

THE REFLECTION OF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND MARRIAGE LIFE OF BRITISH SOCIETY IN 19TH CENTURY AS SEEN IN *EMMA* BY JANE AUSTEN

ROBBY SATRIA

Universitas Putera Batam

E-mail: robmandala@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This research discusses the application of Sociology of Literature theory proposed by Allan Swingwood which proposed that literary work is a social document which has the reflection of the situation of people in society at the certain time. In this research the writer analyses the novel *Emma* written by Jane Austen published in 1816. Here, the writer analyses the social activity and marriage life in society.

This research is qualitative research by using descriptive method. Data is gained by library research method and other sources taken from web. In this research, the data is analysed based on its relationship with the purpose of the research both intrinsic and extrinsic element in literary work.

After comparing the social history of the real condition of British society in 19th century with the plot story in novel ‘*Emma*’ by Jane Austen, the writer found that visiting and ball are the social activities which are commonly done by British society in 19th century. The writer also concludes that social class has a close relationship with marriage where it can increase someone’s social status in society.

INTRODUCTION

Literature is close in relationship with human life because it reflects the social condition of the society generally. The reality in society is often shown in literary works, especially in the novel. By writing the novel, the writer can convey the ideas to the reader about the phenomena that exist in society. Since long time ago until this present time, literary works has become popular in society. It seems that literature cannot be separated from human life. Everyone loves to read the literary work especially reading the

novel because besides the story itself, the novel usually reflects the social condition of society in certain time. In fact, usually people only read the novel for entertaining themselves only without catching the line behind the work such as the history and the social purposes that implied in the novel by the author that are contained in the novel.

Thus, it seems important for the writer to conduct a research, which has the analysis on sociological aspects of the society in certain time, which may be missed by the readers during reading the novel.

From the above explanation, the writer means to make a deeper, brief and practical analysis about sociological aspects, which may be missed by the readers during reading the novel in the expectation that the readers can get the important information that is implied in the novel. For this practical analysis the writer has chosen *Emma* by Jane Austen because it has a complete social aspects and proper to be analysed sociologically. These social aspects in this novel cover the social theme, the social content and the social purposed of the writer. The theme of this novel is about marriage and social status, which much related to human life. The social content of this novel is the reflection of social condition of British society in nineteenth century; the social purpose of the writer is because this novel is a kind of critic from Austen to her society. It is generally accepted that this novel is proper to be analysed sociologically.

The most important aspect in the novel is social problem. Hence, the writer analyse social aspects in *Emma* which can represent about the truth condition of British society in nineteenth century, in with the purpose to make this analysis able to interpret the essence of literary work including social structure, marriage, and social activities that contained in the novel.

Statement of the Problem

Emma is an interesting and informative novel. It contains the social document and history, which are generally missed by the readers in reading literary work. *Emma* reflects the social condition of British society in nineteenth century especially in marriage and social status, which are

different obviously, but through the novel writer finds that there are close relationship between marriage and social status in *Emma*. Firstly, marriage is the main way to improve social status. Secondly, unequal social status causes the conflicts in marriage' proposal, and thirdly, marrying one with equal status leads to a happy marriage.

The Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is to describe the social condition of British society in nineteenth century as reflected in *Emma*. Here, the writer wants to reveal the social problem in Britain in early nineteenth century through the relationship between marriage and social status as found in *Emma*. The writer hopes that the readers will get the proper information about social condition of British society in nineteenth century.

Limitation of the Problem

There are some interesting cases that can be studied in this novel, in conducting this research, the writer only focuses on the condition of British society in nineteenth century about the social structure and also the influences of social status to the marriage.

Here, the writer emphasizes the analysis firstly on the social condition in British society in nineteenth century as seen in *Emma* consist of social classes, social activities and also marriage and family life, and secondly on the relationship between Marriage and social status as found in the novel

Method of the Research

In collecting the data, the writer starts this research by doing library research. In this research, the data are from two sources, primary and secondary data. Primary data is the novel Emma by Jane Austen itself and the secondary data are obtained from materials such as books, articles and other writings that are related to the subject of this study.

In analysing this novel, the writer starts this research firstly by analysing the intrinsic elements that contain the elements of fiction in this novel by using the theory of William Kenney, which helps the writer to understand this novel well, then the writer analyses the extrinsic element of this novel by applying the criticism that contain sociological approach of Wellek and Warren about the problem of social content in society and the theory Sociology of Literature proposed by Swingwood, about the reflection of situation when the work was written. This analysis is supported by other books such as historical books, articles, reviews and writing, which provide the fact in England around the nineteenth century that related to this research.

In reporting this analysis the writer uses the qualitative and descriptive method. By this descriptive method, the writer conducts this research descriptively and by using qualitative method, the writer presents the data in the form of words. Finally, by using these methods, the reflection of social condition of society in the novel through marriage and social status in Britain at that era will be achieved

Theoretical Framework

In analysing Emma, the writer uses sociological approach and applies the theory of sociology of literature. According to Wellek and Warren in Theory of Literature, there are three concepts of sociological approach (Warren, 1965)

1. Sociology of the author and the institution of literature.
2. Problem of social content, the implication and social purposed by the writer.
3. Problem of the audience and the influence of literature to the society.

In doing this research, the writer focuses on the second concept. The writer will reveal about the social content by using this concept, because it deals with the social problem of British society in nineteenth century. In Emma, the problem of social content is about marriage and social status, and also the social purposed of Jane Austen as the writer, because as mentioned in background before, Emma is a kind of critics from Jane Austen to her society.

To make the proper analysis, the writer applies sociology of literature theory by Swingwood. "The basic concept sociology of literature is to find the meaning of imaginary character in literary work that learns the society including social classes, work, love affairs, religion, nature and art" (17). Actually, there are three perspectives of sociology of literature proposed by Swingwood.

1. Sociology of Literature views the literary work as social document which have the reflection of situation the work was written

2. Sociology of literature views the literary work as a mirror of author's social condition.
3. Sociology of literature views the literary work as the historical moment and social cultural situation.

To make the proper analysis, the writer applies the first perspective "Sociology of Literature views the literary work as social document which have the reflection of situation the work was written", by applying this perspective, the reflection of British society in nineteenth century can be achieved.

To reveal the social condition of British society in nineteenth century through the novel, the writer applies sociology theory by Janel Thompson, an English sociologist. He divided British society into three social classes and each class has its own characteristics and generally they are contradictory one another. Thompson in Sociology: Social Class in Britain stated that:

Social class is certainly a subject, which can stir up a lot of emotion, especially if people associate it with money, power, and rowdy behaviour, snobbish or irresponsible attitude. The stereotypes we all have about what is typical of upper class, middle class and working class people are many, and like all the stereotypes, they often contradict each other. (29)

MAIN ANALYSIS

Plot Summary

Plot in Emma is the important events where Austen begins her work until she finishes it, where the events create the process of story moving from beginning, through the middle and the end of the story. As Kenney defines that "Plot is an ordered sequence of events in the story. Plot describes what happen in a story and the reason why it occurs. The arrangement of these events will make up the story in novel" (20). Long (History of English Literature, 1950) tells that: "Her plots are straightforward..."(228). In Emma, the beginning is when she wants to make Mr. Elton as the best suitor for Harret, Rising action when Elton refuses Harriet and he professes his love to Emma. The climax is when Mr. Knightly tells his love to Emma, and finally in falling action, the story is closed with the marriage among characters.

Emma consists of three volumes, with forty-four chapters. After analysing these chapters more deeply the writer concludes that the first eighteen chapters are basically introductory, presenting the main characters, describing the setting, and setting up the plot structure. For the most part, these chapters contain the exposition about characters description. In the exposition, it is told that Miss Taylor, Emma's governess has just married and leaved their house. Miss Taylor marries Mr. Weston, a rich and wealthy old man who owns a nearby estate. Mr Weston is the close friend of Mr Woodhouse, Emma's father. From his first marriage, he had a son named Frank

Churchill. After his previous wife dies, he sends Frank to his brother to be raised. His brother had married for along time but he had not a son yet.

Without Miss Taylor near her, Emma feels so lonely. Then she suggests her father to adopt Harriet Smith, an orphan girl who studies at a boarding school near their house. Harriet does not know anything about her parents. She is very innocent and believes Emma very much. With Harriet as her companion, the relationship between Harriet and Emma is closer and they become a best friends.

In the next chapters the story move into rising action. It is told that the friendship between Emma and Harriet seems very unequal and inappropriate. Harriet indulges Emma's worst quality. Emma is more as an instructor than a friend to Harriet. Emma often gives indirect command to Harriet for not suiting her low situation in society including whom she should be interacted.

The rising action comes when Emma rejects Mr. Elton after Weston's party. On a Christmas night, Mr. Weston holds a party and he invites the friends and society in Highbury. On the way home, in the carriage, Mr. Elton professes his love feeling to Emma. He said that the idea of Emma in matchmaking him with Harriet is not a good idea. He told that he is not interested in Harriet; instead he has fallen in love with Emma. He thinks that he will not be with Harriet because of her social background. Emma quickly rejects Mr. Elton's proposal.

Frank Churchill is introduced to Jane Fairfax and he is secretly engaged with Jane, but he cannot

reveal his feeling to Jane because he knows that his aunt would get angry because of Jane's social status.

The climax comes when Frank confesses his feeling to Jane Fairfax. On a day, Mrs. Churchill is told has passed away. The death of his aunt makes Frank Churchill confess his love feeling about Jane Fairfax to his father Mr. Weston. Mr. Weston supports Frank. He just wants the best for Frank. Frank's confession was shocking news for Emma. She never guesses that Frank has been engaged with Jane Fairfax.

The falling action is when Emma realizes that Mr. Knightly is the only one of proper man for her. Thus, when Mr. George Knightly professes his love feeling to Emma, Emma accepts him and they soon plan to get married. At first time, Emma feels so doubt. She is afraid of making hurt to Harriet. In fact, Harriet has become closer with Robert Martin. Emma's bad opinion about Harriet has changed knowing Robert Martin seriously will be totally responsible for Harriet. The story is closed with three marriages, between Robert Martin and Harriet Smith, Frank Churchill and Jane Fairfax, and between Mr. Knightly and Emma Woodhouse.

Social Activities in Emma

It is also reflected in Emma that British society has a tradition, which becomes the habit in society since long time ago. As seen in Emma, every person in society is involved in the interaction. There are some interaction in this novel that builds the interaction in society such as visiting, conversation and having the balls or parties.

1. Visits

The main events of the novel take place during visits that the characters pay to each other. The frequency and length of visits between characters improve the level of intimacy and attachment between them. Frank's frequent visits to Hartfield show his close relationship with Emma, though in hindsight we recognize that Frank also continually finds excuses to visit Jane. Mr. Knightley's constant presence at Hartfield indicates his affection and regard for Emma. Emma encourages Harriet to limit a visit with the Martin family to fifteen minutes, because such a short visit clearly indicates that any former interest has been lost.

Emma is recovered for her failure to visit Miss Bates and Jane more often; when she takes steps to rectify this situation, she indicates a new concern for Miss Bates and a new regard for Jane. The interaction among the people in society takes place by visiting each other. During the visit, the intention of the character can be identified.

2. Balls and Parties

As reflected in *Emma*, the people at this time also love to sponsor a ball and parties. Parties are organized around social conventions more than around individual attachments—Emma's hosting a dinner party for Mrs. Elton, a woman she dislikes, exemplifies this characteristic. There are six important parties in the novel: the Christmas Eve party at Randalls, the dinner party at the Coles', the dinner party given for Mrs. Elton, the dance at the Crown Inn, the morning party at Donwell Abbey, and the picnic

at Box Hill. Each occasion provides the opportunity for social intrigue and misunderstandings, and for vanities to be satisfied and connections formed. Parties also give characters the chance to observe other people's interactions. Mr. Knightley observes Emma's behavior toward Frank and Frank's behavior related to Jane Fairfax.

Parties are the media of the social interactions that make up the novel as a whole. In these activities, the society gather and the interactions happen. It can be seen firstly in the beginning of the story; Mrs. Goddard visits Woodhouse family with Harriet, which grow the friendship between Emma and Harriet. When Emma and Mr. Elton get involved in crucial conversation over Harriet and also occur in the Crown Inn ball sponsored by Emma and Frank Churchill. In this period, the balls or parties are also the moment for members of society to gather. By having a ball, the person will be invited and the problem and its further reaction will be revealed and seen in these activities.

Marriage life in Emma

1. Marriage is the Way to Improve Social Status

In *Emma*, social status was important in society. Social status is determined by family background, reputation, education and wealthy marriage. As reflected in Emma, in British society in nineteenth century, marriage is believed as the main way, which could increase one's social status. Someone can improve his social status if he marries other person who has higher social status than him. This though is proved by the

characters in Emma both in man and woman position at that former time.

Firstly, It can be seen in the success of Emma in matchmaking her governess Miss Taylor with Mr. Weston, the best friend of Emma's father. It is clear that after her marriage, the social status of Miss Taylor increases because she marries Mr. Weston, the wealthy man who owns the good reputation in society. At the first time, Miss Taylor is only the governess who is considered as middle class person, but after marrying Mr. Weston, her social status improves and she becomes an upper class person in society. She moves from Emma's household and becomes the wife of the rich Mr. Weston.

Secondly, the belief of marriage can raise the social status can be seen in Emma's efforts which want to match Harriet with Mr. Elton. In Emma's opinion, Mr. Elton is the best suitor for Harriet. Mr. Elton is the vicar of church in Highbury. He is well known in society. Emma thought that Harriet would be happier if she marries Mr. Elton, the man whose social status is higher than Harriet. For this reason Emma always prevents Harriet to interact with Martin's family, a farmer family whose their son, Robert Martin is engaged to Harriet. Emma does not want Harriet became closer with Robert Martin because Robert is just a farmer. Harriet is really impressed with Robert Martin by his patience and good will, but Emma always denounces every favourable attributes of Robert Martin. Emma wants to find a proper suitor for Harriet, and wishes that Harriet is far from Robert Martin. It can be seen from this statement; She wants "to see Harriet permanently well-connected --

and to that end it will be advisable to have as few odd acquaintance as may be." (31) Emma effectively dissuades Harriet from any connection to Robert.

Emma becomes snobbish and she has her own prejudice about Robert Martin. Emma views that the interaction between Harriet and Robert Martin is useless. Her opinion about Robert can be seen on this statement "Martin will eventually become a completely gross, vulgar farmer, totally inattentive to appearances, and thinking of nothing but profit and loss." (33) Emma's snobbishness is most evident here, in her prejudicial denunciation of the poor low class farmer.

When Harriet asks her about what should be done when Robert Martin professes his love, Emma gives her suggestion that Harriet must reject Robert Martin, It can be seen in this conversation below;

You think I ought to refuse him then,' said Harriet, looking down. Emma certainly assures Harriet 'Ought to refuse him! My dear Harriet, what do you mean? Are you in any doubt as to that? I thought - but I beg your pardon, perhaps I have been under a mistake. I certainly have been misunderstanding" (33).

Emma is very enthusiasm in matchmaking Harriet with Mr. Elton in the expectation that Harriet's social status will improve in society. On the contrary, Mr Elton has his own purpose to Emma. He plans to marry Emma also to improve his own social status. He followed all of Emma's suggestions because he is secretly in

love with Emma. He pretends to be interested in Harriet; in fact he just wanted to get closer with Emma. Emma begins to set the time for Harriet and Mr. Elton. She is more delightful when she knows that Mr Elton seems so interested in Harriet. In this case, Emma is wrong.

Actually, Mr. George Knightly has warned Emma before for her project to matchmaking Harriet and Mr. Elton. Mr. Knightly criticizes Emma's decision for not allowing Harriet to interact with Robert Martin. Emma suggests Harriet to Reject Robert and get closer with Mr. Elton. Mr Knightly also warns Emma that Mr. Elton actually just wants to get closer with her, not with Harriet, but Emma with her snobbish assures that Mr. Knightly is wrong about it. It can be seen in following conversation;

"Mr. Elton seems to have a great deal of good-will towards you." (112) She replies: "I thank you; but you assure you that you are quite mistaken. Mr. Elton and I are very good friends, and nothing more;" and she walked on, amusing herself in the consideration of the blunders which often arise from a partial knowledge of circumstances, of the mistakes which people of high pretensions to judgment are forever falling into; and not very well pleased with her brother for imagining her blind and I ignorant." (112)

Mr. Knightly has expressed told his opinion to Mr. Weston that the relationship between Emma and Harriet is not common and useless. It

can be seen in the conversation below; 'I do not know what your opinion may be, Mrs. Weston,' said Mr. Knightly, 'of this great intimacy between Emma and Harriet Smith, but I think it a bad thing.'

"A bad thing! Do you really think it a bad thing? - Why so?" I think they will neither of them do the other any good. 'You surprise me! Emma must do Harriet good: and by supplying her with a new object of interest, Harriet may be said to do Emma good. I have been seeing their intimacy with the greatest pleasure.'" (41).

There are two mistakes occur when Emma tries to match Harriet and Mr. Elton. Firstly, to make Mr. Elton impressed with Harriet; Emma draws the picture of Harriet. It can be seen on this narration; He hands it to Emma, "his speech was more to Emma than to Harriet, whom Emma could understand. There was a deep consciousness about him, and he found it easier to meet her eye than her friend." (70)

Actually, Mr. Elton is not impressed with the picture because of Harriet, but because Emma draws it. This is the first mistake of Emma, which causes misunderstanding. Her second mistake occurs when she misinterprets Elton's charade as being for Harriet. The second mistake is when Emma takes three of them in charade. Emma brings them together in purposing that Mr. Elton will get closer with Harriet, but actually, Mr Elton follows the charade with the reason that he wants to get closer with

Emma. This is the second mistakes done by Emma considering about Mr. Elton.

Until one day, Emma is forced to ride home together after the party, Mr Elton professes his love feeling to Emma. She quickly rejected Mr. Elton. Suddenly Emma realizes her foolishness. She says: “the first error, and the worst, lay at her door. It was foolish, it was wrong, to take so active a part in bringing any two people together. It was adventuring too far, assuming too much, making light of what ought to be serious a trick of what ought to be simple”. Emma was quite concerned and ashamed, and resolved to do such things no more. She is angrier with Mr. Elton for thinking that he could have any chance of being with her, because Emma assumed that Mr Elton is of a lower class, than for hurting and disappointing Harriet. The lesson, therefore, has not reached deeply enough.

The aim of Mr. Elton to get closer with Emma also reflected the belief that Marrying one with higher socials class could raise one’s social status. Mr Elton believes that he will be an upper class person if he can marry a wealth man like Emma. That’s why when Emma invites him for a having a charade together with Harriet, Mr. Elton receives the invitation delightfully. It is the big change for him to get closer with Emma and finally he can marry her, but unfortunately, Emma refuses him quickly.

2. Unequal Social Status Will Cause Conflicts in Marriage Proposal

Jane Austen’s portrayal of conflict among British classes

structure in nineteenth century present the idea that there are three distinct social classes, the poor, the middle, and the Upper. These three distinctions make the chance to invite conflicts because they are contradicting each other. This contradiction also occurs in marriage proposal.

It is likely that the social status can cause the contradiction in society, especially for marriage’s proposal, where the conflict is caused by unequal social status. In Emma, the writer finds that there is some conflicts occur caused by unequal social status in marriage proposal. Conflict occurs firstly when Robert Martin professes his love to Harriet, secondly when Mr. Elton proposal to marry her is rejected by Emma. Thirdly, is the fear of Frank Churchill to confess his love to Jane Fairfax.

In the case of Harriet, her status is increased because Woodhouse family adopts her, but she is a low class person indeed. Therefore she has no brave in making the decision about who will be the best suitor for her. Harriet just follows Emma’s suggestion even she is actually engaged to Robert Martin indeed. Harriet considers that Emma is always right. She believes Emma and obeys all of Emma’s command. The obedience of Harriet to Emma is seen in this conversation;

"Whatever you say is always right, and therefore I suppose, and believe, and hope it might be so; but otherwise I could not have imagined it. It is so much beyond anything I deserve. Mr. Elton, who might marry any body! There cannot be two opinions about him. He is very

superior. Only think of those sweet verses.. 'To Miss...' Dear me, how clever! ...Could it really be meant for me?" (74).

For allowing Emma's suggestion, Harriet sacrifices her own feeling to Robert Martin. The conflicts come when Robert Martin professes his love feeling to Harriet. She directly rejects him based on Emma's advices, which tells that Robert Martin is too common for her., and other comments that make Harriet refused Robert's proposal.

Emma's thinking about Robert martin can be seen on this conversation below; "Emma effectively dissuades Harriet from any connection to him by arguing that she is almost assuredly a gentleman's daughter, and that she "must support claim to that station by everything in power, or there will be who would take pleasure in degrading". (30)

The opinion of Emma about Robert Martin is seen in this statement; According to Emma, Martin will eventually become "a completely gross, vulgar farmer -- totally inattentive to appearances, and thinking of nothing but profit and loss." (33) It is obvious that Emma shows her sharp disapproval about Robert Martin.

In Mr. Elton's case, there are two conflicts occur in marriage approach because of unequal social status. Firstly, conflict occurs when Emma tries to match him with Harriet. Mr. Elton rejects Harriet because he feels that Harriet is too common for him. Harriet is considered as a low class person. She is just an orphan girl who does not know anything about her parents and family background and descendant.

Secondly, conflict occurs after the party when Emma for a certain reason is forced to ride home together with Mr. Elton. In the carriage, Mr. Elton professes his love to Emma. He did not love Harriet. Emma is very shocked by him. She tells that she would be glad if Mr. Elton changes his mind and she has other good news for Harriet.

Mr. Elton convinces that he has fallen in love with Emma for a long time. Elton insists, however: "Everything that I have said or done, for many weeks past, has been with the sole view of marking my adoration of yourself. You cannot, really, seriously doubt it." (131) Elton's unexpected proposal to herself instead of Harriet brings Emma's first disenchantment.

The unexpected confession from Mr. Elton made Emma realizes her foolishness. Mr. Elton admires the picture not because of Harriet, but because she drew it. Mr. Elton follows the charade not for meeting Harriet, but for getting closer with her.

Emma's thought can be seen in following expression; she realizes, "It was foolish, it was wrong, to take so active a part in bringing any two people together. It was adventuring too far, assuming too much, making light of what ought to be serious, a trick of what ought to be simple." She is "quite concerned and ashamed, and resolved to do such things no more." (137). She is angrier at Elton for thinking that he could have any chance of being with her because he is of a lower class than for hurting and disappointing Harriet.

Frank Churchill is also involved in conflict caused by unequal social status. When Frank visits Highbury to meet his father with his new stepmother, he was introduced to

Jane Fairfax, a beautiful young lady, the granddaughter of Mrs. Bates, Emma's neighbour. Campbell's family, who is the colleague of his father when he is in army, raises Jane after her parent's death. Jane Fairfax is considered as middle class society.

Jane is a very charm and elegant young lady but she is a low class person. From his first introduction to Jane Fairfax, Frank had has his own love feeling to Jane, but remembering Jane's social status, he buried his feeling because she knew that his aunt, Mrs. Churchill would not bless his relationship with Jane because they are unequal in social status. He is conscious well that his aunt likes other traditional family who upholds the social status. So, it is impossible for Frank to continue his relationship with Jane.

Finally, after her aunt dies, Frank Churchill courages himself to confess his feeling about Jane to his father Mr. Weston understands about this problem very much and finally allows and blesses his son to marry Jane Fairfax. In this case, it is proved that unequal social status will be the obstacle in marriage's proposal. Although in the end Frank is successful in marrying Jane Fairfax, but during the journey of his love, he faces the conflict caused by their unequal social status.

3. Equal Social Status Leads to Happy Marriage

The last reflection about the relationship between marriage and status that wants to be revealed by Jane Austen in Emma is the equality in status leads to a happy marriage. Here, Austen wants to profess that the similar social status can minimize the

conflict in marriage proposal, and the obstacles in the marriage can be smaller. Someone will be happy if he marries other person whose social status is equal with him. In other words, equality in social status will lead the people to build a happy household.

This reflection can be proved by the marriage that occurs in Emma. There are several marriages that reflect the happy marriage because of similar social status, Firstly, the marriage between the wealthy Isabella woodhouse and the rich Mr. John knightly. Secondly, the marriage of arrogant Mr. Elton with the vain Miss Augusta Hawkins, and thirdly, the marriage of the poor Robert Martin and the miserable Harriet, and the last the marriage between Emma Woodhouse and Mr. John knightly. All of them come from equal social status, and finally they are ended in happy marriage.

The couple of Isabella woodhouse and Mr. John knightly is a picture of a harmonic marriage. As mentioned before, in Austen time, marriage is based on family background. Both Isabella and Mr. Knightly are from the same family background. "Mr. John Knightly is a tall, gentleman like, and very clever man, rising in his profession, domestics and respectable.." (90) Mr. Knightly is a wealth businessman who comes from upper class in society, while Isabella is the daughter of Mr. Woodhouse, the top of Highbury society. He is a success ful tradesman who owns the larges estate, and he is the Mr Knightly's connection in business. They know each other well. The marriage between Mr. Knightly and Isabella woodhouse is very

appropriate since it is viewed from family background, social status and reputation. It is likely that they are successful in building a harmonious household. They live in happiness and have children. Isabella is very suited with Mr. Knightly. They stay in their own estate in other village and visiting her father in a certain time to Hartfield is a delightfully for her. It is stated that "There could be an happy creature in the world than Mrs. John Knightly, in this short visit, to Hartfield. She had nothing to wish otherwise..." (108)

In the case of Mr. Elton, he be can successful in marrying Miss Augusta Hawkins also because of their similar social status. From the occupation, they are very similar, Mr. Elton, a vicar in Highbury's church is very proper with Miss Augusta Hawkins, who is the daughter of a merchant in Brisbol. Although their presence is presumptuous in Highbury society, because of their arrogant character, they can build a happy marriage.

Robert Martin is very equal to Harriet Smith. Robert is a common farmer, come from working class in society. Harriet is an adopted orphan girl without clear information about her biologic parents. Thus, she is considered as low class person. They are balance in social reputation.

If Harriet is more confident in making a decision to choose Robert Martin as her best suitor earlier, she would never get paint as she had before. She is being miserable by the rejecting of Mr. Elton, she also doubtful in considering if Frank Churchill is the good suitor for her under dreaming about Mr. George Knightly just gives the attention to her is just because of their pity and

realizing this painful reality, Harriet was very upset and embarrassed. That's all because of her foolishness in following Emma's suggestion. But finally, Harriet finds her own way and accepts Robert Martin and they finally get married and run a happy household.

The last marriage, which proves the equal social status leads a happy marriage, is the marriage between Emma Woodhouse and Mr. George Knightly, like the marriage of Isabella and John Knightly, Emma's marriage with George Knightly is very proper and appropriate. They are equal in family background, wealth, and reputation.

CONCLUSION

Having analysed the reflection of social activities and marriage in Emma, by comparing the similarities and the differences between the history of Britain in nineteenth century with the novel, the writer concludes that Emma reflects the social condition of British society in nineteenth century.

Through the novel, the writer figures out that the society is divided into three social classes, upper class, middle class and low class, which are represented by the characters in Emma. Each of the class has its own characteristics. In Emma, the writer finds that Upper class person is a person who has a good behavior but sometimes they also become snobbish. Different with historical facts which says that middle class person has a politeness and good behaviour, in Emma, the writer finds that middle class person is a person who has a bad

behavior. Meanwhile low class person is described as a good behaviour.

The writer also finds that there are two social activities done by 19th century Britain as reflected in Emma. These activities are around visits and having the balls or parties. Visits make the possibility for persons to interact each other by doing deeper conversation, while balls or Parties are the media of the social interactions that make up the novel as a whole, because in these activities, the society is gathered and the interactions happen.

The writer also finds that marriage means that the girl leaves the parents house and builds a new household without the interferences by other members of family. The writer also finds that there are different attitude toward the marriage among the social classes as reflected in Emma, where upper class person views that marriage is the effort to maintain social status, middle class person build the marriage to improve social status and the low class person hold the marriage to reach the happiness.

Based on the similarities between the Jane Austen's Emma with the truth historical social condition of 19th century Britain historically, it can be concluded that Emma by Jane Austen is one of the reflection of social condition of 19th century Britain, especially related with marriage and social status.

Bibliography

Austen, Jane. Emma. London: David Campbell Publisher. 2002

Bodgan, Robert C and Sari Knopp Biklen. Qualitative Research For Education: An Introduction to theory and Method : Allyn and Bacon, Inc. 1982.

Brookes, H F and C E Frankael, Life in Britain. London: Heinmann Educational Books, 1982

Butler, Marilyn. A Note on the Text; Austen's "Emma". David Campbell Publisher. 2002

Craig, Hardin, A History of English Literature. Vol 4 : New York. The Crowel Collier Publishing Company. 1962

Damono, Sapardi Djoko. Sosiologi Sastra Sebuah Pengantar Ringkas; Jakarta. Pusat Pembinaan dan Pengembangan Bahasa Depdikbud. 1979.

Danziger, Marlis K.and W Stacy Johnson. Literary Criticism. Massachuset. DC Head and Company. 1961.

Hughes, Kenney . An Article:Marriage and class structure in 19th century Britain, <http://www.academic.britishhistory.cuny.edu/english/html>

Endaswara, Suwardi. Metodologi Penelitian Sastra. Yogyakarta: FBS UNY. 2003

.Guarein, W L, Et all, A Handbook of Critical Approach to Literature ", New York: Harper and Row Publisher.

Hough, Graham. An Essay on Criticism.

Wiltshire: Duckworth Publisher.1973

- Junus, Umar. *Sosiologi Sastra*. Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka Kementrian Pelajaran Malaysia. 1986
- Kennedy, Mary Linch and Hadly M Smith, Academic Writing; Working with Sources Across the Curriculum. New Jersey: Prentice Hall Inc.
- Kenney, William. How to analyze Fiction. New York: Monarch Press. 1996
- Laurenson, Diana and Alan Swingewood. The Sociology of Literature. London: Granada Publishing Limited. 1972.
- Long, William J. History of English Literature. Ginn Publisher. NY: 1950. Newton, K M, Twentieth Century Litterary Theory, London: Mc Millan, 1988.
- Nyoman, K R, Teori, Metode dan Teknik Penelitian Sastra, 2004.
- Robert, D Y, Litterature, Reading Fiction, Poetry and Drama, Compact Edition,
Boston Burr Ridge, New York.
- Rugierro, Veronica and Jayme Diane, Short Review: Amazon Book Reviewer.
<http://ww.amazon.com/gpl/dl/member-review/janeausten>
- Saini, K. Protes Sosial Dalam Sastra. Bandung. Angkasa, 1986.
- Thomson, Janel, Sociology; Social class in Britain. London: Heinmann Ltd. 1982.
- Tregidgo, PS. A Background to English. London: Longman. 1996
- Wellek, Rene and Austen Waren. Theory of Literature. USA: US. Information Agency. 1995