

PORTRAIT OF CLASS-CONSCIOUSNESS OF "VICTORIAN SOCIETY" THROUGH MAIN CHARACTERS IN JANE AUSTEN'S *EMMA*

Eko Budi Setiawan

*Program Studi Sastra Inggris - Fakultas Sastra
Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala Madiun*

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini mengulas novel berjudul *Emma* karya Jane Austen. *Emma* menggambarkan kehidupan kelas-kelas dalam masyarakat Victorian melalui karakter-karakternya. Setiap karakter dalam *Emma* mewakili masing-masing kelas. Untuk memelihara status kelas mereka, setiap karakter melakukan hal yang berbeda-beda.

Ada tiga masalah penelitian yaitu: (1) Bagaimana perbedaan kelas dalam masyarakat Victorian digambarkan dalam Novel *Emma*?, (2) Bagaimanakah kaum kaya dan kaum miskin memelihara status sosial mereka di masyarakat Victorian seperti yang direpresentasikan oleh karakter-karakter dalam Novel *Emma*?, dan (3) Bagaimanakah persaingan kepentingan kelas di masyarakat Victorian dalam Novel *Emma*?

Untuk menjawab masalah tersebut, digunakan teori Marxist yang ditulis oleh Jameson. Teori ini digunakan untuk menganalisis *Emma* karena setiap karakter berhubungan, bukan hanya berdasarkan ekonomi sebagai sarana produksi, melainkan juga berdasarkan pada aspek ideologi, sosial dan budaya. Berdasarkan hasil analisis, pembentukan kelas bukan hanya berdasarkan pada tingkat ekonomi setiap karakter, melainkan juga berdasarkan ideologi, hegemoni rasa, dan bahasa. Mereka bersama-sama membentuk kelas dan mempengaruhi karakter dalam mempertahankan status kelas mereka.

Dalam hubungan antarkarakter, muncul konflik dalam kelas ditunjukkan oleh hubungan antara Emma Woodhouse and George Knightley. Konflik-konflik ini pada akhirnya membawa setiap karakter menuju kesadaran kelas.

Kata Kunci: *Class Consciousness, Victorian society*

A. Background of the Study

Literature might be seen to reflect life under capitalism: for example in arguing that modernist art portrays and even exacerbates the individual's solipsism and isolation (Lucacs) or that art is split between elitist 'high' art and popular 'low' art (Walfreys, 1991: 2)

The conflict of social classes establishes the reasons upon which ideological conflicts arise. Literature and art belong to the ideological sphere, but possess a relationship to ideology which is often less direct even than is found in the case of religion, legal and philosophical system (Brooker, 1997: 89). Langland (1948: 7) clarifies that literature can mean something beside itself as soon as an author makes

selection arrangement, and organization of the desperate elements of culture; the arrangement takes on meaning and value. Different authors may depict society differently but society plays essentially the same formal role that is antagonist to individual protagonist. Society becomes a context to the characters' growth and self-realization.

McKernan says in *The Saying of Jane Austen* (1993: 7) that Jane Austen writes about a world long gone and regretted – a golden age of leisured gentlemen and ladies, comfortable, elegant, redolent of a vanished simplicity and taste. She provides for some an escape from the bleakness of time. Austen writes about a world that is insular, middle-class and deadly. McKernan (1993: 10) also states that class, the great winnow, is the major preoccupation of *Emma*. In this novel, whose perfection of symmetry and style reflects the ultimate quest for elegance, everyone has their place, and everybody ultimately stays in it.

Mr. Knightley is a personification of the agrarian capitalist, who spends the little spare money. He reinvests his profits in the farm. He prefers looking to his accounts to dancing and recognizes in his tenant Robert Martin a man who shares his own values, despite their differences in rank. The character of Mr. Knightley, then, can symbolically resolve the determinate contradictions, which are registered within the novel. He combines the elegance and refinement of the natural aristocrat with the moral, capitalist virtues of industry and thrift. And, this symbolic act is possible within Austen's notorious limit of three or four families in a country village.

Emma portrays the lives of different classes in "Victorian society" through its characters. There are upper class, middle class and lower class people who could attend the same balls without being really interfered by their different social classes. However, there is still a feeling of superior towards others as represented by the characters of Emma when she deals with Miss Bates and Robert Martin.

Based on the above facts, the writer is inspired to conduct a research focusing on "Portrait of Class-Consciousness of "Victorian society" through Main Characters in Jane Austen's *Emma*."

B. Problem Limitation

This research focuses on Jane Austen's *Emma*. The analysis will be concentrated on Portrait of Class-Consciousness of "Victorian Society" through Main Characters in Jane Austen's *Emma*. In order to make this writing focus on the main problems, issues of social status in *Emma* are covered. Secondly, he also interprets the contestation of class interest of Victorian Society as portrayed on the characters

through their dialogues or conversations and all statements stated by the narrators in *Emma*. Consequently, the effect of class-consciousness and class interest will arise the changes of social status. Those aspects will be analyzed in this research. Although the dialogues and conversations in the novel indicate colloquialism and their local color, all of these linguistic features will not be analyzed as an independent aspect since they belong to certain class of society, which in this research will be included in the analysis of cultural aspects.

C. Problem Formulation

Under the consideration of the problem limitation of the research, some questions are raised. There are three questions, and all are based on main characters' class-consciousness of "Victorian Society" in *Emma*. Then, those questions will be answered in the analysis of the research. Those questions can be stated as follows:

1. How is the class-distinction of Victorian Society interpreted by the characters in *Emma*?
2. How do the bourgeoisie and proletariat maintain their social status in Victorian Society as represented by characters in *Emma*?
3. How is the contestation of class interest of Victorian Society in *Emma*?

D. Theoretical Review

This part describes the theories which are used in answering the statements of the problem. These theories are marxism in literature, class, and Frederick Jameson's marxism.

1. Marxism in Literature

Literary works are not mysteriously inspired, or explicable simply in terms of their authors' psychology. They are forms of perception of seeing the world. Moreover, Marxists believe that economic and social conditions determine religious beliefs, legal systems and cultural frameworks.

Jameson proposes in *Political Unconscious* a two-part system of interpretation. The first part, the study of forms, argues that works of literature (or any other symbolic configuration) grow out of changing social pressures as an attempt to solve the contradictions enacted in social relations. Jameson would say that artists are not always aware of the ways their works attempt to imagine solutions to real social

problems. The eruption of these problems into the process of creating symbolic constructions would be a sort of return of a collective repressed.

The second part of Jameson's scheme, the study of ideologies, views any particular ideological control or hegemony over other discourses through a process of struggle (1981: 57).

Jameson suggests that this struggle is a struggle over which controls the production of meaning. Meaning is produced through forms, or, as Jameson says, the production of aesthetic narrative form is to be seen as an ideological act (1981: 79). Hence, to study history, or the sequence of modes of production of meaning, is to study changes in the ideology of form.

2. Class

Williams in his book *Culture and Society 1780 – 1950* says that class could be dated in its most important modern sense, from about 1740 (1961: 14). Before that time, the ordinary use of class is to refer to a division of group in schools and colleges. Then, at the end of the eighteenth century, the modern structure of class, in its social sense, begins to be built up. The new use of class does not indicate the beginning of social divisions in England, but it indicates a change in attitudes towards them. Class is more indefinite word than rank.

Furthermore, the decisive step from taxonomy to theology was taken by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, whose polemical writings divide humankind under capitalism into two classes, **wage laborers** who produce surplus and **capitalists** who appropriate it. The bourgeoisie and the proletariat are each with its own consciousness and organization.

Jameson in his book *The Political Unconscious* differentiates social class into two, namely a dominant and a laboring class (1982: 83-84). He employs this term, as he wants to position the **class fraction** or **ec-centric** or **dependent classes**. Jameson emphasizes that the usage of these terms is to “differentiate the Marxian model of classes from the conventional sociological analysis of society into strata, subgroups, professional elites and the like”.

E. Analysis

The study scrutinizes the class-consciousness of Victorian society in *Emma* by using Frederick Jameson's Marxism. The discussion consists of the economical base as the foundation of class formation and ideology as a means to maintain class status of the characters which will lead into class-consciousness in *Emma*.

1. The Economic Base as the Foundation of Class Formation

The economic distinction between characters can be seen clearly through the characters of Emma Woodhouse, Mr. George Knightley, Miss Taylor, Miss Bates, and Mr. Robert Martin. These characters are chosen since they represent different economic base in *Emma*. The different economic base create class formation which is later, borrowing Jameson's terms, called dominant and laboring class (Jameson, 1982: 83-84).

Seen from the economic base, Emma Woodhouse and Mr. George Knightley represent the dominant class; Miss Bates and Mr. Robert Martin represent the laboring class, whereas Miss Taylor represents the class between the dominant and laboring class. Through Miss Taylor's marriage with Mr. Weston she steps on to the ladder of dominant class.

a. The Dominant Class

The dominant class in Victorian Era refers to immensely wealthy and powerful people. The popular image of this class is elegant, handsome men and women dressed in big fluffy dresses who go to balls and social events most of the time. Mainly these people inherit their wealth.

The dominant class has power to control laboring class through their wealth and power. The dominant hires the laboring to work for them, or they rent their land to tenants. In *Emma*, there are two characters that clearly represent this class, namely Emma Woodhouse and George Knightley. They are both immensely wealthy and have power to their surroundings. Their power can be seen through the relationship between the characters such as, the relationship between Emma Woodhouse and Harriet, Emma Woodhouse and Miss Bates, and the relationship between Mr. George Knightley and his tenant, Robert Martin. Though Emma Woodhouse and Mr. George Knightley belong to dominant class, which means that they control the laboring class, they have different attitudes in showing their power. This fact is discussed in more detail in the following.

1). Emma Woodhouse

Emma Woodhouse, the main character in *Emma*, is wealthy and well-educated. Her economic base puts her into the dominant class, a class that controls over the other class, the laboring. Through the course of the story, Emma's wealth and comfort has influenced her ways in treating others. She acts and talks as she is a real lady of the dominant class. Her wealth has put her in the top of her self-appraisal. She thinks that she has everything in her life, and nobody else can have more than hers, especially those who are not at the same class as her.

Emma Woodhouse is the younger of two daughters of Mr. Woodhouse, a descendant of a very ancient family. She is nearly twenty-one and heiress to £ 30,000. This money will have been invested in government bonds that pay 5%, so her annual income is £ 1,500. A pound (£) in the early 19th century has roughly the same spending power as \$ 100 of today's money so Emma would have the equivalent of about \$150,000 per year. This is very huge amount of money to spend in a year for a girl at her age.

Emma is a beautiful, wealthy, well-educated young woman who is born and raised in dominant class society. She lives with her father at Hartfield, their dominant class home. Emma has led a rather sheltered life at Hartfield. This can be seen from Austen's opening sentence that appears to give quite a clear description of Emma:

Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessings of existence; and has lived nearly twenty-one-years in the world with very little distress or vexes her. She is the younger of the two daughters of a most affectionate, indulgent father, and has, in consequence of her sister's marriage, been mistress of his house from a very early period (p. 1).

Emma notices that economic base in this case, poverty, does make difference whether someone will be a poor or a wealthy single. She really singles out the advantage of being wealthy. Being wealthy means a happy life since others will fully respect her existence. She knows how difficult life will be when someone lives in a poor life. She also notes that poverty can make people less sensible and unpleasant. People who live in poverty only know sorrow, and this will extremely influence the relationships with others. At this point, Emma puts herself as a very fortunate woman.

Through her relation with Jane Fairfax, Miss Bates' niece, Emma shows her reluctance of having a relation with someone she does not like. She always likely tends to connect Jane Fairfax, who is in fact a good maid and single to her aunt's poverty. Emma seems to be a little bit jealous at Jane Fairfax when Miss Bates compliments her many times.

As a conclusion, Emma, who is wealthy and possesses comfort and enjoyable life, cannot accept herself to be in the second position after somebody else. She realizes that she deserves the best. She can only understand that she has everything, and nobody else does. She positions herself at the first rank and others are below her

rank. In other words, Emma has successfully maintained class formation among people around her.

2). Mr. George Knightley

Mr. George Knightley is another member of the dominant class. Jane Austen has successfully cast him as an equal partner for Emma, a partner that sees everything from different angles. Because of their wealth, Emma is a little bit snobbish, whereas George Knightley is a sensible man. While Emma is being the woman of highest rank in Highbury, Knightley is being a man of considerable blood and status in the area. People admire his family for his family is regarded very kind to the poor. There is no doubt that the characters in *Emma* reflect a society struggling with value systems that are slipping away. Mr. George Knightley upholds the aristocratic tradition of British society despite the impact of people in his own class who acts against the welfare of the community.

He is such an ideal gentleman who has the power to tell the truth to Emma, evidenced by Knightley's bold statement "Emma knows I never flatter her" (p.7). He is among few people who can see faults in Emma Woodhouse and he is the only one who can show Emma her faults.

The dominant class that is represented by the characters of Emma and George Knightley shows different attempts in pursuing their existence. Emma represents a real woman in "Victorian Era" through her characters and attitudes, such as attending balls, wearing expensive and conservative gowns, and making friends only with people whom she can take benefit from. George Knightley, who is a gentleman in Victorian Era, also realizes the power of his wealth. He understands that he can control others by his money, power, and land. However, he does not try to dominate others' lives. Instead, he manages to have mutual relationship with others. He treats others as they must be treated, not as he wants to treat them.

The two chosen characters are all wealthy and belong to dominant class. They enjoy their status and people's admiration. People admire Emma, and most of those people only admire her wealth. Because of that, no one is brave enough to tell Emma that they do not agree with Emma's attitude toward Harriet, Miss Bates, Robert Martin, and Jane Fairfax. Others can only think that her attitudes are not as it should be, but they also think that it is fine for she is wealthy. People are so permissive with royal and wealthy people.

In the contrary, George Knightley, who also enjoys his status and people's admiration, treats others as they are in the same class. It is true that he has the same class as Emma, but he is the only one who is brave to tell Emma when she makes mistakes, among the other dominant class members. He also shows his admiration

toward his tenant, Robert Martin. He sometimes has a conversation with Robert Martin, as they are buddies. He is also the one who is willing to pick up Miss Bates and Jane Fairfax and then take them with him to the party.

As a conclusion, both characters are real representatives of dominant class of "Victorian society", though they do not share the same attitudes to treat others. They are successful in pursuing their existence as dominant class, and maintain the class formation through their wealth and belongings.

b. Class between the Dominant and Laboring Class

Though Jameson does not clearly state the existence of a class between the dominant and laboring, however, this class truly exists in *Emma*. This class refers to people who can earn enough money, and just enough to live, such as managers and highly paid professionals. They have the skills to be highly paid. Women in this class are usually governesses. Though there are two governesses in this story, they are Ms. Taylor (later Mrs. Weston) and Miss Jane Fairfax; they show different lives as governess. Miss Taylor leads a happy life with the Woodhouse, as one of the family, but, when Jane Fairfax seeks a similar post, the author speaks of her decision to retire from all the pleasures of life, of rational intercourse, equal society, peace and hope, to penance and mortification forever. The following discussion is only about Miss Taylor because she is the only one from this class who can step on to the next class ladder, by marrying Mr. Weston.

Miss Taylor is a professional and earns enough money for that, but it does not make her a member of the dominant class. It is her marriage to Mr. Weston that brings her to the world of dominant class. Moreover, there are no changes in her attitude since she becomes Mrs. Weston. Though she has become Mrs. Weston, who is undoubtedly rich, she still wants to help Emma as what she usually does when she is Emma's governess.

Miss Taylor is somehow a perfect example of how economic base becomes the foundation of class formation. When she is a governess, she can only possess her salary, and it makes her belong to the society between the dominant and laboring class. Then, through her marriage to Mr. Weston, she can have one step higher. She is not a woman between the dominant and laboring anymore, but she is a member of the dominant. This can only happen because she is wealthy enough.

c. Laboring Class

Laboring class refers to people paid average or low wages. People in this class work hard to make a living in "Victorian Society". Men struggle to make enough

money to support their families and provide food for their wives and children. They work nonstop and just barely have enough for the day or week or month. Two characters that can be considered as the members of laboring class are Miss Bates and Mr. Robert Martin.

Miss Bates and Mr. Robert Martin are another perfect example of how the economic base, wealth, land, and popularity, can group people into certain different groups. It is not Miss Bates and Robert Martin's willingness to be members of the laboring class, but it is society itself including the members of the other class that forces them to stay in that class. Through their relationships with other characters, it can be said that though they work hard and live their lives in a very well-mannered, people – especially members of the dominant class – will always regard them as unworthy people.

1). Miss Bates

Miss Bates is the aunt of Jane Fairfax. She lives with her mother, Mrs. Bates, the widow of a former vicar of Highbury in a very small way. She enjoys the most uncommon degree of popularity for a woman neither young, handsome, rich nor married. She realizes that she is poor, but somehow her poverty does not lead her into sadness. She knows in her own way how to be happy and make others happy though other people think that she is a little bit silly.

It is her own universal good will and contented temper which worked such wonders. She loves everybody, is interested in everybody's happiness, quick sighted to everybody's merits [...]. The simplicity and cheerfulness of her nature, her contented and grateful spirit, are a recommendation to everybody and a mine of felicity to herself (p. 18)

Unmarried women find themselves in a difficult position in Victorian society. Women who cannot catch a husband are seen as useless by society. Society, due to the changing economic and social standards, lacked respect for unmarried women. This can be seen from Emma's attitude towards Miss Bates "Ah ma'am, but there may be a difficulty. Pardon me – but, you will be limited as to number – only three at once." (p. 380)

2). Mr. Robert Martin

Mr. Robert Martin is the tenant of Abbey-Mill Farm, who falls in love with Harriet. He is twenty years of age. As a man in that society, he works hard to fulfill his family, mother and sister's needs. He is considered as a lower class person who is usually not educated. This can be inferred from Emma's question doubting his ability

“Mr. Martin, I suppose, is not a man of information beyond the line of his own business. He does not read?” (p. 26)

It is true that it is hard for laboring class to struggle for their lives in Victorian Era. People consider them as less worthy because they are not rich and do not have belonging. It is hard for this class to maintain social relationship with another class unless they have friends from the dominant class.

The dominant class sometimes makes their lives more difficult as seen from the treatment given to Miss Bates and Robert Martin. People consider Miss Bates a great talker, someone who talks too much about everything, and they do not like her when she talks too much. This will not happen if she is wealthy because people tend to be permissive with wealthy people. People also limit their relationship with Miss Bates. There is a thick borderline that keeps the dominant and Miss Bates staying at their side. Furthermore, Robert Martin also finds problem only because he belongs to laboring class. He is regarded worthless for Harriet since he is only a tenant farmer. People – through Emma’s character – think that they will not be able to make Harriet happy for he is not rich. People also think that Robert Martin will not be able to have enough money. People do not want to see the fact that actually Robert Martin works hard.

From the above explanation, it can be concluded that economic base has important roles in Victorian society. Economy has classified people into different ranks and strata. People are treated based on the belonging and their economic level. Once people belong to dominant class, others will treat them as royal people in the society and result in being so permissive with their attitudes. In the contrary, once people become laboring class, they will be treated differently. People will neglect their existence and even limit their participation in the society. People often neglect laboring class’ rights. This results in a big gap between dominant and laboring classes.

2. Ideology as a Means to Maintain Class Status

Jameson notes that Marxist ideology is unable to be what such a utopian society would actually be like. He adds that utopian ideology must be not only economic but also social and cultural. Therefore, the following discussion is based on this theory.

a. The Dominant Class

The dominant class in this story is clearly portrayed by the characters of Emma and Mr. George Knightley. Emma, who inherits £ 30,000, reigns and she has

the feeling of being superior to others. Through the course of the story, she clearly shows her power to control others. Emma treats Harriet as a model of whom Emma can implement her theories. Otherwise, Mr. George Knightley, the owner of Downwell Abbey, shows that he thinks everything logically. He is full of consideration. His full consideration is shown through his attitude toward Emma's plan to match Harriet and Mr. Elton. Mr. George Knightley does not agree to Emma's plan because he sees that Robert Martin is worth enough for Harriet.

b. The Laboring Class

The laboring class refers to working class people or wage earner. In Victorian society, if they are lucky, they can possess very minimal amount of money. Even worst, most of them are homeless and jobless. They have to really work hard in order to fulfill their basic needs. Though they work hard they still suffer from "nameless misery" (Langbaum, 1967: 61). They get wage that is just not enough to fulfill their basic needs. Many of this working class do not possess any work. There are two possible things they can do, they are stealing and starving. Both would end in a miserable condition, in which either they are caught by the police or they are "taken care by the police in a quiet and offensive manner" (Langbaum, 1967: 61).

Once a person is born as laboring class, it is hardly possible for them to maintain better life. Though they tend to be marginalized by the dominant class, they cannot escape from their destiny. They work for the dominant class, but the dominant class gives them very small wages in return.

These people are also neglected by their society. It is hard to find the dominant class who wants to maintain social relationship with them. Only few of the dominant class can maintain this relationship. The dominant class considers this class as unworthy people.

Two characters in *Emma* also represent the laboring class' lives. They are Mr. George Martin and Miss Bates. They are considered differently by the other members of the society.

3. The Class-Contestation in *Emma*

E.P. Thomson in *The Making of the English Working Class* analyzes the English working class as a group of people with shared material conditions coming to a positive self-consciousness of their social position. This feature of social class is commonly termed class-consciousness in Marxism. It is seen as the process of a "class in itself" moving in the direction of a "class for itself," a collective agent that changes history rather than simply being a victim of the historical process.

The English working class is made in confrontation with both the economic exploitation that is inherent in capitalism as well as a counter-revolutionary repression that unites the landed and commercial classes against French-type Radicalism. The English governing class has a genius for co-opting successive strata of the propertied classes – mercantile in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and commercial and industrial by 1832 – in the nick of time to isolate the working class and spare the country revolution. The result of counter-revolution is a working class that is very conscious of its own identity but lacks the drive for political power.

The working class or the laboring class – according to Marxists and Jameson – in *Emma* is best represented by Miss Bates and Robert Martin. The previous discussions have proved and showed their struggle as the members of the laboring class. It is also said that the laboring class lives hard lives in Victorian society since Victorian society provides opportunities only for the dominant. The dominant in *Emma* is best represented by Emma Woodhouse and Mr. Knightley who act differently in maintaining and pursuing their class status.

Borrowing E.P. Thomson's theory that the English dominant class has a genius for co-opting successive strata of the propertied classes in the nick of time to isolate the working class and spare the country revolution and it results in the consciousness of the laboring class for its own identity, it can be said that there are also some conflicts which raise in *Emma* because of the treatment of the dominant class. Moreover, conflicts are not only between the dominant and laboring, but conflicts also exist within the dominant and laboring.

a. Conflicts between the Dominant and Laboring

The class structure is basic in *Emma*, as it is in all Austen's novels. The responsibilities and behavior of each class are generally known and accepted, and this is such a privilege for the dominant. In return for their many privileges, the dominant class has a responsibility toward the poor and the unfortunate. Emma Woodhouse not only fulfills her social duties with charitable visits to the poor family, but also takes effective measures to alleviate their distresses out of a genuine kindness.

The relationships between Emma Woodhouse and Miss Bates are little bit different compared to the relationships between Emma Woodhouse and Robert Martin. Though the nature of their conflicts is about their economic base and ideology, the conflicts between Emma Woodhouse and Miss Bates are also influenced by Emma's jealousy toward Miss Bates' niece, Jane Fairfax.

On the other hand, Austen has plotted George Knightley as a perfect or infallible man to embody her social ideal. George Knightley – another member of the dominant class – does not show any conflicts with Robert Martin or Miss Bates. He can fairly treat them as they are members of laboring class who need supports and company.

b. Conflicts within the Dominant

Conflicts within the members of dominant class are portrayed through the relationships between Emma Woodhouse and Mr. George Knightley.

The Coles display proper attitudes and are neither pretentious nor self-promoting; Mrs. Coles confesses that no one in her family can play their new grand pianoforte. Moreover, the Coles show delicacy and consideration in sending to London for a folding-screen "which they hopes might keep Mr. Woodhouse from any draught of air and therefore induce him more readily to give them the honour of his company" (p. 191). Their behavior and attitudes are contrast with the ill-bred impertinence and pretentious bragging of Mrs. Elton, whose father, like Mr. Cole, made his money in trade.

F. Conclusions

There are three points that can be presented in the conclusions. These three points are considered to be the core of this study. First is the categorization of the characters based on the means of production. The characters are grouped into three classes namely, dominant, a class between dominant and laboring, and laboring class. Two characters are described as the members of dominant class. One character is described as the member of a class between the dominant and laboring class. Two characters are also described as the members of laboring class. Those characters are Emma Woodhouse and George Knightley, Miss Taylor, and Robert Martin and Miss Bates. As the members of dominant class, Emma Woodhouse and George Knightley possess very huge amount of money. Miss Taylor who is in the class between the dominant and laboring earns enough money as a governess. Robert Martin and Miss Bates are the members of laboring class. They do not have the means of production.

The second point is the characterization of the characters based on their ideology. The character presents some different things related to utopian ideology. Emma and Knightley as the members of dominant class have different opinion about perceiving their status. Miss Bates and Robert Martin who are the members of laboring class also act differently. Miss Bates tends to talk too much on every thing.

She looks like uneducated person, whereas Robert Martin is vice versa. He reads books and literature.

The third point is about their class struggle and class-consciousness. Each character portrays their self reliance about their being members of certain class. Emma tends to do the same thing, that is, make use of her wealth through the course of the story, whereas Knightley acts like a perfect man who is rich, kind, well judging, reasonable, and certainly handsome. There is a change in Miss Taylor since she marries Mr. Weston and she turns herself into Mrs. Weston. She is not a governess anymore. She has stepped onto the ladder of higher rank because of her marriage. Then, Miss Bates with her unique way, talking too much, keeps maintaining her status. She tends to make friends with members of dominant class. Little bit different, Robert Martin reads books and journals though he is a member of laboring class. He considers that reading will improve his knowledge.

G. Bibliography

Austen, Jane. 1972. *Emma*. London: Penguins Books LTD.

Brooker, Peter and Raman Selden. 1997. *A Reader's Guide to Contemporary Literary Theory*. London: Prentice Hall.

Eagleton, Terry & Drew Milne. 1996. *Marxist Literary Theory*. New York: Blackwell Publisher.

Jameson, Frederick. 1981. *The Political Unconscious*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Langland, Elizabeth. 1984. *Society in the Novel*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press.

McKernan, Maggie. 1993. *The Saying of Jane Austen*. London: Gerald Duckworth & Co. Ltd.

Williams, Raymond. 2001. *The Long Revolution*. Canada: Broadview Press.

Wolfreys, Julian. 2000. *Literary Theories: A Reader and Guide*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.