Jane Austen has been praised for the remarkable artistic control she exercises over her medium, for an almost faultless and precise adjustment of means to ends. Her art has been studied from various points of view, ever yielding a rich critical harvest. However, there still are possibilities of fresh approach. The present work seeks to study six of her major novels from a new critical angle i.e. in the light of the critically important concept of the narrative perspective. No doubt the concept has been applied to the study of her novels but in a casual manner. In the present work a complete and detailed study of her major works has been made with a view to highlighting their varying and shifting narrative perspective in accordance with the needs of the stories. It is felt that such a study would reveal some of the rich complexities of those novels, and indicate important sources of aesthetic delight in them.

Textual references are to the Penguin editions of the six novels. This has been done in view of their easy availability. The more scholarly edition by Chapman was also constantly used during the course of the study.