

THE NEW FEMALE IMAGE IN PERSUASION BASED ON THE ANALYSIS OF SPEECH

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PERSUASION (JANE AUSTEN, 1817)

Ann Elliot

- A 27-year-old woman and the second daughter of the Elliot family.
- Quiet, reserved and thoughtful.
- Still has deep feelings for her former lover, Wentworth

Captain Frederick Wentworth

- Former lover of Anne
- A successful wealthy captain of the Navy

Lady Russell

- Persuaded Ann to give up her marriage with Wentworth 8 years ago

THE IMAGE OF ANN

RATIONAL

- Quiet, reserved
- Precise advice to her family
- Deals with the fall accident calmly

EMOTIONAL

- Upset when Wentworth appears and shows his kindness
- Illogical speculations about Wentworth's love affairs

READ “PERSUASION” FROM THE FEMINIST
PERSPECTIVE①
COMPARING WOMEN IN 18-19C AND ANN

- Making efforts to create a comfortable home for men
 - Superficial and obedient attitudes
- ↕
- Independent mentally from her father

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PERSPECTIVE②
JANE AUSTEN’S VALUE

“Love is the most important, but financial stability should not be overlooked”

Rather than only believing that love is everything in marriage, she also considered financial stability because she recognized women were weak in society. (Nagashima, 1959)

Could it be that a new type of society is proposed?

-a society that accepts social practices while letting women make choices by their own wills

ANALYSING ANNE'S CHARACTER THROUGH SPEECH

- **Direct speech**

He said, “I will come back.”

- **Indirect speech**

He said that he would be back the following day.

- **Free indirect speech**

He would be back the following day.

ANALYSING ANNE'S CHARACTER THROUGH SPEECH :THE OPENING OF THE STORY

Frequent use of narration and indirect speech

= Anne's speech is rarely depicted in direct speech, making her modest impression

Examples

- Anne's proposal is explained briefly through indirect speech
- Anne's short statement is overshadowed by Sir Walter's overwhelmingly long one

ANALYSING ANNE'S CHARACTER THROUGH SPEECH :THE MIDDLE PART OF THE STORY

Anne's dual personality depicted through various narrative techniques

- Irrational reasoning and intense emotions - free indirect speech
- Gentle claiming and cool judgment – indirect speech and direct speech

Examples

- After refusing to meet Wentworth, “He must be either indifferent or unwilling” (p. 69) – **free indirect speech**
- During Louisa's fall accident, “Leave me, and go to him. Rub her hands, rub her temples; here are salts; take them, take them” - **direct speech**

ANALYSING ANNE'S CHARACTER THROUGH SPEECH : THE FINAL PART OF THE STORY

Anne's determined character depicted through direct speech

Examples

- When noticing the change in Wentworth's attitude, "He must love her" (p. 216) - **free indirect speech**
- During the discussion with Captain Harville, "We certainly do not forget you as soon as you forget us" (p. 270) - **direct speech**

ANNE'S CHARACTER AND FEMINIST IDEAS

- **How does Anne deal with her intense emotions?**

⇒ Tries to calm herself through inner solitude.

Never talks about her speculation about Wentworth.

⇒ Represents the strength as a woman who is expected to preserve the social order

& an independent proactive female image

SUMMARY

- Ann tries to control her strong affection for Wentworth while avoiding breaking the social orders
- Actively behaves and wins a successful marriage at the age when women's intentions are ignored in marriage

Ann controlling her emotions is the new female image that Jane Austen suggested in *Persuasion*