

## THE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN ASTON'S *THE SECOND MRS. DARCY* AND AUSTEN'S *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE*: AN INTERTEXTUALITY STUDY

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### Article History

Received:  
17 July 2023

Revised:  
24 July 2023

Accepted:  
26 July 2023

**Abstract.** In reading texts, whether literary works or non-literary works, the readers may find similarities between one text and other texts. These similarities create a connection which is called intertextuality. Fairclough (1989) stated that intertextuality is a part of the interpretation of a text based on Critical Discourse Analysis. There are three stages of Critical Discourse Analysis: description, interpretation, and explanation. This article is about an intertextuality in Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* and Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. The focus of this study is to find and classify the similarities between two novels, and interpret and explain the intertextual similarities between them. The findings show that there are 4 intertextual features that can be found in the data; introductory sentences, characters, settings, and plots. These show that Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* has several similarities which connect to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis, interpretation, intertextuality

### INTRODUCTION

*Prejudice* by adding a new story of The Darcies, a famous family in London, reflecting on Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy who is seen as an honorable man among the society. Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* appeared as if it is the new Comparative literature is defined as a study in which an individual is assigning two or more texts, whether they are literary works or not, to study and compare them using particular parameters to discover something about one or all of the things being compared. Damrosch (2009: 51-58) says in charting the forward trajectory of comparative literature, one way to get human bearings is to look to the past. It means that by gathering existed information in the past, one may understand that the previous information may be stated again in the present or future day. From the previous statements, it is common that authors may write similar idea taken from the previous or current history into their new literary work. This means that there may be no original idea in literary work, and since literary works are texts, it can be assumed that this situation may also happen in non-literary work text. As Barthes states that (1977: 146), "a text is a multidimensional space in which a variety of writings, none of them original, blend and clash", it can be said that an author may not necessarily have his or her original idea in writing his or her works. Such an artist may develop an existing idea into a new born idea. This shows that a text has relation with other texts. With this view, texts can be used as the object of this study since a text

may have similarities with other texts, one may use two literary works as his/her comparison objects.

Examining a comparison between one text and another text, one may use Critical Discourse Analysis. Critical Discourse Analysis is an interdisciplinary approach to the study of discourse which views language as a form of social practice and focuses on the ways social and political domination is reproduced in text and speech (Fairclough, 1995). Fairclough (1989: 109) states that there are three stages in doing Critical Discourse Analysis: description of text, interpretation of the relationship between text and interaction, and explanation of the relationship between interaction and social context.

Description is the stage which is focused on the formal features of a text. Formal features that can be found in a specific text can be considered as particular choices of the available options (e.g. of vocabulary or grammar) in the type of discourse that the text refers to (Fairclough, 1989:109). Since this study focus on literary texts, the formal features, then, are the intrinsic elements of literary texts such as characters, settings, plots, etc.

Interpretation is generated from a combination of what is inside the text and what is inside the interpreter, in the form of the representations which have already stored in human's memories or it may also be called as member's resources (MR). From this Critical Discourse Analysis' stage, the reader may find intertextuality that is the relation between a text and other texts.

Explanation focuses on the relationship between interaction and social context with the social determination of the processes of production and interpretation, and their social outcomes (Fairclough, 1989: 25). An interesting phenomenon of intertextualities may also be seen in Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* and Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. The similarities can be seen in the characters, settings and plot structure. Elizabeth Aston fictionalized the story of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. This shows that she writes a new episode of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and continuing episode of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Elizabeth Aston has written so many stories about the continuance of *Pride and Prejudice*. In *The Second Mrs. Darcy*, she uses the same plot and even the same introductory sentence as in *Pride and Prejudice*. It may be interpreted that Elizabeth Aston is a huge fan of Jane Austen's works. She imitates the way of Jane Austen's writing .

There is an article about intertextuality entitled *The Intertextuality and Intercultural Studies: A Case Study of "Pride and Prejudice", "Bridget Jones's Diary, and "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason"* by Gillis-Furutaka (2006). She uses Rayner et al. (2004)'s types of intertextuality: mimicry, parody, and homage. The focus is how to teach intertextuality for students with different cultures assumed to be in difficulty because of different background knowledge. The data sources used are novel and films. This study uses Fairclough's intertextuality to analyse two novels *The Second Mrs. Darcy and Pride and Prejudice*.

In conducting critical discourse analysis of Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* and Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, the present study attempts to find out the intertextualities of the two literary texts. Specifically, the study focuses on identifying the formal features of the texts, and since the data are literary works, the formal features are intrinsic elements of literary work. The formal features later become intertextual features of the two novels.

## METHOD

This research uses qualitative method in which the procedure of research produces descriptive data (Walliman, 2006:129). The data are selected from Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* (TSMD) and Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (PAP). There are 14 data which consist of 1 data on introductory sentence, 3 data on characters, 3 data on settings, 7 data on plots. All of the data show the relations between TSMD and PAP, and this is what Allen (2000: 1) states, "texts are lacking in any kind of independent meaning." This is called intertextual. As a part of intertextuality is interpretation (Fairclough, 1989: 141-152), the data are the results of interpretation, a creation of knowledge or information network by reviving the existing knowledge that has been stored in writers' memory and connect this information with the new one. This network is a tool to interpret the meaning of the new or latter text. In examining the data, Critical Discourse Analysis stages, description, interpretation, examination, are applied. First, the figures of texts in both novels are analysed by the stage of description. Second, the stage of interpretation, the writers as the interpreters interpret the novels and find the similar events which found in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy*.

Third, the writer will provide the analysis and explanations for the interpretations that have been made by the Critical Discourse Analysis stage, explanation.

Finally, the result of the Critical Discourse Analysis stages in describing, interpreting, and explaining Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* and Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* is done to find the intertextuality features between Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* based on Critical Discourse Analysis.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

With 14 data in different topics, this part is divided into 4: introductory sentence, character, setting and plot.

### 1. Introductory sentence

Introductory sentence is the opening sentence or the first sentence that can be found in a paragraph. A sentence in *The Second Mrs. Darcy*, page 1, line 1 to 2, refers to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* page 1, line 1 to 2. Elizabeth Aston, however, changes two words which can be said as prominent words. In PAP, the words *man* and *wife* are changed to *woman* and *husband* in TSMD

Aston uses the words *woman* and *husband* instead of *man* and *wife* because in TSMD, the female main character, Octavia Darcy, is emphasized as a young widow with no fortune at all, said by one of Octavia's friends who feels pity for her since her husband's death left no fortune for her because Octavia is childless for his husband. Thus, her friends and family suggest her to find a proper husband. Octavia's background makes her possible to get a proper husband since she was once a Melburys, a pretty well-known family from Lothian Street.

In PAP, most of the men of the story are looking for a proper wife, including Mr. Bingley, a young man with a great fortune looking for a girl who is suitable to be his wife.

It seems that Aston tries to show that a single woman also wants a proper man as a husband. This means that Aston has gender motivation in using the similar introductory sentence with Austen's PAP.

## 2. Characters

Authors have many ways to describe their literary works' characters. The style of characterization may recall or have similarity between one and other literary works. As appears in Elizabeth Aston's *TSMD*, Aston seems to imitate the way Austen characterized the main characters of *PAP*.

### 2.1 The description of the main character

Octavia Darcy, in *TSMD*, is described as a poor widow without any fortune, hated by her step-brother, Augusta Melbury, as her mother is considered to be nobody. Aston gives a more common situation by describing Octavia Darcy, as a step sibling of the Melburys. How the Melburys treats Octavia Darcy is a common circumstance since somehow people may do such harm to their step family. In *PAP*, Mrs. Bennet gives opinion about Elizabeth Bennet as the same with other siblings. She complains about Elizabeth Bennet's flaws, which is, in Mrs. Bennet's opinion, going to make her difficult to find a proper husband.

This can be said that Aston's way of describing the main character is not only a more common situation, but also the prominent characteristic of the main character, Octavia Darcy. Octavia has a noticeable characteristic that attracts other characters, like Lord Rutherford's first glance towards Octavia Darcy with her unusual height. It is the same with Mr. Bennet's way to describe Elizabeth Bennet who has a special trait as a very pretty woman to his friend, Mr. Darcy. It can be assumed that Aston wants to show that *TSMD*'s main character, Octavia Darcy, is not just an ordinary character, Octavia Darcy is illustrated as special as Elizabeth Bennet.

### 2.2 Name of Antagonist

As in *PAP*, Aston also gives an antagonist in *TSMD*. Aston does not just pick a random name, but she uses the same initial and first name of the antagonist in Austen's *PAP*. In *TSMD*, the antagonist is George Warren. This name has a similarity to Austen's antagonist in *PAP*, George Wickham.

It is described that George Warren has a bad reputation among other characters. The name 'George Warren', somehow, makes the reader recall the name of the antagonist of *PAP*, George Wickham. George Wickham is described as the arch enemy of Fitzwilliam Darcy.

Although Aston uses the same initial and first name as in *PAP*, she puts George Warren as the number one enemy of Octavia Darcy. George Warren is shown as a completely bad person who shows no respect towards Octavia. On the other hand, George Wickham, the antagonist of Fitzwilliam Darcy, is described in a good package. George Wickham is presented as a kind and attractive officer who stays in militia regiment in the place near to Elizabeth Bennet's residence.

That Aston uses the same first name and initial may make her readers summon up or recall the antagonist of *PAP*. She puts George Warren as the arch enemy of Octavia Darcy, and actually George Warren has nothing to do with Lord Rutherford. Aston describes the situation as the opposite of *PAP* which describes George Wickham as the

enemy of Fitzwilliam Darcy. George Wickham makes a good connection with Elizabeth Bennet, and in fact, Elizabeth Bennet has been attracted to him.

### 3. Settings: Setting of Places

In *TSMD*, one may find three similar setting of places to *PAP*: Hertfordshire, Meryton, and Netherfield.

#### 3.1 Hertfordshire

Hertfordshire is one of counties in London, and *PAP* mostly takes place in this county where the Bennets live. However, in *TSMD*, Olivia Darcy does not live in this county. Aston takes this place as Olivia destination for several times.

It seems that Aston wants to create a strong connection to *PAP*. Since the setting of time in Aston's *TSMD* is not far beyond *PAP*, the possibility of *TSMD*'s characters to meet *PAP*'s characters is big. And, indeed, Elizabeth Aston mentions some characters from *PAP* in *TSMD*.

#### 3.2 Meryton

Another setting of places which is also used in *TSMD* is Meryton. Meryton is Octavia Darcy's stop over to the Ackworth's family residence. In *PAP*, Meryton is only used for a temporary time.

Meryton is located in Hertfordshire. In *PAP*, Meryton is set as the place of militia regiment, and in Meryton, Elizabeth Bennet meets George Wickham for the first time. However, in *TSMD*, Meryton comes as the opposite of it. Meryton is only a place where Octavia is waiting for the carriage of the Ackworths to pick her up. It is clear that in *TSMD*, Meryton lost its meaning as an important setting like in *PAP* where the main characters are set to face the coming conflict(s).

#### 3.3 Netherfield

Along with Meryton, Netherfield is also located in Hertfordshire. Elizabeth Aston's takes Netherfield as her last setting of place in *TSMD*. In *PAP*, Netherfield is stated as a beautiful estate owned by Mr. Bingley, a friend of Mr. Darcy.

Aston is building a stronger connection to *PAP* by stating that Lord Rutherford is now the owner of Netherfield House, which in *PAP* is called Netherfield Park. Though Mr. Bingley's name is not stated in *TSMD*, it still can be seen that the Netherfield House which is leased by Lord Rutherford was Mr. Bingley's house due to the description that Netherfield House belongs to a family in the north.

### 4. Plots

There are several events from *TSMD* which is similar to *PAP*.

#### 4.1 Event 1: The Accidentally Meeting

Both *PAP* and *TSMD* describe the meeting between female and male main characters as an accidentally meeting.

In *PAP*, Elizabeth Bennet has no intention to introduce herself to Mr. Darcy because Mrs. Bennet, Elizabeth's mother, has only focused on Mr. Bingley since his arrival in

Hertfordshire, thus, the Bennets' sisters have no intention of any other guys. Mr. Darcy himself is not interested in Elizabeth Bennet due to her lack of beauty than her older sister. However, since Mr. Darcy is a friend of Mr. Bingley, and is so attractive, everyone starts to talk about him and Elizabeth Bennet begins to know him a little.

A similar event occurs in *TSMD*. Octavia Darcy does not know about Lord Rutherford at all until her new friend, Mr. Quintus Dance, tells her about who Lord Rutherford is. Octavia only sees Lord Rutherford from her seat in the stagecoach while Mr. Dance tells about Lord Rutherford. So does Lord Rutherford, he only passes a glance to Octavia Darcy since her height is unusual from another woman ought to be.

The difference from both events is that Octavia does not meet Lord Rutherford in a ball. Octavia meets Lord Rutherford when she is on her way to the Ackworths. Octavia sees Lord Rutherford goes down from his stage, and she notices Lord Rutherford since Lord Rutherford is so stunning that Octavia cannot bear to take a look at him.

#### 4.2 Event 2: The First Impression

In *PAP* Mr. Darcy is a man who has a great pride. Thus, this makes him disliked by everyone including Elizabeth Bennet. At first, she has no interest in Mr. Darcy that she accuses Mr. Darcy as a not amiable person,

Aston seems to bring similar event between Octavia Darcy and Lord Rutherford. Lord Rutherford has never thought that he will be dealing with Octavia Darcy as her opposition in parliamentary. Since Octavia Darcy has got a great fortune from her aunt, Octavia owns a place called Axby and she has a will in managing the representative in Axby.

Apparently, Elizabeth Aston illustrates this event as a support of her belief in Jane Austen's concept in *PAP* that people may fall in love with anybody no matter who they are.

#### 4.3 Event 3: The Interest in Female Main Characters

In *PAP*, Mr. Darcy is described as a man who finally forgets about his pride and begins to think about his opposite character, Elizabeth Bennet. At first meeting, Mr. Darcy is not interested in Elizabeth Bennet, but as the time goes by, Mr. Darcy's pride is dissolved by the image of Elizabeth Bennet. Lord Rutherford from *TSMD* is also the first who begins to think about the person whom he has never considered about, Octavia Darcy, his enemy in political business.

However, both in *PAP* and *TSMD*, both the male main characters are falling in love with the persons whom they never expected before. What makes it a bit different is that Mr. Darcy finds pleasure every time he has argument with Elizabeth Bennet, while Lord Rutherford finds that he is so much annoyed every time he has an argument with Mrs. Darcy before he finally falls in love with her.

#### 4.4 Event 4: The Rescue

Other similar event is the rescue conducted by the male main characters in both *PAP* and *TSMD* that Mr. Darcy and Lord Rutherford attempt to solve the problem of their loved ones.

In *PAP*, Mr. Darcy helps the Bennets family in finding Lydia Bennet who has been eloped with George Wickham.

TSMD also has this similar event. Lord Rutherford comes as Octavia's savior. George Warren has made a claim for Octavia's great sudden fortune. Octavia plans to give a fight but it is hard since she does not have enough evidence. Meanwhile, Lord Rutherford accidentally meets George Warren while he is in Oxford, and he overhears George Warren's plan about claiming Octavia's fortune, so Lord Rutherford makes an effort to make George Warren gives up his claim.

In certainty, Mr. Darcy will do any effort to help the one he loves the most, Elizabeth Bennet. And so does Lord Rutherford. In fact, Lord Rutherford is described that he has helped Octavia Darcy twice. Not only helping Octavia to fight against George Warren, but also helping Octavia to make her niece, Penelope Cartland, marry the one she loves. When a person is in a true love, he or she will do anything to save their beloved one from any trouble. Jane Austen has put this idea in *PAP* and it can be said that Elizabeth Aston agrees to this concept, then, she puts this heroic event in *TSMD*.

#### **4.5 Event 5: The Elopement**

One of the unforgettable events in *PAP* is the elopement of Lydia Bennet and George Wickham. Lydia Bennet is one of Elizabeth Bennet's younger sisters, and George Wickham, as has been in *PAP*:4:248-249:27-8 that he is the arch enemy of Mr. Darcy. This event comes up as an irony to Elizabeth Bennet since she knows that George Wickham is a very disagreeable man. Mr. Darcy has told Elizabeth about George Wickham and Elizabeth Bennet has not told anyone in her family about George Wickham's bad characteristics.

Similar to *PAP*, Charlotte Goulding is described as a young woman who falls in love with a man who has no lordship, no great fortune. Though it is not stated that Mr. Quintus Dance is also in love with Charlotte Goulding, it can be seen that the reason of the elopement is that Charlotte is a beauty. It can be assumed that elopement happens since it is impossible for the couple to have blessing from their parents, especially from the woman's side. It can be seen both in *PAP* and *TSMD* that the reason for elopement is that the possibility of getting blessing is so little since both the two men are not a good choice to be made as a husband.

What makes them different is that the elopement in *PAP* is directly related to the main characters since the elopement is involving Lydia Bennet and George Wickham, on the contrary, the elopement in *TSMD* is not related to any main characters. Charlotte Goulding is just a young woman who has been forced by her parent to please Lord Rutherford, but both Charlotte and Lord Rutherford do not care each other. And Mr. Quintus Dance is an architect whom Octavia met while she was in a journey to the Ackworths, Mr. Dance also works for Lord Rutherford as an architect of House of Chantry. Thus, both Octavia Darcy and Lord Rutherford actually do not care very much about their elopement since it does not affect them so much.

#### **4.6 Event 6: The Settled**

*TSMD* shows that most of the characters are having a happy ending. Not only Octavia Darcy and Lord Rutherford, but also Lady Sophronia and Mr. Forsyte, Lady Susan and her ex-husband, and Penelope Cartland and Mr. Poyntz. Other characters who are close to the main characters seem to have a good end in their relationship.

These happy endings are a similar event to PAP: Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy, Jane Bennet and Mr. Bingley, Lydia Bennet and George Wickham.

The ending of PAP is clearly beautiful. Everyone in the Bennets family seems to have a good ending. Presumably, a happy ending story gives a relieved feeling for the readers. Following this idea, Elizabeth Aston also gives TSMD a happy ending. Everybody around the main characters in *The Second Mrs. Darcy* are going to marry their lovers.

Elizabeth Aston seems to agree with this idea and extends it into her work by putting Octavia Darcy as a poor widow who suddenly inherits a lot of fortune and then, marries a rich nobleman, Lord Rutherford. It can be seen that Elizabeth Aston wants to emphasize Jane Austen's point about marriage that people should not choose a husband or a wife based on economic reason to increase the chance of happy family life.

#### 4.7 Event 7: The Feeling

PAP shows that Elizabeth Bennet is actually feeling sorry for Mr. Darcy since she rejected his proposal rudely. The fact, she did not know about him very well. When she comes to Pemberley, she is getting to know Mr. Darcy better and better that she finally thinks that Mr. Darcy is an amiable person. Elizabeth Bennet's affection for Mr. Darcy comes late that she thinks that it has already been useless. While in TSMD, Octavia Darcy is contrary to Elizabeth Bennet of PAP. Before Lord Rutherford proposes her, Octavia has begun to think about him.

Though Octavia Darcy had begun to think about Lord Rutherford before Lord Rutherford proposed her, it still can be said that both PAP and TSMD describe the female main characters have interest in the object that they have never thought. This means that Elizabeth Aston also implies the irony that happens in PAP. Elizabeth Bennet appears as a person who hates Mr. Darcy with all false information she has got from George Wickham, Mr. Darcy's enemy. However, in the end Elizabeth Bennet falls in love with Mr. Darcy and this can be seen as an irony. In TSMD, Octavia Darcy does not plan to have another marriage, but in the end, she marries Lord Rutherford, her opposition in politic.

## CONCLUSION

Briefly summarize, intertextuality is the relation between one text to other texts. Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* has several similarities to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* so that the link between them is created. The intertextual similarities between Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* and Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* that are examined in this study are *introductory sentence, character, setting of places, and plot*. The finding of the study can be seen in the following paragraphs.

First, Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* uses similar introductory sentence as in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Elizabeth Aston changes two words from Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* introductory sentence that are: *a man* into *a woman* and *wife* into *husband*. Second is the characters. Elizabeth Aston describes and characterizes the main character, Octavia Darcy, as the same as Jane Austen described Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice* using other characters' opinion about the main character. The similarity in name of antagonist is also found. In Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, the antagonist name is *George Wickham*. Not only first name, but Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* also uses the same initial of its antagonist, *George Warren*. Third, there



are three similarities of the setting of places of Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* that are: *Hertfordshire*, *Meryton*, and *Netherfield*. Fourth, for the plot, there are seven events in Elizabeth Aston's *The Second Mrs. Darcy* which are similar to Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. Those events are *the Accidentally Meeting*, *the First Impression*, *the Interest in Female Main Characters*, *the Rescue*, *the Elopement*, *the Settled*, and *the Feeling*.

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