**Satire**: A literary manner which blends a critical attitude with humor and wit to the end (purpose) that human institutions/humanity may be improved.

 Horatian Satire: a comedy of manners, polite, gentle, smiling, aims to correct by gentle and broadly sympathetic laughter

 Juvenalian Satire: biting, bitter, angry; it points with contempt and moral indignation to the corruption and evil of men and institutions.

Jane Austen's satirical book *Pride and Prejudice* has been famous for its views of marriage and love for many years. Her in-depth knowledge of how gentry and the upper class worked in the early 1800's allows her to create a story with settings very common at that time, while still imposing messages to the reader. Austen's language in the Pride and Prejudice, in respect to word choice, topic and technique, mimics the extremely limiting social practices of her time. As Dorothy Van Ghent describes it in her essay "The English Novel: Form and Function", "marriage means a complex engagement between the marrying couple and society- that is, it means not only 'feelings' but 'property' provides the necessary articles of this other marriage."

The language that Jane Austen uses more than often has several meanings, or means the complete opposite of what it says. The first sentence in the book- "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be I want of a wife"- proves to be a reversal of the truth (Austen 1). Instead, it is the women who seek a husband of good fortune, and attempt to gain his favor. These small reversals show Austen's mastery of the language, and imply that what is often generally accepted and thought of is simply a fantasy.

The language which Austen and her characters use, and the meaning behind it, is summed up in a single quote by Dorothy Van Ghent: "Below language we do not descend, except by inference, for, in this definitively social world, language is the index of behavior, the special machine which social man has made to register his attitudes and organize his dealings with others." The language a person uses shows their character, behavior, and qualities- both good and bad. It is through what they say that the reader is able to decipher their true disposition. Mr. Collin's is an example of a man who believes he is intelligent and respected, but through his senseless speech to Elizabeth upon his proposal, shows what a foolish man he is.

Through careful word choice and delicate situations, Austen exposes faults and pokes fun at the middle and upper classes in their search for love, marriage, and money. In her own narrative diction, Austen uses satire and sarcasm. Through the speeches and conversations of her characters, she reveals their true greed and feelings. The reader learns that in the gentry and aristocracy of the nineteenth century took marriage as a financial proposition, and even though they liked to imagine love and romance, it did not normally happen. The language of the individuals reveal their personalities under the conduct and formalities that their class forces on them.