

## FEMINISTIC RESPONSES TOWARD PATRIARCHAL SOCIETY IN JANE AUSTEN'S *EMMA*

Dessy Perdana Putri<sup>1)</sup>, Dwi Aji Prajoko<sup>2)</sup>

<sup>1)</sup>English Study Program, the Faculty of Letters  
Catholic University of Widya Mandala Madiun  
[desnaput@gmail.com](mailto:desnaput@gmail.com)

<sup>2)</sup>English Study Program, the Faculty of Letters  
Catholic University of Widya Mandala Madiun

### **Abstract**

*The objectives of this study entitled Feministic Responses Toward Patriarchal Society in Jane Austen Emma are (1) To describe patriarchal culture in Jane Austen Emma (2) To describe feministic responses toward the patriarchal culture in Jane Austen Emma (3) To describe the effects of Emma's feministic point of views. The writer used document analysis to analyze the analysis. The main data is taken from novel of Emma. Some theories used to analyze the data are Character, Setting, Patriarchal Society, and Feminism. Moreover, the approaches used in this research are sociological approach and historical approach. For the result, the researcher finds Emma's feministic response toward patriarchal society, the effect of Emma's feministic point of view after seeing this patriarchal society Emma Woodhouse would have been breaking this rule. Emma decide that without men she was already have anything such as wealth and social status. She even marrying Mr. Knightley which is based on love.*

**Keywords :** *feministic, feminism, patriarchal society*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

In *Emma*, Austen uses her writing to make some fairly gutsy remarks about women and their lives. Her feelings towards marriage stand out the most. In Emma's time, women were always taken care of through marriage or some other arrangement, such as being made a governess. As a general rule, women were not independent beings. Emma Woodhouse would have been breaking this rule. At present in the novel, she is a single woman living with her father on his estate called Hartfield. Her childhood governess, Miss Taylor, has recently left Hartfield to marry Mr. Weston. It would have been quite acceptable for Emma to live with her father under the expectation that she would eventually marry. In this case though, Austen makes Mr. Woodhouse a rather helpless invalid whom Emma has to take care of. Since her father isn't taking care of her, Emma is essentially independent.

There are four theories to support finding the answer from the problem statements. They are theory of character, setting, patriarchal society, and feminism. Feminism also has a close relationship with two significant things, they are superiority of men in a patriarchal society and bad treatments over women. For centuries, the differences between men and women were socially defined and distorted through a lens of sexism

in which men assumed superiority over women and maintained it through domination.

The word patriarchy usually associated with the ideology of Feminism, which challenged the misguided concept that exploited and oppressed women. There are many opinions about feminism. For example, Bell Hooks in his book “*Understanding Patriarchy*” states that feminists used the word patriarchy replaced other common words at that time like: sexism, male chauvinism. They wanted women and men to become conscious with the influences of the patriarchal system on their way of living.

According to Leslie Goldstein in her book *The Constitutional and Legal Rights of Woman*, equality in legal and political rights and formal equality of opportunity are the central issues of this wave. The aim of Feminists was to achieve the opportunity to vote, to hold public offices, to gain more official jobs and education. In addition to legal rights in marriage such as disobey their husbands; sue for divorce, keeping their children after divorce, and to legal protection against husbands’ physical abuse.

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

This study used qualitative method. According to Norman E. Wallen, Jack R. Fraenkel in their book *Educational Research: A Guide To the Process*, qualitative research is a research study that investigates the quality of relationships, activities, situations or materials. Analysis and interpretation of comprehensive narrative and visual data in order to gain insights into a particular phenomenon of interest (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2012) This research used document analysis because the researcher studies about the novels of Jane Austen’s *Emma*. Document analysis is a form of qualitative research in which documents are interpreted by the researcher to give voice and meaning around an assessment topic (Bowen, 2009). Analyzing documents incorporates coding content into themes similar to how focus group or interview transcripts are analyzed (Bowen, 2009). A rubric can also be used to grade or score document. Moreover, there are two approaches are used to support the analysis, they are Sociological approach and Historical approach.

## **3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The writer conducts and finds the answer of the problems’ statement by finding and quoting some dialogues in the novel. The writer chooses *Emma* by Jane Austen because it is one of the famous literary work in that era. This novel is telling about women were always taken care of through marriage or some other arrangement, such as being made a governess. As a general rule, women were not independent beings. Emma Woodhouse would have been breaking this rule. At present in the novel, she is a single woman living with her father on his estate called Hartfield. Her childhood governess, Miss Taylor, has recently left Hartfield to marry Mr. Weston. It would have been quite acceptable for Emma to live with her father under the expectation that she would eventually marry. In this case though, Austen makes Mr. Woodhouse a rather helpless invalid whom Emma has to take care of. Since her father isn’t taking care of her, Emma is essentially independent. The analysis will be divided into three parts: the analysis of the patriarchal culture in Jane Austen *Emma*; the analysis of feministic responses toward the patriarchal culture in Jane Austen *Emma*; and the analysis of the effects of Emma’s feministic point of views.

## **The Patriarchal Culture in Jane Austen *Emma***

### **Prioritizing Men's Happiness based Marriage**

Because men's happiness is very important, the woman have to follow men's willingness. So woman must be changed according to men's happiness even though the woman doesn't like it. Marriage based on men's happiness can be seen when Emma made an arranged marriage between Mr. Elton and Harriet. Because Mr. Elton is a noble figure, Emma wants to turn Harriet into an appropriate figure for Mr. Elton. Emma changed Harriet to be classier.

### **Doubting women's thinking**

Women are always considered weak, they are considered inferior to men. Sometimes decisions, opinions, and comments issued by the mouth of a woman are always doubted by men. In the twenty-first century western world, the idea that women and men naturally possess distinct characteristics is often treated sceptically, but this was an almost universally held view in the eighteenth century. Gender discrimination also happened in *Emma* by Jane Austen where woman's opinions are doubting by men. It is happened to Emma the main character of the novel.

Emma is a single woman who lives with her father. She is friends with Mr. Knightley who is the younger brother of her sister's husband. Mr. Knightley served as a governess and friend of Emma. Sometimes he also comments about the idea that emitted Emma. But sometimes Mr. Knightley always doubts even mocks Emma's ideas.

## **Feministic Responses toward the Patriarchal Culture in Jane Austen *Emma***

### **Insisting Love Based Marriage**

At first Emma refused to get married. Because Emma thinks that marriage is functioned as a tool for women to survive by marrying rich men or high social status, Emma was not a girl who had to find a husband as the only escape from poverty. Even though, it was not very common for women of the eighteenth century to stay single, without taking into account the wealth that these women possessed, again Emma showed no interest to marry. Regarding the high economical position that Emma belonged to.

During this time Emma had never felt that she liked Mr. Knightley. But after thinking about it, apparently he fell in love with Mr. Knightley. Emma felt in love with Mr. Knightley after Mr. Knightley was angry at her for humiliating Miss Bates, so that made Mr. Knightley decided to go visit John and Isabella to discuss something. Till now that she was threatened with its loss, Emma had never known how much of her happiness depended on being first with Mr. Knightley.

### **Defending women's thinking**

Defending women's thinking also happen in this novel. When Emma being underestimated by Mr. Knightley while she conveys her ideas. She tries to defend her ideas. Because being underestimated can be a powerful motivator. These are the action of Emma for being underestimated helped her strength her opinion. Although opposed by Mr. Knightley for pairing Harriet with Mr. Elton, Emma insisted that what she was doing was right

### **The Effects of Emma's Feministic Point of Views**

In Emma's time, women were always taken care of through marriage or some other arrangement, such as being made a governess. As a general rule, women were not independent beings. So, the effect of Emma's feministic point of view after seeing this things Emma Woodhouse would have been breaking this rule. At present in the novel, she is a single woman living with her father on his estate called Hartfield. Her childhood governess, Miss Taylor, has recently left Hartfield to marry Mr. Weston. It would have been quite acceptable for Emma to live with her father under the expectation that she would eventually marry. In this case though, Austen makes Mr. Woodhouse a rather helpless invalid whom Emma has to take care of. Since her father isn't taking care of her, Emma is essentially independent.

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After seeing that women were not independent beings without men. The effect of Emma's feministic point of view make her situation even more unacceptable, Emma decide that without men she was already have anything such as wealth and social status.

### **4. CONCLUSION**

From the research that has been done about feministic responses toward patriarchal society in Jane Austen *Emma* the researcher concludes that there are two patriarchal culture in Jane Austen's *Emma*. The first is prioritizing men's happiness based marriage and the second is doubting women's thinking. Prioritizing men's happiness can be seen when the woman have to follow men's willingness. So woman must be changed according to men's happiness even though the woman doesn't like it. It is shown when Emma changed Harriet into a high social class so she can fit to Mr. Elton.

The second patriarchal culture in *Emma* is doubting women's thinking, it also happened in *Emma*. In *Emma* women always show as considered weak, they consider inferior to men. Sometimes decisions, opinions, and comments issued by the mouth of a woman are always doubted by men. It is shown by the fact when Mr. Knightley always doubts even mocks Emma's ideas. This proves that doubting women thinking also happens in this novel.

After knowing the patriarchal culture in *Emma* of course there are feministic responses toward the patriarchal culture in Jane Austen *Emma*. The first is insisting love based marriage and the second is defending women's thinking. Insisting love based marriage can be seen in the love story between Emma and Mr. Knightley.

Because they were married without any arrangement and they were married because they were confessed each other.

The second response is defending women's thinking. It happens when Mr. Knightley always doubts even mocks Emma's ideas. After doubting by Mr. Knightley Of course Emma did not stay silent, she tries to defend her ideas. Because being underestimated can be a powerful motivator. These are the action of Emma for being underestimated helped her strength her opinion.

When analyze the patriarchal culture in Jane Austen *Emma* and feministic responses toward patriarchal culture in Jane Austen *Emma*, It effects Emma's feministic point of views, because in Emma's time, women were always taken care of through marriage or some other arrangement because women were not independent beings without marrying rich men. The effect of Emma's feministic point of view after seeing this things Emma Woodhouse would have been breaking this rule. Emma decide that without men she was already have anything such as wealth and social status. She even marrying Mr. Knightley which is based on love.

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