

JANE AUSTEN'S CATHERINE IS DEVOTED WOMEN IN *NORTHANGER ABBEY**Dr. R Sujatha Rani, Professor, RK College of Engineering, Vijayawada***Abstract:**

The present paper is wished-for Jane Austen's a beautiful creature Catherine, a seventeen year old girl and her innocence in Northanger Abbey. The novel was a family entertainment and give details of innocent, imaginative village girl Catherine in her foolish thoughts. Catherine thinks life is like a Gothic novel at her village, when she attends 'bath' in England her real experiences bring her realistic life as an ordinary young woman. The novel is more clearly explains a village girl who gets a chance to meet many people at 'bath' matured herself from imagination to reality. Catherine comes to believe that, though novels may be enjoyable, their matter does not relate to everyday life. She suspected General Tilney as murderer of his wife later she was realized how foolish she had been thoughtfulness. Catherine is the symbol of love, loyalty and relationships during the contemporary time.

Key Words: Love, affection, imagination, innocence, realistic, truthful, honest.

Jane Austen was a Georgian era author who born on December 16 in 1775, best known for her social commentary in novels including *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Emma*. *Northanger Abbey* was the one of the family entertainment novels of her. Though she completed the novel in 1798-99 it was published in 1817.

Catherine Morland, a Seventeen-year-old girl born and bred in a small town named Fullerton, is the central character of the novel, *Northanger Abbey*. Jane pictures the character many qualities like *dedicated, loyal, trustworthy, dutiful, obedient, well-behaved, respectful, and submissive*. Catherine was one of the ten children in her family. And their family will be always called a fine family in a village. There are no gatherings, other city enjoyments in her village. There are no restrictions to children in her family. Her mother also allowed her to leave off. Reading novels is the only entertainment to her. So she spent most of the time for reading Gothic novels. At ten years old she was very strange and she was transmitted in the characters what she has read. Her innocence is understandable when she thinks life is like a Gothic novel. Next to that her real experiences bring her realistic life as an ordinary young woman.

Catherine was very pleasing, good looks and pretty personality in her village. So she was in training for a heroine from fifteen to seventeen. Her character is shyness, awkwardness and heart was affectation of kind. Meanwhile she is invited by the Mr. and Mrs. Allens who are her wealthier neighbors in Fullerton, to accompany them to visit the town of Bath and plays a part in the winter season of balls, theatre and other social delights. Bath is a town set in the rolling countryside of southwest England, known for its natural hot springs and 18th-century Georgian architecture. The town everywhere there is a great architecture and full of crowd. It is the principal inn of city, here a day never passes in which parties of ladies, quest of pastry, millinery, or even of young men, is not detained on one side or other by carriages, horsemen, or carts. It is the place of young people for enjoyment. As a village innocent girl everything is colourful to her. Every incident made her excitement. This is the big break to Catherine like small town girl and who has not known about outside of the world.

At Bath Catherine met a wealthy and clever young gentleman, Henry Tilney. She dances and converses about her Gothic novels to Henry Tilney. She slowly attracted the words of Henry Tilney. Later,

Henry does not attend one week the Bath then Catherine disappointed and hopes to see him again. Meanwhile Mrs Allen's old school friend Mrs Thorpe attends the Bath with her three daughters. Catherine meets her daughter Isabella, a cheerful and teasing young woman, and the two quickly become friends. Both talked much with enjoyment. With Isabella's company she tasted the sweets of friendship in an unreserved conversation. Mrs Thorpe's son John is also a friend of Catherine's elder brother, James, at Oxford where they are both students.

James and John joined without prior information in Bath. James spends with Isabella. He is in his dreams with Isabella. In the absence of Henry Tilney, Catherine accompanies with John, a vain and crude young gentleman who incessantly tells fantastical stories about himself. Mrs. Allen said to John about Catherine 'She is a most amiable girl; such a superior understanding! How fond all the family are of her; she is evidently the general favorite; and how much she must be admired in such a place as this'(45) It is one of the evidences for the character of the Catherine.

Henry Tilney then returns to Bath, accompanied by his younger sister Eleanor, who is a sweet, elegant, and respectable young lady. When Catherine finds Henry Tilney at Bath, her wits became 'cheeks only a little redder than usual.'(49) It shows her fondness, affectionate and realistic heart. She also meets their father, the imposing General Tilney who is strict and stiff retired general with an obsessive nature, and a sole surviving parent to his three children Frederick, Henry Tilney, and Eleanor. Catherine's beauty, honesty, patience and kind heart fascinated to Henry Tilney because he wants to marry her and offers her to stay his home, Northanger Abbey. Henry Tilney is sarcastic, insightful, moderately handsome and intellectual, given to clever remark and light flirtations that Catherine is not always able to understand or respond in kind, but he also has a compassionate personality and also good brother to Eleanor, which escort him to take a fondness to Catherine's immature frankness and sincerity.

But John Thorpe is not very happy about Catherine's friendship with the Henry Tilney, as they in the approved manner identify Henry Tilney as an opponent for Catherine's friendliness. Catherine tries to maintain her friendships with both the Thorpe and the Henry Tilney, though John Thorpe continuously tries to interfere with her relationship with the Henry Tilney. She loves Henry Tilney, she does that with all her heart without any confusion. So that she needs her own time before she commits for a relationship with him. She is firm with her values and believes system. She is organized yet, at times she is crazy. She may love to dance or sing with him. For that Henry Tilney's questioning upsets Catherine and put her in the discomfited of having to explain herself to the Henry Tilney.

For the moment Isabella and James become engaged. Though James's father approves of the match offers him country parson's living of a modest sum in annually, that it will take in two and a half years to marry. It makes Isabella dissatisfaction. She thinks Mr and Mrs Allen's property goes to Morland's family and also offers Catherine to marry her brother John. Catherine rejected her offer she could not tell a falsehood even to please Isabella. But here the situation is different because Isabella immediately changes her mind. When James goes to purchase a ring, with John Isabella begins to flirt with Fredrick Tilney, Henry Tilney's older brother. Innocent Catherine cannot understand her friend's behaviour, but Henry Tilney understands all too well, as he knows his brother's character and habits. The flirtation continues even when James returns, much to the latter's embarrassment and distress.

Though Isabella behaves abnormal and cancelled the engagement with James Catherine still linked within Isabella despite the fact that their hearts were at war. Catherine requested Henry Tilney to stop his brother Fredrick Tilney relation with Isabella. She felt distress for her brother's displeasure. In her discussion with Tilney she cried 'he does not know the pain he is giving my brother. Not that James has ever told me so, but I am sure he is very uncomfortable.'(146) But Henry Tilney opines no man is offended by another man's admiration of the woman he loves; it is the woman only who can make it a torment. Catherine immediately responses 'A woman in love with one man cannot flirt with another.'(146) In her

mind man have an uncanny ability to make poor decisions and do stupid things but not woman. As woman she will keep man on track and tell him when he is wrong can very well make or break her life.

Catherine is also seen as a humble and modest character, becoming exceedingly happy when she receives the smallest compliment. Innocently, she compares the Abbey with her novel reading, expects the abbey to be exotic and terrifying. Henry teases her about this, as it turns out that *Northanger Abbey* is pleasant and decidedly not Gothic. However, the house includes a mysterious suite of rooms that no one ever enters; Catherine learns that they were Mrs Tilney's, who died nine years earlier. In her mind filled with many questions mystery of Mrs. Tilney's death. 'Could there be any unwillingness on the General's side to show her over the Abbey?' (173) She is heartily weary of seeing and wondering. She decides that, since General Tilney does not now seem to be unnatural by the loss of his wife, he may have murdered her or even imprisoned her in her chamber. The house was very big there are many rooms every room was dark and arranged luxurious furniture because she thought there is a secret in every chamber. '...she could scarcely believe it, or overcome the suspicion of there being many chambers secreted.' (179) And another reason is when Catherine requested to Eleanor about her mother's death she replied her death has been for nine years. But she was also not at home 'I was unfortunately from home. Her illness was sudden and short; and, before I arrived it was all over.' (183) The unexpectedness of her alleged sickness, the absence of her daughter, and most likely of her other children, at the time all favored the possibility of her custody. Its origin jealousy perhaps, or wanton cruelty was yet to be unraveled. Immediately, Catherine starting to suspect and confirmed Tilney is the murderer. Innocently she started to search for those proofs of the General's cruelty, which however they might yet have escaped discovery at their dark rooms.

Unfortunately, Henry enters in the corridor and inquiry why she is there. He guesses her surmise and inferences, and informs her that his father loved his wife in his own way and was truly disturb by her decease. And also put in the picture of the situation then inform her though poor Eleanor was absent both Frederick and he were with his mother. She felt very shy how she thinks and behaves foolish 'with tears of shame she ran off to her own room.' (194) later she receives a letter from her brother that the arrangement of Isabella engagement with Captain Tilney and advises his sister think twice about the relation with Henry Tilney. Then she questions Henry 'Isabella has deserted my brother, and is to marry yours! Could you have believed there had been such inconstancy and fickleness, and everything that is bad in the world?' (200) It shows how Catherine keeps up her fondness and love with her brother.

But General Tilney forces Eleanor to tell Catherine that the family has an engagement that puts off Catherine from staying any longer and that she must go home early the next morning, in a shocking, inhospitable move that forces Catherine to undertake the 70 miles (110 km) journey alone and without even a servant to see to her safety. At home, Catherine is apathetic and gloomy. Her parents, unaware of her trials of the heart, try to bring her up to her usual spirits, with little effect. Meanwhile she has written a letter to Eleanor how she missed her a lot. 'I can finish my visit here, you know, at any time; or I hope you will come to me. Can you, when you return from this lord's, come to Fullerton?' (220) Two days after she returns home, on the other hand, Henry pays a sudden surprising visit and explains what happened. How General Tilney diverted his mind on the half truths of John Thorpe. He had believed Isabella to be exceedingly rich as the Allen's prospective heiress, and therefore a proper match for Henry.

In London, General Tilney ran into Thorpe again, who, annoyed and unimportant at Catherine's refusal of his half-made proposal of marriage, said instead that she was nearly penniless. Once again General Tilney furious on the half truths of John Thorpe, then returned home to send Catherine out. When Henry returned to *Northanger* from Woodston, his father informed him of what has happened and refuses to allow him to think of Catherine again. Every man needs a smarter woman to help him get through life in one part of a set. Catherine is not a deceitful. When Henry learns how she had been treated, he breaks with his father and tells Catherine he still wants to marry her despite his father's disapproval. Catherine is

pleased. On the other hand, relationships require making compromises. As a woman she decides to compromise. Finally, Catherine changed from innocence imagination to reality.

One can give details that Austen's making interest of the traits of devoted woman is engage in recreation during every portion of the novel. There are many examples within *Northanger Abbey* where Catherine and other characters intermingle with one another in their behavior.

References:

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