

CHAPTER IV

DATA INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1. Emma

Emma is a beautiful, clever, rich, and strong in character. She lives happily in comfortable home and her life is easy till she becomes young lady. Emma is the youngest daughter from her parents' children. Although her life is easy, it does not make her soft-hearted:

Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessings of existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her... and Emma doing just what she liked.³²

Emma is a strong girl. Although she lost her mother in the young age, she can be mistress at her house from a very early period. It is surprising that she can pass it well. Emma is also a hard worker girl according to Mr. Knightley:

She was the youngest of the two daughters of a most affectionate, indulgent father, and had, in consequence of her sister's marriage, been mistress of her house from a very early period. Her mother had died too long ago for her to have more than an indistinct remembrance of her caresses... 'There is hardly any desiring to refresh such a memory as that' - said Mr. Knightley... She was always quick and assured; Isabella slow and diffident. And ever since she was twelve, Emma has been mistress of the house and of you all.³³

Emma has a strong character. If she wants to do something, she has to do it no matter the way is. Even if her father refuses her idea, Emma will do what she wants if she thinks that she does not make mistake. She likes to be match maker but she does not like to be matched. She wants to have her own choice:

³² Jane Austen , Emma, London: Penguin Group, 1994, 5

³³ Ibid, 5 and 29

Her father fondly replied, 'Ah! My dear, I wish you would not make matches and foretel things, for whatever you say always comes to pass. Pray do not make any more matches.'

'I promise you to make none for myself, papa; but I must, indeed, for other people.'³⁴

Moreover Emma is educated well. She studies at home. She has a private teacher. Her teacher, Miss Taylor lives at Emma's house for sixteen years:

Sixteen years had Miss Taylor been in Mr. Woodhouse's family, less as a governess than a friend, very fond of both daughters, but particularly Emma. Between them it was more the intimacy of sisters.³⁵

Emma also has good initiative. Even she is able to think clearer than her father. After Miss Taylor gets married, Emma wants to visit Miss Taylor with her father. However her father asks to Emma how they can go there because their house is far from Miss Taylor's house. Her father says that he cannot walk so far. Emma says that they will not walk, they can go by carriage:

'How often we shall be going to see them and they coming to see us! – We shall be always meeting! We must begin; we must go and pay our wedding-visit very soon.'

'My dear, how am I to get so far? Randalls is such a distance. I could not walk half so far.'

'No, papa, nobody thought of your walking. We must go in the carriage to be sure.'³⁶

4.2. Emma's Ideas of Match Making and Marriage

Emma loves to make match people. She openly shows her idea and desire to make match one person to the other. She is sure that she can realize her idea:

'I promise you to make none for myself, papa; but I must, indeed, for other people'... 'Only one more, papa; only for Mr. Elton. Poor Mr. Elton! You like Mr. Elton, papa, - I must look about for a wife for him. There is nobody in Highbury who deserves him- and he has been here

³⁴ Ibid, 10

³⁵ Ibid, 5

³⁶ Ibid, 7

a whole year, and has fitted up his house so comfortably that it would be a shame to have him single any longer- and I thought when he was joining their hands today, he looked so very much as if he would like to have the same kind office done for him! I think very well of Mr. Elton, and this is the only way I have of doing him a service.³⁷

Emma's determination to be a matchmaker can be seen when she matches Miss Taylor with Mr. Weston. Most people say that Mr. Weston will never marry again but Emma can make Mr. Weston marries Miss Taylor. She shows that she can do what other people can not do:

'And you have forgotten one matter of joy to me,' said Emma, 'and a very considerable one-that I made the match myself. I made the match, you know, four years ago; and to have it take place, and be proved in the right, when so many people said Mr. Weston would never marry again, may comfort me for anything.'³⁸

She thinks that she is successful to make match so she does it again. She cannot stop the feeling of pride when she is successful to match someone. She feels that she has power. Because of that, she keeps on match making people to maintain her feeling of success:

'I planned the match from that hour; and when such success has blessed me in this instance, dear papa, you can not think that I shall leave off match-making.'³⁹

Emma can show her spirit to be independent girl without depending on man. She thinks that she will not fall in love. She will never marry a man. She will repent it if she is married.⁴⁰ She is sure that she can live without man:

And I am not only, not going to be married, at present, but have very little intention of ever marrying at all.. If I were to marry, I must expect to repent it... I have none of the usual inducements of women to marry. Were I to fall in love, indeed, it would be a different thing! But

³⁷ Ibid, 10 and 11-12

³⁸ Ibid, 10

³⁹ Ibid, 11

⁴⁰ Ibid, 66

I never have been in love; it is not my way, or my nature; and I do not think I ever shall. And, without love, I am sure I should be a fool to change such a situation as mine.⁴¹

Emma is sure that she can enjoy her life and she can be wise although she is not married. At that time, women were expected to marry. Most of unmarried women usually were stereotyped as ridiculous and had narrow perspective although they were not. Especially Emma as a middle class woman, she does not feel that she is ridiculous and has narrow perspective although she is unmarried. There is difference between middle class and lower class society when it comes to unmarried state:

‘Never mind, Harriet, I shall not be a poor old maid; and it is poverty only which makes celibacy contemptible to a generous public! A single woman, with a very narrow income, must be a ridiculous, disagreeable old maid! The proper sport of boys and girls; but a single woman, of good fortune, is always respectable, and may be as sensible and pleasant as anybody else.’⁴²

However Emma believes although she becomes older and older, she can employ herself. Emma has great many independent resources. She says that if she is less in one thing, she can do another thing. Even, she can take care of her niece and her nephew:

‘If I know myself, Harriet, mine is active, busy mind, with a great many independent resources; and I do not perceive why I should be more in want of employment at forty or fifty than one-and-twenty. Woman’s usual occupations of eye and hand and mind will be as open to me then, as they are now; or with no important variation. If I draw less, I shall read more; if I give up music, I shall take to carpet-work. And as for objects of interest, object for the affections, which is, in truth, the great opinion of inferiority, the want of which is really the great evil to be avoided in not marrying, I shall be very well off, with all the children of a sister I love so much, to care about.’⁴³

⁴¹ Ibid, 66-67

⁴² Ibid, 67

⁴³ Ibid, 67-68

Emma thinks that man is not born to be independent and can afford to marry.⁴⁴ Emma wants to protest man's perspective. Emma sees that man treats woman as an object:

'Oh! To be sure,' cried Emma, 'it is always incomprehensible to a man that a woman should ever refuse and offer of marriage. A man always imagines a woman to be ready for anybody who asks her.'⁴⁵

Emma argues that woman can marry if she wants to marry not only because man asks her to marry:

'Thank you, thank you, my own sweet little friend. We will not be parted. A woman is not marry a man merely because she is asked, or because he is attached to her, and can write a tolerable letter.'⁴⁶

Emma's independence can be seen when she refuses Mr. Elton's love. She makes argument with Mr. Elton. It is not common for young lady to refuse man's love. Emma is really brave to show her mind to be independent:

'No, sir,' cried Emma, 'it confesses no such thing. So far from having long understood you, I have been in a most complete error with respect to your views, till this moment. As to myself, I am very sorry that you should have been giving way to any feelings...I have no thought of matrimony at present.'⁴⁷

Emma says that woman has to say what she wants to say. Woman has right to do what she wants to do:

'I lay it down as a general rule, Harriet, that if a woman doubts as to whether she should accept a man or not, she certainly ought to refuse him. If she can hesitate as to "Yes," she ought to say "No" directly. It is not a state to be safely entered into with doubtful feelings, with half a heart. I thought it my duty as a friend, and older than yourself, to say thus much to you. But do not imagine that; I want to influence you.'⁴⁸

⁴⁴ Ibid, 26

⁴⁵ Ibid, 47

⁴⁶ Ibid, 42

⁴⁷ Ibid, 101-102

⁴⁸ Ibid, 41

Emma tries to influence Harriet about Harriet's choice in choosing husband. Emma wants Harriet to refuse Mr. Martin although it is not Emma's right to influence Harriet about Harriet's choice:

'Which makes his good manners the more valuable. The older a person grows, Harriet, the more important is that their manners should not be bad-the more glaring and disgusting and loudness, or coarseness, or awkwardness becomes. What is passable in youth, is detestable in later age. Mr. Martin is now awkward and abrupt; what will he be at Mr. Weston's time of life?'⁴⁹

For the second time, Emma makes mistake. Emma matches Harriet with Mr. Frank Churchill. Harriet thinks that Emma makes match for Mr. Knightley and Harriet. Emma does not agree if Harriet falls in love with Mr. Knightley. Emma thinks that Mr. Knightley has to marry only her.⁵⁰

Emma does not agree if Mr. Knightley marries other woman. She influences Miss Taylor to support her idea. She still wants to use her power to influence other people:

Mr. Knightley must not marry! I am amazed that you should think of such a thing. ... 'My dear Emma, I have told you what led me think of it. I do not want the match – I do not want to injure dear little Henry – but the ideas has been given me by circumstances; and if Mr. Knightley really wished to marry, you would not have him refrain on Henry's account, a boy of six years old, who knows nothing of the matter?' ... 'But Mr. Knightley does not want to marry. I am sure he has not that last idea of it. Do not put it into his head. Why should he marry? – He is as happy as possible by himself; with his farm, and his sheep, and his library, and all the parish to manage; and he is extremely fond of his brother's children. He has no occasion to marry, either to fill up his time or his heart.'

'My dear Emma, as long as he thinks so, it is so; but if he really loves Jane Fairfax-'

⁴⁹ Ibid, 26

⁵⁰ Ibid, 306, 307, and 308

‘Nonsense! He does not care about Jane Fairfax. In the way of love, I am sure he does not. He would do any good to her, or her family; but-‘
‘Well,’ said Mrs. Weston, laughing, ‘perhaps the greatest good he could do them, would be to give Jane such a respectable home.’⁵¹

Although Emma does not want to get married, she sees that marriage is not bad. If she is not educated well, she could be narrow minded. Emma’s father says that Miss Taylor is pity because she marries Mr. Weston. However, Emma says that Mr. Weston can be good husband and Miss Taylor can have her own house:

‘Poor Miss Taylor! – I wish she were here again. What a pity it is that Mr. Weston ever thought of her!’

‘I cannot agree with you, papa; you know I cannot. Mr. Weston is such a good-humoured, pleasant, excellent man, that he thoroughly deserves good wife; - and you would not have had Miss Taylor lives with us for ever and bear all my odd humours, when she might have a house of her own?’

‘A house of her own! – But where is the advantage of a house of her own? This is three times as large. – And you have never any odd humours, my dear.’⁵²

Finally Emma gets married. Although she gets married, she still wants to show her feeling to be independent. She marries a man of her own choice. She is married because of two things. The first is that she falls in love with Mr. Knightley. The second thing is that she does not like if other woman gets Mr. Knightley’s wealth. She is afraid if her nephew cut s out from Donwell. If Emma marries with Mr. Kingtley, she is sure that her nephew will not cut out from Donwell:

Mr. Knightley! - Mr. Knightley must not marry! – You would not have little Henry cut out from Donwell? – Oh! No, no, Henry must have Donwell. I cannot at all consent to Mr. Knightley’s marrying; and I am sure it is not all likely. I am amazed that you should think of such a thing.’⁵³

⁵¹ Ibid, 169 and 170

⁵² Ibid, 7

⁵³ Ibid

4.3 Emma from the Perspective of Liberal Feminist in 18th and 19th Centuries

Wollstonecraft, a prominent figure in Liberal feminism thought, says that middle class woman is mistress woman that has sacrificed her health, her freedom, and her morality for prestige, enjoyment, and power that are provided by her husband.⁵⁴

Additionally, Mill says woman's attention is bigger to her own interest and her family interest and humiliates society needed and desire in general. By choosing family rather than career, woman agrees to sacrifice her interest until her family grows.⁵⁵

In the case of Emma, she has to be mistress at her house although she is still young. She has to take care of the household. Emma looks powerful because she can do it although she is still young. However, she has to sacrifice her childhood and take the responsibility because people said that she has to do it. It should be her mother's responsibility but her mother died when Emma was young. Her older sister has married and her father could not meet her in conversation, rational, or playful.⁵⁶ So, Emma has to take responsibility for taking care of the household.

Wollstonecraft also says that because women are not permitted to take their own decision, they do not have freedom. She motivates woman to be autonomous decision maker.⁵⁷

⁵⁴ Rosemarie Putnam Tong, *Feminist Thought*, Colorado: Westview Press, 1998, 18

⁵⁵ *Ibid*, 27&29

⁵⁶ Jane Austen, *Emma*, London: Penguin Group, 1994, 6

⁵⁷ Rosemarie Putnam Tong, *Feminist Thought*, Colorado: Westview Press, 1998, 19&21

Emma has already conformed to Wollstonecraft's suggestions by taking advantage of the freedom in making decision. Emma can do what she wants to do. She grows up in happy disposition with comfortable home. Emma has freedom to choose her own choice. Her father gives her permitted to do what she likes. It makes Emma thinks that she is equal with man. She braves to refuse Mr. Elton's love because she does not like Mr. Elton. She marries with her own choice.

Emma also has freedom to make match other people. When her father forbids her to make match for other people, Emma still does it because she thinks that she can be successful so she does not want to stop it.

First, Emma wants to shape Harriet, improve her, to detach her from her bad acquaintance, and introduce her into good society. Emma thinks that it will be interesting:

Emma was as much pleased with her manners as her person, and quite determined to continue the acquaintance... *She* would notice her; she would improve her; she would detach her from her bad acquaintance, and introduce her into good society; she would form her opinions and her manners. It would be an interesting, and certainly a very kind undertaking; highly becoming her own situation in life, her leisure, and powers.⁵⁸

Then Emma suggests Harriet to refuse Mr. Martin. Emma thinks that Mr. Martin cannot be good husband for Harriet. Emma wants to make match for Harriet with good man according to Emma's choice. However, she does not think about Harriet's feeling. Emma makes mistake twice when she makes match for Harriet. Although she knows that she makes mistake for the first time, she does it again. She is sure that she has power to do it.

⁵⁸ Jane Austen , Emma, London: Penguin Group, 1994, 19

From the explanation above, it can be said that Emma has freedom in making her own decision although the freedom is in a narrow scale. She can get married to her own choice.

Mill does not oppose society's assumption that woman and man can take care of their children together. Woman tends to choose marriage and job as mother than career and job. With regard to education, Mill says that in 19th century after woman gets education and right to choose, most of them will choose to stay in personal domain to make them beautiful and comfortable than support life. It means that woman chooses to be housewife than has to have job.⁵⁹

Moreover, Wollstonecraft has opinion that educated woman in 18th century is inclined to arrange household than spend time for useless entertainment.⁶⁰

Emma is educated woman. She studies at home. She has private teacher. Her private teacher lives with her for sixteen years. She likes to spend her time playing with her friends than arranging the household. She likes to go at her friends' house. Emma chooses to make herself comfortable with her life than go to work. Emma does not think how to go to work, she just thinks about society's life. She likes gossiping with other people. She likes to talk about other people. Here, Emma stays in her personal domain to enjoy her time as she is still single. At the same time, Emma spends her time arranging the household. She has not struggled for equality.

⁵⁹ Rosemarie Putnam Tong, *Feminist Thought*, Colorado: Westview Press, 1998, 24

⁶⁰ *Ibid*, 20

Wollstonecraft says that society has to give education to woman, like boy because all of people have the right to get equal opportunities for developing their logical reasoning and morality capacity so they can be intact person.⁶¹

Emma and other girls get education well. They are not forbidden to go to school. They have their own choice to go to school.

Wollstonecraft says that woman can be intact person. Woman is not only instrument for other people's happiness but woman is purpose, that her self-respect is her ability to determine her own destiny.⁶²

Similar to Emma, she is able to determine her own destiny as she can make her own decision with regard to her. Emma can make her own decision. She is brave to refuse Mr. Elton. Then, she marries Mr. Knightley. She marries of that man because she loves him. Emma has ability to refuse what she does not want to do because she has her own decision. Emma's friend, Harriet also does the same thing. In the beginning, Emma makes match Harriet with other man. Emma does not want if Harriet marries Mr. Martin so Emma makes match Harriet with other man. However in the end of the story, Harriet marries a man of her own decision. She marries Mr. Martin.

Emma's scale to struggle is small but she can represent to change in society.

On the other hand, Taylor has other opinion that is different with Wollstonecraft opinion. Taylor opposes society assume about woman's tendency for choosing marriage and mother's job than career and job.⁶³

⁶¹ Ibid, 21

⁶² Ibid, 22

At the beginning Emma wants to be different. She is potential to be different to be independent. However, at the end as she lives in a society which does not really support a radical change in women's role she is finally married.

Taylor says that woman and man's job are same in supporting life. Woman has to choose to be wife and mother and works outside the house. Married woman cannot be equal with her husband, unless she has self-confidence that she has right to be equal. It means that she can support the family's life. It is important for woman to work, whatever her job. To be partner, woman has to have income from her job outside the house. Taylor challenges traditional job description in family; in this case, it means that man produces the money like woman arranges the outcome.⁶⁴

It contradicts Emma's life. Emma is a rich woman. She does not want to work because she has a lot of money. She just does what she wants to do. She can go everywhere. After she marries Mr. Knightley, she does not need to work because Mr. Knightley is a rich man.

However, it means that Emma still depends on her family because her father has a lot of money to support her life. It can be weakness if her father and her husband become poor because she will be poor too. It is not good for Emma because she does not struggle to reach her own wealth.

⁶³ 24

⁶⁴ Ibid, 24 - 25