PUNE RESEARCH SCHOLAR ISSN 2455-314X AN INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL VOL 2, ISSUE 6

THE EXISTENCE OF ALTRUISM IN CHARLOTTE BRONTE'S JANE EYRE

DR. C. JAGAN ALIAS YESUPATHAM

Associate Professor Jaya College of Arts and Science Thiruninravur, Chennai 602024 (TN) INDIA

ABSTRACT

This article certainly expresses the idea of human love and affection in Jane Eyre. The author of the novel feels that the condition of human love is true which changes all the time of the various circumstances. Charlotte Bronte always attempts to exhibit the power of positivism and the evil of negativism through the infinitive attachment of human love with external conflicts. The author of this novel describes the perspectives of genuine love which makes the women to be more submissive to the world of reality and the entity. The women in the novel expect from the male chauvinistic society to free the women in all the aspects of individual development. The authentic love may not search for the materialistic development rather it would seek for the internal happiness and ecstasy of serenity with the love of eternity. The characters in the novel do not believe in the act bestowing or obtaining the jewels, money, wealth, power, authority, and position. The author feels and narrates that the ideal union of marriage should possess the authentic sense of human love and dignity, which must exist invariably in all the minds of human beings. Marriage without love is spiritless and meaningless to the core of human relationship between men and women. Hence the writer feels the duplicity of marriage and love. Jane emphasizes that she would acknowledge the proposal and she will accept the genuine lover who fulfils the expectation of true love.

Keywords: Ideal Marriage, Authentic Love, Divine Love, Equality, Relationship between Men and Women

The major character in the novel Jane expresses her own life style in the narrative form of autobiography. It is also based on the entity of her creator and the providence of God. The novel gives the ideal instances of the narration of Lowood, comrades and tutors which are associated and collateral contact with Charlotte's own education and nativity. She was educated at the Clergy Daughters' School (Spark, 1990, p. 78); and Jane's memorable experience with the Ingrams exhibits the true nature of healing an educationalist could imagine, is predestined on Charlotte's individual and delicate knowledge. The deconstruction and the reconstruction of the tiny events in her life are crucially distinguished in the book. The dismissal of Rochester's couch or bed reverberate an installment event in Branwell's life

DR. C. JAGAN ALIAS YESUPATHAM

1Page



could also reveal the phenomenon of human existence; Bewick's *British Birdt* was a desired and beloved to the shelves at Haworth; we can easily believe in the incarceration of an insane woman in an attic was to the story of Charlotte who had heard at Stonegappe. The magnanimous art of literature initiates the magnitude of its encouragement, enlightenment, enclosed thoughts of human beings. It is the sufficiency instrument of communication. Normally the story of a woman may provoke the interest of the readers to know the curiosity of the climax. The story reveals the concept of the woman whose personality and identity is shined in the love of human beings for the obtaining the perspectives of human socialism and humanism. *Jane Eyre* is a fabulous narration in its style of an ordinary demonstration of woman's love and personality and her state of unconsciousness. The intense spiritual experience, as powerful in its way as King Lear's ordeal of purgation, and it ends notably on a note of calm (Booth, 1998, p. 37). In *Jane Eyre*, the junior Jane identifies the concept of passion and ardent love of human beings and her previous indignant behavior towards the sense of injustice are exhibited to the culture of familial and social living. The readers can comprehend the accomplishment of the novel in the beginning of the story in *Jane Eyre*.

The readers assume that the author has ultimately reached the realm of her target and goal. The protagonist of the novel Jane has wedded with Rochester in whom she believes to be the lover of eternal life and partner in social, physical and spiritual and psychological level of intimation. The novel rejoices young Jane's ambition and resolution of overcoming the misfortune and difficulty in social prejudice. The novel possesses highly the Gothic circumstances and the locus of the condition in which the novel entirely hopes for the reader response towards the social and spiritual entity. We do not know whether the personality of the characters to demonstrate the tendency of the inner self and the outer self of the human relationship with others in the world of familial living.

The mysterious and the sanctity of human love are the authentically hypothetic in its existence. As a reader one can assume the reality of inertia of the mind. Rochester's insane and restless and violent wife creates incomprehensibility, mysterious, impenetrability and secret in human existence. We can perceive that the author has utilized the supernatural elements by narrating the fearful dream and nightmare alike. This supernatural element can vindicate the structure of using the life events in the form of various expressions and in the different movements of human life. The narrator applied the two approaches of human perspectives. Thus; the spirituality and the morality are the ways of human beings to live and relate with other fellow men and women in this world of reality. The story of young Jane reveals the magnificent personality and the gothic heroine towards the thought of romantic idealism. Young Jane possesses the formidable and willingness to the adjustment of others in her life. She seeks to experience more the love of mankind. The experience of the person can be described as the self identity and the manifestation of personality and state of mind. The novel describes the love of man and woman and distinguishes the reality of the same love between love and the lover. We do not comprehend the real purpose of love between the

DR. C. JAGAN ALIAS YESUPATHAM

2Page



enemy and the neighbor but when someone is very close to the heart of physical love and that love makes the person more attached to the sensibility. The crucial element of this novel plays the vital role in revealing and exhibiting the genuine love and understanding the real feelings and emotion of the others in whom Jane relates in her life. The authentic and genuine love is one of the prime the prime themes of Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre*: The author distinguishes the passionate love which always possesses someone to be more liberal and cordial in nature. The novel exhibits the paradigm of love and the transition in the reality of human behavior and manners of life with others in the world of human relationship. The novelist attempts to narrate the direct effect of the passion and manifests the character in which human relate with one another. "What she can do is to convey its actual present throb. Moreover, this Charlotte does as it had never been done before in English fiction" (Al-Haj, 2012, p. 25).

"Charlotte Bronte was born in April 1816 at Thornton in North Yorkshire, but when she was four her father became rector of Haworth, near Keighley, and the family migrated to the parsonage which was to be Charlotte's home in all her life. In 1821, when Charlotte was just five, her mother died and all five sisters were sent to live in an orphanage. Charlotte and her sisters were enthusiastic readers of Shakespeare, Milton, Byron, Scott, the Classics and the Bible. She and her sisters showed an early gift for writing, as a form of amusement they wrote miniature books about the fantasy world of their own creation" (Al-Haj, 2012, p. 19). "In 1835, Charlotte left family home and took up a position as a teacher, but soon returned home suffering from nostalgia and homesickness. Charlotte worked for a time as governess in Brussels before returning and settling in Haworth. She began to move in literary circles. She travelled around England and wrote a novel set in Brussels, Villette (1853). In 1854, after much hesitation, she agreed to marry a local clergyman, but after just a few months of married life, she died due to complications associated with pregnancy. Charlotte began writing as a child, and she was still writing in the year of her death. She lived till her twenty six year old. She usually wrote rapidly, feeling herself impelled to dash on. Sometimes she was overwhelmed by the need to write; at Roe Head in 1835 she noted, 'I am just going to write because I cannot help it" (Sulivan, 1996, p. 32). "She welcomed this creative force, describing it (in the Preface to the 1850 edition of the novels) as 'something that, at times, strangely wills and works for itself' (Sulivan, 1996, p. 33). And she remarks in Shirley that' those who possess this imagination would not give it for gold" (Shirley, p. 89). In her literary profession she didn't discourage the urge of human beings. She arranged her novel in a peculiar manner of giving attention to the readers. The discouragement of the urges and sensation may relate to all the novels of her writings. She didn't succeed with her sisters' literary works which gave formidable influence to English literature. She is enticed to blend with the enlarged and inapplicable narrative lines in all her plots and literary works in genre of fiction (Such as Lucy's visit to London in Villette), but she has the credible in the narration of her Jane Eyre which bestows the light upon the values of human love and relationship.

DR. C. JAGAN ALIAS YESUPATHAM

3Page



Jane Eyre is an initial novel of Charlotte Bronte whose identity is concealed from the curious a pseudonym. It is not only the best and the perfect novel of Charlotte Bronte; it is perhaps the finest novel of our time. In no other modern novel reveals the phenomenon of three characters as the worthy inclusion of typical life style of human beings. The three characters hold the strong grip to the imagination and significance in the exhibition of human reality. It portrays the powerful imagination and tiny administration to the world of reality in the inner thoughts of human nature. It also proves the tyrannical and religious factors of human tendency and emotion. The novel relates the human peace and harmony with the nature of our own relationship in substance of family and the unity of love among the men and women.

Charlotte Bronte's understands and governess of her embittered wealthy and leisured division of her life style and also from her own characters. Wealth is amalgamated and conglomerated with the kindness to the characters, which move all the time of the novel to play the active role in living. "The characters of wealthy, such as the Ingrams (Jane Eyre or the Sympsons (Shirley)), do not command her respect, indeed some are overdrawn to the point of caricature" (Sullivan, 1996, p. 35). Bronte's second masterpiece Shirley (1849) is a book about the predicament and the difficulty of women in love who suffer from mutual and unrequited love, women who have never, and never will be, loved. Charlotte never underestimates the power of emotion, love, and urges. She overcomes all the formidable stumbling blocks and hindrance are the elements of her success in career and profession of literary writing. She refers various ideal values to the life of human beings. She includes religions, culture, wealth, rank, authority, and rank. She endures from the hopelessness and pain. The novel describes as the two chief love-stories are agglomerated with the loves and the marriages. The concept of love and marriage may give the true and the pure divinity love of human beings. "Although it must be assumed that the marriage of Shirley and Louis, and Caroline and Robert, will be happy in Shirley are vital in the depiction of the characters and the manners of various identity in the novel. It reveals the calamity of Mrs. Pryor's marriage and it's disastrous. Helstone had made his wife wretched and misfortune. Yorke married Hester only because he was jilted and taunted elsewhere. The perspective of marriage can also be considered as the unity of divine love and peace. In all her writings profession Charlotte shows herself vehemently aware of the class structure in the world. She had her own experience as a governess left her with a hostile contempt for the kind of prosperous, worldly families who had employed her" (Sullivan, 1996, p. 70).

The principal theme of *Jane Eyre* is manifested as a girl's growth in established independence, and an equal affiliation in love. Jane achieves her independence and liberation by her own spirited struggle through adversity and ordeal in nature. She understands in the end that she can manage the level of her own experience and discernment. She surrenders her will and devotes herself to Rochester. She is not relying on his decision and domination and she feels free and enjoys the liberation of thoughts and deeds. "Not only is she free, but in her own eyes she is eventually his equal; 'equal- as we are!' she cries" (*Jane Eyre*, p. 34), when

DR. C. JAGAN ALIAS YESUPATHAM

4Page



they finally arrive together. The development of young Jane's love for Rochester can be more transparent and opaque in nature. The aesthetic love of men and women can cure the sickness of monotonous of human dissatisfaction and complacencies in the relationship of marriage and love.

The authentic and genuine love need to be respected and comprehended through the mutual sharing and bearing of happiness and sadness. Jane Eyre commences her story as a ten-year old orphan in the house of her aunt, the dictatorial and unfeeling Mrs.Reed. She has the tendency of accusing others. She sends her to an institution where she was educated. Jane had unhappy and gloomy days in her adolescence. She became a teacher and finds a job as governess to Adele, the illegitimate daughter of Mr. Rochester. The circumstance makes Jane and Rochester fall in love with each other. This pursuit of love has reached to their wedding day. She discovers that mysterious mad woman who lives in total seclusion and isolation in Rochester's house is really his wife. Despite his frantic and desperate requisition Jane runs away from that place. She then cared for the river family. She learns that she and Rivers are cousins and that she has inherited a moderate sum of money. Meantime, she is on the point of marrying Reverend St. John Rivers and planning to immigrate to India. She heard a voice over the telephone and asking her to assist him. She goes to Rochester Hall and discovers that it burnt down. Although, Rochester has been blinded but she feels very sorry for him and feels that he is a poor John now. Therefore she decides and determines to marry him and lives with him. This time his sight is partially restored. Jane's story manifests also, a social and filial love which concerns with religion, and the right relationship to God. Although for a while God's image is obscured and perplexed by that of Rochester, through all her sufferings and tribulation Jane never has any schepticism towards the divine mercy. She feels that she didn't even find time to pray to God. When she leaves Rochester and encounters death on the moors, she returns to God by commending Rochester and her own soul to Him.

The various behaviors and manners are exhibited towards the faith and belief. There are many examples of faith towards God and human beings. Thus; Mr. Brocklehurst's cruel and brutal hypocrisy, St. John's cold fanaticism and imagination, Helen's gentle and humble acceptance, Mrs.Reed's refusal to exonerate, and Eliza's inflexible Catholicism, are all censured in various modality and structure. Jane vehemently believes that she has to fight against the adversity and the tribulation in her life but vengeance and aversion are not consented. "Even as a child, momentarily triumphant after her outburst again Mrs. Reed, she soon regrets what she has done. (Sulivan,1996, p. 89). Jane's characters completely resemble characters of Charlotte Bronte. She portrayed herself through the character of Jane. The painful convention of her mind that she felt that she was not beautiful woman. She felt often inferior in beauty and admiration.

DR. C. JAGAN ALIAS YESUPATHAM

5Page



Jane assumed marriage as a mean to the love romantic achievement. She depicts her genuine love towards Rochester manifests itself with congenial and reddening thoughts. She feels an apprehension towards her own sensuality and feelings. She rejects the wealth and the assets of him and refuses to accept and obtain the property like ornaments of jewels and richness. She disapproves to be his mistress at the end. "When both of them married, she sees herself as the 'bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh" (Jane Eyre, p. 93). He keeps on learning experiences from the books and the reality of life. He encounters an ordeal in his mind, because he could not confront the struggles of hope and feels remorse for the sufferings and sorrows which are inevitable in the world of human life and death. He had conserved all these from the quality of his calmness, gentleness and modesty. Jane sees him at Ferndean, at that moment he regrets for his attempt of bigamy. He was authentically mellowed down and pacified in his mind and heart. He submits his will to God at the end when he realizes that everything happen by the will of God. "He mellowed and chastened, and has found a new strength in his submission to God's will. Although to today's reader her words seem so guarded, Charlotte never wrote so frankly again; critics accused her of coarseness and crudity, and the attack went deep (Sullivan, 1996, p.

The women were not permitted to educate themselves in the male dominated society and the male chauvinism was not very liberal at the time of eighteen and the nineteenth centuries. They were totally denied of education and creativity and they were prohibited to write. *Jane Eyre* was a free and fair novel which aroused the sense of acceptability and advanced to the thoughts of modernity and lateral thinking.

Jane believes in the novel that she can convince the men in the society and proves her modesty, honesty, dedication and sacrifice for the lives of others. *Jane Eyre* proves the complete the temperament of women in the society and how far they can tolerate and accept the ordeal and misfortune of poor in the world of social class system. She proves her genuine love and pure mercy and passion for others. *Jane Eyre* appears to the readers as an inspiration and an encouragement to encounter the struggles in life in the optimistic approach. The novel strengthens the literature and added advantages to mundane life style of human beings. It vindicates the style of social and economical condition of her century. Charlotte Bronte had contributed the social values through her literary work for the present contemporary.

REFERENCES

Al-Haj, A. A. (2012). The Portrayal of Women in Charlotte Bronte's Shirley. *Journal of Qena Faculty of Arts*. South Valley University, Egypt.
Allott, M. (Ed.). (1989). *The Brontes: The Critical Heritage*. London: Rutledge and

DR. C. JAGAN ALIAS YESUPATHAM

6Page

PUNE RESEARCH SCHOLAR

AN INTERNATIONAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL VOL 2, ISSUE 6

Kegan Paul.

Bentley, P. (1990). The Brontes and their World. London: Macmillan.

- Booth, W. C. (1998). The Rhetoric of Fiction. University of Chicago Press: Chicago.
- Bronte, C. (1990). The Professor. London: Macmillan.
- Bronte, C. (1992). Jane Eyre. London: Macmillan.
- Chang, H.-S. (1992). The Woman Question in Charlotte Bronte' Jane Eyre: The Interaction of Romanticism and Mid-nineteenth-century Victorian
 - (Unpublished Master's Thesis). Lowa State University, Ames: Lowa.
- Criak, W. A. (1999). The Life of Charlotte Bronte. London: Macmillan.
- Cross, W. L. (1991). *The Development of the English Novel*. Englewood Cliffs: Salem Press.
- Davies, S. (Ed.). (1991). The Brontes Sisters: Selected Poems. London: Macmillan.
- Gao, H. Y. (2013). Reflection on Feminism in Jane Eyre. *Theory and Practice in Language Studies*, *3*(6), 926-9331. http://dx.doi.org/10.4304/tpls.3.6.926-931
- Gerin, W. (1994). *Charlotte Bronte, the Evolution of Genius*. London: Clarendon Press.
- Lane, M. (1997). The Bronte Story. London: Heinemann.
- Moglen, H. (1987). Charlotte Bronte. New York. Norton.
- Pinion, F. B. (1991). Bronte's Companion. London: Macmillan.
- Scott, P. (2001). Anne Bronte: A new Critical Assessment. London: Macmillan.
- Smith, A. (Ed.). The Art of Charlotte Bronte. London: Macmillan.
- Spark, M. (Ed.). (1990). The Bronte Letters. London: Macmillan.
- Sullivan, S. (1996). Studying the Brontes. Hong Kong: York Press.
- Winnifrith, T. (1990). The Brontes. London: Macmillan.

7Page

ISSN 2455-314X