

**DISCOVERING THE ROOTS OF PRIDE AND
PREJUDICE IN JANE AUSTEN'S 'PRIDE AND
PREJUDICE' USING PRAGMATICS**

PhD DISSERTATION

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ABSTRACT

This dissertation studies the conversations of the characters in Jane Austen's novel, 'Pride and Prejudice', using pragmatics. Pragmatic language theory studies the use, purpose or intentions behind speakers' words. This study points out that using pragmatic strategies in studying literature is beneficial as it can help students gain language competence, produce utterances appropriate to the context and achieve their communicative goals not only in classroom performances but also in real life situations. The analysis discovers that the pragmatic strategies speakers use differ due to certain social constraints in that particular speech event. Speech acts performed by the speakers can convey more than one illocutionary force and the hearer needs to infer the intended illocutionary force. Searle's (1969) **Speech Act Theory** provides a bare frame to perform speech acts successfully. However, expansion of Searle's **Speech Act Theory** is necessary in order to perform more successful speech acts. Implicatures conveyed by the speaker can convey different implicatures to hearers due to certain factors. This dissertation examines these factors which influence the process that the hearer goes through. The findings of the analysis of the language of pride and the language of prejudice of this dissertation will be useful in the teaching of English literature as it can help students to develop their pragmatic awareness and promote their speaking skills simultaneously.