

Abstract

Many novelists attempt to conceptualise diverse experiences from their own spaces about womanhood and marriage throughout the Victorian epoch. This study negotiates differing representations of womanhood and marriage in the early, mid and late periods of the Victorian age in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Emma*, Charles Dickens' *Hard Times*, Mrs Wood's *East Lynne*, Thomas Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* and George Moor's *Esther Waters* consecutively. This study investigates the differing concepts of womanhood and marriage in these particular novels, and traces the development of these concepts chronologically all through the age. Each writer tackles these concepts from his/ her own observations at each time, and although they bear some similarities, the differences are remarkable.

Keywords: Womanhood; Marriage; Victorian; Transformation; Conventions; Matrimony