

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Class Rigidity and Conformity: Middle-Class Ideology in Jane Austen's *Emma*

A Thesis Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences,

University Campus T.U. Central Department of English

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the

Degree of Master of Arts in English

Submitted By

Pitambar Ganesh

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu

August 2013

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of English

Letter of Recommendation

This thesis entitled, “Class Rigidity and Conformity : Middle-class Ideology in Jane Austen’s *Emma*,” by Pitambar Ganesh has been completed under my supervision he carried out this research from February,2012 to August 2013. I hereby recommended this thesis is to be submitted for viva voce.

.....

Mahesh Paudyal

Supervisor

10th July 2013

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Class Rigidity and Conformity: Middle-class Ideology in Jane Austen’s *Emma*” submitted to the Department of English, University Campus, by Mr. Pitambar Ganesh, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Date

Acknowledgements

I am extremely grateful to express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Mahesh Paudyal, lecturer of Central Department of English, University Campus, Kirtipur, and the supervisor of my thesis, for his continuous supervision and encouragement, constructive criticism and invaluable suggestions during the period of writing. Without his dignified suggestions and continuous encouragements during the thesis work, this thesis would never have witnessed the form it enjoys.

I would like to express sincere thanks to Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, Head of the Department of English, who approved my thesis proposal and provided me constructive suggestions. I am sincerely thankful to all my respected teachers of this department for their co-operation, ideas and encouragement to my academic development.

I am profoundly indebted to my parents Tularam Ganesh and Sundari Ganesh for their constant impetus and encouragement for my overall development. My elder brother Umakant Ganesh, brother-in-law Ram, loving sisters, niece Deepika, Shristi and Bandhana, nephew Dipesh and Manish are equally worthy to be acknowledge for their support. I am much indebted to my friend Tirtha Prasai, thankfulness to my hide and seek mate Somika , Sagar and Arbinda who helped me directly, indirectly, knowingly, unknowingly during this research work.

August, 2013

Pitambar Ganesh

Abstract

This research studies the formation of English Middle-Class and its ideology, codes and rigidity in Jane Austen's *Emma* (1816). Emma Woodhouse, the protagonist of the novel, protests the patriarchal class rigidity but she herself is conformed with it in pre-Victorian society. This research sheds light on the activities of middle class characters, their behaviors, activities, manners and speeches that are guided by middle-class ideology of suppression, discrimination, class conduct and mannerism and explores how they are subjected by it to behave in a certain way to maintain proper status in the society. The central character Emma Woodhouse misbehaves with other characters like Mr. Martin, Harriet, Jane and Mrs. Bates as they are inferior in social status. They accept their status although they try hard to go against it. The upper middle class leaves no stone unturned for the maintenance of class hierarchy.

Contents

	Page No.
Recommendation Letter	i
Letter of Approval	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Abstract	iv
Contents	v
I. Jane Austen, <i>Emma</i> and Middle-Class Ideology: An Introduction	1-14
II. Ideology, Class and Conformity in <i>Emma</i>	15-47
III. Class Ideology and confirmation in <i>Emma</i>	48-51
Works Cited	52-53