

## **Female Independence in Pride and Prejudice (2005) Movie: A Feminism Theory**

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### **Abstract**

*The purpose of this study is to discover how female independence is portrayed in the Pride and Prejudice (2005) movie and examine the effects of this portrayal. This study applies feminist theory and is classified as a literary study. To analyze the data, researchers used qualitative data analysis. The result reveals that Elizabeth Bennet exemplifies various facets of female autonomy, highlighting the interplay between existential freedom and societal constraints. Her assertiveness, seen in rejecting Mr. Collins and seeking genuine connections over financial stability, underscores the positive effects of resisting traditional gender roles and societal expectations. This defiance promotes critical reflection on norms and encourages societal evolution. The narrative emphasizes economic independence, with Elizabeth's pursuit of love rather than financial security enhancing her relationship with Mr. Darcy and contributing to societal well-being. It also explores sexual freedom and the ambiguity of freedom, showcasing the positive impact of her autonomy on her family and society's perception of her unconventional choices. The study suggests that by examining the Pride and Prejudice (2005) movie, readers and other researchers can gain insights into the portrayal of female independence. This research may serve as a foundation for those with different backgrounds or methods, such as psychological or Marxist approaches, to build on and undertake studies from a broader perspective.*

**Keywords:** *Feminism, Female Independence, Pride and Prejudice*

## INTRODUCTION

In today's world, female independence is complex, blending progress with enduring challenges. Research shows women and girls face increased burdens from the COVID-19 pandemic, such as job losses, disrupted education, and unpaid care work. Women's health services are under strain, and despite their roles as frontline health workers, women are often excluded from leadership positions.

According to Becca (2021), female independence is characterized by self-sufficiency, confidence, and the ability to create their own happiness without relying on others. Independent women think and act autonomously and pursue their goals with determination. Friedan et al. (2013) challenged traditional roles, advocating for women's independence through education, careers, and self-realization. Feminism, a socio-political movement, seeks equal rights for all genders, addressing historical inequalities faced by women. Butler (1990) argues that gender identity is a performance of culturally prescribed norms, and disrupting these norms can foster a more fluid understanding of identity. De Beauvoir (2023) explores how societal expectations limit women's agency, defining them in relation to men and trapping them in predefined roles.

Simone de Beauvoir, a French philosopher born on January 9, 1908, in Paris, France, made significant contributions to modern feminism, philosophy, politics, and existentialism. Her seminal work, "The Second Sex" (*Le Deuxième Sexe*), is widely regarded as the cornerstone of feminist philosophy and is credited with sparking the second feminist movement. In "The Second Sex," de Beauvoir (2023) identifies various categories of female independence, including existential freedom and societal constraints, otherness and gender roles, socialization and conditioning, economic independence, sexual freedom, and the ambiguity of freedom. She emphasizes that individuals possess the power to shape their existence, yet societal constraints, particularly for women, often hinder their ability to fully exercise existential freedom.

De Beauvoir critiqued traditional gender roles, arguing that they define women in relation to men, perpetuating their subjugation and reinforcing unequal power dynamics (Alcoff, 1988). She also highlighted how societal norms and socialization processes condition individuals, perpetuating gender stereotypes and expectations. Challenging the notion that certain behaviors are inherently linked to one's sex, de Beauvoir advocated for individual agency and the dismantling of societal constraints (Literary Devices, 2024). Additionally, she argued that economic independence is crucial for women's autonomy, as reliance on men can perpetuate traditional gender hierarchies (Bergoffen and Burke, 2023).

Furthermore, de Beauvoir advocated for women's agency in their sexual lives, criticizing societal norms that restrict women's sexual autonomy and asserting that women should have the freedom to explore and express their sexuality without judgment or coercion (Whipple, 2023). She acknowledged the ambiguity of freedom, recognizing that individuals can choose but are also influenced by external factors (Rohr and Laursen, 2018). This tension between freedom and societal expectations underscores the complex interplay between personal autonomy and societal influences.

Simone de Beauvoir's exploration of women's independence in "The Second Sex" outlines several key points. Firstly, she discusses the concept of "the Other," highlighting how women have historically been treated as fundamentally different and subordinate to men. This denies women the opportunity to define themselves independently and reinforces gender-based hierarchies. Beauvoir also critiques fixed notions of womanhood, arguing against the idea that women's destinies are determined solely by biology. Instead, she emphasizes the diversity of women's experiences and capabilities, advocating for recognition of their individual identities. Additionally, Beauvoir stresses the importance of freedom for women, asserting that true independence requires freedom from societal constraints and the ability to define one's own existence based on personal desires.

Finally, she rejects patriarchal structures that oppress women, challenging the notion of inherent gender inequality and calling for the dismantling of systems that perpetuate women's subordination.

The 2005 movie adaptation of "Pride and Prejudice," directed by Joe Wright and starring Keira Knightley as Elizabeth Bennet and Matthew Macfadyen as Mr. Darcy, depicts Elizabeth's journey towards independence amidst societal norms and personal prejudices. Set in the early 19th century, a time marked by constrained women's rights, the film captures Elizabeth's resistance to societal pressures. The narrative unfolds in the English countryside, highlighting Elizabeth's spirited personality clashing with Mr. Darcy's reserved demeanor, leading to a shift in their perspectives and challenging societal norms.

The film's lush cinematography and strong performances earned critical acclaim and several prestigious awards, including Academy Award nominations for Best Actress, Art Direction, and Costume Design (Kopp, 2007), and BAFTA nominations for Best British Film, Costume Design, and Production Design. The Golden Globe Awards also recognized the film with nominations for Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy and Best Actress (Chapman, 2024).

In dissecting cinematic elements, both intrinsic and extrinsic facets shape the narrative. Thematic exploration, exemplified in "Pride and Prejudice" (2005), resonates through Elizabeth Bennet's defiance of societal norms. Effendi's (1974) plot components guide the storyline, weaving characters, and conflicts seamlessly. Characters, as per MasterClass (2022), breathe life into the tale, from Elizabeth's independence to Mr. Darcy's enigmatic nature. Conflict, per Vats (2023), propels narratives, notably Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy's tension. The broader conflict explores societal expectations versus individual agency. The setting, noted by Piree (2024), evokes a bygone era, enriching the narrative. "Pride and Prejudice" (2005) merges these elements, captivating audiences through thematic depth, rich characters, and an evocative setting, transcending time, and space.

The research aims to analyze the portrayal of female independence in "Pride and Prejudice" (2005) through the lens of Simone de Beauvoir's feminist theory. It explores how Elizabeth Bennet's character exemplifies female autonomy, resisting traditional gender roles, societal expectations, and economic dependence. The study also examines the effects of this portrayal, considering the historical context of limited agency for women in the early 19th century. By focusing on Elizabeth's assertiveness and defiance of societal norms, the research highlights the continuous process of societal evolution and the importance of personal autonomy in challenging and reshaping established norms.

The research intends to discover how female independence is portrayed in its 2005 adaptation and examine the effects of this portrayal by conducting a study entitled: "Female Independence in Pride and Prejudice (2005) Movie: A Feminism Theory".

## METHOD

The type of this study applies a feminist theory and is classified as a literary studies study. In this study, the formal object is a form of Female independence portrayed in Pride and Prejudice movie.

There are two data sources used in this study. The primary data are from Pride and Prejudice (2005) movie. The data are taken from dialogue, story, and character activities in this movie. Secondary data are from outside that can be used to support data, such as books, articles, journals, research, and websites related to this research.

In collecting data, researchers employed document analysis techniques to gather the data. The process includes watching the movie, emphasizing key elements addressing the problems, assembling scenes depicting female independence, and gathering information to justify and elucidate supporting details on the subject and issue at hand.

To analyze the data, researchers use qualitative data analysis to examine the information. Three steps are involved in data analysis, according to Miles & Huberman

(1994): data Reduction, data display, and conclusions drawing or verification.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### The Kinds of Female Independence in *Pride and Prejudice* movie

The researcher used Simon De Beauvoir's theory about female independence. This feminism theory is used by researcher to collect images and dialogue in the *Pride and Prejudice* (2005) movie. The researcher wants to show how the female independence portrayed is used in facing the world of work. According to Simon De Beauvoir, there are several female independences namely:

#### *Existential freedom and societal constraints*

Simone de Beauvoir emphasized existential freedom, asserting that individuals have the power to shape their own existence. However, she also highlighted societal constraints that limit this freedom, particularly for women, who face expectations and norms.

#### Minute (00:54:53)- (00:55:45)

Charlotte : "Mr Collins and I are engaged to be married."

Elizabeth : "Engaged?"

Charlotte : "You don't mind, do you?"

Elizabeth : "No, no..".

Charlotte : " I'm not a romantic, you know. I ask only a comfortable home, and considering Mr. Collin's character, and situation in life, I am convinced that my chance of happiness with him is as fair as most people can hope for."

Elizabeth : "And that's all you expect?"

Charlotte : For women in our situation, what choice is there?



Figure 1

In this scene, Charlotte tells Elizabeth she is marrying Mr. Collins for stability, not love, because that is what society expects. Elizabeth is surprised and asks if that is all Charlotte wants from marriage. Charlotte explains that women like them do not have many choices. This shows that Charlotte's decision is influenced by societal expectations. This idea is like Simone de Beauvoir's idea that society limits our choices.

#### Minute 01:49:23 – 01:50:25

Lady Catherine : "This is not to be borne. Has my nephew made you an offer of marriage?"

Elizabeth : "Your Ladyship declared it to be impossible."

Lady Catherine : Let me be understood. Mr. Darcy is engaged to my daughter. Now what have you to say?"

Elizabeth : "Only this - if that is the case you can have no reason to suppose he will make an offer to me."

Lady Catherine : "Oh, obstinate girl! This union has been planned since their infancy. Do you think it can be prevented by a young woman of inferior birth and whose own sister's elopement resulted in the scandalously patched-up marriage, only achieved at the expense of your uncle? Heaven and earth, are the shades of Pemberley to be thus polluted?"



Figure 2

Lady Catherine de Bourgh tries to make Elizabeth Bennet conform to traditional roles, especially in romance. Elizabeth will not give in to Lady Catherine's demands. Her rejection of Lady Catherine's attempts to dictate her romantic choices shows that she has the freedom to choose for herself, even if it challenges the aristocrat's authority and broader cultural expectations. In this moment, Elizabeth

stands up to tradition, promoting freedom and self-expression.

### ***Otherness and Gender Roles***

De Beauvoir explored the concept of "Otherness," where women are often considered the "Other" in relation to men. She critiqued traditional gender roles, arguing that women have historically been defined in relation to men, leading to their subjugation.

#### **Minute (00:47:43) –(00: 49:30)**

*Mr.collin : "And that no reproach on the subject of fortune will cross my lips once we are married".*

*Elizabeth : "Sir, I am honoured by your proposal, but regret I must decline it".*

*Elizabeth : "You are too hasty, sir! You forget that I have made no answer".*



**Figure 3**

In this scene, Mr. Collins proposes to Elizabeth, emphasizing his willingness to overlook her lack of fortune. Elizabeth's refusal challenges expectations. She declines the proposal, asserting her independence. Her rejection shows she wants to make her own choices, not just follow society's rules. Elizabeth is determined to define her own path, defying traditional gender roles throughout the movie.

#### **Minute 00:46:11**



**Figure 4**

Elizabeth's relationships with her family, especially her mother, highlight the theme of otherness and gender roles. Mrs. Bennet wants her daughters to marry rich men. She thinks that's the most important thing for women. Her focus on society's expectations and on finding good matches for her daughters shows the pressure on women to fit traditional gender roles. The 2005 adaptation of "Pride and Prejudice" effectively explores the themes of otherness and gender roles through Elizabeth Bennet's character.

### ***Socialization and Conditioning***

De Beauvoir delved into how societal norms and socialization processes contribute to the conditioning of individuals, reinforcing gender stereotypes and expectations. She challenged the notion that certain behaviors are inherently linked to one's sex.

#### **Minute (00:27:23)- (00:28:30)**

*Elizabeth : "Do these pleasing attentions proceed from the impulse of the moment or are they the result of previous study?"*

*Mr. Colin : "They arise chiefly from what is passing at the time, and though I sometimes amuse myself with arranging such little elegant compliments, I always wish to give them as unstudied an air as possible."*

*Elizabeth : "Believe me, no one would suspect your manners to be rehearsed."*



**Figure 4**

In this scene, Mr. Collins, a clergyman, proposes to Elizabeth Bennet. Mr. Collins thinks he's doing Elizabeth a favor by proposing marriage. He says he's being generous and that it would help the Bennet family.

#### **Minute 01:01:15 – 01:01:30**



*Lady Catherine : "Has your governess left you?"*

*Elizabeth : "We never had a governess."*

*Lady Catherine : "No governess? Five daughters brought up at home without a governess, I never heard such a thing! Your mother must have been quite a slave to your education."*

*Elizabeth : "Not at all, Lady Catherine."*

*Lady Catherine : "Mmmm. Are any of your younger sisters out in society?"*

*Elizabeth : "Yes, ma'am. All."*

*Lady Catherine : "All! What, five out at once? Very odd! And you only the second the younger ones out before the elders are married! Your youngest sisters must be very young."*



**Figure 5**

The scene where Lady Catherine de Bourgh questions Elizabeth Bennet shows how people are socialized and conditioned in that society. Lady Catherine's presence and demeanor show the importance of class and the expectation of respect from those of lower social status. As she asks Elizabeth about her background, she shows how society expects people to act based on their class and status. Elizabeth stands up to Lady Catherine and shows that she is not afraid. This scene shows the power struggles in early 19th-century England. It shows the tension between following the rules and doing what you want.

### ***Economic Independence***

Economic independence was crucial in de Beauvoir's philosophy. She argued that women's autonomy is hindered when they are economically dependent on men. Achieving economic independence was seen as a means to break free from traditional gender hierarchies.

### **Minute (00:51:13)- (00:51:20)**

*Mr. Bennet : " Your mother will never see you again if you do not marry Mr Collins, and I will never see you again if you do."*

*Elizabeth : "Thank you, papa."*

reflects the norms of the time, where marriage was seen as a way for women to get money and social status. He says marriage is important for women like Elizabeth to have a secure future and financial stability. Elizabeth's refusal to marry Mr. Collins shows she wants to choose her own path, not just follow society's expectations.

### **Minute 01:23:12**



**Figure 6**

Elizabeth's visit to Mr. Darcy's house, Pemberley, shows how much she admires him. Elizabeth admires the wealth and beauty of Pemberley, not for financial security. She appreciates the beauty and elegance of Pemberley while staying true to herself. This is made more important when she meets Mr. Darcy on her tour. Despite their past misunderstandings, she talks to him as an equal, showing confidence. Elizabeth is not affected by the wealth around her. Her interactions with Mr. Darcy show that she is independent and that she values personal connections and character more than material wealth or status.

### ***Sexual Freedom***

De Beauvoir advocated for sexual freedom, asserting that women should have agency in their sexual lives. She criticized societal norms that restricted women's sexual autonomy and encouraged the idea that women should have the freedom to explore and express their sexuality.

### **Minute (01:55:00)- (01:55:35)**

**Figure 5**

Mr. Bennet is talking to his daughter, Elizabeth, about marrying Mr. Collins. Mr. Collins is a rich but silly suitor who proposes to Elizabeth. Elizabeth says no, despite her mother's dismay and pressure from society. Mr. Bennet's statement

**Figure 7**

Elizabeth Bennet's pursuit of a meaningful and affectionate relationship with Mr. Darcy reflects her quest for emotional and relational independence. This theme is epitomized in a pivotal scene at Rosings Park, where Mr. Darcy's proposal is marred by his arrogance and insults towards Elizabeth's family. Rather than succumb to societal pressures or the allure of financial security, Elizabeth fiercely defends her principles and rejects Mr. Darcy's offer, prioritizing her own integrity and autonomy. Her refusal signifies a steadfast commitment to authentic love and mutual respect, challenging traditional gender roles and societal expectations. Throughout the film, Elizabeth's unwavering pursuit of emotional independence resonates as she navigates the complexities of love and marriage in a rigidly stratified society, ultimately forging her path towards a relationship grounded in equality and genuine affection.

### ***Ambiguity of Freedom***

De Beauvoir acknowledged the ambiguity of freedom, recognizing that while individuals have the power to choose, they are also influenced by external factors. The tension between freedom and societal expectations creates a complex and nuanced understanding of individual agency.

### **Minute (00:50:44) – (00:50:55)**

*Mrs. Bennet* : "Tell her that you insist upon them marrying."

*Mrs. Bennet* : "You will have this house!"

*Elizabeth* : "I can't marry him!"

*Mrs. Bennet* : "You'll save your sisters from destitution!"

*Elizabeth* : "I can't!"

*Mrs. Bennet* : "Go back now and say you've changed your mind!"

**Figure 7**

Elizabeth Bennet faces intense pressure from her mother, Mrs. Bennet, to marry Mr. Collins for financial security and familial duty. Mrs. Bennet's insistence reflects societal norms where marriage secured one's future and social standing. However, Elizabeth refuses to succumb to these expectations, asserting her agency and refusing to marry without love. This moment encapsulates the tension between individual freedom and societal obligations, highlighting the interplay between personal desires and external pressures. It exemplifies Simone de Beauvoir's idea of the ambiguity of freedom, where individuals choose amidst societal constraints.

Based on the results above, it can be concluded that Elizabeth Bennet in "Pride and Prejudice" effectively embodies Simone de Beauvoir's philosophical concepts. Elizabeth resists societal norms by rejecting conventional gender roles and marriage for practicality, instead prioritizing genuine connections. Her insistence on economic independence and pursuit of a meaningful relationship with Mr.

Darcy reflect de Beauvoir's ideas on autonomy and sexual freedom. The nuanced portrayal of Elizabeth's choices illustrates the tension between individual agency and societal expectations, offering a timeless exploration of existential freedom within societal constraints.

### **The Ways Female Independence are portrayed in the movie *Pride and Prejudice***

In the film *Pride and Prejudice*, female independence is showcased through its intrinsic elements, which are fundamental components of any literary work. These elements include characters, setting, and plot, all of which contribute to portraying of female independence.

#### **Character**

Elizabeth Bennet

Elizabeth Bennet is the main character in the movie "*Pride and Prejudice*". Her behavior is very much about female independence. Elizabeth is an intelligent, independent, and sharp-minded woman. She has strong views on justice, morality, and gender roles in her society.

**Minute 00:48:45 – 00:49:27**



**Figure 8**

In the scene where Elizabeth rejects Mr. Collins' marriage proposal, her independence and strength of character shine through despite social pressures and financial considerations. Firm in her stance, Elizabeth rejects Mr. Collins, emphasizing her desire for a marriage based on love and respect rather than convenience or social status. This moment demonstrates her refusal to sacrifice her principles for societal expectations.

**Minute 01:08:51 – 01:12:08**



**Figure 9**

In the scene at Hunsford Parsonage, Mr. Darcy proposes to Elizabeth with insults and criticisms of her family and social standing. Instead of yielding to his high-handedness or feeling compelled by his wealth and status, Elizabeth courageously rebukes him, defending her family's honor and rejecting his advances. Her refusal to be intimidated by Mr. Darcy's wealth showcases her independent spirit and refusal to compromise her principles for social advancement. This pivotal moment underscores Elizabeth's strength of character and unwavering independence in adversity.

**Minute 01:49:34 – 01:50:59**



**Figure 10**

During her confrontation with Lady Catherine de Bourgh, Elizabeth Bennet asserts her independence by firmly defending her autonomy against Lady Catherine's attempts to dissuade her from marrying Mr. Darcy. Elizabeth articulates her determination to make her own decisions about her life and future, regardless of societal pressures. This refusal to conform to expectations highlights Elizabeth's strength of character and marks a significant moment in her development.

#### **Setting**

The setting that contained in *pride and prejudice* movie gives an idea of how independent women are, this is explained



through the place, the existence of women's independence.

**Minute 00:04:58**



**Figure 11**

**Minute 00:01:16 – 00:01:18**



**Figure 12**

**Minute 00:14:45 – 00:15:00.**



**Figure 13**

**Minute 00:49:00**



**Figure 14**

Longbourn, the Bennet family home, is a setting in the movie "Pride and Prejudice" (2005) that depicts female independence. Here, Elizabeth Bennet is often seen engaging in activities like taking solitary walks in nature, reading, and interacting with her family without relying on others' opinions. Additionally, Elizabeth displays independence in her personal decisions, such as rejecting Mr.

Collins' proposal and choosing her own happiness and autonomy, despite societal norms.

**Plot**

**Minute 00:13:41**



**Figure 15**

**Event**

Elizabeth Bennet, an intelligent and assertive young woman, lived in an age where women were considered to have a limited role in society. However, she defied these norms, rejecting the notion that her happiness and success depended on marrying a wealthy and respected man.

**Conflict**

**Minute 00:48:09 – 00:50:00**



**Figure 16**

The main conflicts in the story is when Elizabeth has to face pressure from her family and society to marry a man named Mr. Collins for the sake of the family's financial security. However, Elizabeth rejects the proposal as she believes that marriage should be based on love and compatibility, not just financial interests or social status.

**Climax****Minute 02:00:59 - 02:01:39****Figure 17**

In this movie, the plot used is a forward plot. A forward plot is a plot that sequences events or occurrences using a forward and straight time sequence. There are three elements in the development of a plot, namely starting from the event, conflict, then climax.

The culmination of Elizabeth's independence occurs when she rejects Mr. Darcy's marriage proposal, despite his wealth and respectability. She refuses to compromise her principles for financial gain or social status. As the story progresses, Elizabeth comes to understand Mr. Darcy's true character and realizes his genuine love for her, transcending her initial impression of him.

**The Effects of Female Independence in Pride and Prejudice movie**

Based on the types of female independence in the Pride and Prejudice (2005) movie, the researcher identified six effects of female independence shown by the main character in the movie.

***The Effect of Existential Freedom*****Minute 01:04:58****Figure 18**

Darcy's genuine admiration for Elizabeth's intelligence and wit, coupled with her gradual recognition of his true character beyond initial misunderstandings, is evident. Despite initially appearing aloof and reserved, Darcy is captivated by Elizabeth's spirited conversation and sharp wit, as seen in his lingering gazes and subtle smiles while observing her interactions with others. This moment highlights Darcy's appreciation for Elizabeth's intellect and independent spirit, setting her apart from other young women he knows.

***The Effect of Otherness and Gender Roles*****Minute 01:05:45****Figure 19**

Elizabeth's refusal earns her respect and admiration, including from Mr. Darcy, showcasing her strength of character and independence. Mr. Darcy, an astute observer, is intrigued by her integrity and independence, which piques his interest and admiration. This sets her apart from other women in her social circle and enhances Mr. Darcy's perception of her as a woman of substance and depth.

### ***The Effect of Socialization and Conditioning***

**Minute 00:54:14**



**Figure 20**

Mr. Bennet's support validates Elizabeth's autonomy in decision-making, affirming individuals' right to choose their own paths despite societal expectations. Elizabeth's ability to make her own decisions, especially in love and marriage, empowers her to pursue paths aligned with her values and desires, not succumbing to societal norms or family pressures. Mr. Bennet's pride in Elizabeth's strength underscores the positive effects of resisting societal conditioning, emphasizing staying true to oneself as a mark of inner strength. His trust in Elizabeth's judgment highlights the importance of allowing individuals to make decisions for themselves, rather than imposing external expectations or control.

### ***The Effect of Economic Independence***

**Minute 01:54:22**



**Figure 21**

Darcy's willingness to bridge social gaps for their relationship demonstrates his acknowledgment of Elizabeth's economic agency. By disregarding class barriers and pursuing genuine affection, he showcases respect for her as an individual, not just a societal position, highlighting the liberating influence of her economic autonomy on their romance. When Darcy takes Elizabeth's hand, it symbolizes a mutual understanding that transcends societal expectations. Their connection flourishes on mutual respect and genuine affection, triumphing over societal constraints. This illustrates how Elizabeth's economic empowerment enables a relationship built on equality and mutual regard.

### ***The Effect of Sexual Freedom***



**Figure 22**

Mr. Darcy's decision to provide Elizabeth with a letter breaks through reserved communication norms, allowing for candid expression of his thoughts and feelings. As Elizabeth reads the letter, she gains profound insights into his character, addressing misunderstandings that colored her perceptions of him. This moment marks a pivotal shift in their relationship, fostering greater understanding and intimacy through open and honest communication, exemplifying how social freedom enables characters to overcome prejudice and misconceptions.

### ***The Effect of Ambiguity of Freedom***

**Minute 01:59:17**





**Figure 23**

Through celebrating Elizabeth's resilience and individual agency, her familial sphere fosters a more compassionate and supportive community that values authenticity and personal choice, acknowledging the ambiguity of freedom in societal constraints. By refusing to conform to societal expectations and marrying for love rather than convenience, Elizabeth challenges traditional gender roles and demonstrates the possibility of forging one's own path. Her actions contribute to breaking down gender stereotypes by illustrating that women are capable of making informed choices about their futures and prioritizing personal fulfillment over societal pressure.

In this section, the findings from the research will be discussed based on the underlying theory in chapter two. Researchers have found several important points that will be discussed at this stage. The researcher uses feminist theory and focuses on the topic of female independence in the 2005 movie adaptation of "Pride and Prejudice." Researchers have discovered the kinds of female independence in "Pride and Prejudice," how female independence is portrayed in the movie, and what the effects of female independence are in the movie. First, the researcher uses Simone de Beauvoir's feminist theory to analyze the portrayal of female independence in the film "Pride and Prejudice," by analyzing various aspects of autonomy within the confines of society. Through scenes such as Charlotte's pragmatic marriage to Mr. Collins and Elizabeth's defiance of Lady

Catherine's expectations, the film captures the tension between individual agency and societal norms, echoing de Beauvoir's notion of existential freedom. In addition, the depiction of Otherness and gender roles, exemplified by Elizabeth's rejection of Mr. Collins' proposal, underscores the critique of traditional gender expectations. In addition, the film also explores themes of socialization and conditioning, economic independence, sexual freedom, and the ambiguity of freedom, as seen in Elizabeth's resistance to societal pressure to marry for financial security and her pursuit of genuine emotional and relational independence with Mr. Collins. Ultimately, "Pride and Prejudice" effectively embodies de Beauvoir's philosophical concepts, offering a nuanced exploration of female independence within the confines of societal expectations in the early 19th century.

Secondly, as we delve deeper into the portrayal of female independence in the movie "Pride and Prejudice," it becomes evident that the character dynamics, settings, and plot intricacies play pivotal roles in conveying this thematic element. Elizabeth Bennet's character exemplifies female independence through her rejection of societal norms and her unwavering determination to make her own choices, as evidenced by her rejection of Mr. Collins' proposal and her confrontation with Mr. Darcy and Lady Catherine. Longbourn, the Bennet family home, becomes a symbolic space where Elizabeth's independence is clearly displayed. Here, she engages in solitary activities and asserts her autonomy in making personal decisions, demonstrating her resilience against prevailing social expectations. Throughout the movie, various plot elements reinforce Elizabeth's independence. Elizabeth Bennet emerges as a beacon of independence in a society laden with rigid expectations of women. Despite



family and societal pressures urging her to marry for convenience, Elizabeth steadfastly fights for her belief in love and personal compatibility. Her rejection of Mr. Collins' proposal, driven by her belief that marriage should be based on genuine affection and not on financial security, is an example of her defiance of social norms. However, it is her rejection of Mr. Darcy's initial advances that marks the pinnacle of her independence.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis regarding the portrayal of female independence in the "Pride and Prejudice" (2005) movie through Simone de Beauvoir's feminist theory, Elizabeth Bennet exemplifies various facets of female autonomy, highlighting the interplay between existential freedom and societal constraints. Her assertiveness, seen in rejecting Mr. Collins and seeking genuine connections over financial stability, underscores the positive effects of resisting traditional gender roles and societal expectations. This defiance promotes critical reflection on norms and encourages societal evolution. The narrative emphasizes economic independence, with Elizabeth's pursuit of love rather than financial security enhancing her relationship with Mr. Darcy and contributing to societal well-being. It also explores sexual freedom and the ambiguity of freedom, showcasing the positive impact of her autonomy on her family and society's perception of her unconventional choices. The researcher expects that by examining the same movie, this research will assist readers and other researchers. Those with different backgrounds or methods, such as psychological or Marxist approaches, might build on this work and undertake studies from a broader perspective.

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