A STUDY ON IRONY IN JANE AUSTEN'S NOVEL

EMMA

A THESIS

As Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English Language Teaching Faculty

By:

DEWI ROSARIA INDAH

1213098120

UNIVERSITAS KATOLIK WIDYA MANDALA SURABAYA

FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN

JURUSAN PENDIDIKAN BAHASA DAN SENI

PROGRAM STUDI PENDIDIKAN BAHASA INGGRIS

JANUARY, 2004
This thesis entitled *A Study on Irony in Jane Austen’s Novel “EMMA”* prepared and submitted by Dewi Rosaria Indah has been approved and accepted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana Pendidikan degree in English Language Teaching by the following advisors,

---

Dr. Agustinus Ngadiman  
First Advisor

Dra. M.N. Siti Mina Tamah, M.Pd.  
Second Advisor
This thesis has been examined by the committee on Oral Examination with a grade of on 20th of January 2004.

Drs. Antonius Gurito
Chairman

Drs. Hendra Tedjasuksmana, M.Hum.
Member

Mateus Yumarnamto, S.Pd., M.Hum
Member

Dr. Agustinus Ngadiman
Member

Dra. M.N. Siti Mina Tamah, M.Pd
Member

Approved by

Dr. Agustinus Ngadiman
Dean of the Teacher Training Faculty

Dra. Susana Teopolus, M.Pd.
Head of the English Department
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, the writer would like to express her gratitude to God for His blessings during the process of writing this thesis. The writer would not be able to finish doing this study without His help.

The writer would not forget her deepest regards and gratitude to her parents and her family who always support and encourage her to finish her thesis.

Furthermore, the writer’s indebted gratitude goes to her first advisor, Dr. Agustinus Ngadiman, who has been outstandingly patient and understanding in guiding and suggesting ideas for the improvement of this thesis and her second advisor, Dra. M.N. Siti Mina Tamah, M.Pd., who has devoted her valuable time and advice that enables the writer to finish this thesis.

Last but not least, the writer would like to thank to her friends, Titis, Mbak Ita, Anggia, David, Cherril, and Santi, Anita, and Anissa who give her spirits and encouragements to her accomplishment of this thesis.

The Writer
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Approval Sheet (1) ................................................................. i
Approval Sheet (2) .............................................................. ii
Acknowledgements .............................................................. iii
Table of Contents ............................................................... iv
Abstract .............................................................................. vii

Chapter I Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study ................................................ 1
1.2 Statement of the Problem .............................................. 7
1.3 The Objective of the Study ............................................. 7
1.4 Significance of the Study ................................................. 7
1.5 Scope and Limitation ...................................................... 8
1.6 Theoretical Framework .................................................. 8
1.7 Definition of Key Terms ................................................ 9
1.8 Organization of the Thesis ............................................. 10

Chapter II Review of Related Literature

2.1 Irony ............................................................................. 11
  2.1.1 Verbal Irony ............................................................ 12
  2.1.2 Dramatic Irony ........................................................ 15
  2.1.3 Situational Irony ...................................................... 16
  2.1.4 Cosmic Irony or Irony of Fate ................................. 16
Chapter III Research Methodology

3.1 The Nature of the Study.............................................21
3.2 Research Design.....................................................22
3.3 The Source of the Data.............................................24
3.4 Research Instrument...............................................24
3.5 The Data Collection Procedure.................................24
3.6 The Procedure of Analyzing Data...............................25
3.7 The Data Analysis Technique.................................25

Chapter IV

4.1 The Verbal Irony.........................................................27
   4.1.1 The Verbal Irony using Comparison..............................27
   4.1.2 The Verbal Irony using Illustration..............................29
   4.1.3 The Verbal Irony using Ambiguity.............................31
   4.1.4 The Verbal Irony using Contrast.................................37
   4.1.5. The Verbal Irony using Overstatement.........................38
4.2 The Dramatic Irony....................................................41
   4.2.1 The Dramatic Irony about Emma Woodhouse, Harriet Smith, Mr. Elton.....................................................41
   4.2.2 The Dramatic Irony about Frank Churchill and Jane
ABSTRACT

Indah, Dewi Rosaria 2003. A Study on Irony In Jane Austen’s Novel Emma
S-1 Unpublished Thesis. The English Department of Widya
Mandala Catholic University Surabaya

Advisors: (1) Dr. Agustinus Ngadiman
(2) Dra. M.N. Siti Mina Tamah, M.Pd.

Key Words: Novel, verbal irony, dramatic irony, situational irony

Learning literature gives a chance to see the world outside and a mirror to see insight. This study uses a novel by Jane Austen, Emma for she is a great woman novelist with outstanding achievement. She wrote the life around her as it was. Emma is one of her works that presents an ironic fiction. Emma confirms Jane Austen’s achievement as the perfect ironist to make her heroine have experience that makes her behave within a double vision of judgment.

Related to that, this study tries to find the ironies in Emma and also categorize them into their forms. In the findings of the ironies and categorizing them into their forms, this study includes some theories related to irony, which are verbal irony, dramatic irony, and situational irony, twist of fate irony, and point of view irony. This study is aimed at the findings of ironies that can happen in the relationship of the main character, Emma Woodhouse with the other characters. However, this study limits the findings to find the three major ironies, which are verbal irony, dramatic irony, and situational irony.

To help the analysis of the novel, the writer used the literary analysis and the intrinsic approach. The writer also used Roberts & Jacobs’ and Perrine’s three major classifications of irony, verbal irony, dramatic irony, and situational irony as a parameter to the findings.

From the analysis, the verbal ironies are found in various forms. The characters in the novel use the verbal ironies using comparison, illustration, ambiguity and contrast, and overstatement. They are used to get certain purposes and intentions. Comparison is used to belittle someone and at the same time to get rid of him out of one’s head. Illustration is useful to persuade and to drive someone to do what one wants. Ambiguity can be a means to address someone indirectly and to deceive. Contrast is used to show what one feels because of someone. Overstatement can be used to refuse an idea with deceive reasons.

There are four dramatic ironies and four situational ironies found. The dramatic ironies and the situational ironies happen mostly due to misinterpretation, self-delusion, and blunders of the main character, Emma Woodhouse.

Eventually, from the analysis made, it can be concluded that verbal irony can be useful to get particular purposes. To find the dramatic irony needs sensitivity to understand sentences and what they imply. And the situational irony
reminds that an expectation does not always meet reality. Human traits also give contribution to irony.

The Writer