
**BRITISH WOMEN'S SUPERIORITY TOWARDS SOCIAL CLASS
STRATIFICATION IN POST INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION ERA IN JANE
AUSTEN'S EMMA**

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ABSTRACT

Industrial revolution in Britain has fragmented people into a certain social class stratification namely; upper, middle, and lower class as reflected in Jane Austen's novel Emma. This paper is aimed at analyzing relationship between characters especially women in novel Emma and people's manner, attitude, way of thinking, view of life, social perception tendency in post-industrial revolution era in which the novel is written. Emma, Miss Taylor, and Miss Hawkins are representation of the British middle-class women who steadily keeps social limitation to show their existence in community by placing their social status as reference in socializing and interacting with other people. The higher social status people tend to adore and defy their position excessively by despising the lower class. As a result of this, they turn to be superior, more self-important people if they meet the lower-class ones in a social interaction.

Keywords: British Women's Superiority, Social Class Stratification, Industrial Revolution, Negative Manners in Socialization.

1. INTRODUCTION

Industrial revolution, which firstly takes place around 1760-1840 in Britain, is one of the important phases in English civilization history, since such revolution has changed fundamentally the whole nature and structure of English society. Industrial revolution is called revolution since it changes society both significantly and rapidly, and enormously transforms agricultural-based society to industrial-based society. The most immediate changes are in production, technology, as well as many pivotal inventions in transportation and communication. Industrial revolution --called as the century of enlightenment for its great achievement-- undeniably brings about some consequences which have never been predicted before either economically or socially. These impacts convincingly make a sense because the changing social system has affected social condition of society both from the good and the bad sides as stated by JH Plumb on his book *England in the Eighteenth Century* (1714-1815) as follows:

Profound changes in the economic life of the country must necessarily disturb its whole social structure, and the industrial revolution was no exception. Naturally, too, it spread a new attitude of mind to the old problems of society --poverty, crime, debt, disorder, and waste, --and, of course, a critical attitude to the ancient and inefficient constitutional machinery which bore so little relation to the needs of society.

(Plumb, 1957:84)

Positively, industrial revolution has served more various sources of wealth in which every individual has the same opportunity to make their own life better. It also stimulates

people to be more creative to develop their inventions to perfection in the upcoming years. Negatively, it produces many capitalists, members of English industrial society who own and control the means of production such as land, factories, machineries, and even work labors. They are new businessmen, tough and rugged in temperament, with drive and determinations, and as factory owners who tend to exploit labors, even children, and make good use of them, no matter the way is, as 'fuel' of the factory to reach effectiveness, efficiency, and remarkable quantity of output. Business capitalists get richer, more prosperous, and more individualistic, whereas factory labors get poorer and more exploited.

As a result of this, industrial revolution has automatically fragmented English society into several social classes namely, the upper class, the lower, the middle class. The upper class belongs to capitalists, industrialists, and bourgeoisies who are the owners of all business profits. The lower class is social class of factory work labors –better known as proletarians-- who have no control over the means of production in industrial revolution. Whereas, the middle class is represented by society having some occupations as government officers, military officers, merchants, teachers, engineers, writers, poets, playwrights, and so forth in which they are neither capitalists nor labors. In industrial revolution times, social and class structure of people are determined by their wealth, the wealthier they are, the higher social status they will automatically have.

Emma, a literary work written by an English novelist Jane Austen in 1815, is pointing out subject matter of the social class structure in Jane Austen's day. This is understandable enough since the author, Jane Austen, lives at a time of considerable social change as a part of logical consequence of Industrial Revolution. *Emma*, as a novel of manner, reveals the social condition of English society particularly middle-class women in how they behave, think, talk, and do that are represented by Emma, Miss Taylor, (Mrs. Watson), and Miss Augusta Hawkins (Mrs. Elton). The story of *Emma* shows us the importance of someone's class status in getting along and interacting with society amidst the industrial revolution. Jane Austen explores a lot of women in this novel beside three female characters mentioned above.

2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE THREE WOMEN IN JANE AUSTEN'S *EMMA* AT GLANCE

a. Emma Woodhouse

Twenty-year-old Emma Woodhouse is described as a beautiful, clever, and wealthy young lady with comfortable home and parents' abundant affection that makes her very seldom find difficulties in twenty years of her life. Emma is also spoiled by her family for being the smartest daughters of Mr. Woodhouse. For example, when at ten years old, she can answer the puzzle that her sister does not. "At ten years she had misfortune of being able to answer questions which puzzled her sister at seventeen (Austen, 2015:31)." She is the youngest of two daughters of a very affectionate and indulgent father that enable her to live in perfect happiness both sufficient material and affectionate necessities from her father as the middle-class family in English society structure as quoted.

"Emma Woodhouse, beautiful, clever, rich with comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessing's existence, and had lived nearly twenty one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her."

(Austen, 2015:5)

Mr. Woodhouse devotes his attention fully to Emma because no more daughter at home but her, Emma's sister has already got married and lived in London. The Woodhouse family is wealthy due to its very ancient descendant. Emma's mother has already died long time ago

when she was very young and then her mother position is substituted by another excellent woman as governess in that family named Miss Taylor as stated below.

“She was the youngest of the two daughters of a most affectionate, indulgent father, and had, in consequence of her sister’s marriage, been mistress of his house from an early period. Her mother had died too long ago for her to have more than an indistinct remembrance of her caresses, and her place had been supplied by an excellent woman as governess, who had fallen little short of a mother in affection.”

(Austen, 2015:5)

As a substitute of Emma’s mother in Woodhouse family, Miss Taylor has dedicated her self as a good mother by giving much motherly attention and affection to Emma Woodhouse for sixteen years. Their intimacy is more than just friends, so than Emma can do anything she likes. Miss Taylor gives Emma a lot of freedom and lets her decide to do as she wishes and exploits her ego; consequently, Emma lives freely and tends to be a selfish girl as quoted.

“The real evil indeed of Emma’s situation were the power of having rather too much her own way and disposition to think a little too well of herself; these were the disadvantages which threatened alloy to her many enjoyments. The danger, however, was at present so unperceived that they did not by any means rank as misfortunes with her.”

(Austen, 2015:5-6)

b. Miss Taylor

Miss Weston, later called as Mrs. Weston, is Captain Weston’s wife. She is characterized as woman who wants to live independently and freely in determining all her wills, her ways to act, and her ways to react and there is nobody who can rule over her but her self. She will never let somebody comment and criticize her behavior. She is also characterized as a high-tempered woman with illogical reasons. Mrs. Weston marries happily with Mr. Weston for he is a good, wealthy, outstanding man in society. The only regret Mrs. Weston feels after marriage is that her separation from her friends. She is not willing to lose happiness even a little bit from herself no matter what the reason is as quoted.

“She had resolution enough to pursue her own will in spite of her brother, but not enough to refrain from unreasonable regrets at that brother’s unreasonable anger, nor from missing the luxuries of her former home.”

(Austen, 2015:13)

Mrs. Weston thinks that marriage is just a means to achieve her personal subject of pleasure. From the start, she is a kind of an opportunist and defies the class status value.

c. Miss Augusta Hawkins

Miss Augusta Hawkins who is Mr. Elton’s wife is described as beautiful, elegant, highly accomplished, and amiable. She, later on called as Mrs. Elton, is the youngest daughter of a merchant living in Bristol with sufficient profit to have sufficient dignity. Her existence and status with her sufficiency as a daughter of a merchant have made her to live in higher class in society. She inclines to make good use of her beauty and merit to find dignity as well as convenience. She believes her possession will lift her up to be a respected lady in Bristol and bring her to live in convenience as quoted.

“The charming Augusta Hawkins, in addition to all the usual advantages of perfect beauty and merit, was in possession of independent fortune of so many thousands as would always be called ten – a point of some dignity as well as some convenience.”

(Austen, 2015:144)

Mrs. Elton is also a snobbish woman who is too proud of talking about her self, her modern, well-built house, and her wealth to people around. This arrogance can clearly be seen from, her conversation with Emma in describing every inch of her house to get Emma's attention and admiration as quoted.

“And the stairs, you know, as I came in I observed how very like the staircase it was; placed exactly in the same part of the house; I really could not help exclaiming! I assure you, Miss Woodhouse, it is very delightful to me to be reminded of a place I am so extremely partial to as Maple Grove. I have spent so many happy months there!” (with a little sigh of sentiment)” – a charming place, undoubtedly.”

(Austen, 2015:144)

She is also described by Austen as a self-important, presuming, familiar, ignorant, and ill-bred woman. Her character is getting worse since she gets married with Mr. Elton, a respected, rich gentleman of Highbury because her social status is raising up higher to the upper class as quoted.

“Such as Mrs. Elton appeared to her on this second interview, such she appeared whenever they met again: self-important, presuming, familiar, ignorant, and ill-bred. She had a little beauty and a little accomplishment, but so little judgment that she thought herself coming with superior knowledge of the world to enliven and improve a country – neighborhood, and conceived Miss Hawkins to have held such a place in society as Mrs. Elton's consequence only could surpass”.

(Austen, 2015:222)

3. WOMEN'S SUPERIORITY AND PRESTIGE TOWARDS SOCIAL CLASS STRATIFICATION DIFFERENCE

The thought nuance of a rigid social class stratification can be firstly seen from Emma's superiority point of view towards Mr. Robert Martin, a young farmer renting the farm of Mr. Knightly as quoted.

“That may be -and I may have seen him fifty times, but without having any idea of his name. A young farmer, whether on horse-back or on foot, is the very last sort of person to raise my curiosity. The yeomanry are precisely the order of people with whom I feel I can have nothing to do. A degree or two lower, and a creditable appearance might interest me; I might hope to be useful to their families in some way or other. But a farmer can need none of my help, and is therefore in one sense as much above my notice as in every other he is below it.”

(Austen, 2015:24-25)

Emma convinces that her class status in community is much higher than Mr. Martin. She talks so snobbishly to Mr. Martin, thinks that she does not have to get along with him, and mockingly underestimates Mr. Martin's occupation as a farmer. To her close friend, Harriet, Emma advises her to get along with Mr. Martin and all friends carefully. She should find friends who deserve for her socially because Emma considers that Harriet now is “a gentleman's daughter” for which she should keep her attitude, behavior, and character with tough dignity like when Emma's friends keep dignity of Mr. Woodhouse's family. This is actually “a soft advice” of Emma to Harriet for not socializing with Mr. Martin who is merely a farmer. As a matter of fact, Emma will say that Harriet should not be too intimate with Mr. Martin because it will ruin their dignity into the lower class of society as quoted.

“The misfortune of your birth ought to make you particularly careful as to your associates. There can be no doubt of your being a gentleman’s daughter, and you must support your claim to that station by everything within your own power, or there will be plenty of people who would take pleasure in degrading you.”

(Austen, 2015:25)

When Harriet keeps on getting along with Mr. Martin, she shows her disagreement to Harriet; she disagrees with what Harriet is doing. Seemingly, Emma defies and puts her class above everything. She emphasizes that Harriet and Mr. Martin are strikingly different, very different; Harriet has been living in the company of some very real gentlemen, meanwhile Mr. Martin has not. Those gentlemen’s status should be higher than Mr. Martin’s so that they are not supposed to live together equally as a couple. Of all Emma possesses -house, education, wealth, and many other things- are incomparable to him. These, in Emma's opinion, should be some consideration of Harriet for not continuing her friendship and relationship with the poor Mr. Martin. At worst, Emma insists on Harriet to look down on Mr. Martin as somebody else instead of a friend, Emma just assumes Mr. Martin as a very inferior man that must be neglected as stated below.

“I think, Harriet, since your acquaintance with us, you have been repeatedly in the company of some such very real gentlemen that you must yourself be struck with the difference in Mr. Martin. At Harfield you have had very good specimens of well-educated, well-bred men. I should be surprised if, after seeing them, you could be in company with Mr. Martin again without perceiving him to be a very inferior creature –and rather wondering at yourself for having ever thought him at all agreeable before.”

(Austen, 2015:27)

Emma requests Harriet to make a comparison of Mr. Knightly, Mr. Elton, Mr. Weston with Mr. Martin, a comparison between the rich and the poor as quoted.

“Mr. Knightly air is so remarkably good that it is not fair to compare Mr. Martin with him. You might not see one in a hundred with gentleman so plainly written as in Mr. Knightly. But he is not the only gentlemen you have been lately used to. What say you to Mr. Weston and Mr. Elton? Compare Mr. Martin with either of them. Compare their manner of carrying themselves, of walking, of speaking, of being silent. You must see the difference.”

(Austen, 2015:27)

In Emma’s eyes, the meaning of “a gentleman” should be interpreted as a man who has a high rank, welfare, and a significant social position in his society, it means he should be superior and come from high social status. With this kind of perception, Emma tries to build Harriet’s opinion that welfare is a reference of becoming a gentleman. Emma compares Mr. Weston, Mr. Elton, and Mr. Knightly with Mr. Martin, a comparison, in Emma's perspectives, between real gentlemen and 'ungentle men'. By using Emma's parameter, of course, they are not well-balanced, because the comparison is based on what they possess. Emma shows Harriet some farmer’s weaknesses. As a man from a lower-class status, Mr. Martin never thinks of his appearances and thinks of nothing but profit and loss and living a simple life with his family. It is quite different from the gentlemen who are totally attentive to their more progressive life, brighter future, promising business, outward appearance, way of behaving, and way of walking, way of speaking, and way of being silent as quoted.

“But there may be pretty good guessing. He will be a completely gross, vulgar farmer -totally inattentive to appearances and thinking of nothing but profit and loss.”

(Austen, 2015:28)

Emma’s superiority towards Mr. Martin is also well stated to Mr. Knightly someday, she basically tries to make a comparison between both men aimed at showing Mr. Martin's inferiority as stated.

“What! Think a farmer-and with all his sense and all his merit Mr. Martin is nothing more. Mr. Martin may be the richest of the two, but he is undoubtedly her inferior as to rank in society. The sphere in which she moves is much above his. It would be degradation.”

(Austen, 2015:51)

Emma keeps on with her conviction persistently that a Harriet is now “a gentleman’s daughter”, a gentleman’s daughter of Mr. Woodhouse. Therefore, she should socialize and get along with the same gentlemen’s daughters to maintain her higher dignity. In fact, Mr. Martin is only a 'classless' farmer who has nothing in comparison with Harriet; she is more superior to Mr. Robert Martin. She is not supposed to interact and get closer with a classless, penniless man, Mr. Martin, someone who, in Emma’s eyes means nothing as quoted.

“There can scarcely be a doubt that her father is a gentleman-and a gentleman of fortune. Her allowance is very liberal; nothing has ever been grudged for her improvement or comfort. That she is a gentleman’s daughter who is indubitable to me; that she associates with gentlemen's daughters no one. I apprehend, will deny. She is superior to Mr. Robert Martin.”

(Austen, 2015:51)

The pride of being a middle-class woman is also shown up by Mrs. Weston who is naturally reaching up to label as a wealthy and prosperous woman due to her marriage with Mr. Weston. Mrs. Weston, who is previously known as Miss Taylor, is only a governess in Mr. Woodhouse’s family. Because of her marriage, her existence is automatically rising along together with Mr. Weston’s upper social status. This changes her to be a new Mrs Taylor Weston. She is not “a previous Miss Taylor” anymore, a governess of the Woodhouses as well as Emma’s intimate friend. She, right now, has a new social status as “a Mrs. Weston”, a respectable wife of a gentleman Hartfield. Mrs. Weston changing social status to be a middle-class-minded woman affects her behavior, attitude, and way of thinking. She seems, just like other middle-class women in common, keep “the social boundaries” very firmly to differentiate her social status compared to others.

Mrs. Weston’s first inferior judgment begins towards Harriet Smith, a new intimate friend of Emma after Mrs. Weston leaves her away and get married with Mr. Weston. She thinks that their companion intimacy is a bad thing because they both can do no good each other as quoted.

“She is not the superior young woman which Emma's friend ought to be. But on the other day, as Emma wants to see her better informed, it will be an inducement to her to read more. They will read together. She means it, I know.”

(Austen, 2015:30)

Mr. Weston judges Harriet cynically not to get along with Emma any longer due to her inferiority as an orphan. She declared that Harriet should realize who she really is and reflects herself before making a companion with Emma, a girl with better social status. Harriet is 'only' a daughter of somebody who is sent to Mrs. Goddard’s school since she was infant, an orphan

from birth until the Woodhouse adopts her. The following statements describe more clearly how Mrs. Weston judges negatively the poor Harriet as stated below.

“But Harriet Smith -I have not half done about Harriet Smith. I think her the very worst sort of companion that Emma could possibly have. She knows nothing herself and looks upon Emma as knowing everything. She is a flatterer in all her ways, and so much the worse, because undersigned. Her ignorance is hourly flattery. How can Emma imagine she has anything to learn herself while Harriet is presenting such a delightful inferiority? And as for Harriet, I will venture to say that she cannot gain by the acquaintance. Hartfield will only put her out of conceit with all the other places she belongs to.”

(Austen, 2015:32)

The quotation above emphasizes Mrs. Weston’s point of view on Harriet, she thinks that their companion is the worst because Emma knows everything, meanwhile Harriet knows nothing; Harriet is ‘the woman of the worst’. Mrs. Weston also believes that Harriet cannot learn anything because of her inferior social status and is impossible to keep her acquaintance with Emma. Harriet should really be “thrown away” from Hartfield to “her own original community”, that is community of orphans.

Mrs. Weston’s disagreement with Harriet-Emma intimacy goes up to turning point by stating that their intimacy will never make any possible goods. Mr. Woodhouse, as Emma’s father, is the one who is responsible to stop their Harriet-Emma companion; they must be set apart for the betterment of Emma herself, otherwise she will loss all her pleasures sometime as quoted.

“But excuse me, Mr. Knightly, if I take the liberty--I consider myself, you know, as having somewhat of the privilege of speech that Emma’s mother might have had-the liberty of hinting that I do not think any possible good can arise from Harriet Smith's intimacy being made a matter, of much discussion among you. Pray excuse me; but supposing any little inconvenience may be apprehended from the intimacy, it cannot be expected that Emma, accountable to nobody but her father, who perfectly approves the acquaintance, should put an end to it so long as it is a source of pleasure to herself.”

(Austen, 2015:33)

Mrs. Weston’s pejorative minor judgment also “attacks” Mr. Elton who is also a gentleman and respectable man in Hartfield. She has the same opinion about Mr. Elton relationship with Emma; she thinks, however, Emma’s social status is higher in comparison to Mr. Elton’s. Mr. Weston’s inferior perception towards Mr. Elton is shown by saying that in all ways, Emma is greatly superior to Mr. Elton. The Woodhouses has been settled down for several generations, so they have very abundant and large field property in Hartfield. They have all conditions to be the family of the Hartfield. All people know well their social existence with much respect, and it has started long time ago since their very ancient family. No doubt, the Woodhouses is the generation of the Hartfield. Anyway, Mr. Elton is nothing and incomparable to Emma and the Woodhouses family, as he is still relatively new to be a respectable man. His ancient family is “unknown” and “unheard” as quoted.

“Perhaps it was not fair to expect him to feel how very much he was her inferior in talent and all the elegancies of mind. The very want of such equality might prevent his perception of it; but he must know that in fortune and consequence she was greatly his superior. He must know that the Woodhouses, had lived for several generations at Hartsfield, the younger branch of a very ancient family, and that the Eltons were nobody. The landed property of Hartsfield certainly was inconsiderable, being out a sort of notch in the Donwell abbey estate, to which all the rest of Highbury belonged.”

Another middle-class woman that can be mentioned in novel *Emma* is Miss Augusta Hawkins, Mr. Elton's wife who is, later on, frequently called as Mrs. Elton. As a wife of gentleman of Highbury, her existence amidst society has resided in "a new place" as "a Mrs. Elton", just like Mrs. Weston. She has a better new social status she has never had before. She is previously only a woman with a little beauty and more badly thinks of herself as a woman of superior knowledge of the world. She is an arrogant woman who is greatly showing off what she has by talking too proudly to everybody about all of her properties as a wife of a respectable man. As "a new member" of middle-class society, she apparently enjoys standing firmly in her new prestigious position and suffering from "a social shock", a social change with all consequences.

Mrs. Elton's arrogance is getting more and more terrible for her new position in her society. Her arrogance starts from her superior feeling to Emma-Harriet friendship and intimacy. Mrs. Elton does not understand why Emma should have a companion with a poor Harriet and cannot find any good reasons for it. Her obvious superiority is expressed by behaving gradually colder and keeping a distance with either Emma or Harriet. She is presumably afraid of her existence as 'a lady' of Mr. Elton degraded. She, just like Mrs. Weston, defends her prestigious status and maintains her social boundaries very strictly. Such unpleasant, cynical conducts result in Emma's dislike to Mrs. Elton as stated below.

"In one respect, Mrs. Elton grew even worse than she had appeared at first. Her feeling towards Emma Offended, probably, by the little of encouragement which her proposal of intimacy met with, she drew back, in her turn, and gradually became much colder and more distant; and though the effect was agreeable, the ill will which produced it was necessarily increasing Emma's dislike."

(Austen, 2015:222)

In addition to that, Mrs. Elton also badly looks down on Harriet due to her lower social position as an orphan, Mr. Elton and Mrs. Elton underestimate and shows their unpleasant manner to Harriet. In Mr. Elton's opinion, this is the result of Emma's refusal for his love that causes him to leave Highbury with much embarrassment. Their manners have changed Emma's opinion about Mr. and Mrs. Elton. No wonder, Emma and Harriet start to dislike them as quoted.

"Her manners, too -and Mr. Eltons- were unpleasant towards Harriet. They were sneering and negligent. It was not to be doubted that poor Harriet's attachment had been an offering to conjugal unreserved, and her own share in the story, under a coloring the least favorable to her and the most soothing to him, had in all likelihood been given also. She was, of course, the object of their joint dislike."

(Austen, 2015:222-223)

Mrs. Elton's negative prejudice against Harriet never ends until someday she has a conversation with Mrs. Weston. Both of them are talking and criticizing Mr. Knightly's opinion about Harriet. Mr. Knightly, is a gentleman, a very pure gentleman with very good manners and, perhaps, the only gentleman for Emma Woodhouse who never cares about any social class status. He is in the same opinion with Mr. Robert Martin in agricultural matter and enjoys socializing in his company with one of the employees, William Larkins. It does not make a sense to Mrs. Elton knowing the fact that Mr. Knightly can treat Harriet with respect, so she is very astonished of seeing it as stated in the following quotation.

"Insufferable woman!" was her immediate exclamation. "Worse than I had supposed. Absolutely insufferable! Knightly! I could not have believed it Knightly! Never seen him in her life before and call him Knightly! And discover that he is a gentleman. A little upstart, vulgar being, with her Mr. E. and her *caro sposo*, and her resources and all her airs of pert pretension. Actually, to discover that Mr. Knightly is a gentleman! I doubt whether he will return the compliment and discover her to be a lady" -

(Austen, 2015:220)

When Mr. Knightly suggests Mrs. Elton to make a musical club with Harriet because they both can play music well, Mrs. Elton wonders how it could be so. She does not believe what Mr. Knightly says about his ability in playing music, for her, it is a ridiculous, awkward idea she does not have to take it seriously. Mrs. Elton once again convinces that Harriet will never meet the social class equality with Mrs. Elton, who is considered much more superior in comparison to Harriet. All Mr. Knightly says are beyond her expectations as quoted.

"I could not have believed it! And to propose that she and I should unite to form a musical club! One would fancy we were bosom friends! And Mrs. Weston! Astonished that the person who had brought me up should be a gentlewoman! Worse and worse! I never met with her equal. Much beyond my hopes! Harriet is disgraced by any comparison. Oh! What would Frank Churchill say to her if he were here? How angry and how diverted he would be! Ah! There I am thinking of him directly."

(Austen, 2015:220-221)

Mrs. Elton perception about Harriet differs very strongly if compared to Jane Fairfax in the same matter of plying music. Jane Fairfax and Harriet have the same talent and the same ability in music, but Mrs. Elton seems to only appreciate and admit Jane's Fairfax. Again and again, the social status is the underlying reason for all differences. Different from Harriet, Jane Fairfax is a daughter of a Lieutenant in regiment of infantry who is, subsequently, adopted by a Colonel Campbell with his excellent education contribution and living a life amidst many well-informed people. For this reason, Mrs. Elton admires all Jane's strengths as quoted.

"Jane Fairfax is absolutely charming, Miss Woodhouse. I quite rave about Jane Fairfax, a sweet, interesting creature. So mild and ladylike-and with such talents! I assure you I think she has very extraordinary talents. I do not scruple to say that she plays extremely well. I know enough of music to speak decidedly on that point. Oh! She is absolutely charming! Miss Woodhouse, we must exert ourselves and endeavor to do something for her. We must bring her forward."

(Austen, 2015:223)

Mrs. Elton's different treatment towards Harriet and Jane Fairfax is the manifestation of her excessive superiority and blind interpretation of social class structure. Mrs. Elton superiority towards Harriet is not a case of music actually, but a case of status since she does not concede a classless orphan, a talented Harriet, vice versa, she admits a talented Jane Fairfax due to her higher social status. If they, Harriet, and Jane Fairfax, came from the same class, Mrs. Elton's appreciation and recognition will, of course, be the same.

4. CONCLUSION

As the excess of industrial revolution in England which has segmented social class status as reflected in Jane Austen's *Emma*, the women characters in the novel act, behave, talk so snobbishly that make everyone else feel humiliated. Emma, Mrs. Weston, and Mrs. Elton

are the portrayal of superior women in the novel that adore their dignity much higher compared to somebody else based on the better social class status. In any social interaction all of them tend to differentiate their friends, partners, couples, parents, families, and people around to get along with on the basis of social class, whether they are from upper class, middle, or lower. What there is in the women's mind is that upper class people gather with the same class, middle class persons deserve middle class ones, and lower-class society should live and associate with their equal class. As a result of this, higher social class people prone to be too superior and proud of them selves and take somebody else with lower class for granted. Humiliating, mocking, despising, satirizing, and looking down somebody else are the reflection of social class-minded women in *Emma*. All can be appreciated and respected with better social status that somebody has in community.

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