. Joan Durbeyfield : Tess's Mother. Joan has a strong sense of propriety and certain expectations for Tess's life. She is consistently disappointed and hurt by the way her daughter's life unfolds. However, she is also simpleminded and readily forgiving, and she is unable to stay furious with Tess—especially after Tess becomes her primary source of support.
- Mrs. d'Urberville : Alec's mother is Simon Stokes' widow. Mrs. d'Urberville is blind and frequently ill. She is emotionally attached to her animals, but not to her maid Elizabeth, son Alec, or Tess, who works for her. In fact, she never considers Tess anything more than a poor girl.
- Marian, Izz Huett, and Retty Priddle : Tess makes friends with the milkmaids at Talbothays Dairy. Tess stays close to Marian, Izz, and Retty for the remainder of her life. Since they are all in love with Angel, they are saddened when he chooses Tess over them. When he leaves Tess, Marian starts drinking, Retty makes an attempt at suicide, and Izz almost flees to Brazil with Angel. They still serve Tess well, though. In addition to helping her land a position at Flintcomb-Ash Farm, Marian and Izz write Angel a heartfelt letter pleading with him to give Tess another chance.

- Reverend Clare : Reverend Clare is Angel's father and a principled priest in Emminster. Mr. Clare feels it his job to convert the people. One of his most difficult instances is Alec d'Urberville.
- Mrs. Clare, Angel's mother, is a caring yet snobby woman who values social status, Mrs. Clare wishes Angel to marry an acceptable woman, which means a woman with the appropriate social, economical, and religious background. Mrs. Clare initially dismisses Tess as a "simple" and underprivileged girl, but eventually comes to admire her.
- Reverend Felix Clare is Angel's brother and a village curate.
- Reverend Cuthbert, Clare Angel's brother, is a classical scholar and dean at Cambridge. Cuthbert, who can only focus on university affairs, marries Mercy Chant.
- Eliza Louisa Durbeyfield : Eliza Louisa Durbeyfield is Tess's younger sister. Tess believes Liza-Lu possesses all of Tess's positive attributes but none of her negative ones, and she pushes Angel to care for and even marry Liza-Lu when Tess dies.
- Sorrow : Sorrow is Tess's son with Alec d'Urberville. Sorrow dies in his early infancy, after Tess christens him. She later buries him personally and decorates his grave.
- Mercy Chant : Reverend Clare's friend's daughter. Mr. Clare believes Angel would marry Mercy, but after Angel marries Tess, Mercy is engaged to his brother Cuthbert instead.[8]

2.3 Portray of the characters

In Pride and Prejudice

While Jane Austen commonly concentrates on character development through language and social interactions, *Pride and Prejudice* contains subtle references to physical attractiveness. Here's a breakdown of the key characters' appearances, with sources for more investigation.

1. Elizabeth Bennet

- Independent and Intelligent : Elizabeth possesses a sharp mind and a strong sense of self. She values wit and challenges societal norms.
- Socially Aware : Despite her independence, Elizabeth understands the importance of social standing in her world.
- Practical with a Romantic Heart : While financially secure marriage is important, Elizabeth seeks a partner who stimulates her intellectually and emotionally.
- Overcomes Prejudice : Elizabeth initially judges Mr. Darcy based on preconceived notions but overcomes them after understanding his true character[4][2].

2. Fitzwilliam Darcy

- Tall and Imposing : Mr. Darcy's height and presence are frequently mentioned. He is regarded as having "fine, tall person" and "handsome features."

- Proud and Reserved : Initially, Darcy comes across as arrogant and distant. His quiet personality conceals a sense of respect and real care for Elizabeth.

- Capable of Change : Darcy's redemption depends on his willingness to own his faults and change his behavior. His message to Elizabeth demonstrates his reflective character and growing admiration for her.

- Proud manner : His "haughty" face and "air of superiority" indicate a restrained and possibly arrogant manner that conceals his genuine emotions. (Chapter 3.)[2][4]

3. Mr. and Mrs. Bennet :

- Mr. Bennet : A witty observer of human nature, Mr. Bennet often uses sarcasm to mask his affection for his family. Despite his seeming indifference, he ultimately supports Elizabeth's choices.

- Mrs. Bennet's primary concern is marrying off her daughters well. Her materialistic nature and social anxieties create humor and conflict within the family[2].

4. Jane Bennet

- Beautiful and Kind : Jane is the epitome of grace and beauty. Her kindness and gentle nature make her universally admired

- The Ideal Daughter : Jane represents the qualities that Mrs. Bennet looks for in a daughter : beauty, good manners, and the ability to attract a wealthy husband[2].

5. The Other Bennet Sisters :

- Mary : The middle sister, Mary, is often seen as bookish and pedantic. Her attempts to appear intellectual can be comical.

- Kitty and Lydia : The two youngest Bennet sisters, Kitty and Lydia, are notorious for their frivolousness and lack of interpersonal abilities. Their actions emphasize the need of proper parenting and the perils of impulsiveness[2].

In Tess of the d'Urbervilles

Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* paints a poignant, A Tapestry of Innocence, Cruelty, and Resilience portrait of characters grappling with societal pressures, personal desires, and the cruelty of fate. Let's delve into the complexities of some key figures :

1. Tess Durbeyfield

- Tess is described as a strikingly beautiful young woman with a natural, rural charm. She has dark hair, large expressive eyes, and a complexion that is often noted for its purity and freshness. Her beauty is both a blessing and a curse, drawing unwanted attention and complicating her life.

- Innocent and Naive : Tess lacks the social awareness and cunning of Elizabeth. Her innocence makes her vulnerable to manipulation.

- Victim of Circumstance : Tess suffers from societal expectations and the cruelty of men like Alec d'Urberville.

- Resilient and Compassionate : Despite her hardships, Tess maintains her kindness and a sense of justice.

- Tragic Heroine : Unlike Elizabeth, Tess's attempts to find happiness are repeatedly thwarted by societal forces beyond her control.[8][16]

2. Alec d'Urberville

- Alec is described as having a striking and somewhat sinister attractiveness. He is often portrayed with dark features, a well-built physique, and a confident, imposing presence. who rapes her. He later becomes a preacher but abandons his religious conversion to take advantage of Tess again.

- Cruel and selfish : Alec represents a predatory upper class motivated by entitlement. He represents the destructive side of the d'Urberville legacy.

- Tragedy catalyst : Alec's actions pave the way for Tess' demise. His seduction and leaving leave her isolated and defenseless.[8][16]

3. Angel Clare

- Angel Clare is depicted as handsome and somewhat ethereal, with a graceful, intellectual appearance. He has a refined, artistic quality that sets him apart from the rural setting of the novel. • Idealistic but flawed : Angel looks to be a paragon of goodness, in contrast to Alec. However, his refusal to embrace Tess's background demonstrates his hypocrisy .

- Represents Societal Rigidity : Angel's rejection reveals harsh Victorian attitudes of feminine purity. His final guilt reveals the societal constraints to which he succumbs.[8][16]

4. Mrs. Joan Durbeyfield • Joan, Tess's mother, is depicted as a robust, weather-beaten woman typical of rural laborers. She has a practical, no-nonsense appearance.

- Ambitious but Superficial : Mrs. Joan Durbeyfield prioritizes social climbing over her daughter's well-being. Her obsession with the d'Urberville name contributes to Tess's misfortune. [8]

5. John Durbeyfield

- John, Tess's father, is characterized by his disheveled appearance and signs of physical decline due to his indulgent lifestyle. He is often seen in a drunken state, which affects his physical demeanor.

- John is a dreamer and somewhat delusional about his family's supposed noble heritage. He is irresponsible and fails to provide adequately for his family, instead

clinging to grandiose ideas of the past. His mental state is a mix of naivety, pride, and escapism.[8]

6. Marian, Izz Huett, and Retty Priddle

- Marian is described as stout and sturdy, Izz as slim and attractive, and Retty as small and delicate with a pretty appearance. Each of these milkmaids has a distinct physical presence that reflects their individual personalities and roles.
- Marian is practical and somewhat resigned to her lot in life. Izz is more hopeful and emotionally open, particularly regarding her unrequited love for Angel. Retty is sensitive and fragile, struggling with the harsh realities of her situation. Together, they represent the various ways rural women cope with the challenges they face [8]

Thomas Hardy's tragic web of people in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* serves as a striking societal criticism. Tess' voyage highlights the societal injustices and plight of women in Victorian England. Her innocence is broken by cultural purity demands, and she is outcast as a result of a history she cannot change. Angel Clare's dishonesty highlights the harmful nature of society standards, which prioritize rigid morality over compassion. Despite the unrelenting cruelty that Tess faces, her moments of resistance and unwavering love for her family demonstrate the human spirit's tenacity in the face of suffering. Hardy's protagonists are more than just individuals, they represent a universal struggle for dignity and survival in a society full of social restrictions.[17]

2.4 Key Differences in Characters

2.4.1 Social Standing and Agency

In *Pride and Prejudice*, the characters operate within a relatively closed social circle of landed gentry. This affords them a certain level of comfort and agency. Elizabeth Bennet, for example, can consider proposals from multiple suitors and negotiate for a marriage that aligns with her desires. Even Mr. Collins, despite his awkwardness, inherits an estate, securing his future. While in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, Tess born into a lower social class, faces far greater limitations. Her family's declining fortunes and her mistaken heritage as a d'Urberville leave her with few choices. Financial dependence on marriage and societal expectations severely limit her agency. Characters like Alec d'Urberville exploit these limitations, manipulating her vulnerability for their gain. This distinction impacts their agency and opportunities.

2.4.2 Internal Versus External Conflict

Pride and Prejudice : Elizabeth is mostly concerned with internal concerns. She tries to reconcile her original prejudice against Mr. Darcy, her own pride, and her growing feelings for him. These internal debates highlight her intelligence and self-awareness. Social expectations about marriage and etiquette also impact her decisions, but they are not as crushing as those that Tess encounters. Tess of the d'Urbervilles faces both internal and exterior problems. Her innocence and lack of social awareness cause internal conflict as she struggles between cultural standards of purity and her own needs. However, the external factors she endures, such as Alec's manipulation, Angel Clare's hypocrisy, and societal rejection, have a far greater impact on her life [1].

2.4.3 Innocence and Experience

In Pride and Prejudice, Elizabeth is clever and intellectual, with a keen insight of human nature. Although she follows social conventions, she is not naive. She carefully watches and evaluates others before making decisions. Her interactions with suitors and her own family demonstrate her strong understanding of social dynamics. Tess of the D'Urbervilles represents innocence and naivety. Alec d'Urberville may easily influence her because she is unfamiliar with the harsh truths of the world. Her lack of social awareness increases her susceptibility. However, as the narrative progresses, Tess comes to a terrible awareness of the world's brutality.

2.4.4 Nature of Heroine

In Pride and Prejudice, Elizabeth is a powerful female protagonist who seeks happiness on her own terms. Her journey emphasizes wit, social awareness, and an intellectual as well as emotional longing for love. She fights societal pressure to marry for riches or position, eventually meeting a partner who values her intelligence and independence. Tess of the d'Urbervilles is a tragic heroine who falls victim to circumstance and societal cruelty. Despite her strength and compassion, she is eventually destroyed by forces beyond her control. Her story is a scathing critique of the constraints and injustices that women suffer in Victorian society.

2.4.5 Growth and Change

Elizabeth and Tess grow and change over their individual stories. Elizabeth learns to see beyond looks for and appreciate genuine connection. She overcomes her first prejudice and accepts a love that allows her to maintain her distinct personality. Tess, who was initially naïve and trusting, acquires a better knowledge of the harsh realities of life.

Nevertheless, this awareness comes at a significant expense. While she maintains her compassion, societal forces eventually break her spirit.

In summary, "Pride and Prejudice" is a social comedy that blends wit and social critique with a celebration of love and marriage, with individuals navigating personal conflicts and society expectations before reaching happy conclusions. In contrast, "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" is a dismal and melancholy story that emphasizes the terrible consequences of social injustice on individuals, particularly women, with a focus on Tess's persistent harshness and the limits imposed by her social status.

2.5 Similarities in Characters

There are noticeable parallels between the characters that highlight recurring themes even though Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" and Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" have very different tones and settings. Both novels investigate societal limits, the complexities of personal development, and the influence of socioeconomic status on people's lives. Here are some specific similarities between the characters in these two works :

— Societal Constraints and Expectations

Tess Durbeyfield and Elizabeth Bennet both have to navigate civilizations with strict standards and social systems. Despite her intelligence and wit, Elizabeth had to deal with the restrictions imposed on her as a woman in Regency England, especially with regard to marriage and social status. Similar to Tess, she must deal with the harsh reality of Victorian society, where her social status and gender drastically restrict her options and level of autonomy.

— Personal Growth and Resilience

Both individuals show remarkable personal development and tenacity in the face of tragedy. Elizabeth overcomes her initial preconceptions and misconceptions, notably about Mr. Darcy, displaying her ability to mature and evolve. Despite great hardship and injustice, Tess fights to establish her dignity and moral integrity.

— Family Influences and Responsibilities

Both Elizabeth and Tess are deeply influenced by their families and bear significant responsibilities towards them. Elizabeth's actions are often guided by her sense of duty towards her family, particularly her younger sisters. Tess, likewise, feels a strong sense of obligation to support her impoverished family, which ultimately drives many of her decisions and actions throughout the novel.

— Romantic Relationships as Central Plot Elements

Both Elizabeth and Tess' storylines center on romantic connections. One of the main plot points of "Pride and Prejudice" is the progression of Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy's relationship from early miscommunication to respect and love. The connections Tess has

with Alec d'Urberville and Angel Clare are crucial to "Tess of the d'Urbervilles," as they shape her life's course and emphasize themes of love, treachery, and forgiveness.

— Conflict Between Individual Desires and Social Pressures

Both Mr. Darcy and Angel Clare face internal conflicts between their individual desires and the societal pressures they experience. Darcy struggles with his feelings for Elizabeth, initially influenced by his pride and societal expectations, but ultimately chooses love over social convention. Angel Clare, on the other hand, is torn between his idealistic love for Tess and the harsh societal judgments of her past, ultimately failing to reconcile these conflicts until it is too late.

— Impact of Social Class

One of the main themes of the two novels is the influence of socioeconomic status. Class biases and social expectations impede Elizabeth and Darcy's romance at first, mirroring the inflexible class systems of Regency England. Her inferior social standing has a significant impact on Tess's life, exposing her to exploitation and reducing her opportunities—a stark reminder of the inequalities between classes in Victorian society.

— Strength of Character and Moral Integrity

Tess and Elizabeth are both shown to be morally upright and strong-willed women. Elizabeth stands out in a world that frequently devalues women because of her keen wit, intelligence, and strong sense of self-worth. Hardy frequently uses natural images to illustrate Tess's fortitude and purity in the face of sorrow and victimization.

— Critique of Societal Norms

Both authors use the characters in both novels as a means of critiquing society conventions. Austen criticizes the restrictions placed on women's duties, the institution of marriage, and class biases through Elizabeth and Darcy. Hardy criticizes the lack of agency granted to women in Victorian society, as well as the social and sexual double standards, through Tess and Angel.

By examining these similarities, it becomes evident that both Austen and Hardy use their characters to explore themes of societal constraint, personal growth, and the enduring impact of social class, highlighting the ways in which individuals navigate and resist the pressures imposed upon them by their respective societies.

2.6 The technique of describing

2.6.1 In Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen adopts variety key techniques to introduce and grow her characters in *Pride and Prejudice*, weaving a rich tapestry of personalities without resorting to detailed descriptions. Here are some important approaches she uses :

1. Direct Description

Austen frequently provides vivid descriptions of her characters, providing readers a clear picture of their physical appearance, psychological attributes, and social standing. This strategy enables her to develop characters swiftly and efficiently. For example, Elizabeth Bennet is described as having "a lively, playful disposition, which delighted in anything ridiculous."

2. Free indirect description

Austen frequently employs free indirect discourse, a type of narrative in which the narrator's voice merges with the characters' ideas and speech patterns. This helps viewers to comprehend the characters' personal motivations and perspectives while yet keeping the narrator's voice. For example, the narrator's internal monologues reflect Mr. Darcy's growing admiration for Elizabeth while also providing insights into his inner life. For example, Elizabeth's evolving thoughts about Mr. Darcy are often presented through free indirect discourse, showing her prejudices and eventual change of heart.

3. Dialogue

Austen develops her characters effectively through the use of speech. Characters divulge information about their morals, ideologies, and social graces through dialogue. Character relationships and personalities can be inferred by the way they talk to and about one another. Bringing up this subject, Mrs. Bennet's persistent worries about her chances of getting married expose her materialistic outlook. And Mr. Darcy's first proposal to Elizabeth is a watershed moment, revealing both his vanity and sense of superiority, as well as Elizabeth's wit and independence in her response.

4. Letters

In "Pride and Prejudice," letters are an important medium of intimate and direct contact between characters. They can significantly progress the plot and offer insights into the thoughts and emotions of the characters. Here, we can make mention to the pivotal moment in the story occurs when Mr. Darcy writes Elizabeth a letter explaining his actions with regard to Jane, Bingley, and Wickham. This letter changes Elizabeth's perception of him.

5. Characters interaction

Character development heavily relies on how they interact with each other. Austen skillfully manipulates social events, such as dinners, balls, and visits, to highlight interpersonal dynamics and character attributes. These exchanges frequently bring societal norms and tensions to light. And to be mentioned the contrast between Jane Bennet's reserved and kind nature and Elizabeth's more outspoken and assertive personality is highlighted through their interactions with each other and other characters.

6. Descriptions Through Others' Eyes

Austen frequently employs the perspectives of other characters to introduce and develop a key figure. Lady Catherine's caustic statements on Elizabeth highlight her brilliance and unconventionality.

By utilizing these approaches, Jane Austen expertly introduces and develops her characters in "Pride and Prejudice." Her sophisticated representation of human interactions, combined with her sharp social critique, results in a rich and timeless story that continues to engage readers [2].

2.6.2 In Tess of d'Urberville

Thomas Hardy employs a specific set of tactics to introduce and develop characters in *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. Unlike Austen, who relies on clever conversation, Hardy takes a more descriptive and symbolic approach. Listed are some main approaches he employs, along with reputable sources for further investigation.

1. Detailed Descriptions

Hardy often uses detailed physical and psychological descriptions to introduce his characters, providing a deep insight into their appearances, emotions, and inner lives. Tess's beauty is described in terms of roses and lilies, highlighting her innocence and vulnerability. Here Tess is introduced with a rich description that emphasizes her natural beauty and purity, which contrasts with the harshness of her later experiences. Hardy describes her as a "fine and picturesque country girl," highlighting her innocence and connection to nature. Hardy represents the duality within characters with recurring symbols such as the d'Urberville name and the two watering cans. The d'Urberville name represents both privilege and ruin, reflecting Alec's nature.

2. Symbolism and Imagery

The natural world in "*Tess of the d'Urbervilles*" mirrors the characters' inner anguish and is inextricably related to Tess' experiences. Tess is typically associated with natural imagery, such as flowers and landscapes, which emphasizes her innocence and the natural forces that mold her destiny. The storm that rages during Tess's encounter with Alec foreshadows the violence she will face, but the image of Tess wearing a red ribbon at the May Day dance represents both her vitality and the danger that will eventually tarnish her life.

3. Dialogue

Through dialogue, Hardy shows his characters' social dynamics and personality traits. Conversations between characters reveal details about their values, conflicts,

and connections. To be mentioned here the dialogue between Tess and her family, particularly her parents, reveals the economic and social pressures they face. Tess's reluctance and sense of duty are highlighted in her conversations with her mother about claiming kinship with the d'Urbervilles.

4. Use of Setting

The Carefully chosen settings are used to reflect the personalities and circumstances of the characters in which they are presented and interact. Wessex's rural setting serves as a metaphor for the characters' relationship to the natural world and the societal shifts that affect their lives, according to Hardy. For illustration, The pastoral beauty of the Vale of Blackmoor, where Tess grows up, contrasts with the more industrial and morally ambiguous settings she encounters later, such as The Slopes and Flintcomb-Ash, reflecting her journey and the changes in her life.

5. Free Indirect Discourse

Hardy frequently uses free indirect discourse to combine the narrator's voice with the ideas and feelings of his characters. This strategy allows readers to feel the characters' inner tensions and emotions while remaining in an omniscient narrative perspective. In this case, Tess's internal struggles and feelings of guilt and shame are often conveyed through free indirect discourse, allowing readers to intimately experience her turmoil and despair.

6. Social Commentary

Hardy utilizes his characters to comment on Victorian societal mores and inequalities, especially as they relate to class, gender, and morality. His personas frequently represent the conflicts and inconsistencies in their social milieu. That was depicted in Alec d'Urberville and Angel Clare exhibit contrasting aspects of Victorian masculinity and the views of the public toward women. The challenges and false standards that women like Tess must struggle with are highlighted by Alec's predatory actions and Angel's idealistic but ultimately misguided morality.

By combining these strategies, Hardy develops a rich tapestry of characters that serve as both people and symbols for a greater social criticism. We learn about Tess and others not only by their acts, but also from how they are described and interact with their surroundings.

2.7 Conclusion

In conclusion, while "Pride and Prejudice" is a nuanced examination of character development and social dynamics that lead to personal and relational fulfillment, "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" is a stark portrayal of characters constrained and ultimately destroyed

By social injustices and rigid moral codes. Both novels, through their diverse characters, provide valuable insights into the human condition and societal institutions. Elizabeth Bennet and Tess Durbeyfield represent different types of heroines : Elizabeth embodies wit and social awareness, while Tess exemplifies resilience and victimhood. Through these contrasting characters, Austen and Hardy offer insights into the challenges faced by wo- men in their respective societies.

Therefore, by studying the characters in "Pride and Prejudice" and "Tess of the d'Urbervilles," we can see how both authors explore the complexity of human nature and cultural impact. Austen's characters, set against a backdrop of social humor, depict the interplay of wit, personal development, and societal expectations in the pursuit of love and fulfillment. Meanwhile, Hardy's characters, placed against a backdrop of societal injustice and unavoidable tragedy, highlight the harsh realities and constraints imposed by class and gender. Through this approach, we obtain a better understanding of how, despite their opposing tones and themes, both works provide timeless commentary on the human condition and the societal systems that define it.

Chapter 3

Chapter 03 : comparison of the two novels “Pride and Prejudice” and “Tess of d’Urberville

3.1 Introduction

The nineteenth century England was characterized by a strict social code, notably for women. The literature of this age provides a compelling prism through which to study the influence of these expectations on individuals. This chapter examines two opposing works, Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* and Thomas Hardy’s *Tess of the d’Urbervilles*, to investigate the portrayal and repercussions of societal constraints on individuals’ lives.

Austen’s witty social criticism in *Pride and Prejudice* emphasizes the importance of marriage and social standing among the landed nobility. This chapter will mention how these expectations influence the lives of her characters, particularly the Bennet sisters, who live in a world where a good marriage is essential. In contrast, Hardy’s *Tess of the d’Urbervilles* presents a darker vision. Set in a rural, male-dominated setting, the story delves into topics of societal injustice and the catastrophic impact these expectations may have on a woman’s life. By juxtaposing these perspectives, we obtain a better understanding of the whole range of female experiences in nineteenth-century England. This chapter will analyze how Austen and Hardy use social commentary, character development, and plot to highlight the emotional challenges that women confront while trying to balance societal constraints and personal wants.

3.2 Comparison of the novels differences and similarities

While both Thomas Hardy’s *Tess of the d’Urbervilles* and Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* are regarded English literature classics, their differing settings, subjects, and overall tone make for very distinct reading experiences. Here is an overview of their main distinctions and similarities.

3.2.1 Differences

1. Social Commentary

- *Pride and Prejudice* : Austen’s novel presents a witty and often humorous social commentary on the society of 18th-century England, particularly the intricate dance around marriage, class, and wealth. Through sharp, satirical dialogue and character interactions, Austen critiques the social hierarchy while still offering a narrative in which personal growth and self-awareness lead to fulfillment, particularly for her heroine, Elizabeth Bennet [1].
- *Tess of d’Urbervilles* : Hardy’s novel is far more serious in tone, serving as a powerful critique of the rigid class structure of Victorian England and the devastating

CHAPTER 03 : COMPARISON OF THE TWO NOVELS “PRIDE AND PREJUDICE” AND “TESS OF D’URBERVILLE”

consequences of societal norms for women. Tess is subjected to a series of tragic events largely because of her gender and low social standing. Hardy’s work challenges the moral fabric of society and highlights the cruelty faced by women like Tess, who are trapped by circumstances beyond their control[9].

2. Heroine’s Journey

- *Pride and Prejudice* : Elizabeth Bennet’s journey is one of personal triumph. Despite facing societal pressures to marry for financial security, Elizabeth navigates these challenges with intelligence and wit, ultimately marrying for love. Her development as a character reflects Austen’s theme of self-awareness and personal growth, allowing her to defy expectations and secure a happy ending on her own terms [5].
- *Tess of d’Urbervilles* : Tess’s journey is one of relentless tragedy. She struggles against an unforgiving society that continually victimizes her, stripping away her innocence and leading to her ultimate downfall. Tess is a tragic figure, and her fate is a poignant reflection of the novel’s themes of societal injustice and the harsh realities faced by women who lack the agency to change their destinies [9].

3. Romance

- *Pride and Prejudice* : At the heart of Austen’s novel is the development of a romantic relationship between Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy, one that begins with misunderstandings but ultimately blossoms into mutual respect and love. The romance in *Pride and Prejudice* is central to the plot and serves as a vehicle for exploring themes of social class, individual character, and personal growth [1].
- *Tess* : In Hardy’s novel, romance is not a source of happiness but rather of destruction and pain. Tess’s relationships with Alec d’Urberville and Angel Clare are fraught with manipulation, betrayal, and tragedy. Rather than being a source of empowerment, love in *Tess of the d’Urbervilles* brings suffering and reinforces the theme of societal oppression[8].

4. Themes

- *Pride and prejudice* : Austen’s novel revolves around themes of marriage, class, social mobility, and the importance of overcoming personal flaws such as pride and prejudice. The narrative emphasizes self-awareness, personal growth, and the triumph of individual integrity over societal pressures [2].
- *Tess of d’Urbervilles* : Hardy’s novel addresses darker themes such as injustice, fate versus free will, the loss of innocence, and the power dynamics between the individual and society. Tess’s story is a meditation on the inevitability of fate and the often cruel and unforgiving nature of societal expectations, particularly for women[3].

5. Clothes

- *Pride and Prejudice* focuses on the social etiquette and class distinctions of the

CHAPTER 03 : COMPARISON OF THE TWO NOVELS “PRIDE AND PREJUDICE” AND “TESS OF D’URBERVILLE”

Early 19th century. Clothing plays a role in reflecting these social cues.

1) Women :

- Formal attire : Elegant white muslin gowns with high waists and flowing skirts. These gowns might be decorated with delicate embroidery or ribbons.
- Informal attire : Simpler muslin gowns or cotton dresses in pastel colors. Sleeves could be puffed or short depending on the occasion.
- Accessories : Straw bonnets, lace gloves, reticules (small purses), and delicate jewelry like necklaces and earrings. Wealthier ladies might have owned tiaras or feathers for formal occasions.
- Social markers : The quality of fabric, details like embroidery, and the number of accessories would indicate a woman’s social standing.

2) Men :

- Formal attire : Tailcoats, breeches, and waistcoats. Colors varied, but black, dark blue, and brown were common. Cravats and white neckcloths were essential.
- Informal attire : Riding coats, breeches, and less formal waistcoats. Materials like linen or tweed were used for everyday wear.
- Accessories : Top hats, gloves, and walking sticks. Wealthier gentlemen might have owned pocket watches or fobs (chains for watches)[2].

— Tess of the D’Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy takes place in the late 19th century, where fashion was becoming slightly less rigid :

1) Tess :

- Working attire : Simple cotton dresses suitable for farm work. These dresses would have been functional and modest.
- Sunday best : A slightly nicer dress, perhaps made of a finer cotton or with a bit of decoration. Tess might wear a simple bonnet or shawl for church.
- Later chapters (as a lady) : Tess might wear silk dresses in fashionable styles, reflecting her perceived position as Alec’s wife. However, there might be a hint of unease or awkwardness in how she carries herself in these clothes.

2) Alec D’Urberville : - Formal attire : Well-tailored suits and coats, reflecting his upper-class status. He might wear a top hat and gloves for formal occasions.

- Informal attire : Stylish hunting jackets, breeches, and riding boots for his leisure activities.

3) Angel Clare :

- Practical attire : Modest clothing suited to his profession as a clergyman. Think dark suits and simple accessories.
- Formal attire : A black clerical coat and white cravat.

CHAPTER 03 : COMPARISON OF THE TWO NOVELS “PRIDE AND PREJUDICE” AND “TESS OF D’URBERVILLE”

Clothing descriptions in *Pride and Prejudice* are more detailed and more subtle highlighting social distinctions. *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* uses clothing to show Tess’s changing social status and the contrast between her rural background and Alec’s aristocratic world[3].

— *Pride and Prejudice* :

- **Witty and Clever Dialogue** : The characters in *Pride and Prejudice* are known for their sharp wit and clever wordplay. Conversations are often laced with sarcasm, double entendres (words with two meanings), and social commentary.
- **Formal Language** : Characters adhere to the social etiquette of the time, using formal language with proper grammar and vocabulary. This formality can also be used as a tool for sarcasm or to create distance.
- **Class Distinctions** : Speech patterns reflect social standing. Upper-class characters speak with more eloquence and propriety, while lower-class characters might use simpler language or regional dialects.
- **Indirect Communication** : Social pressure and propriety encourage indirect communication. Characters may express their true feelings or opinions through subtle hints or body language, rather than explicitly stating them.

Example (Mr. Darcy’s first proposal to Elizabeth Bennet) : "In vain have I struggled. It will not do. My feelings will not be repressed. You must allow me to tell you how ardently I admire and love you." (*Pride and Prejudice*, Chapter 34)

Darcy’s proposal is a clear example of him expressing his feelings directly, although it comes across as forceful due to his social standing and personality[2].

— *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* :

- **More Direct Speech** : *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* features a more direct and emotional style of speech compared to *Pride and Prejudice*. This reflects the changing social landscape of the late 19th century.
- **Use of Dialect** : The novel incorporates elements of rural dialect in Tess’s speech, showcasing her humble background.
- **Social Commentary** : Tess’s speech, particularly when interacting with the D’Urbervilles, highlights the class divide and the power dynamics at play.
- **Expressions of Emotion** : Characters in *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* are more likely to express their emotions openly, reflecting the novel’s focus on themes of passion and tragedy.

Example (Tess confronting Alec D’Urberville) : "'Why did you deceive me? Why did you swear falsely that night at Stonehenge?' Her voice shook with a passionate indignation." (*Tess of the D’Urbervilles*, Phase the Second, Chapter IV)

Tess’s speech here is straightforward and full of emotion, reflecting her anger and hurt at Alec’s deception.[17]

CHAPTER 03 : COMPARISON OF THE TWO NOVELS “PRIDE AND PREJUDICE” AND “TESS OF D’URBERVILLE”

Speech plays a crucial role in both novels, but it serves different purposes. In *Pride and Prejudice*, it reveals social status and hidden emotions. In *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*, it highlights class disparity and the characters’ raw emotions[3].

7) Literary differences

- Narrative Style

— “*Pride and Prejudice*” : Jane Austen’s work is renowned for its clever and humorous storytelling, emphasizing romantic comedy and societal satire. Character interactions and dialogue drive the plot, and Austen’s wry wit and irony are evident throughout. The Regency Period of England is the setting for the novel, and Austen’s writing style captures the etiquette and customs of the period[5].

— “*Tess of the d’Urbervilles*” : The narrative style of Hardy’s “*Tess of the d’Urbervilles*” is dark and melancholy, emphasizing reality and naturalism. The protagonist Tess is followed through her hardships in a rural location as the story develops in a sequential method. Hardy’s writing is full of vivid detail and frequently concentrates on the outdoors and the natural world[9].

- Themes

— *Pride and Prejudice* focuses on issues of marriage, class and social mobility, social expectations, the value of self-knowledge and progress, and the struggle between pride and prejudice[1]

— *Tess of the d’Urbervilles* delves into topics such as justice and injustice, fate versus free will, societal authority, loss of innocence, and the complexity of love, redemption, and forgiveness[9]

- Social Commentary

— *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen provides a more caustic social commentary on 18th-century England. While critical of contemporary pressures on marriage and class, the tone is lighthearted and perceptive. The emphasis is on handling these difficulties with wit and insight[5]

— *Tess of the d’Urbervilles* is a powerful social commentary on Victorian society. Thomas Hardy criticizes the inflexible class structure, the double standard for female virtue, and the heavy burden of social expectations. The work delves into topics of social Darwinism and the powerlessness of the lower strata[9]

- Heroine’s Journey

— *Pride and Prejudice* : Elizabeth Bennet is a triumphant heroine. Through her brilliance and wit, she defies conventional expectations surrounding marriage and wealth, eventually establishing a happy marriage on her own terms. The novel promotes self-awareness, tenacity, and the value of human development[2]

— *Tess of the d’Urbervilles* : A sad heroine. She endures constant injustice and misery before succumbing to a sad fate. The story tackles themes of inevitability vs free will, as well as individuals’ weakness in the face of societal forces[9]

CHAPTER 03 : COMPARISON OF THE TWO NOVELS “PRIDE AND PREJUDICE” AND “TESS OF D’URBERVILLE”

-Setting

- Pride and Prejudice : Set in the English countryside, this work has a witty and playful tone. The emphasis is on social interactions, talks, and the complexities of relationships. The narrative tone is more upbeat and hilarious[2]
- Tess of the d’Urbervilles : Set in rural Wessex, England, the story has a gloomy and somber tone. The natural environment is frequently portrayed as simultaneously beautiful and indifferent to human misery. The narrative is characterized by sorrow and loss[3]

- Tone

- "Pride and Prejudice" : Austen’s book is lighter and funnier, emphasizing clever banter and amusing social commentary. Despite its serious themes, such as gender roles and socioeconomic class, the book is ultimately a romantic comedy with a joyful conclusion[2]
- "Tess of the d’Urbervilles" : The dark, gloomy tone of Hardy’s book reflects the tragic nature of Tess’s tale. There are depressing and hopeless parts in the book as it examines issues of pain, injustice, and fate’s inevitable course[3]

- Romance

- Pride and Prejudice : The core plot revolves around Elizabeth and Darcy’s developing love. Their romance overcomes initial misunderstandings and societal pressures, culminating in a happy ending[4]
- Tess of the d’Urbervilles : The romantic relationships are complicated and heart-breaking. Tess’ innocence is damaged by Alec d’Urberville, and her romance with Angel Clare is ultimately wrecked by society expectations and his refusal to accept her background[3]

3.2.2 Similarities

Despite their contrasting settings and tones, Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* and Thomas Hardy’s *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* share some interesting thematic and narrative similarities :

1. Focus on Female Protagonists : Both novels center around the experiences and challenges faced by strong female protagonists. Elizabeth Bennet and Tess Durbeyfield navigate the complexities of love, societal expectations, and the pursuit of happiness in a world dominated by social norms and class structures.
2. Importance of Social Status : Both novels explore the significant role of social status in shaping individual lives and opportunities. In *Pride and Prejudice*, marriage is seen as a path to upward mobility for the Bennet sisters. *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* showcases the stark contrast between Tess’s impoverished existence and the privileged life of Alec D’Urbervilles.

CHAPTER 03 : COMPARISON OF THE TWO NOVELS “PRIDE AND PREJUDICE” AND “TESS OF D’URBERVILLE”

3. Misunderstandings and Deception : Misunderstandings and deception play a significant role in driving the plots of both novels. In *Pride and Prejudice*, Elizabeth’s initial dislike for Darcy stems from Mr. Wickham’s lies. Tess’s life is irrevocably altered by Alec’s deceit and Angel Clare’s rigid moral judgment based on incomplete information. These elements create tension and highlight the importance of communication and understanding.
4. Both are coming-of-age stories, with female characters navigating the world, discovering love, and confronting cultural expectations.
5. The Power of Perception : Both novels explore how individual perception and societal expectations can impact relationships and decision-making. Elizabeth and Darcy’s initial antipathy is based on their misinterpretations of each other’s character. Tess’s happiness is shattered by societal judgment and Angel’s inability to see beyond her past. These narratives explore the limitations of first impressions and the power of changing one’s perspective.
6. The Search for Happiness : Despite their contrasting tones, both novels explore the characters’ desires for love, security, and a sense of belonging. Elizabeth and Darcy seek a relationship built on mutual respect and understanding. Tess yearns for a life free from hardship and a love that accepts her for who she is. Both novels explore the challenges and complexities associated with finding true happiness.
7. Both make use of strong female characters : Tess defies expectations placed on her by society while Elizabeth defies it by being intelligent.
8. Both are considered classics of English literature : both novels are regarded as literary masterpieces that provide incisive reflection on their respective eras. However, it’s important to note that these similarities are explored with different approaches. *Pride and Prejudice* offers a more optimistic and comedic perspective, ultimately celebrating the triumph of love and personal growth. *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* takes a darker and more tragic approach, highlighting the harsh realities of social injustice and the limitations placed on women in the late 19th century[2][3].

3.3 Conclusion

In conclusion, a comparison of Thomas Hardy’s “*Tess of the d’Urbervilles*” and Jane Austen’s “*Pride and Prejudice*” illustrates different approaches to topics, character development, and societal commentary. Hardy’s tragic story emphasizes the unstoppable forces of fate and societal limits, whereas Austen’s light-hearted work highlights individual agency and social customs. Nonetheless, both books provide deep insights into the human condition by examining the relationship between free will and outside influences.

CHAPTER 03 : COMPARISON OF THE TWO NOVELS “PRIDE AND PREJUDICE” AND “TESS OF D’URBERVILLE

While "Pride and Prejudice" offers a more upbeat perspective on love and social advancement, "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" offers a harsh indictment of the inequities that people—especially women—face in a rigidly structured society. When taken as a whole, these pieces demonstrate the wide range of 19th-century English literature as well as the themes' ongoing significance.

General conclusion

In conclusion, this thesis has explored the ways in which Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* and Thomas Hardy’s *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* depict societal constraints, with particular attention to their impact on the lives of female protagonists. The study demonstrates that both authors critique the rigid social structures of their respective eras, revealing how gender roles, class expectations, and personal agency shape individual experiences and outcomes. Although the two novels approach these themes from different perspectives, they offer complementary insights into the complexities of navigating societal expectations.

Through the comparison of Elizabeth Bennet and Tess Durbeyfield, it becomes evident that Austen and Hardy portray contrasting paths to self-fulfillment. Elizabeth’s journey highlights the possibility of personal growth and romantic fulfillment within societal constraints, as she overcomes pride and prejudice to achieve mutual respect and love with Mr. Darcy. In contrast, Tess’s story is a tragic reflection of the harsh realities that working-class women faced in Victorian England, where the weight of social expectations and moral judgments leads to her downfall. Hardy’s portrayal emphasizes the devastating consequences of social oppression and the limited agency available to women of lower social status.

The central research question—how Austen and Hardy depict societal constraints through their characters and what these portrayals reveal about gender, class, and personal fulfillment—has been answered through this comparative analysis. Austen’s narrative suggests that personal growth, self-awareness, and love can triumph over societal prejudice, while Hardy’s work warns of the destructive power of societal expectations that leave little room for redemption. Both authors underscore the emotional and psychological costs of conforming to or resisting social norms, providing valuable insights into the challenges faced by women in 19th-century England.

Ultimately, the thesis concludes that while Austen offers a more optimistic vision of transformation within the constraints of society, Hardy presents a stark critique of the inequalities and injustices that shape individual fates. Together, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* highlight the spectrum of female experiences in their respective eras, making lasting contributions to the literary exploration of love, class, gender, and personal identity. These works remain relevant today, offering timeless reflections on the human desire for self-determination amidst the complexities of social constraint.

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