

# A Brief Analysis of the Language Features and Styles of *Pride and Prejudice*

DAI Mengfan

Changzhou Institute of Technology, Changzhou, China

*Pride and Prejudice* is a world famous novel, its storyline is fascinating, and language art is also indispensable. The way of speaking of the characters is also quite characteristic, with British humor, and the article also adopts a lot of irony style, which has the characteristics of British language, which is also unique at that time. The writer also hopes to use this expression to arouse people's interest in reading, to understand the daily life of the people in the novel, and to ponder on emotions and life.

*Keywords:* *Pride and Prejudice*, language style, Jane Austen

## Introduction

Jane Austen, an outstanding British female writer in the 19th century, wrote six novels in her lifetime. Among them, *Pride and Prejudice* is particularly wonderful. The novel takes life as the main material, contrary to the sentimental novels and artificial writing methods prevailing in British society at that time, and vividly expresses the situation in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, British township life, and world conditions under feudal backwardness and isolation. It has been remade into movies and series several times. The article uses a lot of British humor and irony style is refreshing.

## The Unique Language Style

### The Ubiquitous Irony

Irony refers to "sense or writing skills that have a certain sarcasm when speaking or writing. People simply can't understand what it really wants to express from the literal meaning, but in fact, its original meaning is exactly what it can be understood by the literal meaning. On the contrary, people usually have to use context to understand its meaning". It can be seen from the relationship between the shallow and ignorant Mrs. Bennet and the indifferent and perfunctory Mr. Bennet. Mr. Bennet was attracted by Mrs. Bennet's beauty when he was young and agreed with her for a lifetime. But over time, he realized that his wife was uneducated, so his enthusiasm for her gradually dissipated. Therefore, in his communication with Mrs. Bennet, it is obvious that his language is always concise and even sarcastic.

In the novel, the irony is far more than that. For example, there is a love story, which is put forward at the beginning of the chapter, "every single rich man must have a wife" and "every single woman without money wants to marry a rich single man". Although Mrs. Bennet's behavior seems absurd and ridiculous, at the end of

the work, his son is indeed married to a wealthy single aristocrat. The use of this ironic method is absurd, but it does reflect the socially accepted absurdity and the truth can also be converted into each other.

This structural irony is also reflected in the male and female protagonists. When they first met, Elizabeth had no good feelings for Darcy, and sneered from time to time. Darcy also thought that such a woman “although she is a little beautiful, she is far from beautiful enough to impress me”. Ironically, Darcy could not help but fall in love with such a girl regardless of her social status. He tried to propose to her because of the huge gap between the family and his family, but even if it was a proposal, he only emphasized how many concerns he had overcome, and did not give Elizabeth the respect she deserved.

One of the most classic ironies in the work is Collins’ proposal to her. However, he took the excuse that his son had inherited the Bennet estate with peace of mind, and took it as three good excuses for marriage. A good example of marriage. Second, I believe that getting married can greatly improve his happiness. The third time, he met a kind female donor who advised him to go to a good wife who is not of high social value but can also take care of the housework. In just a few lines, Jane Austen has portrayed a disgusting image of a person who is arrogant, moral, hypocritical, benevolent, righteous, hypocritical, and humiliating.

### **Language Characteristics Based on Character**

The distinctive language features can also make the character’s character better displayed. Character’s character is an important content to promote the development of the plot, and a good form of expression can make people understand the character’s character in just a few sentences. Darcy’s sentence “I think you want to seize the opportunity of the banquet and want me to dance” reflects his arrogant character, and Elizabeth’s “I don’t want to dance Scots dance” also reflects her pursuit of freedom and equality. Do not ask the character of the world. Another example is Lydia, who is cheerful and lovely, and is willing to shout out frankly: “I want to marry you first, and if so, I can take you to all dance parties”. And Jane, who is kind, gentle, and cautious will answer her: “If I don’t have to worry about being judged by others, then I can’t help but say it”. In order to achieve humorous, funny, and lively language characteristics and highlight his own language characteristics in writing, Jane Austen also attached great importance to the use of words. The form can not only make the expression of the characters’ characteristics more thorough and clear at a glance, but also promote the development of the story.

For example, Bentley and Darcy are rich people, but when describing the two characters in the work, because the vocabulary used by the author is very personal, the conversation between the two is also interesting and rich. In the end, readers have a deep impression on both of them, and they can easily remember their personalities and appearance characteristics. Jane Austen used a lot of vivid and interesting language in *Pride and Prejudice*, which can show the author’s character and external appearance, that is, because of this vivid and interesting language, it attracts more people to read this book. Books, full of interest, distinctive features, and ironic language style, have become the distinctive features of Jane Austen’s works. The differences in characters’ characters are reflected in just a few words, and the differences in characters are also doomed to have a huge difference in their destiny. Characters correspond to the way they speak, so that readers can quickly understand the personality characteristics of each character in the story, and empathize with the characters in the book.

### **British Humor That Violates the Principle of Cooperation**

The principle of cooperation is divided into the following four aspects. First, the principle of quantity. That is to say, the quantity must meet the needs of society, but it cannot exceed a certain range or be too small. Second,

the quality principle and the words of the guarantor are absolutely justified and well-founded and cannot be fabricated or confused. Third, related principles. It means that what is said must speak to him regardless of the context of the language. Fourth, the principle of expression is to use simple logic and clear sentences that are easy to be understood by others. But Austin, by violating the principle of cooperation, produced a humorous and ironic effect, which played an important role in characterizing the characters.

For example, after visiting Mrs. Elizabeth, Czech, Mrs. Bennet, when Mr. Collins wished to speak alone with Elizabeth, he said that Mr. Collins had nothing to say and that he had to speak to me alone. It is an unspeakable word, which satirizes Mr. Collins in order to win everyone's sympathy, and achieves the effect of political humor with humor without losing wisdom. This is by violating the first and second criteria, and thus through humor, to achieve the effect of irony. Another example, because Mr. Bennet's intentional concealment made Ms. Bennet unable to fully understand the meaning of what he said, he became disgusted with Mr. Bingley, and played the annoyance on Katie, the coughing girl. In the second class, Mr. Nut avoided a series of questions from his wife, and only told Katie lightly that he could cough any way he wanted. Such an incorrect answer obviously violates the relevant principles and expresses Mr. Bennet's inner resentment and dissatisfaction. And Mrs. Bennet was immersed in the fantasy of her daughter about to marry into a wealthy family, and did not notice her husband's abnormal attitude at all. In a witty way, Mrs. Bennet's simple-minded, shallow-minded, empty vase image with a good skin is portrayed.

### Summary

In the process of studying English literature, *Pride and Prejudice* is a classic that has to be mentioned, and the fact that this novel can be familiar and liked by people is also inseparably related to its humorous language style. This language style also formed the later writing style of Jane Austen. She used dramatic language, irony, and humour that violated the way of cooperation, as well as the distinctive characters of the characters, to create a character with distinct personalities and different personalities, weaving a Brilliant story. It also has reference significance for the creation of contemporary literature.

### References

- Chai, Z. (2022). Analysis of conversational implicature from the perspective of cooperation principle—Take “Pride and Prejudice” as an example. *English Square*, 12(9), 21-23.
- Xu, H. Y. (2020). Appreciation of “Pride and Prejudice” British literary language creation style. *Journal of Chifeng University (Chinese Philosophy and Social Sciences Edition)*, 41(12), 69-73. doi:10.13398/j.cnki.issn1673-2596.2020.12.013
- Zhang, Z. J. (2021). On the study of British language style in “Pride and Prejudice”. *Journal of Pu'er University*, 37(5), 86-88.
- Zheng, J. X., Zong, R., Zhou, X. F., & Li, Z. T. (2020). Interpretation of the characters and language in the novel “Pride and Prejudice”. *JinGu Creative Literature*, 1(41), 6-7.