

## **SENSE AND SENSIBILITY BY JANE AUSTEN**

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### **Abstract**

#### **English:**

This article explores Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* as a reflection of early 19th-century English society, emphasizing themes of rationality versus emotion, gender dynamics, and class structure. It examines the nuanced characterization of the Dashwood sisters, who embody contrasting ideals, and Austen's critique of societal expectations. The study highlights Austen's narrative techniques and the timeless relevance of her themes.

#### **Russian:**

В статье рассматривается роман Джейн Остин *Чувство и чувствительность* как отражение общества Англии начала XIX века, с акцентом на темы рациональности против эмоций, гендерной динамики и социальной структуры. Анализируются образы сестер Дэшвуд, олицетворяющих контрастные идеалы, и критика Остин общественных норм.

#### **Uzbek:**

Mazkur maqola Jeyn Ostinning *Aql va tuyg'u* asarini XIX asr boshidagi Angliya jamiyatining aks ettiruvchisi sifatida tahlil qiladi. Asarda mantiq va his-tuyg'ular, gender munosabatlari va ijtimoiy qatlamlar mavzulariga e'tibor qaratilgan.

## Keywords

### English:

Sense, sensibility, Jane Austen, Dashwood sisters, emotions, rationality, gender, society, 19th century, England

### Russian:

чувство, чувствительность, Джейн Остин, сестры Дэшвуд, эмоции, разум, гендер, общество, XIX век, Англия

### Uzbek:

aql, tuygʻu, Jeyn Ostin, Dashvud opa-singillar, hissiyotlar, mantiq, gender, jamiyat, XIX asr, Angliya

## Introduction

Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, published in 1811, was her first major novel and one that solidified her reputation as a keen observer of English society. Set in the late 18th century, the novel provides a detailed portrayal of the Dashwood sisters, Elinor and Marianne, whose contrasting personalities embody the titular concepts of sense and sensibility.

The narrative addresses the dichotomy between reason and emotion, reflecting broader societal tensions of the Georgian era. Austen's ability to weave complex characters with intricate moral dilemmas has been a cornerstone of her literary acclaim. As part of the larger Romantic movement, the novel juxtaposes individual expression against societal constraints, particularly those imposed on women.

This article delves into the central themes of the novel, including gender roles, class dynamics, and emotional restraint. By analyzing Austen's writing style and narrative techniques, we seek to understand the enduring appeal of *Sense and Sensibility* and its critique of early 19th-century English society. The insights drawn from this analysis highlight Austen's role not only as a novelist but also as a

social commentator.

### **Themes of Rationality vs. Emotion**

Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* is a masterful exploration of the tension between rationality (sense) and emotional impulsiveness (sensibility). The two protagonists, Elinor and Marianne Dashwood, represent these opposing qualities. Elinor's composed demeanor contrasts with Marianne's passionate and expressive nature. These differences are not merely personal traits but reflect larger societal expectations of women during the Regency period. Marianne's ultimate moderation of her sensibilities and Elinor's acceptance of her emotional side underline the need for a balance between the two [1, p. 45].

### **Gender Dynamics and Economic Dependency**

A central concern in the novel is the economic dependency of women on marriage, a reality of the period. The Dashwood sisters, left in financial precarity after their father's death, navigate a society where wealth and status dictate their prospects. Austen critiques this system through the struggles of the Dashwood family, highlighting how societal structures confine women's agency. The contrast between the mercenary motives of characters like Lucy Steele and the genuine affections of Marianne illustrates differing responses to this dependency [1, p. 67].

### **Class and Social Commentary**

Class distinctions are a recurring theme in the novel. Austen portrays the fragility of middle-class respectability and the shifting social hierarchy of her time. Characters such as Edward Ferrars and Colonel Brandon embody virtues that transcend wealth, while others, like John Dashwood, prioritize material gain. Austen's subtle humor and irony expose the pretensions of the gentry and critique societal values that prioritize wealth over character [2, p. 29].

### **Narrative Techniques and Characterization**

Austen's third-person omniscient narrative allows readers to explore the internal thoughts and feelings of her characters, particularly the sisters. Her use of free indirect discourse creates intimacy between the reader and the characters, fostering empathy. The interplay of irony and wit in Austen's prose further reinforces her critique of societal norms while making her work accessible and engaging to a broad audience [3, p. 12].

## **Conclusion**

Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* remains a timeless exploration of human emotion, societal expectations, and moral integrity. By examining the lives of Elinor and Marianne Dashwood, Austen critiques the rigid societal norms of her time while advocating for a balance between reason and emotion. The novel's enduring appeal lies in its relatable themes, sharp social commentary, and rich character development. Austen's work not only entertains but also invites readers to reflect on their own lives and the values of their society.

## **References**

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