

**THE ISSUES OF GENDER, EQUALITY AND MORAL PROBLEMS IN
THE NOVEL “JANE EYRE” BY CHARLOTTE BRONTE**

Darvishova Gulchehra Kenjabayevna*

*Lecturer,

The University of Public Safety of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Tashkent, UZBEKISTAN

Email id: gulchehradk@mail.ru

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ABSTRACT

This article focuses on the issues of gender, equality and moral problems in the novel “Jane Eyre” by Charlotte Bronte. “Jane Eyre” is often described as a feminist novel due to its extensive focus on gender issues. Through the eyes of a female first person narrator, Bronte provides an insightful testimony of how women of her times have to fight for equality and recognition in the oppressive patriarchal world. A various kinds of repression which was familiar to many Victorian women are outlined in the novel by the author as well.

KEYWORDS: *Victorian Period, Moral Problems, Gender and Equality, Patriarchal Society, Repression, Fight, Spiritual Force, Demonstrate, Power Oppose.*

INTRODUCTION

Recent years the interest in literature and its members has increased in the widest sense of this word. Women writers of English literature had a great influence upon the development of world literature. English novelists the Bronte sisters left great artistic heritage in literature. Charlotte Bronte was one of the most significant and a great English novelist.

Charlotte Bronte’s novels have inspired and initiated the creation of numerous texts, films and plays. Written some 160 years ago, it has never ceased to attract readers and to nourish the imagination of authors. Charlotte Bronte is a unique figure in literature. Nowhere else do we find another personality combining such extraordinary qualities of mind and heart,—qualities strangely contrasted, but still more strangely harmonized. At times they are complicated, but always fascinating.

MAIN PART

Female writers of English literature have made a great contribution to the development of world literature. The Sister Bronte ladies, who are considered English novelists, have also left a great artistic legacy in literature. Charlotte Bronte is one of the most prominent among them. “Jane Eyre” is Charlotte Bronte’s first, as well as the most powerful and popular novel, reflecting modern views on the status of women in society.

The novel "Jane Eyre" is a masterpiece that will give great interest and pleasure to readers. It was created in 1847 during the Victorian era. The period of Victorian literature corresponds to the

Victorian period from 1836 to 1901, when Queen was in power, the period being the brightest in British history.

The Victorian era was a period of male control and male rule. It was impossible for a low-income woman to live a decent life or get married well. Social structure determines a person's social status. In a patriarchal society, women have been discriminated against. Also during this period, women writers wrote about women victims, and Jane Eyre became the most influential novel. Jane Eyre is often portrayed as a feminist novel because of its strong focus on gender issues. The play vividly depicts the struggle of women of her time for equality and recognition in an oppressive patriarchal world through the eyes of Bronte's first female narrator. In this novel, Jane confronts a variety of repressions that are familiar to many Victorian women.

But Jane is not the only one facing external repression. As a woman, she is expected to behave in a certain way - to be obedient, polite and humble, and it is considered inappropriate and rude to express other aspects of her personality. Therefore, he tries to control his passionate feelings from his childhood. Throughout the novel, he learns to control his emotions and restrain his inner passions, proving that it is a very difficult task when faced with violence, humiliation, and ultimately love. In the beginning, when Jane is still punished as a child for reading a book by her cousin John, she rebels and resists the injustice she faces with all her might.

As a child, Jane meets the protagonist of the novel - Mr. Brocklehurst, a true representative of male tyranny and superiority, who demonstrates his power as a school principal for girls by insulting and intimidating both students and female teachers. However, Jane's unpleasant and heartbreaking stay at Lowood School was softened by the emotional friendship found there. When Jane first comes to Lowood, suffering from cold and hunger and fear for her life, she is helped by her loving teacher, Miss Temple, and others, as well as young student Helen Burns, who opposes Jane to oppression, ignorance through women's love, trust, and solidarity demonstrates how to fight. This new understanding helps Janega live for eight years in Lovood, which is marked by Helen's emotional death.

When she leaves school to become a private home teacher (governor), Jane feels lonely again in an unknown world and she doesn't know what awaits her. When he arrived at Thornfield Hall, where Mr. Rochester's youngest daughter, Adele, was to stay to become a private home teacher, Mr. Rochester had not yet returned home. Even though he didn't know that the person he was meeting was Mr. Rochester, their first meeting showed the excitement of a future relationship from the start.

Davis points out that in this scene, Jane is flexible and resilient, while Rochester is sharp and cautious, she answers Jane's questions selectively, and Jane obeys some of the orders given and resists some.

Although Edward Rochester is Jane's boss and holds a high position over her, their relationship is based on a growing friendship. For Jane, Rochester is basically the only person who can have an intellectual conversation, during which they confront each other. Rochester is very interested in Jane's intelligence and courage, because even though she is an obedient employee, she is not afraid to speak her mind in front of him and sees no reason why she should be like that - because she was an "independent free man." During the time they are suddenly confronted, Jane begins to like her master, as for Rochester, readers don't know what she will feel when they look into

Jane's eyes, and she actually hopes for Mr. Rochester's love, but she doesn't believe it can really happen. Her feelings are so strong and passionate that she dreams of unrequited love and passion for her, especially Miss Ingram Mr.

When it is claimed that Rochester is the future spouse. Jane is disappointed by this information and believes that after her master's wedding, she will be forced to leave Thorn field Hall altogether. Rochester confirms this and reports that he has found a new job for Jane in Ireland. At the same time, he tells Jane about his inner experiences, which reveal the essence of his feelings for her: sometimes I feel strange feelings for you - especially when you're with me, as it is now: it's as if there's some thread that's too tight and unbreakable under my left ribs, as if I'm tied to that thread over your little ribs. I'm afraid the bond between the two of us will break. As for you, you must have forgotten me. Jane's head was stiff and in a difficult position, but still Mr. Rochester believed that she would marry Mrs. Ingram, and so she could not stay with him, unable to express her feelings for her master. At this point in the work, the author presents perhaps the most quoted speech of the entire novel. This is what Bronte said to women, because it shows that women also show the same feelings as men and equate men with women: Do you think my stay is nothing for you? Do you think I'm an insensitive car? Because do you think I am a poor, simple, incomprehensible, and small-hearted and heartless person? You are wrong! "I'm alive like you, and I have a heart!" Even if Allah had blessed me with a little beauty and great wealth, I would not have given up on you, just as it is difficult for me to leave you now. It is as if I am speaking to you now with my heart and soul, not through rituals and customs or an inanimate body.

Edward Rochester recognizes their equality in a revolutionary way - not just because Jane is a woman, but because she is a simple servant and a simple poor girl who has no place in society. By the standards of Victorian society, Jane was almost nothing but an ordinary governer. However, Rochester knew Jane as a person and thus brought her qualities to mind, she even explained to Jane (and readers) why she knew Jane as her peer and how she had never met such a brave woman: I have never met a man like you. Jane: You make me happy and lift my spirits - you seem to have surrendered, I like your kindness and it makes my heart beat faster.

And finally, in his last offer, he confesses his love and their equality: "Here is my bride, for she is my equal and priceless darling. Jane, will you marry me?" Now Jane is in a difficult situation - on the one hand, she appreciates her love for Edward Rochester and is happy to be loved; on the other hand, he thinks of his social status (always Mrs. Fairfax mentions it) and was concerned about this inequality because he wanted to marry his peer. At the same time, Jane was afraid of losing her independence in such a marriage. Charlotte Bronte wants the equality between Jane and Edward to be perfect and unconditional, and thus she separates the couple to achieve this goal. After Mr. Rochester reveals the secret that he is already married, Jane offers to be his mistress, which not only insults Jane a lot, but also causes her a lot of mistrust. Jane refuses the offer and leaves Thorn field Hall to find another job.

The ability to take responsibility in a difficult situation is actually one of the most important features of the novel, and it increases the chances of women gaining the rights they want. Jane then faces other trials, with Saint-John and his sister rescuing Jane when they return home, suffering physically and mentally. Saint-John asks her to marry him and go to India with him. This would be a very good solution for Jane - she would have the opportunity to travel around

the world and explore the world as a missionary and have a respected husband. He is actually offered everything Rochester can give him but one love. Thus, he could not marry Saint-John because love was of equal importance to him, and it was impossible to marry without love. Eventually, Jane reunited with Rochester after hearing that he had “called” her. Now that he has inherited a large amount of money, he is in a socially acceptable position, and conversely, Rochester’s dominance is declining as his house is burned down and he loses his hand and eyes during the process. Now they were truly equal and interdependent. Also, Rochester's wife died during the fire, and he could now legally marry Jane.

CONCLUSION

In studying the work of Charlotte Bronte, the gifted older sister of the group, one of the first of the qualities that impress the reader is her actual creative power. To one of her imaginative power, the simplest life was sufficient, the smallest details a fund of material. Other qualities that distinguish her work are purity, depth and ardor of passion, and spiritual force and fervor. Her genius was lofty and noble, and an exalted moral quality predominates in her stories. She was ethical as sincerely as she was emotional.

In conclusion, Charlotte Bronte was able to portray an equal marriage between two people who were able to find each other, going against all the contradictions and strict traditions of their time. She showed that the usual simple scenario is more acute and interdependent by applying the moral issues, gender and equality issues that were the basis of her time.

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