

An Analytical Study Of Jane Austen's *Sense And Sensibility*

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ABSTRACT:

Sense and Sensibility represents neoclassical, dualistic moral world where the values of reason and restraint will finally become victorious over the impulsive, romantic sensibility. The novel represents the two sisters who had a different approach to love and relationships. Marianne has chosen an impulsive and abstractly romantic path to life, love and relationship. Her chosen partner Willoughby is also unbelievably dashing handsome. But Willoughby turns out to be a wolf in sheep's clothing; he betrays Marianne. By showing the tragic collapse of Marianne-Willoughby love relation, Jane Austen is trying to warn to those who tend to find love through unrestricted impulse. Through this failure of love of Marianne, Austen is expressing her dissatisfaction towards any individual attempt to form any relationship basing on abstract emotion. She deals with the lower class that represents the majority and covers a wide area in modern society. This paper focus on the oppression and depression where the women undergone in the family and the society. It portrays the real picture of middle class women, their conditions, sufferings, persecutions and underserved humiliation in a male chauvinistic society.

Keywords: two sisters, Elinor and Marianne, love and relationships, failure, women

INTRODUCTION:

Jane Austen (16 December 1775- 18 July 1817) was a English novelist whose realism, biting social commentary and mastery use of free indirect speech, burlesque, and irony have earned her a place as one of the most widely-read and best-loved writers in British literature.

Sense and Sensibility, novel was published anonymously in three volumes in 1811, sixteen years after Jane Austen began the first draft, titled "*Elinor and Marianne*" and that became a classic. The satirical, comic work offers a vivid depiction of 19th - century middle-class life as it follows the romantic relationships of Elinor and Marianne Dashwood.

Sense and Sensibility represents neoclassical, dualistic moral world where the values of reason and restraint will finally become victorious over the impulsive, romantic sensibility. Not only that, she makes a severe satire of the hypocrisies of the eighteenth century society where the Aristocrats are praised and indirectly influences young minds, not to value love but to betray it just for the sake of wealth. In the novel, Lucy and Willoughby symbolize this type of people of the society.

This novel in an implicit way depicts the gaps that occur between language and behavior, feeling and action. For Marianne the relationship is to be found on the unmediated openness of one freely expressive heart to another. But for Elinor marriage is a first social contract. This social contract is first mediated by a language, which preserves a rational and decorous civilization as a stay against humankind's baser instincts. The novel represents the two sisters who had a different approach to love and relationships. Marianne has chosen an impulsive and abstractly romantic path to life, love and relationship. Her chosen partner Willoughby is also unbelievably dashing handsome. But Willoughby turns out to be a wolf in sheep's clothing; he betrays Marianne. By showing the tragic collapse of Marianne-Willoughby love relation, Jane Austen is trying to warn to those who tend to find love through unrestricted impulse. Through this failure of love of Marianne, Austen is expressing her dissatisfaction towards any individual attempt to form any relationship basing on abstract emotion.

Austen highlights the life approach of Elinor that is based on the sense and reasoning. Elinor has that quality which helps her to manage her feeling at any situation, whether it be too sad or happy. She rationally and sensibly examines her relationship with Edward and its consequences. When her relation was broken up by Fanny, she perfectly controls upon her emotions and does not lose the normal framework of the mind. She possesses a good sense and because of that she can stand strong, even at the time of tragic separation from Edward. She is positively guided by her sense.

The novel presents the eighteenth century trend and the culture of love making. Moreover, it also shows what kinds of love making leads to the successful marriage. Two trends in the eighteenth century love making art are symbolized by Elinor and Marianne.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "SENSE" AND "SENSIBILITY"

One crucial issue in the novel is the distinction between the two key words of the title: "Sense" and "Sensibility." Discuss how Austen depicts these traits through the two Dashwood sisters. One of the sisters, Elinor, is often bound by sense, making her appear too cautious and unemotional. The other daughter, Marianne, represents sensibility and can be carried away by her passions and recklessness. Compare and contrast the sisters and discuss how they mature through the course of the novel.

WOMEN AND FEMINITY

The major role of feminism is the equality with men denied women. Rumor has it that girls are made of sugar and spice and everything nice, but we think that Jane Austen might disagree. Her very real, at times rather harsh depiction of the women of *Sense and Sensibility* exposes the undeniable fact that there's more to her proper young ladies than meets the eye – underneath their dainty exteriors, we see dangerous passion, frustration, and even a bit of malice in one case in particular. Austen's portrayal of women is challenging and incredibly real, and she sums up both the delights and difficulties of femininity through the array of characters revealed in this text.

SOCIETY AND CLASS:

This paper "**Sense and Sensibility- An Analytical Study**" focus on the oppression and depression where the women undergone in the family and the society. It portrays a real picture of the plight women, their conditions, sufferings and tortures, persecution and undeserved humiliation in a male chauvinistic society. The world of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* is a complicated one, in which everyone fits neatly into minute little pigeonholes in the incredibly stratified, hierarchical class system. Imagine this system as an enormous card catalog, in which every single person we encounter fits somewhere – and moving them to another place is quite a big undertaking, that involves shuffling everyone else around slightly and getting them all used to it. Her characters are all painfully, obsessively aware of their individual positions in society, and all of their relationships are marked distinctly by their varying amounts of power within the social system.

RESPONSE TO DEATH AND TRAGEDY:

In the novel the two main characters both have different responses to the death of their father, which results in their having to move to a small cottage and highlights the position of women in 19th - century British society. Elinor chooses to bottle up her feelings whereas Marianne wears her emotions on her sleeve. This depicts how different individuals behave differently when tragedy befalls them. The book, therefore, can be used to discuss how different people react to death or any tragic event.

PERCEPTION OF LOVE

The story is also about the budding romance between Edward Ferrars and Elinor Dashwood. In the book, the two sisters have different initial ideas about love, particularly in relation to Edward. The two sisters describe Edward before he is ever introduced to the reader. This gives the reader a preconceived notion about Edward, depending on which sister readers choose to believe. These narrative constructions of Edward's character can be dissected to better understand the characters and their ideas about love, romance and the opposite sex. Consider how the two accounts foreshadow later plot developments and the sisters' different experiences of romantic love and disappointment.

VIEWS OF MARRIAGE:

Although Austen herself never married, her views on the institution of marriage are often present in her novels. Discuss the various marriages depicted in "Sense and Sensibility" and what they reveal about marriage in the early 19th century and Austen's own opinions of it. Consider, too, that classical comedy typically concludes with marriage and the integration of individuals into society. Discuss this subject in relation to what finally happens with the two Dashwood sisters and the way marriage often serves as closure in Austen's novels.

CONCLUSION:

Though materialistic factor would great power over relationships both material and social, yet they cannot over power true as is revealed by the affairs of other two heroines money is important in marriage, but only as it caters to the need of family life. But it is not more

important that love which is vital for marriage. Monetary factors do threaten the happiness of the lovers yet they cannot over power it and love triumphs.

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