CHAPTER V
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

After conducting a comprehensive examination of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice through the lens of the sociology of literature, this study concludes that the novel is far more than a mere romantic narrative. It serves as a crucial social document recording a pivotal transition within the 19th-century English social structure. Based on the analysis presented in the previous chapters, the findings of this research are summarized as follows:

5.1.1 First, the structure of Regency era English society is depicted as a hegemonic and rigid system where social norms operate through sharp class stratification, restrictive gender roles, and discriminatory property inheritance laws. The society within the novel prioritizes economic value and lineage over personal integrity, creating a deterministic framework for individual fate, particularly for women who lacked financial independence.

5.1.2 Second, there is a significant shift from traditional aristocratic values toward modern ideals that emphasize meritocracy and individual morality. This study finds that the old norms, which viewed marriage as a business transaction or a tool for preserving class status, began to be challenged. Through the narrative arc, Austen demonstrates that true honor is no longer determined by land ownership or titles, but by civilized conduct and intellectual honesty that transcends social classes.

5.1.3 Third, individual freedom in this novel is not manifested through radical rebellion against the social order, but through the exercise of agency. Elizabeth Bennet serves as the primary representation of the struggle for intellectual autonomy. Her courage in rejecting proposals not based on mutual respect proves that individuals possess the bargaining power to determine their own destinies amidst economic pressure. Conversely, Fitzwilliam Darcy represents the psychological freedom to detach oneself from class prejudice and the biases of his aristocratic upbringing.

5.1.4 Ultimately, this research affirms that Pride and Prejudice offers a synthesis in the form of "balanced freedom." The resolution of the story, which unites Elizabeth and Darcy, symbolizes an internal social reform; a condition where traditional norms remain respected but are infused with new values prioritizing love, rationality, and human dignity. Individual freedom within the traditional English structure is achievable when one possesses the moral courage to negotiate their integrity above mere material interests.

5.2 Suggestion

Based on the findings and conclusions above, the researcher proposes several suggestions as follows:

5.2.1 For Students and Readers of Literature It is expected that readers do not merely view classic novels as past entertainment, but as a mirror to understand how social structures shape our identities. This study can serve as a reference for sharpening critical thinking regarding gender and class issues that may still be relevant in different forms today.

5.2.2 For Future Researchers This study is limited to the analysis of social norms and individual freedom through a sociological approach. Future researchers are encouraged to explore other dimensions, such as using an ecocritical perspective to examine the relationship between land ownership (estates) and environmental identity, or employing cultural materialism to further dissect the commodification of humans within the marriage market of that era.

5.2.3 For Educational Institutions Jane Austen's works should continue to be utilized as a rich medium for character study. Educational institutions are encouraged to promote interdisciplinary studies that connect literature with sociology and history, ensuring that students' understanding of literary texts remains comprehensive and contextual.