

## [WOMAN]’S WORLD PORTRAYED IN LITERARY WORKS OF JANE AUSTEN

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### ABSTRACT

The aim of this research was investigating how Jane Austen portrayed [woman] in the 18<sup>th</sup> century through literary works. Six major novels were used as data. Hence a qualitative method was employed. The novels were converted using AntConc. Then, were identified the 50 highest collocations of [woman] based on three main categories in part of speech namely adjective, noun, and verb. The results reveal that Jane Austen portrays [woman] in the 18<sup>th</sup> century with positive and negative aspects; internal and external qualities that reflected through adjectives. Jane Austen often uses concrete and abstract nouns related to domestic property collocated with the word [woman]. Furthermore, the verbs that collocate with [woman] in Jane Austen’s literary works are productive verbs. The researchers find that the adjectives, nouns, and verbs that attach to [woman] in Jane Austen novels are related to the domestic sphere and their quality of being strong, logical, and intellectual.

**Keywords:** [woman]’s world, literary works, Jane Austen, stylistic, corpus linguistics

### INTRODUCTION

A corpus is the collection of both written and spoken texts that can be used to represent the language variety, consider the number of its connotations, machine-readable form, sampling and representativeness, finite size, and the idea (Lüdeling & Merja, 2009). The term for corpus linguistics refers to the study of language data on a large scale that employs computer in order to analyze extensive of transcribed utterances or written texts in the study of language; procedures and methods for studying language (McEnergy & Hardie, 2011).

Another definition of corpus linguistics comes from Lindquist (2009) who explains corpus linguistics as a methodology and comprising a large number of related methods which can be used by scholars in much different theoretical learning. Furthermore, Biber (2011) also has a similar statement that corpus provides actual language use that can be employed as a device in conducting researches, one of them can be applied in the study of literature.

It is a common practice that the students tend to rely on their intuition when it comes to criticizing the characters in literary works. The presence of corpus would be beneficial in assisting the students in the study of literary works especially the aspects that cannot be accomplished intuitively.

Mahlberg (2007) has revealed the use of corpus device to analyze a novel. The literary works that selected are Charles Dickens’ novels. The results show that clusters

interpretation can be the indication of local textual functions. Therefore, Mahlberg (2007) has said that there are benefits in using corpus device in literary stylistic and criticism.

The researchers are interested in employing corpus, particularly AntConc ver.3.4.4w (Anthony, 2014) in analyzing literary work. Thus, the researchers chose Jane Austen. Jane Austen is widely known as one of the British prominent female novelists, and her novels are mostly discussed. Thus, the researchers formulate a research question as follows; how is the [woman] in the 18<sup>th</sup> century portrayed through Jane Austen’s literary works. Consequently, the aim of this research is investigating how the [woman] in the 18<sup>th</sup> century is portrayed by Jane Austen through literary works.

The researchers expect the research contributes to literary field especially stylistics and the usage of corpus device. By employing corpus device, the results of how is the [woman] in the 18<sup>th</sup> century portrayed by Jane Austen through literary works will be easily retrieved through concordance.

In order to do so, Jane Austen’s literary works are selected. The researchers select six major novels written by Jane Austen to be processed using AntConc ver.3.4.4w. Consequently, the researchers classify three main categories in part of speech namely adjective, noun, and verb that attach to the collocation of [woman].

Fischer-Starcke (2009) has analyzed the keywords and frequent phrases of Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*. As a result, Fischer-Starcke (2009) has found the patterns

of dominant keywords and the most frequent phrases such as mental concept and emotions, expressions of uncertainty, expressions describing communication, and negatively connoted words and their colligation with grammatical negations. Furthermore, the research shows the family relationship that people in Jane Austen era often use their daughters to raise the social status through marriage. It also discusses how female characters of the novels are developed. The characters live under strong patriarchy situation yet they still appear as strong and independent women. Thus, Fischer-Starcke (2009) has suggested using corpus stylistics as a potential device that can be employed in conducting literature research.

Mahlberg (2010) has analyzed the keywords in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* by comparing the novel with 18 others novelists from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The keywords are obtained by employing corpus WordSmith device. One of the keywords found in Jane Austen's novel is the noun *civility*. Mahlberg (2010) further explains that there are two options for analyzing the keywords. The first is by comparing the keyword *civility* in Jane Austen's novel with the other 18 novelists. The second option is to link the analysis of *civility* on the body language in *Pride and Prejudice*. Mahlberg's (2010) research also suggests the benefit of a corpus in literary criticism.

Another research has been conducted by Nolen & Richardson (2016) that investigate citation analysis of landmark works in English literary studies. They examine Jane Austen's *Persuasion* because it is the most read novel in 2011 to 2013 in English Department where the research is conducted. They employ MLA International Bibliography to find the citation pattern. The results indicate that there is no correlation between seminal and landmark works in literary scholarship. However, citations analysis is beneficial for identifying the pattern of use of literary scholarship.

There are two differences between the current research and three related research. Firstly, the difference is the data source of the research. Fischer-Starcke (2009), Mahlberg (2010), Nolen & Richardson (2016) are concerned with only one of Jane Austen's novels. On the other hand, the current research uses six novels of Jane Austen. Therefore, the current research has larger size and composition of the corpus. Secondly, the difference is the type of corpus device Fischer-Starcke (2009) employs corpus stylistic, Mahlberg (2010) employs WordSmith device, and Nolen & Richardson (2016) use MLA International Bibliography in order to process the data. In the current research, the researchers select AntConc ver.3.4.4w (2014) to proceed the data.

Currently, in order to conduct the research, the researchers use some theories related to adjectives, nouns, and verbs classification. Based on its definition, the noun is a word that refers to a person, (such as Ann or doctor), a place (such as Paris or city) or a thing, a quality or an activity (such as plant, sorrow or tennis) (Oxford Learners' Dictionaries, 2017). While verb is a word or group of words that expresses an action (such as eat), an event (such as happen) or a state (such as exist) (Oxford Learners' Dictionaries, 2017). In addition, adjective is a word that describes a person or thing, for example big, red and clever in a big house, red wine and a clever idea (Oxford Learners' Dictionaries, 2017).

Adjectives can be categorized based on three semantic types of large adjective classes that are proposed by Dixon (2009). The adjective classes are described as; (1) Core semantic types, they are; dimension (big, small, long,

etc), age (new, young, old, etc.), value (good, bad, lovely, etc.), and color (black, white, red, etc.). (2) Peripheral semantic types, they are; physical property (hard, soft, heavy, etc.), human propensity (jealous, happy, kind), speed (fast, quick, slow, etc.). (3) Semantic types in large adjective classes, they are; difficulty (easy, difficult, tough, etc.), similarity (like, unlike, similar, etc.), qualification (define, true, probable, etc), quantification (all, whole, many, some, etc.), position (high, low, near, etc.), cardinal numbers (first, last together with other ordinal numbers).

The researchers employ Delahunt and Garvey's (2010) theory to classify functional characteristics of a noun. The noun is divided into a modifier of other nouns and the head of a noun phrase. Some functions traditionally associated with nouns (e.g., subject, direct and indirect object of clauses, an object of a preposition, subject and object complement) are the functions of noun phrases. They propose two classes of nouns; (1) concrete nouns name classes of physical things, e.g., floor, car, paper, etc. (2) Abstract nouns refer to words that are not physical or things that existed only in minds, e.g., goodness, truth, reason, etc.

Additionally, the researchers also employ the theory from Haspelmath and Sims (2010), who divide three characterizations of each adjective, noun, and verb as; (1) in many languages, nouns have affixes indicating number (singular, plural, dual, etc.), case (nominative, accusative/direct object, ergative/subject, dative/indirect object such as we, them, or dinner), possessor person/number (such as my, your, his, etc.), and definiteness. (2) Verbs have affixes indicating tense (present, past, future), aspect (imperfective, perfective, progressive), mood (indicative, imperative, optative, subjective, etc.), polarity (affirmative, negative), valence-changing operations (passive causative), and the person/number of subject and object(s). (3) In a fair number of languages, adjectives have affixes indicating comparison (comparative degree, superlative degree, equative degree), and in a few languages, adjectives are inflected for agreement with the noun that is modified.

## METHODS

There are five steps in conducting this research. Firstly, six major novels in the form of pdf soft files entitled *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), *Emma* (1816), *Northanger Abbey* (1817), and *Persuasion* (1818) are selected considering their popularity. Secondly, the files are then converted into the .txt format. Thirdly, the .txt files are processed into AntConc ver.3.4.4w by (1) clicking file and input the novels in .txt format, (2) applying 4L to 4R to the Windows Span, (3) choosing Sort by Frequency, (4) clicking Advanced (checkbox the option Use search term(s) from list below, write the word 'woman' and its plural form 'women', henceforth 'woman' will be written in bracket [woman] and clicked apply), and (5) clicking start. It can be seen in Figure 1.

Fourthly, the researchers select the highest 50 adjectives, 50 nouns, and 50 verbs that collocated with [woman]. The last step, the researchers click each word of adjectives, verbs, and nouns of [woman] to obtain the context or detail information. The researchers exclude the adjectives, verbs, and nouns that do not suit with the aim of the research. Figure 2 shows the results of collates of [woman].

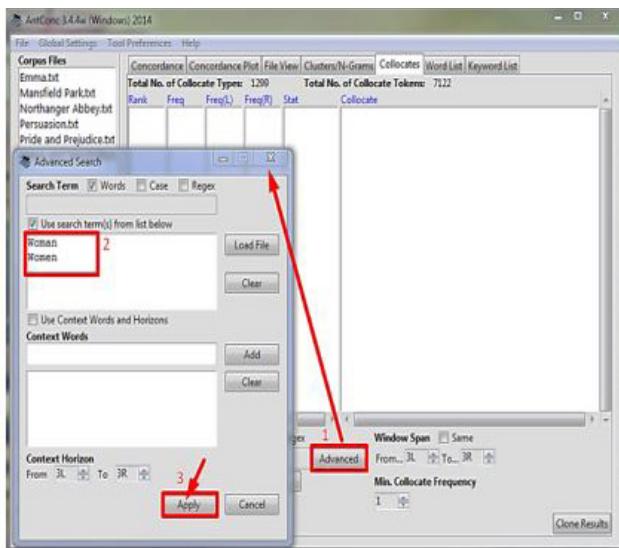


Figure 1 Steps of Advanced Option of [woman]  
(Source: AntConc, Advanced Option of [woman])

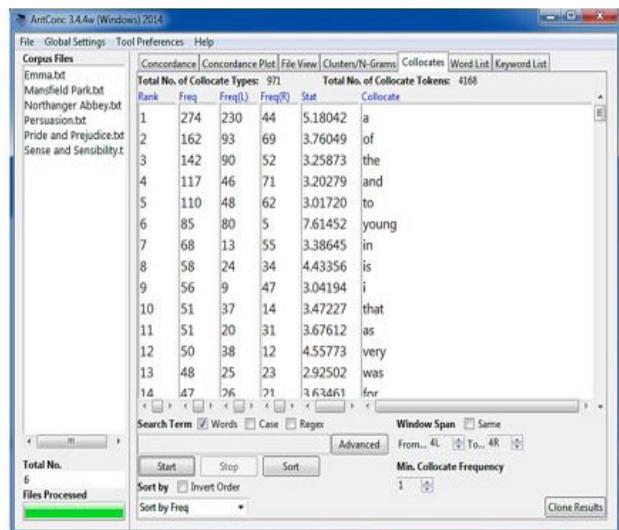


Figure 2 Result of The Collocates of [woman]  
(Source: AntConc, The Collocates of [woman])

After obtaining the data, the researchers classify them based on three selected theories. The theory of semantic types of large adjective classes Dixon (2009) is used to classify the adjectives. Delahunty and Garvey's theory (2010) is used to classify the nouns, and Haspelmath and Sims's theory (2010) is used to classify the verbs.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Three main categories in part of speech are presented in this analysis. They are adjectives, nouns, and verbs that have a high frequency with the collocation of the word [woman] in Jane Austen's novels. Table 1 shows three semantic types of large adjective classes by Dixon (2009).

Table 1 Noun Collocates of [woman]

No.	Adjective	Dixon Semantic Category
1.	Young	age
2.	Good	value
3.	Pretty	physical property
4.	Married	human propensity
5.	Lovely	value
6.	Little	dimension
7.	Fine	value
8.	Charming	value
9.	Amiable	value
10.	Sensible	value
11.	Elegant	value
12.	Better	value
13.	Sure	qualification
14.	Poor	value
15.	Old	age
16.	Kind	human propensity
17.	Pleasing	value
18.	Great	human propensity
19.	Beautiful	physical property
20.	Happy	value
21.	Delightful	value
22.	Clever	value
23.	Capable	human propensity
24.	Superior	position
25.	Single	human propensity
26.	Proud	value
27.	Odd	cardinal number
28.	Intelligent	value
29.	Happiest	human propensity
30.	Fortunate	human propensity
31.	Excellent	value
32.	Dear	value
33.	Accomplished	human propensity
34.	Able	human propensity
35.	Worth	value
36.	Worse	value
37.	Warm	value
38.	Wanted	human propensity
39.	Valuable	value
40.	Vain	value
41.	Usual	human propensity
42.	Unfortunate	human propensity
43.	True	qualification
44.	Tall	dimension
45.	Sweet	human propensity
46.	Stupid	value
47.	Strong	physical property
48.	Silly	value
49.	Rich	value
50.	Respectable	value
Total	50	50

(Source: AntConc, The Noun Collocates of [woman])

In Table 1, it demonstrates that the word “young” (rank 6) is the first adjective in top 50 adjectives of [woman] in Jane Austen’s novels that become the highest word in adjective categories. The word “respectable” (rank 271) becomes the last word in the adjective category. Based on adjectives categories by Dixon (2009), the data shows that 25 words belong to value category (good, lovely, charming, amiable, sensible, elegant, better, poor, pleasing, happy, delightful, clever, proud, intelligent, excellent, dear, worth, worse, warm, valuable, vain, stupid, silly, rich, and respectable); 13 words belong to human propensity category (married, kind, great, capable, single, happiest, fortunate, accomplished, able, wanted, usual, and unfortunate and sweet); 3 words include in physical property (pretty, beautiful, and strong); 2 words (young, and old) refer to age category; 2 words are in dimension category (little, and tall); 2 words are classified as qualification category (sure, and true); 1 word is in difficulty category (fine); 1 word is in position category (superior); and 1 word refers to cardinal category (odd).

Adjective classifications in Jane Austen’s novels also have categories that indicate [woman]’s social and marital status. The researchers classify them as; (1) adjectives of women marital status; married and single (human propensity), (2) positive adjectives of [woman]’s social status; capable, fortunate, accomplished, able (human propensity), superior (position), proud, worth, valuable, rich, respectable (value), (3) negative adjectives of [woman]’s social status; poor and vain (value), unfortunate (human propensity).

In addition, adjective classifications in Jane Austen’s novels show that woman internal and external qualities. The researchers classify them as; (1) positive adjectives of [woman]’s internal quality; good, lovely, amiable, sensible, elegant, better, charming, pleasing, delightful, clever, intelligent, excellent, dear, worth, warm, silly (value); fine, sure, true (qualification); kind, great, happy, happiest, wanted, usual, sweet (human propensity); strong (physical property). (2) Negative adjectives of [woman]’s internal quality; odd (cardinal); worse, stupid (value). (3) Adjectives of [woman]’s external quality; young and old (age); pretty and beautiful (physical property); little (dimension); elegant (value); kind (human propensity); and tall (dimension).

Jane Austen has successfully portrayed [woman] in her era through the adjectives of [woman] that are written in her literary works. Jane Austen depicts [woman] in the 18th century as an ideal housewife whose domain area is maintaining a home, and at the same time, they also appear with so many good qualities beyond the domestic sphere. Table 2 shows noun classifications based on Delahunty and Garvey (2010).

The total numbers of the classification are obtained by selecting top 50 frequencies of the word [woman] in Jane Austen’s novels. It can be divided into 20 concrete nouns and 30 abstract nouns. The word woman becomes the highest nominal word (rank 30) that is used in Jane Austen’s novels. The last word of the 50 highest nouns in Jane Austen’s novels is the word marriage (rank 303).

The 20 words that classified as concrete nouns are woman, world, man, men, lady, slave, writing, room, house, home, heart, friend, face, word, son, society, sis, mother, model, and mistress. There are 11 words that belong to noun person/living creatures such as woman, man, men, lady, slave, friend, son, society, sis, mother, and mistress. 9 words refer to noun things/other categories; they are world, writing, room, house, home, heart, face, word, and model. Most of the words have positive meaning except slave.

The abstract nouns of [woman] consists of 30 words; love, fortune, miss, wish, thought, Mrs, understanding, time, sense, nature, feelings, character, board, meaning, manners, idea, friendship, duty, comfort, travelling, thinking, style, sound, shame, rank, pretensions, present, pity, opinion, and marriage.

The verbs collocated with the word [woman] are listed based on Haspelmath and Sims (2010) theory. Table 3 shows three parts of tense are shown in these categories (present, past, progressive).

Table 2 Noun Collocates of [woman]

No.	Concrete	Abstract
1.	Woman	love
2.	World	fortune
3.	Man	Miss
4.	Men	wish
5.	Lady	thought
6.	Slave	mrs
7.	Writing	understanding
8.	room	time
9.	house	sense
10.	home	nature
11.	heart	feelings
12.	friend	character
13.	face	board
14.	word	meaning
15.	Son	manners
16.	society	idea
17.	Sis	friendship
18.	mother	duty
19.	model	comfort
20.	mistress	travelling
21.		thinking
22.		style
23.		sound
24.		shame
25.		rank
26.		pretensions
27.		present
28.		pity
29.		opinion
30.		marriage
Total	20	30

(Source: AntConc, The Noun Collocates of [woman])

Table 3 Verb Collocates of [woman]

No.	Present	Part	Progressive
1.	Like	married	looking
2.	Do	thought	marrying
3.	Love	saw	wishing
4.	marry	Said	
5.	Make	Loved	
6.	Know	Did	
7.	Wish	Used	
8.	Think	Seen	

9.	Sort	Met
10.	See	Knew
11.	Reigns	accomplished
12.	Loves	Wanted
13.	Believe	Thrown
14.	Talk	Opened
15.	Say	Made
16.	Mean	Grown
17.	Give	Felt
18.	Find	
19.	Want	
20.	Hear	
21.	Feel	
22.	comprehend	
23.	Wonder	
24.	Seems	
25.	Refuse	
26.	Plays	
27.	Looks	
28.	Knows	
29.	Imagine	
30.	Happen	
Total	30	17
		3

(Source: AntConc, The Verb Collocates of [woman])

The verbs consist of 30 words of the present tense, 17 words of past tense, and three words of progressive tense. The verb married is the highest with the rank 54. The lowest position is verbs engaged with the rank 336.

There are 30 words that show present tense that formulated into plural subject (women, they, we, etc.) or personal subject (I) such as like, do, love, marry, make, know, wish, think, sort, see, believe, talk, say, mean, give, find, want, hear, feel, comprehend, wonder, refuse, imagine, and happen, and single subject (woman, she, he, it, or personal names), such as reigns, loves, seems, plays, looks, and knows. Furthermore, 18 words are categorized in past tense forms; married, thought, saw, said, loved, did, used, seen, met, knew, accomplished, wanted, thrown, opened, made, grown, felt, and engaged. In the last tense category, there are three words that refer to progressive tense, such as looking, marrying, and wishing.

The researchers also classified the verbs into three categories; transitive verb, intransitive verb, and transitive and Intransitive verb. Transitive verb consists of 16 verbs that need an object such as love, loves, loved, like, said, say, felt, mean, make, used, accomplished, made, believe, want, wanted, and imagine. Intransitive verb consists of 5 words in top 50 verbs that do not need an object such as looking, talk, looks, wonder, and happen. Transitive and intransitive verb consists of 29 verbs that include in this category such as married, marry, marrying, see, saw, seen, met, hear, feel, know, thought, think, comprehend, knew, knows, do, sort, reigns, give, find, did, thrown, seems, refuse, plays, opened, grown, wish, and wishing.

Those three verb categories show that transitive and intransitive verb are frequent verb categories used in Jane Austen's novels that is followed by the transitive verb and intransitive verb. Most of the verbs in Jane Austen's novels describe how [woman] typically behave and how they spend their daily life in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in England.

The words such as love, loves, loved, marry, married, and marrying represent [woman] expectations to love and be loved in return and also getting married to someone. The words make, made, accomplished, thought, think, comprehend, knew, knows, do, did, grown are pointed as productive verbs that indicate how typically British women must behave in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on adjective classifications, [woman] in Jane Austen novels are portrayed based on their (1) Marital status; married and single (human propensity), (2) positive aspects of [woman]'s social status, such as capable, fortunate, accomplished, able (human propensity); superior (position); proud, worth, valuable, rich, respectable (value), (3) negative aspects of [woman]'s social status, such as poor and vain (value); unfortunate (human propensity).

The adjective classifications in Jane Austen's novels also show [woman]'s internal and external qualities. They are (1) positive aspects of [woman]'s internal quality; good, lovely, amiable, sensible, elegant, better, charming, pleasing, delightful, clever, intelligent, excellent, dear, worth, warm, silly (value); fine, sure, true (qualification); kind, great, happy, happiest, wanted, usual, sweet (human propensity); strong (physical property). (2) Negative aspects of [woman] internal quality; odd (cardinal); worse, stupid (value). (3) Aspects of woman external quality; young and old (age); pretty and beautiful (physical property); little (dimension); elegant (value); kind (human propensity); and tall (dimension).

Based on noun classifications, there are 20 words that classify as concrete nouns such as woman, world, man, men, lady, slave, writing, room, house, home, heart, friend, face, word, son, society, sis, mother, model, and mistress. 11 words belong to noun person/living creatures such as woman, man, men, lady, slave, friend, son, society, sis, mother, and mistress. Nine words refer to noun things/other categories; world, writing, room, house, home, heart, face, word, and model. Most of the words have positive meaning except slave. The abstract nouns of [woman] consist of 30 words; love, fortune, miss, wish, thought, Mrs, understanding, time, sense, nature, feelings, character, board, meaning, manners, idea, friendship, duty, comfort, travelling, thinking, style, sound, shame, rank, pretensions, present, pity, opinion, and marriage.

Based on verbs classifications, the researchers identify that there are 30 verbs in the form of present tense that formulate into plural subject (women, they, we, etc). or personal subject (I), such as like, do, love, marry, make, know, wish, think, sort, see, believe, talk, say, mean, give, find, want, hear, feel, comprehend, wonder, refuse, imagine, and happen, and single subject (woman, she, he, it, or personal names), such as reigns, loves, seems, plays, looks, and knows. There are 17 verbs in the form of past tenses married, thought, saw, said, loved, did, used, seen, met, knew, accomplished, wanted, thrown, opened, made, grown, felt, and engaged. And there are 3 verbs in the form of progressive tenses such as looking, marrying, and wishing.

The researchers also categorize the verbs into 16 transitive verbs consisting of 16 verbs that need an object such as love, loves, loved, like, said, say, felt, mean, make, used, accomplished, made, believe, want, wanted, and imagine. Intransitive verbs consist of the highest five

frequency of words that do not need an object such as looking, talk, looks, wonder, and happen. Transitive and intransitive verbs consist of 29 verbs such as married, marry, marrying, see, saw, seen, met, hear, feel, know, thought, think, comprehend, knew, knows, do, sort, reigns, give, find, did, thrown, seems, refuse, plays, opened, grown, wish, and wishing.

The researchers conclude that the adjectives, nouns, and verbs that attach to word [woman] in Jane Austen novels are closely related to the domestic sphere and their quality of being strong, logical, and intellectual. Eventually, based on the corpus data and the three types of part of speech analysis, the researchers conclude that [woman] in Jane Austen literary works had both qualities of being an ideal [woman] in the 18th century, at the same time [woman] appear to be strong, logical and intellectual.

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