

1. Discuss Jane Austen as a great English Novelist.

**Introduction** — The novel, as a modern literary genre (fashion) of expression, began in England with the arrival of neo-classicism. The English novel were written from 1740 to 1800 by Smollett, Fielding, Richardson and Sterne. Although the novel was developed by several English authors, none of them displays new trends or improvement until Jane Austen or Sir Walter Scott carried the English novel forward to new horizons or advancement in theme, character development or in plot integration.

Jane Austen was the contemporary of the early Romantic poets, Wordsworth, Shelly, Keats, Coleridge. In fact, she was doing the same thing in novel which the Romantic poets were doing in the field of poetry. She elaborated a sensible and happy mixture of reality and minute individual observation of the realities of a section of English life in her novels.

**Faithful presentation of country life** —

We find that there is no escapism in Austen novel. In all her six major novels, named *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *The Northanger Abbey*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma* and *Persuasion*, she became extremely successful in depicting the country-life in detail. She was chiefly concerned with two main

aspects of her several characters, their attention to social duties and their interest in marriage. Her strength lies in her concentration upon a limited world. Her novel are well integrated and her plots move naturally. Her style is obvious direct, natural and ironical. There is the blending of good sense, humour and wholesome wit in her novels. She allowe her characters to develop themselves in the display of their chatter and acts. Her plots are very simple like the simplicity of country life.

Jane Austen is a very powerful novelist and a master of the modern world. Her novels fulfil the most austere requirement of the modern novel. We find that the pure and detailed portrayal of the diurnal life of peaceful country gentry of her own surrounding. Her language is also very interesting.

### Analysis of Jane Austen's novels —

It is an opinion of several critics that sense and sensibility is the poorest novel of Jane Austen. In it, she satirises the excessive sentimentality. It is found that her main character. The two sisters are of opposing temperament. The first sister Elinor is peaceful, natural and full of common sense. On the other hand, Marianne is sentimental and emotional. The former

Sister finds happiness in a routine love companionship and her sister encounters only misery and heartache in her search for happiness through immotional excessive. We find that the author expresses her anger against a romantic and sentimental view of love.

Austen's literary masterpiece is *Pride and Prejudice*. The fundamental cause of conflict in the novel is the excessive sense of pride in the hero, Darcy. The cause of clash is an equal amount of pride in the heroine, Elizabethan Bennet. The inevitable result of this conflicting pride is a happy compromise between the hero and the heroine which brings happiness to the couple.

*The Northanger Abbey* is an example of Austen's anti-pathy towards the gothic Romances. In this short novel, the heroine is subjected to several horrible experiences and hyperbolic misfortune. There is the description of the middle class social life of the fashionable city, Bath. Her fourth novel, *Mansfield Park* is the strongest novel because of realism. Its central theme is domestic. Its heroine gets happiness through a frivolous rich person. She faces situations and circumstances very boldly which are contrary to her moral and spiritual conviction.

*Emma* is a social comedy of life in the little village of Highbury where nothing of importance happens. The main quality of this novel is the study of character. The main purpose of

Its plot appears to be the proper pairing of young couples to avoid inconvenient and undesirable marriage.

Persuasion is her most sensible novel. The heroine of this novel is Anne Elliot, -through her love-affair, culminates at last in a happy marriage.

**Conclusion** — Austen is not a boisterous comedian, but her novels are full of a sipping sense of pleasure. She has excelled all her predecessors in the art of novel by her matchless presentation of contemporary manners, superb portrayal of character and realistic narration of the domestic social life of 18th century, England.