

THE ANALYSIS OF REGENCY ETIQUETTE REFLECTED IN JANE AUSTEN'S NOVELS

Anindya Nurul Kusuma Dewi
POST-GRADUATE PROGRAM OF LANGUAGE STUDY
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
anindya.nkd@gmail.com
+62 81326521048

ABSTRACT

Etiquette in England is interesting to be analyzed, because England has several periods and different manners along with the country development. One of them is Regency period. It had some manners that reflected in Jane Austen's novels. This research aims to identify types of etiquettes in the Jane Austen's novels; describe the etiquettes that reflected in the Jane Austen's novels; and reveal the underlying reason why Jane Austen addressed the etiquettes in the novels. This study is qualitative research which the researcher uses narrative research to analyze the works. The data of the research are the etiquette in the Jane Austen's novels: *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), *Emma* (1815), *Northanger Abbey* (1818), and *Persuasion* (1818) novels. The technique of data collection is done through documentation of library research. After all data have been collected, then analyze the data used descriptive analysis. The finding of this research is found five etiquettes reflected in all of the six novels. Those etiquettes are visiting manners, speaking manners, party and balls, dressing manners, and table manners found in all of the six novels. The social rules did apply to both ladies and gentlemen, and touched upon almost every area of daily life.

Keywords: *etiquette, Jane Austen's novels, regency England, early nineteenth century, sociological approach*

A. INTRODUCTION

Jane Austen's novels have become the famous novel in two hundred years. The author creates her works as the reflection of the social phenomena or conditions at the time. As Klarer (2004: 1) said that literature "as cultural and historical phenomena and to investigate the conditions of their production and reception." Jane Austen's novels represented the social condition and situation in the early of nineteenth century. It is interesting that England had several periods and different manners along with the country development. One of them is Regency period. The Regency was an era of change and unrest as well as one of glittering social occasions, celebrations and extraordinary achievement in art and literature (Kloester, 2010: 1). It had some manners that reflected in Jane Austen's novels. This research aims to identify types of etiquettes in the novels, describe the etiquettes that reflected in the novels, and reveal the underlying reason why Jane Austen addressed the etiquettes in the novels.

There are some researchers who have done the research in Jane Austen's novels, such as Tanrivermis (2005), Bochman (2005), Vuoso (2008), Hearn (2010), Foust (2013), Olson (2013), Sasso (2013), Ashfaq and Khatkhat (2014), Boarcas (2014), and Guin (2015). However, most of the researchers who analyzed the works of Jane Austen focused on the feminist aspect, the adaptation from the Austen's work into several novels or movies, and

marriage life. So, there are no researchers who have been conducted a research about the etiquette that reflected in the Jane Austen's novels.

B. UNDERLYING THEORY

According to Swingewood and Laurenson (1972: 12) literature is "A work of art, which expresses of human life and the problem on society, particularly concerns with law, religion, norms and value of society, economics, and politics with qualities of the relationship among them." Literary used as a social document, literature can be made to yield the outlines of social history (Wellek and Warren, 1962: 99). Through the literary works, we can learn phenomena in society in certain time and place (Swingewood and Laurenson, 1972: 15-17). Literary works give details of particular periods, reflects norms, attitudes, classes, and values in the sense of the writer's own intention. From their explanations, researcher thinks that this study is suitable to analyze using sociological approach. It is clear that sociology and literature is influencing and complementing each other.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

This study is qualitative research which the researcher uses narrative research to analyze the works besides books and other related references to support the subject matter. The data of the research are the etiquette in the Jane Austen's novels. The primary data sources are Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), *Emma* (1815), *Northanger Abbey* (1818), and *Persuasion* (1818) novels. While the secondary data are taken from other sources such as journal, books of literature, author's biography, essays, article, and other relevant information.

The technique of data collection is done through documentation of library research. Documentation is the data collection which uses all of the data sources (Creswell, 2007: 118). After all data have been collected, then analyze the data used descriptive analysis. As Miles and Huberman explained (1994: 245) the methods of data analysis includes several steps. The steps are collecting the data sources, recording the information by taking notes and writing reflective passages in notes, summarizing field notes by drafting a summary sheet on the field notes, writing codes and memos, noting patterns and themes, counting frequency of codes, building the logical chain, and displaying the data by making contrast and comparisons.

D. RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Research Findings

The researcher found several manners in Jane Austen's novels reflected in the early of nineteenth century England. The manners are visiting manners, speaking manners, party and balls, dressing manners, and table manners.

a. Visiting Manners

1) Visitor

a) Formal Visit

The formal visit is business occasion. There should be a written invitation but if among the businessmen are close friend, no written invitation needed. It shows in *Emma* when Mr. Knightley visited Mr. Woodhouse to discuss about their business.

...Mr. Knightley, who had been of the party, and had seen only proper attention and pleasing behaviour on each side, he was expressing the next morning, being at Hartfield again on business with Mr. Woodhouse, (*Emma*, 2006: 111)

Regency England was dominated by man in every part of job field such as farmer, trader, soldier, lawyer, etc. Most of the gentleman's job in the Regency Period was businessman or military man. In fact that formal visit is seldom to find rather than the informal visit in Jane Austen's novels, because the society was merely about the pleasure and much about social activities.

b) Informal Visit

For the informal visit here is social event, family visiting, and visit in someone's house. The invitation is direct invitation if the host and the guest are close to each other. The main point in a country house is to give as little trouble as possible. In case of social visit, the new citizen who moved in a new city or village, or if the person has been married, usually they will receive the neighbor as a guest. If the neighbor relations are going well, they will visit often and invite them back to dine together.

Captain Wentworth was known to be at Kellynch, and Mr. Musgrove had called on him, and come back warm in his praise, and he was engaged with the Crofts to dine at Uppercross, by the end of another week. And he made a very early return to Mr. Musgrove's civility.

(*Persuasion*, 2006: 63)

Holiday season is one of the reasons visiting family. Jane Austen is often mentions about travelling to their family members or near friends in her novels. It is shown in her novels, when Mrs. Bennet's brother and his wife came as usual to spend Christmas at Longbourn (*Pride and Prejudice*, 2006: 158). Even Isabella Woodhouse or Mrs. John Knightley has been married and lived in London, she, her husband and their children visited to the Woodhouse's house before Christmas (*Emma*, 2006: 5).

In a long visit, if the host had another schedule, the guest might do activity that pleased him. Elizabeth Bennet went walk to her favourite sheltered path while Mr. and Mrs. Collins were calling on Lady Catherine (*Pride and Prejudice*, 2006: 191). While in *Emma* Mrs. John Knightley has her own schedule to spend her morning with her children. She spent it herself because her father condition was impossible to walk far from home, and her sister could not left her father alone.

Mrs. John Knightley going about every morning among her old acquaintance with her five children, and talking over what she had done every evening with her father and sister.

(*Emma*, 2006: 73)

When taking leave, the guest should express the pleasure they have experienced in their visit." It is drawn when Elizabeth ended her visit in the Collins, she thanked and said that she had great enjoyment to spend the time with them.

Elizabeth was eager with her thanks and assurances of happiness. She had spent six weeks with great enjoyment; and the pleasure of being with Charlotte, and the kind attentions she had received, must make *her* feel the obliged.

(*Pride and Prejudice*, 2006: 238)

An important rule for ladies are when they were in a journey that they should have a servant or family member to accompany them during the journey, because it could be dangerous whether it public or private carriage (Kloester, 2010: 174).

2) Host

All kind of visit should get the invitation letter or direct personal invitation from the lady of the house. The purpose of invitation were vary and it depends on the hostess, because the hostess who has role to send the invitation to the guest. As mentioned in *Mansfield Park*, the invitation come to make two family closer because Mr. Rushworth take in marriage Maria Bertram. Mrs. Rushworth make the invitation on her own, directly come to the Bertram's house to invite the whole member of the family.

Mrs. Rushworth, a well-meaning, civil, prosing, pompous woman, who thought nothing of consequence..., had not yet given over pressing Lady Bertram to be of the party. Lady Bertram constantly declined it.

"The loss of her ladyship's company would be a great drawback, and she could have been extremely happy to have seen the young lady too, Miss Price, who had never seen at Sotherton yet, and it was a pity she should not see the place."

(*Mansfield Park*, 2005: 73 – 74)

According to Kloester (2010: 98), "If the lady of the house wished to see visitor, the guest was invited to come in the morning room or in the drawing room, whereas the host received his guest in the business room or library." On the other way, if the lady of the house does not wish to see her guest, she would send the servant to tell that she is not at home. This happened to Catherine Morland when she visited Miss Tilney,

When she was going to the Tilney's lodging and Miss Tilney was about to go with her father, "She gave her card. In a few minutes the servant returned, and said he had been mistaken, for that Miss Tilney was walked out."

(*Northanger Abbey*, 2006: 90)

Nevertheless, the host should provide amusement for his guests (Hughes, 1998: 190). This is shown when Mrs. Collins welcomed her friend with the liveliest pleasure, and Elizabeth was more and more satisfied with coming, when she found herself so affectionately received (*Pride and Prejudice*, 2006: 176). Sometimes the host has made some arrangements to spend the day with the guests and if the host has something to attend after breakfast, the guest will retire to their own occupations (Hughes, 1998: 190).

b. Speaking Manners

1) Formal

The researcher determines formal speaking based on the occasion, such as business and ball. In formal introduction, a social inferior is always introduced to a superior, men to women rather than the reverse, and only with the latter's acquiescence (Pool, 1993: 55). This rule apply in public assembly, the master of ceremonies will introduce the gentleman to the lady as a partner of dance.

According to Le Faye (2002: 113) "modes of address were very formal even within the family, in public at least, husband and wife spoke and referred to each other as Mr. and Mrs.; while children called their parents Sir and Ma'am as well as Papa and Mama." Outside the family, Christian names were used to distinguish younger brothers and sisters. To address or refer to some unrelated person by their Christian name alone signified either that the person was a child or an inferior, or else that the speaker was over-familiar and vulgar.

I only puzzle them, and oblige them to make civil speeches. Mr. Edmund Bertram, as you do not act yourself, you will be a disinterested adviser;"

(*Mansfield Park*, 2005: 143)

From the example above, Edmund Bertram is the younger brother. The citizens would call Tom Bertram as Mr. Bertram because he is the older brother. So that is why Edmund called as Mr. Edmund Bertram to differentiate between the older son and younger son.

2) Informal

In the society, people must know how to use word wisely and give another people chance to talk. Even the upper class sometimes they can misbehave, just like Mr. Darcy did. In *Pride and Prejudice*(47 – 48), Mr. Darcy had insulted Mrs. Bennet with talking that in the country has unvarying society. So, Mrs. Bennet has felt insult by Mr. Darcy and told him that she had dinner with twenty four families there. As explained from the example, Jane Austen described the opposite manner to speak politely. She did not agree with the attitude and describe it through the minor characters.

c. Party and Balls

1) Dinner Party

The dinner party began with the selection of guests who would not be socially uncomfortable together (Pool, 1993: 72). The guests usually their close friends, neighbor and business or political colleague, so generally they knew each other. Write the invitations or it can be direct invitation to the guest (Sullivan, 2007: 45). Soon after the invitation has arrived, the guest should write the RSVP to the host, to inform whether they will come or not. Dinner parties were an ordeal, if not for the guests, then certainly for the hostess. As happened in *Emma*, when Mr. and Mrs. Elton married, the citizens often invited them to attend the dinner at their house.

Everybody in and about Highbury who had ever visited Mr. Elton, was disposed to pay him attention on his marriage. Dinner-parties and evening-parties were made for him and his lady; and invitations flowed in so fast that she had soon the pleasure of apprehending they were never to have a disengaged day.

(*Emma*, 2006: 191)

It had become a rule that after dinner the ladies followed the hostess to the drawing room for drinking tea or coffee, conversation, reading, gossip, or needlework until the gentlemen join them to drink tea (Sullivan, 2007: 109). After drinking tea or coffee was over and the gentlemen have already joined the ladies, they would entertain themselves by playing cards, dancing, singing or playing music.

2) Balls

Ball was the other pleasure of social activity that can be engaged with the whole citizen. There were two kinds of ball, public assembly and private ball. Public assembly usually requires the payment of a fee; while the private ball the guest will receive a handwritten invitation from the host and the guest must respond the invitation (Sullivan, 2007: 117). The sessions for both private and public balls were the same, usually dancing, playing music, singing, or playing card for those who do not dance.

When man asked woman to dance, there are some appropriate rules to do. For the purpose of dancing wait to be recognized before speaking with ladies, and a gentleman cannot ask a lady for more than two dances during the same evening (Pool, 1993: 55).

Isabella speaks to Catherine that her brother ask Isabella to dance again,
“...my dear Catherine, what your brother wants me to do. He wants me to dance with him again, though I tell him that it is a most improper thing, and

entirely against the rules. It would make us the talk of the place, if we were not to change partners.”

(*Northanger Abbey*, 2006: 53)

When the dance began, the first dancers were the hostess or her daughter and the gentleman of highest rank present (Pool, 1993: 80). Besides the highest rank, the new bride also got the honorable to lead the dance. Some partners engaged in conversation during dancing, they did it to make their partners not to feel bored. A woman who is usually tries to start conversation. However, how hard woman tries to make a good situation while dancing, they should be prepare for silence.

d. Dressing Manners

1) Formal Dressing for Ladies

Formal dressing for ladies was worn to the balls. The ladies used muslin, silk, satin or lace for the material, and white as the favorite color because it was more easily combined and accessorized than other colors (Downing, 2011: 27). It proofed when Edmund tells Fanny (in *Mansfield Park*, 2005: 216) “A woman can never be too fine while she is all white. No, I see no finery about you; nothing but what is perfectly proper. Your gown seems very pretty. I like these glossy spots. Has not Miss Crawford a gown something the same?”

The train at the back gown was still styled for ball dress to make an elegant look, and the ladies would pinned it when they were dancing to make them easier to move.

Women wore gloves and shawl to keep them warm when outside of the house. Mrs. Morland told Catherine to wear her shawl at night to keep her warm, “I beg, Catherine, you will always wrap yourself up very warm about the throat, when you come from the Rooms at night (*Northanger Abbey*, 2006: 11).”

2) Formal Dressing for Gentlemen

The gentlemen wore black cloth and trousers, waistcoat, and black shoes with gold or silver buckles for the evening wear (Sullivan, 2007: 75). As Mr. Elton’s wear to attend dinner party in the Mr. and Mrs. Weston’s house, “...the step was let down, and Mr. Elton, spruce, black, and smiling... (*Emma*, 2006: 77).” Coats were plain, usually dark-coloured cloth, waistcoats could be of a wide variety of colours and fabrics. For the evening, white or black were the essentials colours (Kloester, 2010: 182).

“I longed to know whether he would be married in his blue coat.”

(*Pride and Prejudice*, 2006: 352)

3) Informal Dressing for Ladies

The informal dresses for ladies were morning dress and visiting dress. Morning dress was the simpler style than the visiting dress. Plain or sprigged muslins in light or darker colored calico or wool are best for ladies’ morning gowns (Sullivan, 2007: 69). Habit is a riding or travelling dress as well as for horse-riding. The ladies were also worn outerwear to keep them warm and as their gown statements at once. There are various styles of outerwear: pelisse, spencer, and cloak.

“She is netting herself the sweetest cloak you can conceive.”

(*Northanger Abbey*, 2006: 33)

Accessories were an essential part of a well-dressed for the Regency woman’s wardrobe and included a variety of hat, gloves, muffs, fans, and bags (Kloester, 2010: 206). The popular style of hat at that time is bonnet. It has strap to tie under the chin. Women’s in the Regency period like to modify their bonnet with lace, satin, or bow to make it prettier and different to the other bonnet or make it look like a new bonnet.

Bags were not only for complement style, it also to carry stuffs. Woman in the Regency period safe their needle tools in the bags, called work bag.

She vowed at first she would never trim me up a new bonnet, nor do anything else for me again, so long as she lived; but now she is quite come to, and we are as good friends as ever. Look, she made me this bow to my hat, and put in the feather last night. There now, you are going to laugh at me too. But why should not I wear pink ribbons? I do not care if it is the Doctor's favourite colour.

(*Sense and Sensibility*, 2006: 308)

Shoes were also known as slippers, had several models and its different functions. Either flat or low heel were fastened with ribbons or laces tied around the ankle or instep (Kloester, 2010: 205). For walking or riding, a lady wore half boots (Kloester, 2010: 206).

4) Informal Dressing for Gentlemen

The same thing with women's clothing, menswear in the daytime, a gentleman will wear a cutaway coat in a plain dark fabric, a style just made for riding, as well as a waistcoat, breeches, or pantaloons, boots, and a snowy linen shirt and cravat (Sullivan, 2007: 75). It was a habitual of men in the Regency era to wear coat when they were on a walk, a short travel or a journey. Coat is like their essential clothes. The coat can protect them from the extreme weather. For the soldier, army or navy, coat was their primary outfit in every occasion. Every gentleman has a great coat for driving an open vehicle or walking.

...when Henry, about an hour afterwards, came booted and great coated into the room...

(*Northanger, Abbey*, 2006: 217)

As explained above, Henry Tilney wearing boot and great coat, it is a dressing for outdoor activity. Usually great coat are wear for a travel to protect from the cold weather or wind.

A gentleman also wore accessories such as hats, cravat, gloves, walking stick and jewelries. Hat always wear when a gentleman goes outside. They also trimmed their hats to show the status or his condition. A gentleman wears different style of hat for a different occasion.

In fact, Anne could never see the crape round his hat, without fearing that she was the inexcusable one.

(*Persuasion*, 2006: 175)

In *Persuasion*, Mr. Elliot who is widower trimmed his hat with a black crape as sign that he is still in mourning for his wife death seventh months ago. It is undeniable that accessories sometimes show the status of the wearer.

The neckcloth was a large square of fabrics, usually muslin, lawn, or silk, which was folded into either triangle or a wide band and tied at the front neck (Kloester, 2010: 189). Mr. Tilney shown it was true that he bought cravat on his himself, "I always buy my own cravats;" (*Northanger Abbey*, 2006: 20). For the man of fashion, the neckcloth or cravat was a crucial part of his daily dress. The other essential accessories are gloves. It is shown in the novel that gentlemen also wear gloves for outdoor or indoor activity except in the dinner.

e. **Table Manners**

1) **Host**

Dinner was became a social habitual in the Regency period. The host and hostess should be prepared for the dinner party in their house to make the dinner run smooth and comfortable for the guest. In Jane Austen's novels, the host prepared everything to make the dinner party are not disappointing. From arrange the menu until prepare the guests' special needs.

If there is a guest who is invalid, be sure that the host has a special screen for the fire (Sullivan, 2007: 45). Mr. Knightley has been prepared for Mr. Woodhouse's need, "especially prepared for him by a fire all the morning, he was happily placed, quite at his ease (*Emma*, 2006: 237)." In Hartfield, the fire has never been extinguished even in summer because Mr. Woodhouse's condition and he always worried about being unhealthy if the fire was extinguished. So, Mr. Knightley gets the fireplace on for that day to make Mr. Woodhouse comfortable and Emma could enjoy the events.

2) **Guest**

Jane Austen's people lived at a time of transition regarding the conventions governing the entrance to the dining-room. Formerly it had been the rule for all the ladies to enter together first, followed by the men. Later etiquette dictated that each gentleman should offer an arm to his chosen - or allotted - lady to take her in; the host always escorting the female guest of highest social standing (Lane, 1995: 39).

Dinner was on table. – Mrs. Elton, before she could be spoken to, was ready; and before Mr. Woodhouse had reached her with his request to be allowed to hand her into the dining-parlour, was saying---

"Must I go first? I really am ashamed of always leading the way."

(*Emma*, 2006: 197)

Mr. Woodhouse as the host and gentleman with the highest social rank offered an arm to Mrs. Elton as his special guest and a new bride. Hence, she and Mr. Woodhouse led the way to the dining room.

When the servants are present to clean up the dish; do not gossip or discuss private business; while the table is cleared and the second course is laid out (Sullivan, 2007: 109). If the servants hear what the host and the guest talking about, the servants gossiping the conversations they heard. The host and guest may start to talk when the servants have already exit from the room.

2. **Discussion**

Jane Austen's novels have relation to the English society in the early nineteenth century. It proofs that the etiquette in the novels of each characters reflected to the society of Regency England. As Wellek and Warren (1962: 89) state that "Literature has also a social function, which cannot be purely individual. Thus a large majority questions raised are, at least ultimately or by implication, social questions of tradition and convention, norms and genres, symbols and myths." This is clear that Jane Austen's novels represent the social convention and norms at that time.

Swingewood and Laurenson (1972, 15-17) state that "through the literary works, we can learn phenomena in society in certain time and place". Jane Austen wrote the novels as the reflection of Regency England's condition in the early of nineteenth century. The social condition may contain all aspects such as social, culture, economy, politic, and religious aspect. The aspects contain in this novels are social and culture. Literary work give details of particular periods, reflects norms, attitudes, classes, and values in the sense of the writer's own intention. The researcher analyzes that Jane Austen's intention in her novels is the social life of Regency England. The researcher

finds that the daily activity of the novels reflected the etiquette of England society in the early nineteenth century. We can see from how the characters behave in every novel. The Regency period was famous with manners and social activities.

E. CONCLUSION

Based on the research findings and discussion in above, the researcher draws the conclusion as follows. First, there are five etiquettes reflected in all of the six novels. Those etiquettes are visiting manners, speaking manners, party and balls, dressing manners, and table manners found in all of the six novels. In each manner divided into several specific manners based on the gender, occasion, and personal's status.

Second, the etiquettes described through the conversations, author's narration, and character's behavior. The researcher analyzes both major and minor characters in the novels to make the data clear and strong. For example when Mr. Darcy and Elizabeth Bennet, and Frank Churchill and Emma Woodhouse were dancing, the gentlemen secured ladies' hands and lead them to the dance floor. The dressing for both ladies and gentlemen are different and it depends on the event.

Third, Jane Austen addresses the etiquette in the novel because it was important for social interaction. The etiquette in the Regency England were exists and determined by a complex set of rules of varying flexibility, with different codes of behavior for men and women (Kloester, 2010: 3). The social rules did apply to both ladies and gentlemen, and touched upon almost every area of daily life.

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