

Dr Shukla 2-5-20

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OCTOBER

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M.A. II Sem

Tuesday

Jane Austen - Limited Range.

~~Prelude~~

Jane Austen occupies a very important place among English novelists. It is she who has excelled in the portrayal of women characters. If we call her the Champion of Feminism, there will be no exaggeration. She occupies a high rank among English novelists. She is lauded for her equality writing & realistic description of the society. Her stories are based on her personal experience & observations of a life around her. She has shown her keen insight into feminine characters and gives a superb portrayal of female characters. In this world of women portrayal, she works as a novelist on limited range but it does not hamper the praise she has achieved for her exceptional work i.e. the ~~surroundings~~ surroundings of her Country side, friend circle, limited. In fact, Austen's writings are devoid of multifarious activities. They present a plethora of matrimonial pursuits and their final settlement. This makes the story of Austen's novels generally predictable in nature and of familiar surroundings. On account of her limited

November

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25

OCTOBER

1995

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range — as she worked on <sup>little bit</sup> two inches wide of ivory she has never been acclaimed as the greater one among novelists. It is true to say about her —

“Always the bridesmaid never the bride”.

Moody & Lovett said —

“But if her range was thus limited within it she was supreme”.

Norman Sherry wrote —

“She was conscious of her limitations worked strictly within them and turned to them to her advantage”.

These critics appreciate Jane Austen for her limited range for her limited country side friend Circle & for her manner of portrayal of female character matrimony & final settlement. Much importance is given to the female members ~~and~~ the rest is ~~disregarded~~ <sup>upstaged</sup>.

She has drawn all the material for her novels from the ~~mundane~~ <sup>mundane</sup> life which she visualises.

A word ‘domestic positions’ may be attributed to her on account of her excellence of female world presentation.

October

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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Friday

of dealing with female characters is to point out the theme of matrimony and their final settlement. As a women novelist she has observed deeply the feminine world. She does not want to come out from her rigid restrictions and got mastery over it.

A number of factors are to be observed in this vast discussion of limited scope such as —

- ① Personal experience & Observations
- ② Women are protagonist.
- ③ Country side background
- ④ Matrimonial elements
- ⑤ Contemporary Issues
- ⑥ Single plot
- ⑦ Life & Love
- ⑧ Contemporary writers
- ⑨ French novelists

Almost all her novels especially Emma is the reflection of Austen's personal experience & observation of life. Her novels are women

sound middle class women. Their matrimonial matters matters relations to courtship and final settlement. It is true to say that all these matters are

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Saturday

based on her personal experience as she remains unmarried because the person with whom she was in love died at early age.

Apart from this female character occupied a front seat is her novels. Everywhere an importance is given to female protagonists though she has presented the portrayal of male characters but without the description of female they seem to be dim & dusky dull facet.

Middle class of countryside people also form an inevitable part of her narration. An example can be cited here from the country village of Highbury in Emma-like Miss Bates, Harriet, Mrs. Mrs. Weston, Mr. Knightley & Emma herself.

No social political religious problem is raised by Jane Austen except the matrimonial <sup>alliance</sup> matter. The incidents are <sup>connected</sup> <sup>with</sup> one single plot - matrimony & finally to get married.

This particular theme <sup>is</sup> raised by Jane Austen. A peaceful atmosphere is created by Austen in <sup>her</sup> <sup>portrayal</sup> handling the character. <sup>she</sup> use of irony as an instrument.

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	-	-



29

OCTOBER

1995

to <sup>(subt)</sup> Sunday

Moreover, she was the least influenced by contemporary writers such as Mrs Gaskell, Charles Reade & Dickens. These novelists' ~~traces~~ raised the issues of Labour Union & London slum, but Austen was <sup>purposely</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>subtle</sup> content within her limited range.

J. Long & Mary Lascelles <sup>in fact</sup> agreed with the <sup>scope of</sup> limited range. Austen has followed the example of the French novelists as they had similar view of narrow field of work. On behalf of her narrow field she holds a very unique place among the English novelists. In the handling of female minute observation their presentation, their confusion & misunderstanding regarding matrimony Austen has shown her excellence. She was chiefly interested in the comedy of human nature. Almost her comedy was confined to human beings in their personal relationship between friend & friend, between parents & children, between men & women in love <sup>sense</sup> & they turn on nothing else. She did not deal with the things beyond her experience. <sup>she</sup> ~~misses~~ <sup>misses</sup> the life she knew well. The family names - Anne, Henry, & the family professions

October - 1995

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Monday

→ The church, the navy, landownings, the family gatherings, Sonnets walks, the countryside she knew, the streets of Bath, Lyons, the conversation & manners of her time, all are recorded, the area i.e. very small experience allowed close analysis of occurring situations & types. She could deal with them with accuracy.

Das In summing up the words of critics of David Cecil can be cited repeatedly -

"For aesthetic reasons, she limits herself to the mood of comedy and the world of small gentry in England. But comedy can deal - both themes & such important & significant as those of tragedy - it can. The visible structure of Jane Austen's novels are filmic enough but their foundations drived deep down into the basic principles of human conduct. On her little bit of irony she has engraved a criticism of life as serious and as considered as Hardy's".

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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