

## To talk about the marriage in *sense and sensibility* connecting with Austen's marriage

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**Abstract—Jane Austen is the greatest woman writer in English literature, whose works primarily reflect ordinary love and marriage plays an important role in the history of the English novel and view happy marriage built on money and social status foundation, therefore, women should consider marriage rationally rather than emotionally. Marriage is the perception and attitudes towards marriage and family if women want to get marital happiness, they must use reasons to control emotions. China's traditional view of marriage is that couple should live together in harmony all their lives. This view was in her works about sense and sensibility.**

*Keywords- Love, marriage, reason, emotion*

### I. INTRODUCTION

Jane Austen is in the greatest realist writer in the history of English literature. She is between neoclassical and romantic lyrical movement female writers. Jane Austen never married, because she was living in the rural town, and the living environment is comfortable, quiet. She looks at the world with female perspective, objective and rational, especially love and marriage among ladies and gentlemen. In Jane Austen's age, "sentimental novel" and "Gothic novel" was filled in English literature, and she destroy the old and establish the new in her novels, unconventional to show that he middle class British countryside daily life and pastoral scenery has not yet been influenced by the capitalist industrial revolution. Although her work does not describe sharp social contradictions, in which the breadth and depth are limited, but her fiction novels reversed the vulgar culture of the time. Her fictions play an important role in the history of the English novel. *Sense and Sensibility* is one of Austen's most humor works. The two heroines complicated marriage crisis is the main line, the two sisters were described to attempt to reveal the trend of British society at that time to marry a woman to seek economic guarantee for the improvement of the economic status of vices and the ugly fashion of attaching great importance to family regardless of woman's feelings and human rights. Sister Eleanor representing ratiom, calmness and intellect is a knowledgeable, sensible, calm and the ideal woman knowing to restrain emotion. She married not for appearance and money, but character. Her sister Marianne is naturally sensitive, passionate, but "she is very good but not careful enough." the two sisters met almost simultaneously

emotional twists and turns and they were in a deep pain, but the two have taken different coping styles. She was very surprised when Eleanor heard Lucy has engaged to Edward, but she deeply hid his feelings. Instead, Marianne took a completely different move. Winona who she likes left that night, her heart was broken. She can not and does not want to control her emotions. Once mentioning Winona, she would burst into tears. In the story, the author shows compliment to the people who acclaim, though the author also criticize when these people lack intellect, but the people who is lack of emotion or emotional hypocrisy is scorned. Author appreciates the heroine Eleanor, because she is emotional and full of reason. Here the author think people can not live without feelings, but the feelings should be constrained with wisdom. In the last part of the novel, Marianne's character and attitude are also affected by the emotional Eleanor.

Marriage, simply speaking, is the perception and attitudes towards marriage and family. Westerners and Chinese people's view of marriage are different. Westerners think: marriage is purely a private matter, and a person can not interfere and at same time there is no moral issue of marriage. A person has the right to choose his / her favorite people to live together, and when that person finds marriage was a mistake, he / she is entitled to make a second choice. If one fell in love with a third person, that one will not be condemned. In their view: Forcing two people to live together without love is cruel. China's traditional view of marriage is that couple should live together in harmony all their lives.

### II. STATUS AND CHARM OF JANE AUSTEN'S NOVEL

Jane Austen is considered the first important female writer in the history of English literature. She completed six novels in her life: *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma* and *Persuasion*, then she were very famous. The famous contemporary critic Edmund Wilson once said: "during the one hundred years, the history of English literature had several interesting revolution: literary tastes refurbished affect almost all writers of reputation except Shakespeare and Jane Austen. The features of Jane Austen's novels are: structured, delicate brushwork, the novel has many detail description, bland at first glance, but to savor, very delicious. She said that she was writing on "two-inch ivory", and her six masterpieces crafted works entirely are worthy of its name. The greatest charm of her novels is describing the characters' inner world

to the most mysterious, through the character's inner activity and external performance to represent characters.

### III. UNDERSTAND AUSTIN'S MARRIAGE FROM *SENSE AND SENSIBILITY*

Marriage is honored by all. Others should respect your marriage. They should not destroy your marriage; at the same time, you have to respect your own marriage. It shall not be overlooked. Overlooking marriage, you will destroy the law of God. I'm not saying you have to pick a very distinguished brother or sister, but that you have to proceed with caution to pick your destiny; picking the wrong objects will harm your rest of his life. If you have reached marriageable age, I advise you not to rush to find your destiny. Each one has a happy marriage or God-ordained brothers and sisters. Their similarity is that they have a serious pray before God.

In *Sense and Sensibility*, Austin uses vivid character creation, comic plot design, witty dialogue and the narrator's elimination and jokes to present a complete idea of love and marriage. This kind of marriage formed first is determined by the age in which the author lived, and the living environment and life experience of the author himself as the intrinsic factors. In *Sense and Sensibility*, Austin acknowledged the importance of money. She also pointed out that the external environment can affect a person's inner world. People must obey the established social customs. No one can change Inherent social order. Love, money and marriage are not only the theme of her novels, but also were a true portrayal of society. Everyone is trying to find an optimal balance between the three, and this balance is closely related with people's happy life. From Austen's novels, we also felt deeply from the Austen's novels, in her heart, the ideal marriage is the union of love and wealth. Although she herself never married, but she longed for a happy marriage as we can read from her novels. In her works, the heroine in the end all has a happy marriage. In Austen's works, she bravely challenged the traditional concept of society, emphasizing marriage is based on love, and men and women should enjoy equal rights in the pursuit of happy marriage.

In addition, Jane Austen also attacked the social status of British satire with witty words, but also allows us to see women in the UK suffered unfair treatment. Virginia Woolf once said that women in the early nineteenth century novels, was mostly autobiographical. One of the reasons is that the authors want to expose them to the suffering and injustice. Jane Austen expresses her views on issues through novels standing on woman's point of view, expressing dissatisfaction with the patriarchal society. Every work of Jane Austen is served as a lamp that the light to wise love and marriage, for young men and women who are wandering. Her works even affect the marriage of modern women

### IV. THE REASON FOR THE SHIFT OF JANE AUSTEN'S VIEW OF MARRIAGE

#### A. *Social and historical reasons*

• Jane Austen (1775-1817) lives in the eighteenth century nineteenth century, when Britain is in upheaval, a period of

great change. Internationally, people witnessed the French Revolution, Napoleon's rise and fall, the American War of Independence and the 1812 American war against Britain. In addition, the war between Spain and the Netherlands, in which the British and French war lasted 20 years. These wars brought great disaster and suffering. At home, the industrial revolution resulted in social contradictions, and the broad masses of peasants was into bankruptcy because of land has been expropriated. Along with the formation of the British working class, the labor movement is gradually emerging. At that time a series of international and domestic changes made Austen strongly felt that aristocratic landlord class will eventually be replaced, which had a significant impact on her later years of life and her ideas.

Big changes of British social and political life, also directly affect the literary trend at that time. By the late 1700s and the early nineteenth century, a number of writers gradually get rid of the fetters of rationalism, beginning to reflect the mood of ordinary people in their work. They put the feelings of worship and rationalist opposition to the worship of reason. They thought feeling and enthusiasm is from the heart. By the early nineteenth century, Romanticism emerged. They reflect the desire of the bourgeois-democratic sectors in the works. It also expressed the pursuit of social justice and the ideal life of the general public.

Jane Austen's lives in the age when English literature changed from rationalism to romanticism. Austen was affected by the eighteenth-century tradition of deep thought, and thus her early works reflect ration. Because her work was published in the early nineteenth century, so people see her works as "a blend of the essence of the eighteenth century and the garden of the last and most beautiful flowers." living in the era changing from Romanticism to the challenge of rationalism, Austen was influenced by romanticism. She was very familiar with the same period Romantic writers Byron, Shelley, Keats and Walter Scott and did some research on it.

#### B. *Personal life experiences*

Jane Austen was born in the middle-class family. His father was a scholar, pastor. She herself is a Christian, a child with traditional education. She lived in a beautiful environment with fresh air of the countryside. Her family had an elegant culture. Her father had a stable income which was enough to live comfortably. Comfortable and stable life made her taste elegant, despising those vulgar people because they were poor. She was poise and sincere and she viewed the world rationally. It was rational in Austen's early life, but also the underlying causes she respected sensible marriage. But soon her family came down; life was very poor with eight children. So she was yearning for her ancestors' carefree life, but because of the life force and continuous wars, her two brothers joined the Navy, eventually promoted to admiral. They also made Austen come to realize: the civilian origin can also be promoted through the efforts and gain honor. While those relying only on estate and landlords will be cast aside by the mass. This played a very important role in Jane Austen's life and her works.

In addition, Austen could not easily face her marriage and love in real life. In the age of low status of women, in order to pursue her true love and life protection, she abandoned the "Lottie type", but did not have "Elizabethan" fate. It is the great shortcoming in Austen's life. When we look at Austen's life, we will find her emotional life is the most important part of her life. She had refused a marriage of no life guarantee. That man returned to Ireland and they never met again.

Although Jane Austen's own love and marriage did not draw a perfect ending, but Jane Austen's views on love and marriage are sensible, mature and realistic. She does not think that love is everything and does not agree that the property is the ultimate reason for the decision of marriage. She believes a happy marriage life needs sincere and honest affection, respect and independent individual personality. Meanwhile, Jane Austen favors good match and also in favor of happy marriage crossing phase, in which the marriages were based men and women's equality and mutual respect.

#### V. CONCLUSIONS

In short, Jane's views on marriage are mature, sensible and realistic. She does not advocate that love is everything like pure emotion person, and she does not feel the property is to determine the marriage. To be honest and frank, with reason guiding emotion when one is selecting his/her love. She does not deny that a happy marriage requires proper money and material. But sincere feelings, mutual respect between individuals independent personality is more important. Under certain conditions, sexual gratification can

overcome many unimaginable difficulties. We can say that Jane Austen's views on marriage, especially marriage for women is not just the view from the times, but is far beyond the prevailing ideas of the people, which have strong historical value and practical significance.

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