

Tribhuvan University

Social Construction of Gender in Austen's *Mansfield Park*

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Abstract

The research deals with Austen's *Mansfield Park* in which the study focuses on how gender is constructed by society and contemporary ideology. The research explores a social issue in which it differentiates gender values in two different timeframes: Victorian and Industrial period. It compares and contrasts two different time periods in which gender treatment is also different. The novel presents the Victorian period in which gender treatment is comparatively strict and confined, but, the industrial period empowers women. The research employs new historicism as a theoretical insight to analyze the text. The Victorian period confines women who do not have freedom, whereas industrial period comparatively liberates women. In this respect, the gender concept is social construction which differs in every period, because the contemporary social ideology influences gender roles in society. Fanny Price represents a major female character of political transitional period who feels more freedom and empowered roles in society when industrial period began. Unlike Victorian period, the new social changes redefine and reinterpret women roles in society.

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Social Construction of Gender in Austen's *Mansfield Park*

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I: Representation of Women in Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*

This research presents a concept that gender is social construction in Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*. It studies how the contemporary historical events determine gender roles. It also shows that gender is a social discourse which is based on socio-political situation. This novel captures nineteenth century's industrial period in which other political events took place. The industrial movement liberates women by educating and awaking them. Before that period, women had limited and restricted lives, however, the movement brought changes in society, along with it women felt new dimensions in their lives.

The novel represents historical events of Industrial period and the Napoleonic war and its effects. These historical events contributed to expanding women's education of middle class and it sensitized consciousness among people. The protagonist Fanny Price represents a woman character who gets more freedom than previous generation. It means, every society redefines gender roles, hence, gender is not a constant idea, and it is social construct. The end of Napoleonic war brings calmness and comfort in the lives of people. The history of England witnesses the spread of riches and wealth from colonialism. Middle class people enjoy prosperity and calmness. Fanny Price's fondness for outgoing and jolly disposition is shaped by her growing financial strength. She has had access to education and upper middle class circle of people. So, she is assertive and tactful. The prosperity of the upper middle class and the middle class are boosted by the benefits accruing from British colonialism. As a heroine, Fanny Price possesses beauty, wealth, intelligence, high social standing, and financial independence.

However, Austen makes it clear that Fanny Price is unique in her position; most of the women in the novel lack Fanny's financial independence and, as a

result, have much more limited options for their futures. This speaks to the ingrained oppression of women in British society at the time. Most occupations were deemed inappropriate for women, which left women almost incapable of supporting themselves independently. Maria Crawford is presented as an example of this ingrained oppression of women. Although she possesses all of the same personal qualities as Fanny, she lacks the wealth that could give her financial and social security. The only options available for her are marriage or becoming a governess. Most of the other female characters in the novel are faced with a similar choice:

In Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*, Fanny Price's pretension to act as prudential romantic egoist and genuinely motivated character of dignified social class is problematical. Her snobbery, pride, confidence and assertiveness do not take her to her intended destination. She faces deception, confusion and misunderstanding. She fails to understand where the socio-cultural and historical events are taking people like her. Since she declines to understand crucial socio-historical trends, she has to face failure and humiliation in her matchmaking mission.

In *Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen, the protagonist Fanny's gender identity is shaped and sustained by fresh historical events at the beginning of industrial period benefits of British colonialism, expanding education, the custom of holding ball and the fashion of keeping governess. The newly formed social atmosphere redefines gender role in society. Before this period of time, women has restricted and confined area who could not involve public place. Women had limited space in society, however, this new social condition liberates them, and therefore, women

participate in public lives and world. In this sense, the new social environment brightens women world which support them to be free from patriarchal ties.

The major thrust of this research is to examine how Fanny's gender identity is shaped and determined by the historical conditions and socio-cultural events like accruing benefits of British colonialism. At the same time this research tries to find out how the inability to resist hurdles and put Fanny's patronage in the state of inner mental conflict. The subsequent effects of all these factors would be no less than the painful effects.

This study is confined in the analysis of how Fanny's compulsion driven act and choice puts her in the humiliating situation. The culture of keeping governess, holding ball and gossiping a lot in the party are some of the customs and fashions that arose in the eighteenth century England from which Fanny is not free. The protagonist's endeavor to track her life partner down and mete out justice to the betrayed girl is the pivotal point of this research. The newly form society develops materialistic society in which women can enjoy more independence. Mostly,

Mansfield Park is a novel about youthful hubris and the perils of misconstrued romance. Austen explores the concerns and difficulties of genteel women living in Georgian-Regency England. She also creates a lively comedy of manners among her characters. The protagonist, Fanny, is also rather spoiled, headstrong, and self-satisfied; she greatly overestimates her own abilities to penetrate romantic overtures of men. She is blind to the dangers of meddling in other people's lives; and her imagination and perceptions often lead her astray.

Peter Smith says that *Mansfield Park* is a novel which exhibits the manners and customs of people of the eighteenth century England. The question of marriage

exists at the heart of the novel. Smith makes the following remarks about the striking aspect of the novel:

Like all of Jane Austen's novels, *Mansfield Park* is a novel of courtship and social manners. The majority of the book focuses on the question of marriage: who will marry whom and for what reasons will they marry: love, practicality, or necessity? At the center of the narration is the title character, Fanny Price, an heiress who lives with her widowed father at their estate, Hartfield. Noted for her beauty and cleverness, Fanny Prince is somewhat wasted in the small village of Highbury but takes a great deal of pride in her prudential and penetrating skills. (43)

Unique among other women of her age, she has no particular need to marry: she is in the unique situation of not needing a husband to supply her fortune. The friendship between Emma and Harriet does little good for either of them, a fact which Crawford, a neighbor and old friend, immediately notices. Maria indulges Fanny's worst qualities, giving her opportunity to meddle and serving only to flatter her. Fanny in turn fills Harriet Smith with grand pretensions that do not suit her low situation in society.

Lucy Fisher says that *Mansfield Park* is brimful of several issues which are inextricably joined together. Fisher claims that marriage is treated as the fundamental issue of the then society. That is why it is treated seriously by Jane Austen in the novel. Fisher's remarks are listed below:

As in all of Austen's novels, courtship and marriage play major roles in *Mansfield Park*. The entire novel is structured around various courtships and romantic connections, from Julia and Crawford to

Fanny and Edmund. All of the conflicts in the novel also revolve around this topic, particularly in terms of characters striving to find appropriate matches. In this way, Austen presents marriage as a fundamental aspect of society during the time period. (24)

While marriage promotes families and serves romantic purposes, it also upholds the class structure of the community by ensuring that individuals marry appropriately.

At the same time, Austen also uses marriage to highlight the social limitations faced by Fanny and other characters: in their small village, marriage and courtship are the sole catalysts of excitement or conflict.

Elizabeth Brown Guillory detects the issue of the oppression of women having low economic status. Mrs. Price typifies this sort of predicament. There is no difference between Fanny and Edmund in terms of their intelligence, emotion, reasoning and other skills. But the low economic status of Fanny weakened her tremendously. Guillory makes the following observation in this regard:

As a heroine, Fanny possesses beauty, wealth, intelligence, high social standing, and financial independence. However, Austen makes it clear that Fanny is unique in her position; most of the women in the novel lack Fanny's financial independence and, as a result, have much more limited options for their futures. This speaks to the ingrained oppression of women in British society at the time. Most occupations were deemed inappropriate for women (akin to prostitution), which left women almost incapable of supporting themselves independently. Mary Crawford is presented as an example of this ingrained oppression of women. (21)

Although Mary Crawford possesses all of the same personal qualities as Fanny, she lacks the wealth that could give her financial and social security. The only options available for her are marriage or becoming a caretaker of home. Most of the other female characters in the novel are faced with a similar choice: Mrs. Norris can either marry or continue to work at Mrs. Goddard's school; Mrs. Weston only marries Mr. Weston after working as Fanny's caretaker. Although Fanny is luckier than most, even she has limited options for her future: she can either marry or become a wealthy spinster.

Mobley Leefort, the prominent critic of Jane Austen, says that characters are trapped in the confusions and uncertainty due to their inability to master misunderstanding. Leefolt says that pride and arrogance resulting from the different social position of women actually creates troubles and distance amidst them. Leefolt puts forward the following view:

Many of the major conflicts in the novel are a direct result of miscommunication between characters. One primary example is Crawford's misguided courtship of another man's wife during which Fanny assumes that he is actually courting Maria. This misconception is perpetuated when Crawford presents Fanny with a riddle for his book. Because there is no real communication between the three characters, the revelation of Mr. Crawford's true feelings is much more problematic. Similar problems arise because of miscommunication between Fanny and Edmund. (17)

While Fanny initially views Edmund as her future husband, Crawford is secretly engaged in adultery and manipulates his adulterous partner into promoting the façade. Even Mr. Crawford engages in miscommunication by failing to reveal his

true feelings for Fanny until the very end of the novel. As such, Fanny assumes that Mary and Crawford are in love with each other. In each of these cases, the required formality of social interactions ends up causing nothing but confusion and hurt feelings.

Although all these critics and reviewers examined this novel from different points of view and then arrived at several findings and conclusions, none of them notice the issue of social construction of gender in Jane Austen's novel *Mansfield Park*. The then historical events like calmness and peace from the end of Napoleonic war, colonial expansion and benefits resulting from it and spreading education to the middle class girls are instrumental in shaping and sustaining the gender identity of girls like Fanny, Julia, Mary and others. By using the theory of new historicism, the researcher probes into this topic.

The researcher mobilizes some theoretical concepts of new historicism. New Historicism is a literary theory based on the idea that literature should be studied and interpreted within the context of both the history of the author and the history of the critic. Based on the literary criticism of Stephen Greenblatt and influenced by the philosophy of Michel Foucault, New Historicism acknowledges not only that a work of literature is influenced by its author's times and circumstances, but that the critic's response to that work is also influenced by his environment, beliefs, and prejudices. A New Historicist looks at literature in a wider historical context, examining both how the writer's times affected the work and how the work reflects the writer's times, in turn recognizing that current cultural contexts color that critic's conclusions.

The New Historicist recognizes that this isn't a simple yes-or-no answer that can be teased out by studying the text. The New Historicist also acknowledges that

his examination of literature is tainted by his own culture and environment. New Historicism, then, underscores the impermanence of literary criticism. Literary works may or may not tell us about various factual aspects of the world from which they emerge, but they will tell us about prevailing ways of thinking at the time: ideas of social organization, prejudices, taboos, etc.

New historicism rejects the autonomy and individual genius of the authors and the autonomy of the literary texts as absolutely inseparable from their historical context. The role of the author is not completely negated, but it is a role that the author is at best only partially in command of. The author's role is to a large extent determined by historical circumstances. As the prominent new historicist Stephen Greenblatt has put it, "[T]he work of art is the product of a negotiation between a creator or class or creators, equipped with a complex, communally shared repertoire of conventions, and the institutions and practices of society" (12). The literary text, then, is always part of a much wider cultural, political, social and economic dispensation. The literary text is a time and place bound verbal construction that is always in one way or another political.

Foucault asks after a "history of bodies" which inquires into "the manner in which what is most material and vital in them has been invested" (152). In this (re)formation, he suggests that history acts not only on the body but also pervades the interiority of that subject. A question arises: What lies inside the body? Is it the soul? Absolutely not, for Foucault does not believe in it. Neither is the body a biological boundary for the soul.. The 'inside' for Foucault is like 'form' of Aristotelian matter which is here equivalent to body.

Foucauldian radicalism of history manifests itself in three dimensions-- it rejects absolute truth or origin and argues for fictionalized history and historicized

fiction, it confutes the linearity of history and exposes how a 'body' is imprinted and inscribed by history. This theory is 'radical' in the sense that it shocks us by going at least one step further than Marxism, Darwinism, Freudianism and even deconstruction, for all of them, unlike the Foucauldian perspective, believe in progressive history that starts 'in the beginning' and comes to an end, the culmination. Considering Foucault's general history, we can conclude that he wants to confront 'essentialist' humanism by showing how the so called unique, unified and enduring personality is inscribed by the forces of history.

More importantly, new historicists do not believe in single, authentic and unified history as Louis Montrose in his famous article "New historicism" argues, "the various mode of what could be called poststructuralist historical criticism-- including new historicism or cultural poetics, as well as modes of revisionist...--can be characterized by such a shift from history to histories" (411). Old or traditional historians focused on monolithic history, which has single narrative line that is taken for granted. For them facts or historical realities could successfully be known through textual form and also could be handed down to next generation. Besides, they took it for granted that there is single and unified history. In contrast, new historicists challenge such so-called 'authentic' and 'unified' narrative and put forward the idea of 'histories, not 'History.'

Unlike most traditional historians, who believe that history is a series of events with liner, causal relationship and we are perfectly capable of uncovering the facts about the particular historical events through objective analysis, new historicists argue:

Instead of a body of indisputable, retrievable facts, history becomes textualized; that is, becomes a group of linguistic traces that can be

recalled, but which are always mediated through the historian/interpreter. Objective history is therefore impossibility; every account is just that—another text, and like any novel, play or poem, it is open to the same kind of critical interpretive scrutiny... History itself is a large amorphous text consisting of various and often disparate accounts. (Greenbelt 207)

Therefore, new historicists posit the view that history is neither linear nor progressive, neither factual nor authentic. Instead, like any piece of literature, it is a constructed body to fit some ideological purposes, embedded in complex web of socio-political networks. History itself is a text, an interpretation, and that there is no single history.

It is presumed that historical insight remains beneath the plethora of abstract historical data. Analytical efforts should be directed towards the exploration of truth historically determined. With this methodological conception, the researcher proceeds to produce the thorough analysis of the text.

This research has been divided into three chapters. In the first chapter, the researcher introduces the topic, elaborates the hypothesis, and quotes different critics' views regarding the text. In the second chapter researcher makes a thorough analysis of the text by applying new historicism. The last chapter contains the conclusive ending of the research.

II. Shifting Ideology and Its Impact in Gender Roles in Austen's

Mansfield Park

The research digs out gender issue as a societal formation which suggests that every change or event of society affects at the level of gender behaviours. It shows that gender depends on contemporary society and social consciousness which determines how male and female position maintains. The society determines or forms knowledge about gender or male female relationship. The novel represents a transition all time when the Victorian and the industrial ideologies clashes. Emerging industrial norms and values recounts to the fading Victorian norms, therefore, even Victorian gender concepts are redefined in modern social backgrounds. It shows that gender is social construction which is influenced by changes that takes place in any society. The novel brings into discussion of both the Victorian and the industrial situation and shows differences of gender condition in both these period. The society has still hangover of the Victorian gender biasness, but, changing social scenario and shifting ideology values them differently. The research discusses on how the new industrial revolution redefines and revalues gender relation in society in comparison to the earlier existing Victorian discourses.

Mansfield Park creates characters and situations in particular historical time. It represents a typical transition phase in at the turn of eighteenth century, and it overviews gender roles how the Victorian society defines gender in contemporary time. Within Victorian society, the society has a different thoughts regarding women's freedom and it compares new social context in which women's freedom again redefines. This novel presents a young woman character, gets freedom and self existence when she shifts from her poor living to her uncle's home. This shift symbolically represents people's class upliftment during industrial revolution. It

shows a woman and man relationship is unnatural but historical. The society forms different discourses which define man-woman relation. This main character Fanny comes from a poor family but is being raised by her rich aunt and uncle.

The main character, Fanny Price, is a young girl from a poor family, raised by her rich uncle and aunt, Sir Thomas and Lady Bertram, at Mansfield Park. She grows up with her four cousins, Tom Bertram, Edmund Bertram, Maria Bertram and Julia where she feels repressive male character who represents Victorian period in which morality is essence of the society. At first, she feels a little bit difficult; however, she finds young generations are opted for freedom and independence.

Fanny introduces the family as a mixture of both the Victorian and the modern characters. One of the older generations represents the Victorian repression whereas another young generation represents new social change and new situation. When the children have grown up, the stern patriarch Sir Thomas leaves for two years so he can deal with problems on his plantation in Antigua. Henry Crawford and his sister Mary Crawford arrive in the village. Mary and Edmund begin to show their manners are fashionable. She goes out of her way to befriend Fanny. Sir Thomas arrives there. Fanny's improved looks and pleasant temper endear her to Sir Thomas, who pays more attention to her care.

Henry returns to Mansfield Park and decides to amuse himself by making Fanny fall in love with him. However, her genuine gentleness and kindness cause him to fall in love with her instead. When he proposes marriage, Fanny rejects him. Sir Thomas rebukes her for ingratitude. Thereafter she soon returns to her lower middle class family where she wishes to return to Mansfield Park. Fanny's attitude begins to soften but she still maintains that she will not marry him.

Fanny learns of a scandal involving Henry and Maria. Fanny returns to Mansfield Park to comfort her aunt and uncle and to help take care of Tom. Although Edmund knows that marriage to Mary is now impossible because of the scandal between their relations. Austen points out that if only Crawford had persisted in being steadfast to Fanny, and not succumbed to the affair with Maria, Fanny eventually would have accepted his marriage proposal—especially after Edmund had married Mary.

The main character Fanny represents a woman character who embodies industrial social characters, therefore, she thinks her self defined and independent world. The society itself provides her a space when she can ensure her future and career. It means, it weakens gender oriented thinking as it was in Victorian period. The Victorian society never gives chance for them to come out from society whereas it confined them within domestic boundaries. As a result, women never experiences outer world, whereas, Fanny Price does not feel such repressive and restrictive beliefs whereas it encourages her to seek own future outside the society.

Mansfield Park's presentation of gender roles and relationships reflects change in gender roles in society. The society rethinks on gender treatment as it was before when some ideological changes take place. The political change influences the society, therefore, the society reviews and retreats women differently in society. The industrial society remarks liberal beliefs regarding women's lives. For this reason, Fanny Price experiences more liberal and free environment where, she does not have faced unfair domination and repression. It is completely different from Victorian norms where women should have been domestic servant.

With all its connection to moral systems, women's education, and nature, provides a useful lens through which to view the novel's depiction of gender roles.

The novel shows improvements in women roles because of contemporary political changes. The novel connects gender roles and it attempts to differentiate restrictive gender roles are embodied by the patriarchal rule. The novel reveals the strict Victorian society where morality and specially women morality would be matter for society. Women have to be criticized, if they are publicized. In this respect, the society provides women a narrow space to live them. But, the new society thinks widely in case of women existence.

Mansfield Park depicts end of the eighteenth century when many changes took place in England. Dominantly, industrial period was going on and it has established certain norms and values in society. It also causes to bring changes in gender roles and women values. The novel reveals a critique of the dominant social order governing the conduct of women.

Austen uncovers historical time period when and where society transforms from a socio-political condition to another one. It definitely signals new forms and propositions. For this reason, Austen regards both strict Victorian moralities in comparison to new societal transformation when it turned over into industrial period. At the end of the eighteenth century, industrial revolutions reformulate existing social conventions and criterion. It initiates new social standards and patterns; therefore, Austen scrutinizes particularly gender roles in comparison to previous Victorian standards.

Fanny Price, the central character of this novel, embodies a woman character of the new society where she has an independent life. Fanny manages to find her own strength and determination against remarkable odds. She has an effective role there where changes in gender relations and dismantling of patriarchy Fanny and her value system are tied with modern society. Patriarchal power and its destructive

influence on morality and women are linked to it. Her moral values and her positive behaviours support her sisters to be less restrictive, and less patriarchal paradigm.

At the beginning of this novel, it indicates social shifts from Victorian society into material world:

The *Mansfield Park* indicates a setting of solid material prosperity; and indeed, Jane Austen introduces almost immediately as her theme a shy homesick little girl transplanted into the chilly air of grandeur, Fanny Price banished from her own dingy overcrowded home to dwell instead with her rich Uncle and Aunt at the country. (11)

The novel concerns with the emerging changes in the eighteenth century. The benchmark of industrial period and emergence of new class in society even conceptualizes modern standards and common beliefs. Similarly, the novel captures a transitional phase in which Napoleon war ends and English are influenced by new era of industrialization which factors even guides and governs new scenario in English society. The author focuses on this issue by representing Fanny Price a central character who seeks her roles and position in the society. The patriarchal society in Victorian period paralyzes women and their freedom, but, Fanny dissatisfies with given roles by society. The Victorian society confines them within domestic world, it is Victorian norms and values in which women were existed. However, the modern changes revises women roles, therefore, Fanny Price represents a new generation who seeks her respectful position in society. Fanny's interactions with nature, and her strenuous objections to others' mistreatment of it through improvements, reflect the novel's overall critique of the patriarchal paradigm underlying the social structure of the novel.

Austen's most of the novels reflect the Victorian norms, values and morality of then society. Victorian morality is a distillation of the moral views of people living at the time in particular, and to the moral climate of the English through the 19th century in general. It is tied to this historical period and can describe any set of values that espouses sexual repression, low tolerance of crime, and strong social ethnic.

The term morality is defined as the standard or principle of good behaviours. It is a concept, which refers to the social system of morals. It is a societal phenomenon and since human beings create societies, it is a concept created by human beings. It is clear that morality is relative to our environment and does not apply to all persons at all times. The concept of morality is different in different societies. A specific act may be moral, value and lawful in one culture, while the identical act may be punishable by death in another culture. Human being device moral judgments, such as good and evil right and wrong, with the object of furthering law and order in society. The Victorian society is fully influenced by religion. The Victorian system of morality was relied on the existence of gods or god like beings:

Through the medium of religion they had paralyzed the mind of the people, just as morality had enslaved the spirit. In other words, religion and morality was a much better whip to keep people in submission, than even the club and the gun. It is morality which condemned women to the position of a celibate. Morality was merciless in its attitude to a woman. Once she dared to be herself, to be true to her nature, to life, there is no return, the women is thrust out from the pale and protection of society. (Dylan 20)

The society imposes moral standards on its members based on religion. So the concept of morality in Victorian is different than the concept of modern society. Morality covers the every facets of society from dress to sexual moves.

During the Victorian period, the value of social ethic was strong and the society would play a vital role in the private affairs of people. The society is dominated by belief that an individual's sex and sexuality form the most basic care of his/her identity, and social standing. Sexuality was a taboo subject matter and responsible for the moral decline of society rather than an interest in achieving personal gratification and satisfaction. The society distinguishes between sexual relationships that are practiced for biological reproduction and physical gratifications. Sex is allowed only in formal marital status and in fertile age but could not be practiced solely for physical pleasure.

The Victorian period was an undeniably modest society in terms of manners, speech, gestures, and appearances. The society had a very stringent sexual code including a widespread and principled belief that there should be discipline and unobtrusiveness in all sexual activity. (Morgan 12)

The Victorian adopts conservative tradition that stated women were intellectually inferior. There was one set of behaviours, codes, and rules for men and a different set of women. The Victorian women are not allowed to enjoy sexual satisfaction freely and are often considered to be responsible for the moral decline of society if they did. "The Victorian society was patriarchal and the sexual ethics were often hypocritical because the women were held much more accountable for their sexual behaviours than the men" (Morgan 19). Husbands are considered as the superior beings in the house and women were responsible for domestic duties. They are

expected to be loyal towards their husbands and to bear child. They are confined within four walls and expected to be submissive and meek. The contemporary law also helps the patriarchal society to establish male supremacy. The contemporary law reinforced the view of male as free, irresponsible, and autonomous and of woman as dependent and responsible of rearing children. That is why the Victorian women never sought 'self-fulfillment' at the expense of the family. Instead, they saw any husband-success as a kind of personal success.

The novel depicts a dynamic woman character who dissents with particular norms and values. Fanny is a conscious woman who has strong self-determination and self-motivation which makes her powerful weapon to move forward in the society. Her nature is quite distinct from traditional types of women. Due to her open manner, innate power and self-confidence, she is able to move forwards in the society. The new social context swept away all conventional norms and values. Markedly, it indicates industrial period which demarks Victorian principles and thoughts. In the novel, Thomas Bertram is one of the major characters, represents industrial age as he has been described here:

About thirty years ago, Miss Maria Ward, of Huntingdon, with only seven thousand pounds, had the good luck to captivate Sir Thomas Bertram, of Mansfield Park, in the country of Northampton, and to be thereby raised to the rank of a baronet's lady, with all the comforts and consequences of a handsome house and large income. All Huntingdon exclaimed on the greatness of the match, and her uncle and lawyer himself. (21)

It explains industrial activities which changes social beliefs and ideology drastically. Mainly, middle class family boosted economic standards. It revives their position

and beliefs. The new social change paves the way for aspiring new opportunities and possibilities. The Victorian society has established morals norms and values, however, the new industrial period replaces it with materialistic ideology.

Fanny represents a rebellious woman of the new social context. It is found that she is completely different from previous Victorian woman. In the novel, she changes her social position when she is shifted into her uncle's house. It symbolically shows at the end of the eightieth century, lower class people uplifted their social strata and it also changes their way of living, way of thinking as a result, gender roles and relations are also remapped in society. For this reason, Fanny is conscious for her self-identity. She views that one is shaped by her faith and love for action or vibrancy. She believes work and independence. She is an independent thinker and wants to have own life's freedom. Along with her shifting into new social dimension, she finds and realizes her position in new social scenario. It is the place of industry and urban life. She wants to live there because she finds freedom and independence life there. It becomes possible in modern social scenario. The novel explains it:

Their road was through a pleasant country; and Fanny whose rides had never been extensive, was soon beyond her knowledge, and was very happy in observing all that was new and admiring all that was pretty. She was not often invited to join in the conversation of the others, nor did she desire it. Her own thoughts and reflection were habitually her best companions; and in observing the appearance of the country, the bearings of the roads, the difference of soil, the state of the harvest, the cottages, the cattle, the children, she found

entertainment that could only have been heightened by having
Edmund to speak to of what she felt. (82)

It means, Fanny gets a new scenario in which she feels more freedom and comfort. The society liberates women from earlier moral boundaries where women would be internal decoration as an object. But, the new movement devalues moral frontiers whereas it intensifies materialistic norms and values.

Foucault proposes innumerable histories; histories of distinct and different discourses in terms of their transformations and retentions. He suggests that various discourses of period may form an episteme. The episteme is not a theme which unites the different discourses rather it is a space. Hence, instead of imagining a single and essential historical principle in each period Foucault posits the episteme as a non-unified, multiple and complex field of play. Foucault's discourse is discontinuity because it rejects the theories of historical change which retain the idea of a 'deeper' continuity commonly called tradition. Foucault's discourse analysis at least offers a way of calculating strategies for historical transformation. Hence the centrality of Foucault's rethinking of history has discourse for political practice. Hence, political practice cannot simply transgress or overthrow disciplinary formations. Historically it never has done, (political practice did not transform the meaning or form of the discourse (54 Foucault discourse and politics). Political practice has always intervened hysterically at the level of the rules of formation hysterically at the level of the rules of formation of discourse. The relation between political practice and social disciplinary techniques can be very direct. They no longer have to pass through the consciousness of speaking subject not through the efficacy of thought.

Foucault's conception of discourse is indispensable for an understanding of the role of power in the production of the knowledge. Thus, discourses are the embodiment of power. To have knowledge of the other and to describe them in discourse or in imaginative texts is to exercise power over and other people are directed to validate the self by excluding and subordinating them. Knowledge implies taking sides and texts become the instruments of power.

The new social phenomenon proposes a materialistic philosophy instead of spiritual one in the Victorian society. The characters value money and improvements highlight the lack of tradition or guiding moral. It is only guided by money and the attempt to create the unnatural from something natural. By using subtle parallels between estate improvements and the Bertram sisters' upbringing, the novel also begins to show the destructiveness of Sir Thomas's patriarchal control to women and morality. Although the novel critiques Sir Thomas, it also presents an alternative to his patriarchal control, the weakened patriarchy. Patriarchy was dominant in Victorian society, but, new social context replaces this idea whereas it intensifies women freedom and unbound existence. It is properly explained by Lady Bertrom:

I perfectly comprehend you, and do justice to the generosity and delicacy of your notions, which indeed, are quite of a piece with your general conduct; and I entirely agree with you in the main as to the prosperity of doing everything one could by way of providing for a child one had in a manner taken into one's own hands; and I am sure I should be the last person in the world to withhold my mite upon such an occasion. Having no children of my own who should I look to in any little matter I may ever have to bestow, but the children of my

sisters? And I am sure Mr. Norris is too just- but you know I am a woman of few words and professions. Do not let us be frightened from a good deed by a trifle. Give a girl an education and introduce her properly into the world, and ten to one but she has the means of settling well, without further expense to anybody. (23)

While the novel weakens Sir Thomas's control over Mansfield Park, he is certainly not eliminated and many of the traditional male privileges and powers remain intact. It allows for the perpetuation, not the destruction of a land-owning family through an infusion of specifically female virtue from outside. Sir Thomas explores the positive changes in new context. While the aristocratic Bertram family is seemingly preserved unscathed, it is fundamentally altered and reformed by Fanny – she changes the dynamic of the family and ultimately weakens Sir Thomas's self-importance and power in society and its inhabitants. Mr. Bertram returns back from Antigua, he is quite strict about men and women relations, however, she finds changes when he moves in another country. He realizes changes:

He ought to keep longer away, had he been more in the habit of examining his own motives, and of reflecting to what the indulgence of his idle vanity was tending; but, thoughtless and selfish from prosperity and bad example, he would not look beyond the present moment. The sisters, handsome, clever, and encouraging, were an amusement to his sated mind; and finding nothing in Norfolk to equal the social pleasures of Mansfield, he gladly returned to it at the time appointed and was welcomed thither quite as gladly by those whom he came to trifle with further. (108)

The new social background creates the appearance of beauty, manners, and sophistication while hiding and repressing the natural aspects of previous values, strikingly similar to the Bertram sisters' expensive but ultimately effective education that opens their natural spirits and creates free environment for them. The novel shows that the Bertram sisters' education helps to create true morality or virtue. With these early subtle connections between patriarchy and improvement, the novel begins to condemn patriarchy's adherents, particularly Sir Thomas and Mrs. Norris. Mrs. Norris is a tool of Sir Thomas, upholding his patriarchal control, and an improved herself. Again Lady Bertram ensures current changes in their society. She believes on social reformation and reformulation. Both of them decided to bring Fanny Price in their home. She convinces her husband:

I dare say she would not; but she would be introduced into the society of this country under such very favourable circumstances as in all human probability, would get her a creditable establishment. You are thinking of your sons but do you not know that of all things upon earth that is the least likely to happen brought up as they would be always together like brothers and sisters. (25)

The Victorian society distinctly defined women. In fact, Victorian women did not have any freedom and rights, but, the new social context posits free environment for women. The new society established materialistic ideology which devalues gender and other moral values whereas it intensifies consumer culture which matters material rather than gender and patriarchal ideology.

Foucault sees every action and every historical event as an exercise in the exchange of power. He has spent large bulk of time analyzing the ebb and flow of power in different situations and with relevance of different aspects of human life.

Structure organizes and broadens the web of power. The overall volume of power rises with each individual involved in the play. The society is a huge web and much of the power in very active terms: "isn't power simply a form of war like domination?" It is difficult to sort out just who is fighting the war, since Foucault seems to learn towards the war of all against all nations.

Power flows simultaneously in different directions and different volumes according to the various terms of power relations in the network of power exchange. Regarding power and truth Foucault says, "Now I believe that the problem does not consist in drawing the line between that in a discourse which falls under the category of scientific truth and that which comes under some other category, but in seeing historically how effects of truths are produced within discourses which in themselves are neither true nor false" (1139).

Mansfield Park reflects some of the changes occurring in England after the Napoleonic wars. In its depiction of place and landscape, pays particular attention to the rise of the naval class, the re-orientation of the traditional landed aristocracy, and shifting roles for women. In the novel's focus on the domestic, it manages to combat the dominant but challenged ideologies of aristocracy and patriarchy. Although the novel seems to favor these shifts in social structure, it simultaneously weakens their permanence by emphasizing the relative ease of change. The landscape in the novel begins to be changed of its aristocratic heritage with the more meritocratic values of the naval class, as well as greater gender equality. Similarly, Fanny thinks herself position in society:

Fanny may aware; for I believe it often happens that a man before he has quite made up his own mind, will distinguish the sister or intimate friend of the woman he is really thinking of, more than the

woman herself. Crawford has too much sense to stay here if he found himself in any danger from Maria; and I am not at all afraid for her, after such a proof as she has given, that her feelings are not strong.

(109)

Territories or social constructions are never permanently fixed. Similarly, the aristocracy maintains their historical power, wealth, and influence, although their eventual decline and fall is foreshadowed by the novel. While the aristocracy is clearly challenged and displaced in the novel, the historical realities of England after the Napoleonic wars show the aristocracy firmly wielding their economic, political, and social power. As Cannadine notes; "as late as the 1870s, these patricians were still the most wealthy, the most powerful, and the most glamorous people in the country and remained so until the hundred years that followed as their wealth withered [and] their power faded" (2). The new changes displaces to early norms and values. As Foucault asserts; "history is the concrete body of development with its moments of intensity, its lapses, its extended period of feverish agitation, its fainting spells; and only a metaphysician would seek its soul in the distant ideality of the origin" (85-86). He is aware of the fact that the historian cannot escape from the time and space where he wrote history. History is written from the perspective of historian.

In the novel, Fanny Price shifts from poor living from country life to city life which indicates social changes during the period. It ensures the new social situation provides wider freedom for women. Fanny speaks here; "I shall not ride tomorrow certainly, I have been out very often lately and would rather stay at home you know I am strong enough now to walk very well" (73). She claims her position in society.

She can freely speak about her personal desires and happiness which is quite new movement in the field of gender equality.

Fanny Prince moves to her uncle for better life. Sir Thomas Bertram is a rich man who represents an aristocratic family of the English society. Hoping to get freedom and professional career in her life, she leaves her family. Her family is poor and quite traditional; however, Fanny seems an ambitious and passionate girl. For this reason, she decides to change her present situation. Therefore, she finds and imagine better world. It means she thinks about herself rather than to be follower of patriarchal norms and values.

It supports this argument:

Fanny supposed she must have been mistaken and meant to think differently in future; but with all that submission to Edmund could do, and all the help of the coinciding looks and hints which she occasionally noticed in some of the others, and which seemed to say that Julia was Mr. Crawford's choice, she knew not always what to think. She was privy, one evening, to the hopes of her Aunt Norris on the subject, as well as to her feelings, and the feelings. (109)

Among the several female characters in the novel, only Fanny Price maintains her own moral center, resisting the temptations of immorality and other unfair interference which shows the woman independency. However, the novel equates femininity with virtue, wisdom, and restraint. The other female characters, from the Bertram sisters to Mrs. Norris, all them thinks about their position which they experience later which was damaged by patriarchy to emulate Fanny's positive values. The novel shifts between varying negative examples of women who have been corrupted or affected by patriarchy from Mrs. Norris's upholding of patriarchal

values to Maria's sacrificing of morality and virtue, spurred on by her feelings of imprisonment under her father's rule. The novel sets Fanny Price as the lone virtuous and eventually powerful woman. Despite Edmund's tutoring and Fanny's rather fluid adaptability at Mansfield, the novel presents her as somehow still more discerning, moral, and impervious to temptation than Edmund and the other characters. Her decision to refuse uncle's unfair interference shows her boldness and daring step. Therefore, she dissents with her uncle:

For a few moments she was unanswered. Fanny colored and looked at Edmund, but felt too angry for speech; and he needed a little recollection before he could say 'your lively mind can hardly be serious even on serious subjects. You have given us an amusing sketch, and human nature cannot say it was not so. We must all feel at times the difficulty of fixing our thoughts as we could wish; but if you are supposing it a frequent thing, that is to say, a weakness grown into a habit from neglect, what could be expected from the private devotion of such persons. Do you think the minds which are suffered, which are indulged in wanderings in chapel, would be more collected in a closet?' (86)

From the moment Fanny arrives at Mansfield Park, she is treated as an object that must necessarily be improved, a foreign invader who must be molded to fit Sir Thomas's specifications. From the beginning, Sir Thomas and Mrs. Norris believe that they "shall probably see much to wish altered in" Fanny and ascribe her with "not incurable faults" (41). Without even meeting her, the pair identifies her as an object that needs improvement – she is cast in the same role as the unimproved landscape that must be altered to repress its poor qualities and bring out its best. Sir

Thomas is also adamant that Fanny be contained and isolated from his daughters, as if she a dangerous tropical plant that could infect or destroy the native Bertram daughters. In discussing Fanny's adoption, he goes to great lengths to reassure; "there can be nothing to fear for them" (41). He wishes to ensure that he maintains; "the distinction...between the girls as they grow up" and "how to preserve in the minds of his daughtersthe consciousness of what they are" (41).

Sir Thomas demands the control of the women of Mansfield Park in a way that echoes the rigid demarcation, order, and improvement imposed on the landscape. Sir Thomas allow for women to be associated with freedom, playfulness, introspection, and connection to others. He realizes social change when he observes his daughters and other new generations. Within new scenario, women oppose manipulative patriarchal domination. It means new situation encourages to women for freedom and independence. In this regard, Fanny thinks:

The mind which does not struggle against itself under one circumstance, would find objects to distract it in the other, I believe; and the influence of the place and of example may often rouse better feelings than are begun with. The greater length of the service, however, I admit to be sometimes too hard a stretch upon the mind. One wishes it were not so; but I have not yet left oxford long enough to forget. (87)

Fanny is sharply defined and isolated from the rest of the Bertram family – she becomes more equitable to a servant than to a blood relation. The novel links estate improvements and morality with the improvement or nurturing of individuals, particularly women. The obsessive need to place Fanny, both physically and psychologically, reflects the same new social phenomena. She speaks for:

I would rather not hear never will. For my own sake, I could wish there had been no ball just at- I mean not this very week, this very day; tomorrow, I leave home. Fanny struggle for speech and said, I am very sorry that anything has occurred to distress you. This ought to be a day of pleasure. My uncle meant it so. (225)

Fanny's powerful link to a natural world under increasing threat of control and alteration by outside forces grows out of her own experiences as a marginal figure or outsider – primarily as a woman, but also as an outsider in the Bertram family at Mansfield Park

In contrast, the new improvement condoned by the majority of the characters divorces its traditional moral, religious, and economic groundings. The Victorian society had raised moral ethics and spiritual and religious ties among people but, it have been replaced by new commercial and economical ideology. It shows social degradation and moral decay. The destruction of morality associated with the discussions on religion during the transition period.

While passing the church on the trip to Sotherton, Maria pointedly remarks that she is “glad the church is not so close to the great house as often happens in old places” (107). Maria's distaste for religion and desire for it to be separated from the main house is echoed in the mocking of Sotherton's chapel by Mary Crawford.

In discussing the relatively recent abandonment of regular services in the chapel, Mary observes; “every generation has its improvements, further solidifying the connection between improvement and a growing immorality” (111).

Fanny responses; “It is a pity...that the custom should have been discontinued” (111). While the other characters, like Mary Crawford, see nothing wrong or alarming in the desertion of religious or moral values for modern

improvements and artifice, Fanny longs for the past estate and its valued connections to religion, community, and the village.

After the tour of the interiors of Sotherton, the characters are all eager to escape to a more natural setting, “as by one impulse, one wish for air and liberty, all walked out” (114). Maria, oppressed by the heat, wishes to explore; “a nice little wood, if one can but get into it” (115). Even the inside of the house generates feelings of enclosure and creates a desire for freedom. These restrictions seem to particularly affect Maria as she wishes; “what happiness if the door should not be locked before fatalistically determining, but of course it is” (115). Maria opposes all restrictive patriarchal rules which limit them for living freely.

Maria announces the impediments “give her a feeling of restraint and hardship” or that she “cannot get out” (123). Maria’s quest to complete the tour of Sotherton in order to outline its rigid and unnatural improvements, so closely connected to her sexual desire for Henry Crawford, lead her “with little difficulty pass round the edge of the gate” (123). Fanny begins to show her function as a moral voice, despite her reluctance to act or speak. Fanny is the emblem for this type of true morality, particularly later in the novel when following her own feelings against marrying Henry Crawford while under extreme duress from Sir Thomas. The gate, much like the patriarchal authority and severity of Sir Thomas, is a potentially imprisoning and dangerous obstacle that is easily subverted and fails to produce any true morality. The gate itself can be seen as a potential symbol for estate planning and its connection to controlling male authority, something restricting the unornamented picturesque aspects of the estate and the landscape. Maria thinks; “less and less able to endure the restraint which her father imposed

throughout the novel, comes to think independence was more needful than ever and views her marriage as an escape of Sir Thomas's patriarchal control (217).

Sir Thomas's patriarchal control only teaches his daughters to have the appearance of morality, modesty, and manners when in his presence and under his strict control. In his absence, the sisters quickly throw off their false morals and gentility.

Maria and Julia both flirt with Henry Crawford and show a pronounced desire for scandalous enjoyments, culminating in the plan to stage Lovers' Vows. After Maria's abandonment of her husband for Henry and Julia's elopement with Mr. Yates, Sir Thomas "feel[s] that with all the cost and care of an anxious and expensive education, he had brought up his daughters without their understanding their first duties, or his being acquainted with their character and temper. (159)

Sir Thomas comes to realize the folly of his patriarchal rule by the end of the novel as he approves of Fanny's alternative gender paradigm. He failed to create positive and ethical women out of his daughters. Just as Henry's estate improvements work to hide the true nature. Sir Thomas's treatment of his daughters represses their natural personalities and feelings. His repression has had on his daughters and on his relationship with them. After Sir Thomas's departure for Antigua, the narrator wryly informs the reader of the Bertram sisters' feelings for their father:

The Miss Bertrams were much to be pitied on the occasion; not for their sorrow, but for their want of it. Their father was no object of love to them, he had never seemed the friend of their pleasures, and his absence was unhappily most welcome. They were relieved by it

from all restraint...they felt themselves immediately at their own disposal and to have every indulgence within their reach. (62)

Resistant to the completely deadening and restraining effects of patriarchy makes them more revolutionary. Fanny is able to do more than rejoice over a reprieve from Sir Thomas's repression – she envisions an ideal shift in gender relations and a more permanent solution to patriarchy (62). The novel already begins to show the alternative to repressive and stern patriarchy in Fanny's wishes for her uncle's conduct toward her. She feels; "would he only have smiled upon her, and called her my dear Fanny" (62). Sir Thomas comes to lament the repression of his daughters, as well as his trust of Mrs. Norris. Sir Thomas regrets that he was governed by motives of selfishness and worldly wisdom.

Mrs. Norris largely usurps the patriarchal power of Sir Thomas, although the structural forces governing life at Mansfield Park remain the same. She seizes Sir Thomas's patriarchal power in his absence, drawing his intense displeasure and disapproval once he returns. Sir Thomas's patriarchal control, her decline is a necessity to allow Fanny to gain greater autonomy and wield more influence at Mansfield Park. As Mrs. Norris loses her borrowed patriarchal power,

Fanny gains a new power independent of Sir Thomas. Unlike Mrs. Norris, Fanny's power does not stem from an existing patriarchal paradigm but instead from her own self will and determination. The end of the novel shows Sir Thomas embracing a new system that promotes more positive relations in the domestic sphere and in relationships between men and women.

Sir Thomas's rigid repression, control, and subversion of his daughters' true natures, which ultimately produces artifice and a mere appearance of manners, as much closer to the Crawfords' superficial and active reformation. The novel

continuously revisits the idea of increasing immorality, highlighting the greater separation of the house and the religious buildings as modern estate planning takes hold. In altering both landscapes and individuals, however, they sacrifice something older and more precious whether it is Fanny's childhood strength and self-worth or the cultural tradition of the English society.

Henry's suggestions for Thornton Lacey are emblematic of all that Fanny opposes – it removes the past moral, traditional, and social aspects of the estate in favor of pure cosmetics. Although Fanny's ideology of change, it certainly forbids the unwarranted and dramatic changes favored by Henry.

The novel indicts Henry and Sir Thomas for similar reasons – both are unable to see past the surface of both the landscape and individuals to reduce both to hollow faith of their materialistic ideologies. Henry wants to completely transform Thornton Lacey from; “the look of a...mere Parsonage House” into a “the residence of a man of education, taste, modern manners, and good connections” (255).

Henry attempts to separate the house from its religious function, as well as its positive connections to the village and tenants. The removal of these two traditions largely removes morality from Thornton Lacey, or any other estate, and leaves it open to corruption and decline. Principally all the characters except Fanny and Edmund actively work to remove the estate from the village and the church, traditional disciplining agents or moral guides of the English estate and countryside.

The novel strives to reflect the social and cultural consequences of such growing control over the landscape – both in control through improvements and control through the enclosures. Henry effectively proposes to alter the economic and social realities of the landscape. The novel is very sensitive towards the social

changes leading to the transformation of the countryside by staging the contemporary society.

Fanny is able to avoid the decaying and corrupting effects of patriarchy while maintaining her own personality and moral vision. However, Fanny only begins to fully accept her role as a moral guide or improver during her tumultuous stay at Portsmouth. Fanny begins to articulate and flesh out her own beliefs and thoughts. Using Fanny's generation and voices, the novel shows positive society and culture which do not restrict women as narrowly as Victorian society does. Unlike the patriarchal control of Sir Thomas, Fanny's estate planning and Austen's notion of a more matriarchal society places gentle guidance in morality rather than complete restriction by male forces.

Fanny's work with Susan marks a shift in the hierarchy of power in the novel. Fanny, a morally upright woman, is shown to be a strong and effective force for morality. Sir Thomas's patriarchal and ineffective education controls of his daughters. Much like Fanny on her arrival at Mansfield Park, Susan exhibits a "natural light of the mind which could...distinguish justly," but suffers from the lack of a positive moral guide in a setting "of very offensive indulgence and vulgarity" (297). Fanny recognizes that Susan, suffering under the Portsmouth version of patriarchy, cannot fully learn virtue.

Fanny uses to assume power and control can be seen as traditionally masculine, further reinforcing her breach of gender roles. Fanny becomes a consumer of books and a teacher, breaking into education and literature those women would often be denied.

The novel significantly places Fanny in a more powerful role through her appropriation of traditionally masculine objects, knowledge, or money. Like her

subtle estate improvements and transformation of Mansfield, Fanny's actions at Portsmouth don't confront patriarchy directly, but appropriates aspects of the masculine to serve her own needs and ultimately creating a more unornamented and domestically-centered. Edmund's influence on Fanny is undeniable, but her own personality, values, and sense of judgment. Fanny and Edmund's marriage is a solidification of the novel's shift to new, more positive, gender relations. Fanny's marriage, a possibility for continuation or revival of patriarchal control at the hands of Henry Crawford, instead works to place her in an even greater position of power and moral influence through her relationship with Edmund.

Fanny has resisted and conquered the symbols of male power and limitation. Her value system, notions of the proper role of women, and theories on estate planning are essentially welcomed. Fanny's success over the restrictive patriarchal forces in the novel reveals some the novel's radical quality. The transition through the eighteenth century from a patriarchal to modern exposes social dimensions from which changes take place. Fanny claims the right to control both her and the physical landscape. Through Fanny, the novel has decisively answered the questions emerging women consciousness and changing values of women. She is strong, bold and powerful woman character in the novel comes out from Victorian social values. She is conscious woman, who want to get social as well as economic freedom. She moves forward challenging Victorian social values of women. She faces challenges because she can't limit herself within social assumptions. She dissent with social values.

The novel covers 19th century scenario of England and shows conflict between established values of male dominated ideology and emerging female

values. It traces historical background of the novel. Social changes are taken place which can impact on the changing consciousness.

The industrial revolution unsettled the centuries old social values and social structure and shifted wealth and power to manufacturers who mass-produced goods in the rugged landscapes. Fanny is one female character who adopts modern social values but she is challenged from society. It seeds modernity and came along new spirit, thoughts values.

Fanny is woman from south but she leaves south and goes to north. It signifies that she searches freedom in her life. North represents freedom and modern life. She leaves that place for the sake of freedom. She wants to live freedom life. But she can't get in south, where people are traditional and respect old social and moral values. It is traditional place and aristocratic family dominates all social values.

Fanny dissents with social ideology, she is ambitious but she has difficulties with society. Though new industrial revolution brings new values in the society females are not free from dogmatic and old norms and values of society. It raises problem with tradition and modern values. These latest female have such rebellious ideas and it strikes upon patriarchal society. It makes point departure from traditional values and supports values of modernity.

Females are bold and courageous enough to change the general traditional concept regarding gender roles. Simone Beauvoir says as: "One is not born but rather becomes a female" (310). Women came to realize this in authenticity of the life they lead. They struggled immensely to create this space. Their quest is for self-knowledge and self-realization which can in turn lead to the relationships based on mutual respect and understanding. Thus, the female characters of this novel try to

redefine the general concept about the women- supposedly false concept as they were created by male on the basis of their interest rather than according to fact or experiences.

According to Foucault truth is constructed and truth never exists as truth but it is made time and again. At the same way, gender concept is also construction, which has constructed by patriarchal society. But patriarchal society accepts as general truth and they reinforce it into society. But main debate regarding gender is laid here because female redefine the traditional concept whereas male agrees on it.

Unlike the traditional roles of women, she is free from those social boundaries. She opposes that social imposition whereas she strengthens her inner power. She wants to get own private life. She has got social position therefore she easily converses with men who have renowned social position. In another sense, women are programmed to fail in order to prove that they are biologically ill-suited and less logical than males. It means patriarchy creates the failure that it then uses to justify its assumptions about women.

III. Redefining Women's Role in Austen *Mansfield Park*

The research discusses on how society defines and redefines existing social ideological shifting in Austen's *Mansfield Park*. The societal knowledge is formulated by changing socio-political ideology. Historical and political shifting redefines each and every existing norms and values. The research works on how gender concept is differentiated when a political ideology shift into another. It brings a transition period when the England was in between Victorian period and the industrial period. It distinctly shows differences in gender roles in the Victorian and the industrial period.

The Victorian period announces limited women existence during the period. The society was morally strict for women who had to be confined within domestic walls. The society did not allow them for public life, whereas, they had to maintain domestic discipline and serve their husbands. The Victorian society did not give any more space for women. On the contrary, at the end of the eighteenth century, many historical events took place in European continent, as a result, it influenced over human's thought and traditional minds. Mainly, end of Napoleon war and beginning of industrial revolution played great roles for bringing changes in human minds. For the reason, people changed their minds regarding gender relations. The industrial period established new ideology which criticized moral and religious values of the Victorian society. Instead, it planted materialistic society which moved people for searching materialistic happiness. On this basis of the contemporary society, Austen reflects the ideology in her novel.

The major character, Fanny Price represents a generation from new social change; therefore, she is rebellious and revolutionary. The new social context teaches her about the value of personal life, happiness and position in society. In

contrast, she is daring, bold and rebellious. It shows that the new social context provides for women freedom. The Victorian society imposes them to be a follower of men but the new social change values women and their freedom. The contemporary historical changes even change human perspectives toward gender roles, therefore, the society assimilates what society demands. Fanny Price often faces conflict with her earlier generation, but, she understands the reality that earlier generations have impact of repressive patriarchal society. Even women proudly accept repressive patriarchy, but, it becomes unacceptable when the new values are established in society. The new society redefines gender values in society.

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