

## **WOMEN'S STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE THEIR GENDER EQUALITY IN PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND JURNAL PH.D MAMA: A COMPARATIVE STUDY**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Women's struggle to achieve their gender equality in Pride and Prejudice (1813) and Jurnal P.hD Mama (2019) were showed clearly. Interestingly, since in Regency Period until this time, women needed extra effort to achieve their gender equality or to struggle even for their rights in life. This study aimed to compare and reveal the women's struggle to achieve their gender equality in Pride and Prejudice and Jurnal P.hD Mama. This article used qualitative method, and applied feminist literary approach. The data are collected from primary and secondary sources. The primary source were the novel entitled Pride and Prejudice written by Jane Austen and Jurnal P.hD Mama written by Kanti Pertiwi et.al. The second sources were some related books and articles that are supporting this study. The result of this study was revealing women's struggle that happened in the novels and the reasons behind it since Regency Period (1795-1837) and still suitable until this modern era. Indirectly, this study reveals the position of gender equality. It could be reality or dream. This study show how gender could influence human to achieve their rights. There was gap and no equal between man and woman. Gender equality had become a concept that is difficult to achieve. This study also has great significances to ELT, especially in education field. Teacher and student should have the right perspective about gender equality, so in the process of learning, gender could not become boundary to human in gain knowledge and social skill.*

**Keywords:** *Women's Struggle; Pride and Prejudice; Jurnal P.hD Mama; Comparative Study*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Gender equality still becomes an issue that relevant until this modern era (Lolowang, 2010). In Indonesia, gender equality is concept that had been developed related to Universal Declaration of Human Rights. From that declaration it said that all human is born free and equal. The equal rights for men and women refer to the declaration (Ibrahim, Wuntu & Lolowang, 2021). It means men and women could use their rights of politics, economy, civil, social and culture. In the other words, there is no one could take their rights from them because of their gender.

The recent survey had done by Pew Research Center (2010) gives some findings. Interestingly, it shows that 89 percent of Turkish people embrace gender equity. According to the same survey, 46 percent of Turkish women say life is better for men in the country. Only 19 percent of men say their sex has a better life, 38 percent say women do and 40 percent say there is no difference. Yet, the results also suggest that general support for equality does not always translate into support for equality in specific circumstances. In the developing countries such as Turkey with lower objective measures of gender parity, people have a more conditional definition of equality. For example, they say that during tough economic times, men should have more of a right to a job than women. (Çomoğlu et al., 2011)

Feminism was occurs to defend the rights and role of women in society, as the development of culture and social structure increasingly divides women and men (Sigar & Rorintulus, 2020). The difference between men and women becomes discrimination, which then causes harassment.(Issues et al., 2021) Comparative literature study is study of relationship between two or more literatures from other nations, we could learn include culture, language, identities just by learn their literatures (Djarajah, 1980)

This comparative study has compared two novels from different country. The first novel that chose by the researcher was *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen and the second novel was *Jurnal P.hD Mama* by Kanti Pertiwi et al. Jane Austen was one of the most famous women writers of the 19th century. She lived in conditions that distinguish social status between men and women, causing intimidation for women by men with the thought that the woman can't be happy without man's comprehensive support. The situation in her place made her write and discuss this problem in her literary works.

*Pride and Prejudice* written by Jane Austen (1813) is a novel that set place in England at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The social condition set in society were marrying for wealth and social status is more common than marrying for love and connections. This story was written between October 1796 and August 1797. Austen's second novel, also known as *First Impression* later published as *Pride and Prejudice*. The time between 1795 and 1837 is known as Regency Period (major political events, such as Napoleonic Wars). Which is influenced Austen's work with show one character in the story, Mr. Wickham that is member of militia. Remembering her brother also was member of militia on that time. The social class during this time was shifting due to the beginnings of industrialization. Austen's work reflects this in its focus on the landed gentry, a class that owned land in the countryside (Rorintulus, 2018). Women rights were also an issue during this Regency Period. On that time, women had a little independence and went straight from their father's home to their husband's. When woman choose to unmarried, they had to rely on family, often brother for a home and a financial security because they will not inherit their father's estate.

Meanwhile, Kanti Pertiwi was a lecturer at Universitas Indonesia, one of the best colleges in Indonesia. She was from Indonesia. She finished her Master Degree and P.hD from University of Melbourne, Australia. She was also a head of Research Cluster for Organizational Transformation, People, and Society at UI.

She was a mother of two children. Related to her background, it led her to write the novel, *Jurnal P.hD Mama*.

*Jurnal P.hD Mama* written by Kanti Pertiwi et al. is a novel that set place in some places, because this novel contains of some story from different women. So the researcher just focuses on one story to analyze the internal aspect on that novel. This story set place on New Zealand, the time around 2015-2019. The social conditions on that novel set in Indonesian culture that some people still believe that women don't need to be a higher achiever especially in education field, remembering their main role as a wife and mother. This novel was written in this present time, 2019 that means the culture still suitable until now. Women rights is become issue until this present time. In fact, there is some people still believe in the gap between woman and man rights specially to achieve their gender equality.

The researcher wants to compare these two novels because of the interesting issues that brings by these novels. Both bring woman rights issues in the novel. The researcher found out the connection of these novel and also differences by the plot, author's background, etc. It is believed could help all human, especially teacher and student to understand the gender equality and the rights on it. It really could help everyone to advances their skill, knowledge, and social skill with respect to anyone without see the gender. Anyone could gain their rights, and gender equality. No matter what gender it is.

The researcher wants to investigate what is the struggle that through by women in the two novels and why women need to endure that struggle. The purpose of this study is to make all human aware in the importance of gender equality in life. Thus, everyone could treat every person in equal and all the objective could be achieved in every field with a good way, especially education. So, there is no partiality gender. The researchers delimited the research only in revealing women struggle in the novels and the reason behind it. The researcher expects that people will have awareness of the importance of gender equality in every aspect of this life by learn with life lesson and issues that brings by the novels. So, the future researcher could motivate in doing literary research and take another life lesson, issues and solutions that contained in the novel.

## **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Cambridge dictionary define struggle as to experience something difficult and make a very great effort in a way to gain something. Every human has something to be struggle for, like Indonesia as a nation, to introduce the values of nation that been struggle in a past that kept until now, it could be adjust and advanced for the future. (Hasan, 2012). Related to this comparative study, the researcher brings this to connect the women struggle that occurs in the novels *Pride and Prejudice* and *Jurnal P.hD Mama*.

In *Pride and Prejudice*, women struggle in Regency Period on that time was showed clearly when woman need to consolidate their social status exclusively through marriage. In the other words, woman described as one that belonged in the home as a wife and mother and should marry a man to support their family. According to Langermann and Brantley (in Ritzer and Goodman,

2004) women are treated differently in society; they experience gender difference, gender inequality, gender oppression, and structural oppression. Because of the problems, feminist brought her idea about feminism. In addition, Sandbach in an article entitled “Society Versus the Individual: Feminism at Work in *Pride and Prejudice*” (2008) says that Elizabeth, the main character of *Pride and Prejudice* is a perfect example of a feminist character.

Langermann and Brantley state that Liberal Feminism is the response of gender inequality as Liberal Feminism claims gender equality. This claim has the relationship with the Declaration of Independence which states that all men and women are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable right. Those among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The appeal from Liberal Feminism is the values of individualism, choice, freedom, and equality of opportunity. In *Pride and Prejudice*, women get less of power and opportunities for self-actualization. Woman will be the object of family to marry a rich man to secure the family’s economy as a woman can get material comforts only through her husband’s property; therefore, woman cannot freely choose her spouse and is always dependent on family choice (Diastuti, 2014) In the other words, there is no room for improvement for their talent, skill, knowledge etc.

Meanwhile, in *Jurnal P.hD Mama*, woman struggles to achieve P.hD tittle with balancing and manage their time between family, study and work. When the mother is able to balance her role at work and family, then the child growth will be optimum. (Handayani & Munawar, 2015). Every woman that married and had child had a lot of responsibilities. *Jurnal P.hD Mama* reveals the struggle by every mother in process to achieve their P.hD. The support from the husband or another family member is needed to help ease the mother’s burden as the consequence of her double role. Woman as a mother must keep with “women” duty like cooking, clean up, childcare, and shopping. (Milkie & Peltola, 1999)

Woman should get motivate by another character on literature, like short stories or novel that reveal the gender equality in a past, for example in short stories on nineteenth centuries, how American Indian women’s role play an important role as a leader and equal rights to be warriors in their community (Rorintulus & Rorintulus, 2018). This comparative study discussed about gender issues; the researcher applies feminist literary approach. The data were collected by applying liberal feminism.

## **METHOD**

In this research the researcher used qualitative research. As stated by Bodgan and Biklen that qualitative research is descriptive data obtained in form of words or picture rather than number. (Bogdan & Biklen, *Qualitative Research for Education: An Introduction to Theories and Methods, 5th Edition* | Pearson, n.d.)

In the other words, the data will be collected in form of words and presented in the form of quotation and description. In conducting this research, the data are taken from the novel *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen and *Jurnal P.hD Mama* by Kanti Pertiwi et al. as primary source and it will be supported by other relevant sources such as books, and articles are considered as secondary sources.

Feminist literary criticism knows as the critical analysis of literary works based on the feminist perspective.(Guo, 2019). In other words, it will focus on female role that reflected in literary works. This study used feminism liberal theories that support to the gender equality between man and woman.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### ***Women's Struggle and the reason behind (Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen)***

The background of liberal feminism is women's secondary status in society and because on unequal chances between women and men. (Wolff, 2007) Liberal feminism believes individuals on society are equals, thus all people should have equal rights. It is just focuses on create changing in people's attitudes within existing social structure. Liberal feminism believed nobody benefits from existing inequalities: both men and women are harmed and the explanation for gender inequality lies not so much in structures and institutions of society but in its culture and values (Rorintulus, 2020) and (Rorintulus, 2017).

In *Pride and Prejudice*, the researcher find out that women were expected to be virtuous, submissive, modest, conceal their intelligence and abilities and leaving matters of science, philosophy, politics and business to more intelligent and better informed by men. English law at the time forbade divorce and regarded married women much like the property of her husband's. On that time, it was universally believed that every girl should marry young to be secure on financial and social status. Austen portray Elizabeth Bennet as the main female characters that struggle to express her individuality in a society that demanded strict social conformity, a situation that closely still relevant even until now.

Firstly, the researcher finds out the struggle and the reason behind why woman in *Pride and Prejudice* need to struggle to marry with rich man.

*After amusing himself some time with their curiosity, he thus explained : " About a month ago I received this letter, and about a fortnight ago I answered it ; for I thought it a case of some delicacy, and requiring early attention . It is from my cousin , Mr. Collins, who, when I am dead, may turn you all out of this house as soon as he pleases." " Oh, my dear," cried his wife, " I cannot bear to hear that mentioned . Pray do not talk of that odious man . I do think it is the hardest thing in the world , that your estate should be entailed away from your own children ; and I am sure , if I had been you, I should have tried long ago to do something or other about (Austen, 1853: 53)*

The statement above shows that the rule of society forces the main character to marry her cousin to keep her estate and secure her family in economic problem as her parents do not have a son. In addition, according to Langermann and Brantley, women get less of material resources. (Goodman & Ritzer, 2003) By the rules of society on that time, it can be seen that woman is dependent on the property owned by her husband because they will not inherit the father's property. However, Elizabeth refuses the proposal of her cousin, as she does not want to marry him for material interests.

Women in *Pride and Prejudice* were forced by the rules of society on that time to struggle for their family with marry rich man to secure the whole family in facing economic problem and raise their low status in society. It seems there is no chance for women to improve their skills, knowledge and to gain another dream.

*It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of wife. However little known the feelings or views of such a man may be on his first entering a neighbourhood, this truth is so well fixed in the minds of the surrounding families, that he is considered as the rightful property of someone or other of their daughters.*

“What is his name?”

“Bingley.” “Is he married or single?” “Oh, single, my dear, to be sure! A single man of large fortune; four or five thousand a year. What a fine thing for our girl!” (Austen, 1853:1, 2)

From the sentence above it shows indirectly the motif of marriage that brings by the novel. When a man wants a wife, woman also wants a husband who has good economic condition.

So, marriage used as a tool to provide their economic need rather than social need. Remembering woman on that time doesn't inherit anything from their father's wealth.

We also could understand how brave the character of Elizabeth Bennet, to struggle for what she believe in marriage for love despite the pressure around her family and society,

*Do you play and sing, Miss Bennet? - A little. - « Oh then some time or other we shall be happy to Our instrument is a capital one, probably superior to you shall try it someday. Do your sisters play and sing? » “ One of them does.” Why did not you all learn? You ought all to have learned. The Miss Webbs all play, and their father has not so good an income as yours. Do you draw? ” “ No, not at all. ” What, none of you? ” « Not one. ” “ That is very strange. But I suppose you had no opportunity. Your mother should have taken you to town every spring for the benefit of masters .” My mother would have no objection , but my father hates London .” “ Has your governess left you ? ” - We never had any governess. ” “ No governess ! How was that possible ? Five daughters brought up at home without a governess ! I never heard of such a thing. Your mother must have been quite a slave to your education. ” Elizabeth could hardly help smiling as she assured her that had not been the case . who taught you ? who attended to you ? Without a governess, you must have been neglected”. (Austen 1853 : 144)*

The sentence above shows how Lady Catherine underestimate Elizabeth and Bennet's family because of there is no governess that could educate them. Bennet's daughters had no talent and skill at sing and draw.

On that time, it seems there is no room for improvement to every woman. Especially when woman had no money or come from low social status. They can't pay a governess to teach them at home.

Elizabeth struggles with her background from poor family. She must deal with underestimated perspectives from society that could influence her self-confidence in reaching her own gender equality.

*"Mrs. Collins, you must send a servant with them . You know I always speak my mind, and I cannot bear the idea of two young women travelling post by themselves. It is highly improper. You must contrive to send somebody. I have the greatest dislike in the world to that sort of thing. Young women should always be properly guarded and attended. (Austen 1853: 185)*

The statement above is another proof that women rights like a simple activities like travelling becomes improper on that time. That is true, on that time women get less of power and opportunities for self-actualization. (赵岩, 2014)

*" In marrying your nephew , I should not consider my -self as quitting that sphere. He is a gentleman ; I am a gentleman's daughter ; so far we are equal."*

*(Austen 1853: 311)*

The last struggle of Elizabeth that shows in the novel is when she encounters the rejection from Lady Catherine, Mr. Darcy's Aunty. Who also insult her social status, but Elizabeth show that how strong the values that she held in life, especially in judging person, not by the social status. She also show how strong her self-confidence through the challenge that may easily destroy her.

### ***Women's Struggle and the reason behind (Jurnal P.hD Mama by Kanti Pertiwi)***

*"MBOK JADI perempuan, yang lumrah saja, seperti yang lain."*

*"Perempuan itu ajinyadi wajah." Tak sekali saya mendengar perkataan demikian. Padahal, terus terang saja, saya perempuan yang banyak maunya.*

*"Perempuan itu harus manutan. Nggak usah aneh-aneh. Yang lumrah saja seperti yang lain...." Saya tumbuh dengan petuah-petuah seperti itu sehingga saya mempercayainya. Namun, di dalam diri, saya merasa tidak begitu dan tidak bisa begitu. (Pertiwi et al. 2019: 17,18)*

According to KBBI (Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia) manutan means patuh. The main character in this novel (Saya, Perempuan Jawa yang Banyak Maunya) is Alis Fajarwati. Alia is a lecturer and live in the society that hold the perspectives about woman should be obedient, ordinary, pretty, and follow the crowd.

The statement above describes how Alia's struggle to accept, hear and even lived with that kind of opinion and perspectives about woman despite she has many dreams to achieve in life. There is a contradiction between her desire and society where she lived.

*Menjelang dewasa, definisi perempuan sempurna makin tak tergapai bagi saya. Saya pernah diberi wejangan oleh wanita anggun keturunan ningrat dan masih terlihat cantik di usia senjanya. Beliau menasihati saya, "Jadi perempuan jangan pinter-pinter, sekolah jangan tinggi-tinggi, nanti pria takut mendekat lho!" Salah satu sahabat pun*

*mengulang lagi dengan mengatakan, “Perempuan itu ajinya di wajah, bukan di ota.” Kesimpulannya perempuan lebih beruntung kalau cantik daripada pintar. Alamak! Kalau begitu saya termasuk golongan perempuan yang merugi. Saya tertawa sekarang kalau mengingatnya. Dahulu, saat otak belum terbentuk sempurna dan emosi masih labil tak menentu, saya galau memikirkannya. (Pertiwi et al 2019: 18)*

The statement above is another proof of how ridiculous the perspectives that held by society even on nowadays. It is become a real struggle for Alia, and for all women in this time, to keep the fire on to achieve their gender equality even the society disprove. It is ridiculous even on this present time, gender equality between man and woman still hard to apply because of the perspectives that grow strong in society(include family and close friends) that limit the woman movement.

*Meski tak mudah, saya mencoba mencari pegangan dari bacaan, tontonan, dan lingkungan yang mendukung untuk terus memupuk keyakinan yang sering goyah. Saya bersyukur hingga akhirnya di bangku kuliah saya bertemu dengan sahabat-sahabat yang berpandangan luas. Salah satunya, Prima Widayani, yang selalu memberi semangat dan inspirasi. Saya tak lagi merasa bersalah mengejar mimpi karena sahabat-sahabat saya juga demikian. Mereka perempuan-perempuan hebat dan aktif, tidak hanya di kancah akademis, namun juga organisasi maupun prestasi lainnya. (Pertiwi et al 2019:18, 19)*

The statement above strengthens that how perspective or opinion from the others could influence women in order to achieve their gender equality or to gain a better life.

*Seolah cita-cita menjadi tidak ada artinya lagi jika seorang wanita belum menggapai cita cinta. Ternyata tidak mudah menjadi perempuan. Mungkin juga laki-laki merasakan hal yang sama. Baiklah, kalau begitu “tidak mudah menjadi manusia” mungkin lebih tepat. Namun tekanan masyarakat tentang berumah tangga sepertinya lebih berat untuk perempuan. (Pertiwi et al 2019:19, 20)*

The statement above is another proof of how strong the perspectives of the other could influence woman psychologically. It seems that all aspects in woman's life being fully controlled by society, like in education, marital status, and the attitudes.

*Meski berat, namun saya segera bangkit lagi. Tahun berikutnya saya mencoba lagi meskipun gagal di seleksi administrasi. Dari kejadian itu, saya kemudian merenung. Sebagai perempuan yang sudah berkeluarga, tentu setiap keputusan harus saya pertimbangkan demi kepentingan keluarga.*

*Saya bukan lagi seorang individu tunggal, tetapi individu jamak, yaitu sebagai perempuan, dosen, ibu, istri, anak dari orangtua saya, bagian dari masyarakat, dan seterusnya. Jika saya kuliah lagi, sedangkan anak saya masih kecil-kecil, tentu saya akan mengulang pengalaman S2 saya. Apalagi tidak hanya satu, tetapi dua anak. Bukan saya kalah dengan kodrat, tetapi kali ini saya berkompromi sebagai seorang perempuan yang*



*telah berkeluarga. Tanpa mengesampingkan mimpi, saya yakin perempuan bisa memiliki semuanya. Mengejar mimpinya. Namun semua ada waktunya. Satu per satu, sesuai urutan prioritas. (Pertiwi et al 2019: 21)*

From the quotation above, we could learn Alia's struggle that relevant with all women until now. When a woman had her own family, husband and children, woman needs to understand her priority and consider on every decision she made, because there are some person in her life that could receive the consequences from the decisions or choices. It could also relate to all human, include men. But there is something inside women that make her should take double role.

Women that cannot balance her double role between work and family could influence and make the child growth and development cannot be optimum. (Handayani & Munawar, 2015). In the other words, women play an important role in her children development and growth. Women also need to work professionally at work if she wants to build or keep the carrier in a good way.

Here is another proof that women also required to be good at manage her time, priority, emotions, decisions, choices, desire as well as good in balance her role in family and work. And it should be better for everyone not only for her. Women seems need to be wise and humble enough in take a good care of her mind, family, emotions, attitudes. There is a lot of responsibility that put in women shoulders.

*Oleh sebab itu, sebelum melangkah lagi, berkali-kali saya tanyakan pada diri saya, apa yang paling penting dalam hidup? Saya memiliki dua anak yang dititipkan Allah, saya punya karier yang menuntut untuk dikejar, dan saya memiliki mimpi untuk melanjutkan studi. Kemudian hati saya berkata bahwa anak prioritas utama dalam hidup saya. Ya, anak-anak saya sedang dalam masa keemasan. Jika saya prioritaskan karier atau sekolah dulu, saya akan melewatkan usia emas dalam pertumbuhan anak-anak. Maka saya memilih untuk memprioritaskan mereka. (Pertiwi et al 2019: 21,22)*

Alia's last struggle that occurs in the novel is the challenge to be brave enough to make sacrifice and expecting for the best in the right time. It also taught us to be brave enough when facing challenging in life, especially as a woman. It could be seen in the quotation below.

*Setelah lama merenung, barulah saya mulai bisa menerima kegagalan dan mampu melihat hikmah di baliknya..... Saya menunggu dan mengamati. Setelah anak-anak berusia dua tahun dan empat tahun, saya merasa mereka sudah memiliki pola dalam keseharian, sehingga saya bisa mulai memiliki waktu untuk menyusun strategi untuk melanjutkan kuliah. Akhirnya, kesempatan pertama itu datang untuk saya melanjutkan studi S3 di Selandia Baru dengan beasiswa dan bisa berangkat bersama keluarga..... Setiap pilihan ada konsekuensinya, setiap prestasi merupakan buah panjang perjuangan.....bagi saya mimpi akan selalu ada untuk dikejar. (Pertiwi et al 2019:22,23)*

From this comparative study we could see the struggle that through by women in Regency Period (1795-1837) and in the present time (2019 – now). It is found that women in Regency Period demanded to marry with rich man, and making marriage as a tool to provide women and their family's economic need. Women on that time also demanded to dealing with underestimated perspectives and rejection from the others as consequences of low social status in society, especially when women come from poor family and did not have any talents and skills. Women also not only have less power even on doing activity like traveling is not allowed freely to do by women alone. The reasons behind all the struggles that endured by women in *Pride and Prejudice* are mostly because economic condition and society perspectives that forces women to through all that struggle. So, the struggles are expected to secure woman and her family economic condition, to raise their social status in society. It is hard for women on Regency Period, especially with the background of poor family, their rights seem to be fully controlled by society's perspectives and rules, even in dreaming to achieve something.

It's also laughable to see what gender issues, like gender equality, are still relevant today and still elusive. According to the findings of "Jurnal P.hD Mama" (2019), researchers found the same reasons as in *Pride and Prejudice*, mainly due to the influence of social opinions and culture forcing women through their opinions. In other words, it can be seen that society's views do influence women's lives.

Jurnal Ph.D Mama explains all the struggles a married woman with children and a porter has to endure at work. The reason for this is simply that public opinion affects women's lives, and all aspects of women's lives, such as gender equality in education, marital status, and attitudes, seem to be controlled by public opinion. Women demand obedient, ordinary, beautiful, and go with the flow.

The study shows women's struggle for gender equality in two distinct times, but is still relevant today. By understanding and identifying the struggles and reasons behind it, the researchers anticipate that this knowledge and experience can help people understand the importance of gender equality in all aspects of life by drawing on life lessons and the learning issues that come up with fiction. In this way, futurists can inspire literary research and take away another life lesson, problems and solutions contained in fiction. In education, this research may teach all education participants to apply the learning process without gender division. But equal rights of all genders between men and women. In this way, educational goals can be achieved together without underestimating gender.

## **CONCLUSION**

This comparative study sheds light on women's efforts to achieve their dreams. Through literature, writers such as Austin and Pertivi have attempted to explore gender issues in this period. From the moment these two novels were published, it is absurd to find that gender equality has remained elusive from the Regency period (1795-1837) to the present. Views of society are growing strongly

and limiting the women's movement. In the main characters of both novels, Elizabeth Bennet (*Pride and Prejudice*) and Arya Fajawati (*Jurnal P.hD Mama*) show their struggle for gender equality to achieve what they want in life goals achieved in. Elizabeth and Arya represent society, especially women who bravely break the rules or opinions of society that always limit women's room for advancement. It can be seen in their struggles how they overcame gender equality issues that undermined women's dreams of marital status, education, jobs, and more. Elizabeth wanted to show her values and wisdom by not following the demands of society. She knew her origin, and although her family status was low at the time, she cherished her dignity and rights as a woman, and bravely resisted the demands of society to force women to marry wealthy people. She believes that marrying a man is for love and connections, so that a woman with values in her heart can be cherished and loved, and live happily with her husband and wife. At the same time, Alia wanted to get a Ph.D., one of her dreams in education, she recalled that, as a lecturer, although limited by societal views, Alia struggled to balance her life without denying own role as wife and mother. She worked hard for her dreams and her role as a mother. She has set her priorities and made sacrifices to achieve the life she wants. The goals in the two novels had successfully achieved. Both main character, Elizabeth and Alia in the end of the story, happily achieved a life that they want through their struggles and sacrifices without forgot their dignity and principles in life as women. Using qualitative methods and feminist literary criticism, researchers have found that most of all the struggles women endure are due to social views or opinions. Embarrassingly, gender equality remains elusive because rules or culture in society are designed to require society to control women's lives. The novel's protagonists, Elizabeth Bennet and Alia Fajavati, show us the courageous ways to face challenging social times as women. Without losing dignity, gender equality and principles in the way women play their roles in life. This comparative study aims to help people from all walks of life raise awareness of the importance of gender equality in all aspects of women's lives, such as education, work and marital status. This allows people to appreciate all genders, especially women.

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