ABSTRACT

Masculinity has been studied as a part of literature since the seventies of the twentieth century. Before 1970s, it was studied as a part of sociology and anthropology and other humanities. Sociologists and anthropologists have found that there is no one pattern of masculinity. Different societies construct masculinity differently. Even, the conception of masculinity differs from one historical period to another. Literature is a current and recent area for those who are interested in the study of masculinity. As a customary field of studying every phenomenon in society, literature plays a vital role to reflect masculinity as a product of different ages and societies.

Victorian period witnessed huge changes in every field of life including literature. The gender roles in society have been changed according to the policy of public and private spheres. Literature has presented the Victorian masculinity as seen by both men and women of the Victorian society. The present thesis investigates the concept of masculinity in the novels of Charlotte Bronte and Jane Austen. This study is divided into seven parts; introduction, five chapters and conclusion.

Chapter one is devoted to the concept of masculinity. A glimpse is given on the history of studying masculinity. A part of this chapter discusses the relation of masculinity to femininity since another kind of masculinity is the one which is perceived by women. Different types of masculinities are mentioned in this chapter, but a great deal is given to hegemonic masculinity.

Chapter two is devoted to Victorian and Gentleman Masculinity. This chapter is divided into four parts; the term ‘Victorian’, gender roles, Victorian masculinity, and Victorian gentleman.

Chapter three is devoted to studying masculinity in the novels of Charlotte Bronte; Jane Eyre and Villette. This chapter reveals the literary position of Charlotte Bronte. This chapter, also discusses the techniques used by Charlotte Bronte to construct masculinity differently from the Victorian one.

Chapter four is devoted to studying masculinity in the novels of Jane Austen; Pride and Prejudice and Emma. This chapter reveals the literary position of Jane Austen. This chapter also discusses the techniques used by Jane Austen to construct masculinity differently from that of the early Victorian masculinity.
Chapter five is devoted to the comparative analysis of Masculinity in the novels of Charlotte Bronte and Jane Austen, *Jane Eyre, Villette, Pride and Prejudice, and Emma*. This chapter is divided into four parts; a comparison between Jane Austen and Charlotte Bronte, a comparison between Charlotte Bronte and Jane Austen’s construction of masculinity, Charlotte Bronte and Jane Austen’s techniques to construct masculinity, and different techniques while constructing masculinity used by Charlotte Bronte and Jane Austen.

The final part of the present thesis is the conclusion of the study. A brief summary is given on the concept of masculinity and how it is conceived in the Victorian period as well as by Charlotte Bronte and Jane Austen. It presents a summary of the techniques used by the two novelists to construct masculinity. The researcher sums up the novel attempt of both Austen and Bronte to redefine masculinity differently from the traditional masculinity perceived in all patriarchal society, namely the Victorian society.