THE SIMILARITIES OF THE WOMAN MAIN CHARACTERS
IN JANE AUSTEN’S EMMA AND NORTHANGER ABBEY:
A PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

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An Undergraduate Thesis
Submitted to the Faculty of Letters
As a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
Undergraduate Degree in English Literature

JAKARTA
2008
ABSTRACT

In this study, the researcher wants to find out the similarities in Jane Austen’s novels. Jane Austen is an English novelist in nineteenth century. She has written many literary works, such as poems, novels, and plays. Most of her novels always tell about women, marriage, friendship, and social class.

The researcher uses two of Jane Austen’s novels; they are Emma and Northanger Abbey. The purpose of this research is to find out the similarities of the woman main characters in Jane Austen’s Emma and Northanger Abbey. This research used qualitative descriptive methods. The researcher uses two sources of data. The primary data are the novels entitled Emma and Northanger Abbey, and the secondary data are the references from the libraries and the internet.

The result of the study reveals that the woman main characters in Emma and Northanger Abbey are actually the same. The researcher uses psychological approach to study and categorize those characters. Then, the researcher concludes that all of the woman main characters in Emma and Northanger Abbey are round character, and their behavioral characters are dependent person.
Background of the Study

In this research, the writer wants to investigate the comparison of the woman main characters in Jane Austen’s novels. In many of Jane Austen’s novels, the main characters in her novels usually were women. That is why the writer wants to find out the similarity of the woman main characters in the Austen’s novels.

Problem formulation

Based on the background of the study, the researcher has identified some questions that related to the topic of the story below.

1. Who are the woman main characters in “Emma” and “Northanger Abbey”?
2. What are the similarities between the woman main characters in “Emma” and “Northanger Abbey”? 

Aims of the study

The aims of this research are to find out

1. The woman main characters in “Emma” and “Northanger Abbey”
2. The similarities between the woman main characters in “Emma” and “Northanger Abbey”
The definition of Literature

According to Cuddon in his book A Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory (1998:36), literature is a virtue term, which is usually denotes works which belong to the major, genres, epic, drama, lyric, novel, short story, and ode. If we describe something as ‘literature’, as opposed to anything else, the term carries with it qualitative connotations, which imply that the work in question has superior qualities, which is well above the ordinary run of written works.

The Definition of Novel

The word ‘novel’ comes from an Italian language, ‘novella’, which means ‘a small new things’. A novel is a story long enough to fill a complete book in which the characters and events are usually imaginary. (Hornby, A. S. 2000:866)

The Structure of Novel

The structures in the novel are plot, setting, theme, character, point of view, and language.

There are two kinds of character:

A. Flat Character

Flat character is also called a “type” or “two-dimensional” which is built around a single idea or quality, and is presented in outline, and without much individualizing details, so it can be described in a single phrases or sentence.
B. Round Character

Round character is a character that fully develops complex in temperament and motivation. It is difficult to describe with any adequacy as a person in real life, and like most people this character also capable of surprising us.

(A glossary of literary items, 1960:21)

Character can also be classified by the influence that they have over the plot:

A. Main Character

Main character is a character that has a large influence on the plot. If the character’s action has a significant effect on the outcome of the story, then that character is considered as a major or main character.

B. Minor Character

Minor character is a character that has a small influence on the plot. If the character’s action has a little effect on the outcome of the story then, that character is considered as a minor character.

(www.ccsn.nevada.edu/english/lab/charact.htm)

Classification of character according to the conflict:

A. Protagonist

Protagonist is the central character in the story, one who is faced to the conflict and one who is trying to accomplish something.
B. Antagonist

Antagonist is any character or force in the story that present or causes conflict for the protagonist. The antagonist can even be an element of the protagonist’s own nature or personality.

(www.geocities.com/hollywood/theater/9175/neo/character/html)

Relationship between Literature and Psychology

The relationship between literature and psychology is needed to explore the characters, setting, and theme in novels to judge something that can be true of psychological behavior. Situation and plots are accepted because of this same quality. Psychology growth may tie reader’s sense of reality, sharpen their power of observation or allowed them to fill into undiscovered patterns. However, in the work it self, psychology is only preparatory to the act of creation. Psychological truth is an artistic value only if there are coherence and complexity in the story. (Wellek and Warrens, 1949:81-92)

Psychological Approach to Literary Works

According to Marry Rebecca Rogacion in her book “Your Face Your Destiny” (Rogacion, Rebecca Mary, 2001:115), a person can have a pattern of behavioral style; one can be naturally disposed to be withdrawn, dependent or aggressive.
Research design

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method; the source of the data used in this research is Jane Austen’s novels, which are Emma and Northanger Abbey. The novels are used as the primary data, which means that the writer uses statements and events in the novels related to the problem. The writer also uses secondary data, such as psychological books and other books related to the analysis. According to Gay (1996:208), a qualitative descriptive research involves intensive data collection, which is the collection of extensive data of many variables over and extended period of time, in a “naturalistic setting.” Descriptive research involves collection data in order to test hypotheses or to answer the question concerning the current status of the object of study. This means in doing a research a writer must collecting data from many samples in unlimited of time given in order to have an answer from the research question.

Source of the Data

The sources are Austen’s novels entitled Emma and Northanger Abbey.
Characters Analysis

The woman main characters in Emma:

1. **Emma Woodhouse**
   
   **Description**: She is beautiful, clever, rich, with a comfortable home, the youngest of two daughters.
   
   **Background**: Since she was a child, she was looked after by a governess named Miss Taylor because her mother had died a long time ago.
   
   **Relation to the conflict**: Emma Woodhouse is the protagonist main character because the most of the story tells how Emma tries to match make her friend, Harriet Smith.
   
   **Character type**: Round character
   
   **Behavioral Style**: Dependent Person

2. **Harriet Smith**

   **Description**: She is a very pretty girl with the blue eyes and Light hair. She also has polite manners. She Lives at a boarding school.
   
   **Background**: Since she was a child, she has been lived at a boarding school that belongs to Mrs. Goddard. She never knows who her parents are.
   
   **Character Style**: Round
   
   **Behavioral Style**: Dependent Person
The woman main characters in Northanger Abbey:

1. Catherine Morland

   Description: She is a very pretty girl with quite enough education and manners.

   Background: She is a daughter of a clergyman without being neglected. Her father was a respectable man.

   Relation to the conflict: Catherine Morland is the protagonist character, because the story tells about her kindness, even though her friend had betrayed her.

   Character Type: Round

   Behavioral Style: Dependent person

2. Isabella Thorpe

   Description: She is the youngest of the three daughters of Mrs. Thorpe. Her oldest sister has a great personality and also beautiful, so Isabella imitates her.

   Background: Her family is not too rich but her mother has a good sense of humor and also an indulgent mother.

   Relation to the conflict: She is a protagonist character, because she wants to fix her mistake after betrays her boyfriend and her best friend.

   Character Type: Round character

   Behavioral Style: Dependent person
Conclusion

These are the conclusions of this research:

1. The woman main characters in Emma are Emma Woodhouse and Harriet Smith. Meanwhile, the woman main characters in Northanger Abbey are Catherine Morland and Isabella Thorpe.

2. The researcher has found that there are some similarities between the woman main characters in Jane Austen’s Emma and Northanger Abbey. Emma Woodhouse and Harriet Smith in Emma have round type character, because their characters are developed in the story and also have a complex temperament. Seen from psychological approach, their behavioral style are dependent person, it means that they really need other person. Also Catherine Morland and Isabella Thorpe in Northanger Abbey, they have round type character. In behavioral style, they are dependent persons. Emma Woodhouse, Harriet Smith, Catherine Morland, and Isabella Thorpe’s characters are all developed in the whole of the stories; their characters are not static as a flat character. Their behavioral style show that they are dependent person, because they really need companionship and friendship is the important thing for them. Besides, they are also protagonist characters.
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