

# Self-Actualization In Jane Eyre's Main Character: A Feminism Study

*By Lin Jin*

## Self-Actualization In Jane Eyre's Main Character: A Feminism Study

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### ABSTRACT

This study focuses on Charles Fourier's feminism and Maslow's self-actualization. The writers concentrate on Maslow's self-actualization theory's self-esteem prerequisite and five personality traits in this study. This study is qualitative research, and it employs descriptive-analytic methods. This study examines Jane Eyre's utterances and actions to uncover her personality traits in the novel Jane Eyre, to analyze Jane Eyre's inner feminist thinking. It is worth emphasizing that this research uses feminism as the theoretical background to explain the personality characteristics of Jane Eyre's inherent self-actualization. A conclusion was reached at the end of the discussion. Jane Eyre satisfies the need for self-esteem, has a self-esteem personality, and expresses the five self-actualization personality traits. Five of them are perceiving reality, accepting the self and others, being problem-centrist, independent, resisting, and criticizing the existing social culture. This research serves as a reference for studying feminist thought and is limited to looking at its thoughts through inner personality traits, suitable for providing references for people who want to know how to achieve self-actualization in society.

**Keywords:** feminism, novel, self-actualization

### ABSTRAK

Studi ini terfokus di dalam teori Charles Fourier tentang feminisme dan teori Maslow tentang aktualisasi diri. Penulis berkonsentrasi pada prasyarat harga diri teori aktualisasi diri Maslow dan lima ciri kepribadian dalam penelitian ini. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif dengan metode deskriptif-analitik. Penelitian ini mengkaji tuturan dan tindakan Jane Eyre untuk mengungkap ciri-ciri kepribadiannya dalam novel Jane Eyre, sehingga dapat menganalisis pemikiran feminis batin Jane Eyre. Perlu ditekankan bahwa penelitian ini menggunakan feminisme sebagai latar belakang teori untuk menjelaskan karakteristik kepribadian dari aktualisasi diri yang melekat pada Jane Eyre. Sebuah kesimpulan telah dicapai di akhir diskusi. Jane Eyre memenuhi kebutuhan akan harga diri, memiliki kepribadian harga diri, dan mengungkapkan lima ciri kepribadian aktualisasi diri. Lima di antaranya adalah

mempersepsikan realita, menerima diri sendiri dan orang lain, berpusat pada masalah, mandiri, melawan, dan mengkritisi budaya sosial yang ada. Penelitian ini menjadi acuan untuk mempelajari nilai feminis, dan sebatas mempelajari pemikirannya melalui ciri-ciri kepribadian batin, yang cocok untuk memberikan referensi bagi orang-orang yang ingin mengetahui bagaimana mencapai aktualisasi diri dalam masyarakat.

**Kata kunci:** feminisme, novel, aktualisasi diri

## INTRODUCTION

Charlotte Bronte published *Jane Eyre* in 1847. The novel's protagonist, Jane Eyre, is influenced by the cultural status quo of male-female imbalance. Jane Eyre, for example, accepts schooling in a women-only institution. We may also see the unequal work propensity of men and women in the distribution of schooling. Boys' education was valued more in Victorian England, and they were taught academic and practical skills, while girls were taught sewing, embroidery, sketching, and music (A.P., 2017). Women are attracted to males or marry to raise their social status and face various societal limitations (Ignatius, 2002). Jane Eyre possesses self-actualization personality traits due to her attempts to pursue equality and realize the ideal equality between men and women. Self-actualization refers to the full realization of one's potential and some areas of one's ability growth and appreciation for life. This concept is at the top of Maslow's hierarchy of wants; yet, not everyone achieves it (Perera, 2020).

According to the Global Gender Gap Report data, in the 2020 rankings, Indonesia is ranked 85th out of 153 countries (Devina, 2020). In other words, inequities exist between men and women in Indonesia, which is why feminism subject is still worth researching. In education and economics, there are some examples of inequality. For example, the proportion of women receiving higher education is lower than that of men due to gender disparities. Within the private and public arenas, including their efforts to achieve higher education, Indonesian women are endowed with patriarchal ideals and standards (Priyatna, 2016); Indonesia, for example, has already had a female president, and also a female foreign minister and a female finance minister in Retno Marsudi and Sri Mulyani, respectively (Afriani, 2020). The government came up with several solutions based on these situations, such as women's entrepreneurship enterprises (Melissa, 2015). Not only does this business have the ability to help women become financially independent, but it also inspires women to be more self-actualized on a deeper level (Melissa, 2015).

The self-actualized personality assists women in cultivating their self-cultivation, that is, improving their self-esteem in their families and communities. It has the potential to raise women's status in society (Melissa, 2015). In general, it demonstrates the importance of possessing self-actualized personality qualities. Feminism is also a theory that advocates for equality between men and women and improves women's status in society (Crossman, 2019). Maslow's theory of self-actualization comprises personality traits. Feminism's goal is to create equality by enhancing women's positions. On the other hand, self-actualization personality

traits can help women increase their social position. This is how feminism and self-actualization are linked. Many literary works, such as Currer Bell's novel *Jane Eyre*, highlight the current inequality of women and men by using social status as a backdrop to make demands and try to discover answers.

With her book *Plan for Improving Female Education*, published in 1819, Emma Willard was the first woman to do some breakthrough work on the social reform of women's roles. A first but succinct feminist program was part of her efforts. Her other demands were equal rights and thinking independence for men and women. Feminism, as defined by Charles Fourier, is applied in this study. Feminism believes that men and women should be treated equally in social, political, and economic matters (Crossman, 2019). Liberal feminism, radical feminism, and Marxist feminism are all discussed in this study. Liberal feminism includes free rights for women raised by Rosemarie in 1989 and equal education and employment (Karen, 2008). Radical feminism is a term that relates to patriarchal society and urges women to oppose patriarchal oppression (Lerner, 1989).

Maslow's self-actualization is also utilized in this study. There is a feminist perspective to the concept of self. Kaschak (1992) believes the self as "self-in context." The self has always been essential in feminist philosophy since it is central to personhood, identity, body, and agency that feminism must address. This self-concept maintains illiberal disparities by educating women to prioritize economic success and social freedom in a way that necessitates the continued exploitation of other, less fortunate women (Johanna, 2016). Through these, we can know that part of the content of the self-overlaps with the ideas advocated by the feminist ideology mentioned in the previous paragraph. Maslow's self-concept also includes personality traits for self-sufficiency. Maslow outlined five levels of needs that should be met during a person's lifetime. Physiological needs, safety needs, belonging and love needs, esteem needs, and self-actualization needs are among them (Duanne, 1977). The writers employed esteem needs and self-actualization in this current research. Individual needs to be valued in their lives to respect themselves as desire, self-confidence, independence, and freedom; according to (Farozin & Fathiyah, 2004), the following are some of the personality qualities of self-actualization people mentioned in this study: perceiving reality, being problem-centrist, accepting self and others, being independent, resisting and criticizing existing social culture. Therefore, this paper examines the self-actualization personality traits that *Jane Eyre* possesses from a feminist perspective.

## METHOD

The writers use the analytical method of qualitative research. Qualitative research is a sort of social science research that aims to interpret meaning from non-numerical data to better understand social life by researching specific groups or regions (Crossman, 2020). This research takes *Jane Eyre*, the heroine in *Jane Eyre's* novels, as the subject of research. The utterances and actions of *Jane Eyre* are analyzed to reveal *Jane Eyre's* personality traits and thought of feminism. The novel *Jane Eyre* serves as the research's data source. Charlotte Bronte,

a British female writer, penned it in 1847. It is an autobiographical piece that insists on self-actualization and eventually succeeds. Jane Eyre's e-books, downloaded from the Internet, were also employed in this study.

Data collection is critical for future analysis and discussion since it can bolster the following points. The writers began by reading the e-book and noting plots related to the studied subject. Second, the writers chose data by reading, picking fragments, sorting, and screening the information. The data should then be organized and classified. Finally, choose the most relevant facts for the topic and problem for this study. The data must be examined after it has been collected. This section mostly discusses the steps taken by the author to conduct this research. The writers thoroughly examine the data in accordance with the study's objectives. That is, based on associated theories, conduct a research analysis of the role's utterances and action. Self-actualization personality qualities are combined with feminist ideals by the writers. The writers divide Jane Eyre's analysis into the premise of a self-actualization person and five personality characteristics to make the research more systematic. Furthermore, it is organized into three components to help readers grasp the writers' assumption of self-actualization: self-respect, freedom, and independence. Perceiving reality, being problem-centrist, accepting oneself and others, being independent, resisting, and criticizing the existing social culture are the five personality traits involved.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

For readers to systematically understand the research results, there are two parts to make it more concise. The first part discusses the prerequisite for Jane Eyre to have a self-actualization personality: self-esteem, including self-respect, freedom, and independence. The second part discusses that Jane Eyre has the following five characteristics of self-actualization personality: perceive reality, being problem-centrist, accept self and others, independence, resist and criticizing existing social culture.

### **SELF ESTEEM**

According to Maslow, self-realization requires meeting people's self-esteem requirements acknowledged and respected by society. Self-esteem is a prerequisite for persons seeking self-actualization. Self-respect, confidence, competence, mastery, independence, achievement, adequacy, and freedom liberty are some of the internal needs of self-esteem (Maslow, 1954). The foundation of self-actualization is a natural need for self-esteem (Leavy & Adams, 1986). Jane Eyre's dignity is frequently questioned in the narrative. Jane Eyre has a strong desire for men and women to be treated equally to protect her self-esteem. Because self-esteem is only attainable if society recognizes and values one's accomplishment (Maslow, 1954). Furthermore, her self-esteem is an essential component of her self-actualization personality. In this section, the author examines Jane Eyre's self-esteem from three perspectives: the need for self-respect,



freedom, and independence, as well as from the action of fighting for her self-esteem to explore how she combats inequity.

### SELF-RESPECT

Jane Eyre is self-respect. When Jane Eyre was oppressed in an environment of unequal rights between men and women, she respected her inner thoughts and resolutely maintained her dignity. Jane Eyre does not feel inferior when interacting with people and dares to resist. She uses words to resist oppression, not accepting verbal insults. Jane Eyre shouted out to her cousin (p.12)

3  
*Wicked and cruel boy!* I said. *You are like a murder-er—you are like a slave-driver—you are like the Roman emperors!*

The words "wicked" and "cruel" strongly express Jane Eyre's anger. The word "murder" has an inner meaning, referring to Jane Eyre's self-esteem and personality being murdered. Although Jane Eyre is a woman, she is neither humble nor overbearing in the face of patriarchy. Jane Eyre expressed her feelings bluntly, describing her cousin as a full-time Roman emperor. Jane Eyre believes that verbal insults are an insult to her personality. She does not accept the so-called patriarchy. She filed complaints and expressed her displeasure with gender discrimination, and she was adamant about preserving her female dignity. That is exactly what Maslow stated. Jane Eyre possesses the main nature of self-esteem, which is what persons capable of achieving self-actualization should possess. Jane Eyre is a girl who believes dignity is an important component of her personality and is willing to be self-respecting. Jane Eyre also referred to her cousins as "Roman monarchs." It was a hegemony symbol with a lot of clout. It can be viewed as man's power. She wants to maintain her dignity despite her living in a culture where men and women are treated unequally. As a result, Jane Eyre's character might be seen here once more. She learned the value of self-respect and wishes to improve herself-esteem in order to escape the inequity of her environment.

### FREEDOM

Jane Eyre strives for speech freedom and inner liberation. Jane Eyre is confident and willing of her femininity. She considers all men to be created equal. Under the insult to her aunt, she has a high self-esteem behavior (p.52)

3  
*My soul began to expand, to rejoice, with the weirdest sense of liberation, of triumph, I had ever had before I concluded this remark*

She obeyed her own thoughts, gaining voice and heart freedom and dignity. When Jane Eyre speaks with Edward, she maintains her attitude, a yearning for equality expressed by women when oppressed by male-female imbalance. She requested Edward's permission to

speak freely. Everything is due to Jane Eyre's need for and preservation of self-esteem. As shown below (p.204):

*I don't believe you have the authority to command me simply because you are older or have seen more of the world than I have*

#### INDEPENDENCE

The independence indicated here differs from that mentioned in the following subtitle. This independence refers to material separate from self-esteem requirements (Fathiyah, 2004). Jane Eyre was not appreciated in this orphanage dedicated to females. She was desperate to break free from this "prison," to gain self-esteem and economic freedom. She believes that having financial freedom will help her acquire social esteem. This is why she aspires to promote gender equality via independence. (p.134)

*I had a private concern that by acting for myself and under my leadership, I would wind up in trouble, and, above all, I wanted the outcome of my efforts to be respectable, proper, and in accordance with the rules.*

#### PERSONALITY TRAITS

The writers examine various personality traits of Jane Eyre's self-actualization in this part. These characteristics include perception of reality, problem-centrist, acceptance of self and others, independence, resist and criticism of the existing social culture. The writers study Jane Eyre's personality features and discuss in-depth how Jane Eyre represents these self-actualization personality characteristics, using feminism as a theoretical backdrop. In other words, Jane Eyre has self-actualization in addition to feminist thinking.

#### PERCEIVE REALITY

Self-actualization people have the personality trait of being skilled at perceiving reality. In a girls-only school, Jane Eyre had unequal educational opportunities. She can, however, deal with the unpredictability of the situation. She has been abused, but she can understand the truth of her surroundings and make sound judgments about what is going on around her. Even she has excellent thinking abilities. She can foresee the future and develop a way to boost women's strength. All of this demonstrates that Jane Eyre possesses the personality traits of perceiving reality.

Jane Eyre is sent to an orphanage to attend school, where she receives little love but plenty of training. Her life is not a happy one for her. Fortunately, her feminist thought began to blossom, her personality traits became apparent in perception, and she began to think independently. She observes life and summarizes the situation of affairs. Jane Eyre's self

monologue in the novel (p.127) is as follows:

*My life was monotonous for the next eight years, but I wasn't unhappy because I was not idle. I had the means of obtaining an excellent education placed within my reach; a fondness for some of my studies and a desire to excel in all, combined with great joy in pleasing my teachers, particularly those whom I admired, pushed me forward: I took full advantage of the opportunities presented to me. With time, I ascended to the position of the first girl in the first class*

Jane Eyre proposed that her existence is "monotonous," "not unhappy," and "not idle" to describe her inner sense of the environment, which, as one of Maslow's self-actualizing personality traits, perception of reality, is one of Maslow's self-actualizing personality qualities. She senses the patriarchal society's unhappiness. Jane Eyre is a resident of a particular orphanage for women. Thus, her education is unequal to that of men. To put it another way, her education was based on unequal educational resources from the start (A.P, 2017). In that setting, Jane Eyre has a more harmonious relationship with reality. She knew that the education she received there was good and could stay in that orphanage. Jane Eyre remarked that she manages her resources well, indicating that she has a sense of self-education; that is, her behavior is founded on feminine consciousness. She is still good at grasping the resources provided in the orphanage and studying hard to develop her inner knowledge as her consciousness changes into action. That can be seen as Jane Eyre's path to self-actualization in an oppressed setting or a transitional stage once Jane Eyre emerges from feminism's consciousness. Jane Eyre deduces the hidden socio-economic conditions from her bad social circumstances. This refusal to acknowledge defeat at the orphanage allowed her to fight against men and pursue gender equality in society.

Jane Eyre also has the advantage of accurately assessing and speculating on events. Because Jane Eyre stated in her declaration that she seized all available resources, we might deduce from this that Jane Eyre believes her resources at her disposal are beneficial to her. She has a definite goal in mind and understands that her current efforts will lay the groundwork for her future success. She also realizes that in order to achieve gender equality in the future, she must build up her power by studying hard. This speculation is represented in the following (p. 136):

*Because I had always handled myself well at Lowood, both as a teacher and a student, a letter of character and capacity certified by the institution's inspectors should be sent to me right away. In approximately a month, I received this testimonial, forwarded a copy to Mrs. Fairfax, and received a response from her, expressing that she was satisfied*

This statement demonstrates that Jane Eyre laid the groundwork for her future work by putting in long hours and building up her strength. She honed her talents and made the first step toward financial independence for women. Jane Eyre understands the importance of labor



to her social standing. Because of her commitment to equality, she is eager to work. Similarly, a radical feminist believes in the worth of women's labor and promotes gender equality (Tong, 1989). Jane Eyre strives for a breakthrough and succeeds by enhancing her own education.

#### ACCEPT SELF AND OTHERS

Jane Eyre accepts herself and does not pretend to be someone she is not. She will not feel bad since she has not yet achieved her optimum state. She is content to take care of herself by treating herself and others in this manner. She will not refuse to accept others because of her flaws, and she is adept at accepting the imperfect and authentic selves. This section examines Jane Eyre's acceptance of Edward, despite her differing opinions, status, and affection for him. When they are conversing, This is how Jane Eyre responds to Edward (p. 209):

*To tell you the truth, sir, I don't understand you at all: I can't keep up with the conversation since it's out of my league.' I just know one thing: you claimed you weren't as excellent as you'd like to be and that you lamented your flaws;—one thing I understand: you implied that having a sullied memory was a permanent curse. And that if you began today with a resolution to correct your thoughts and actions, you would have laid up a new and stainless store of memories to which you could return with pleasure in a few years*

Jane Eyre acknowledges that her understanding is limited and that she is unable to comprehend Edward's statements. She not only confronted her own flaws, but she also chastised Edward for his flaws. When he was confronted with Edward's burial of his flaws, she mentored and welcomed him, forcing Edward to work hard and refuse to worry. The socio- economic status of Jane Eyre and Edward might be judged in this scene, yet Jane Eyre believes that she has the right to express herself as a woman. She not only accepted her role, but she also dared to take care of herself. Jane Eyre has an internal monologue (p. 265):

*I had not intended to love him; as the reader knows, I had fought hard to evict the germs of love that had been recognized in my soul, and now they had appeared spontaneously, green and vigorous, at the first repeated look of him! He made me fall in love with him without even looking at me*

She boldly confessed her love for Edward, gaining spiritual freedom and equality in the process. She Did not hide her love desires for the sake of appearances. Like feminists' equality theory, which states that everyone is equal. This storyline can also be seen (p.266):

*He isn't like them,' I reasoned. I believe he is one of mine;—I am certain he is—I feel connected to him—I understand the language of his expression and movements: despite the fact that rank and riches divide us, there is something in my brain and heart, in my blood and nerves, that mentally connects me to him*

Jane Eyre recognized the social reality that existed between her and Edward. However, she does not believe that these factors will be able to separate them because she embraces her relationship with Edward. The gender divide in society, which makes it easier for men and women to have distinct levels, is referred to as the "reality factor." In terms of ideas, feminist ideology promotes men's and women's equality and freedom (Emma, 1819). Jane Eyre feels that two persons are equal in spirit because of this.

#### BEING PROBLEM-CENTRIST

Feminists highlight the importance of economics (Barrett, 1980). Jane Eyre understands the value of money. She understands that getting a job can improve her social position and that she needs to improve her social status in order to achieve gender equality. This is how she arrived at a solution-focused decision. As previously stated, most Victorian women were financially dependent on males, yet Jane Eyre was distinct from other women in society. She put in much effort to obtain a higher-paying job as a tutor. Because Jane Eyre thinks that regardless of social background or ethnic disparities, men and women should have equal access to social work resources and social structures. Jane Eyre is dedicated to her work and strives to reach her full ability (p. 127):

*I ascended through the ranks to become the <sup>1</sup>first girl in the first class, and then I was appointed to the position of teacher, which I fulfilled with fervor for two years*

Jane Eyre's zeal for labor is reflected in the word "fervor." She enjoys resolving challenges at work. Jane Eyre is devoted to her work as well. The keyword "allegiance to duty" is mentioned (p. 128):

*More harmonic thoughts: what appeared to be <sup>1</sup>better-regulated sensations had become the residents of my mind, thanks to something of her personality and many of her habits. I had pledged my loyalty to duty and the law*

In the latter two years of the orphanage, Jane Eyre believes that liberal values are not adequately applied to women. She felt unsatisfied with the status quo after discovering this new problem. She asked herself a question. There is the following psychological monologue (p.131):

*Is it possible for me to have that much of my <sup>1</sup>willpower? Isn't this something that can be done? Yes—yes—getting to the finish isn't that difficult; if only I had a brain active enough to*

figure out how to get there

Jane Eyre demonstrated the being issue-centrist personality traits in Maslow's theory in a limited, educational setting to tackle this challenge. She refuses to stay in a "cage" designed specifically for women. She is problem-oriented, and she wished to leave the orphanage in order to seek women's liberation by enhancing her abilities. As can be seen from the following (p.131):

What am I looking for?' I want to be in a new place, in a new house, with new people, in new circumstances, since it's pointless to wish for anything better

As a result, Jane Eyre's desire for a new setting is a metaphor for Jane Eyre's inner feminism as well as a yearning for the environment beyond the orphanage. Because the "new faces" she stated are a brand-new society of equality between men and women, which is what she wishes for. Jane Eyre's self-actualization and feminist beliefs are mutually reinforcing. She understands the value of labor in enhancing women's status, and she also understands that economic independence is one of the most effective methods to promote women's status. She wields considerable executive authority (p. 132):

I went through this concept twice, three times in my head; it was then digested in my mind; I had it in a clear practical form: I was content, and I fell asleep

As a result, it can be inferred that Jane Eyre did not abandon her work ethic simply because she is a woman. She is motivated to achieve equal labor resources and gender equality. Thus, she worked tirelessly to find a solution. Jane Eyre understands that financial freedom can lead to a better level of fairness, as evidenced by the "fairer." The "new period" refers to a new stage in Jane Eyre's life, as well as a fresh beginning for feminism. Jane Eyre has earned equal work resources for men and women, as well as a sense of duty for feminists, thanks to her strong sense of mission and dedication to work (p. 150):

External factors have a powerful influence on the young: I believed that a new era of life was dawning for me, one filled with flowers and pleasures as well as thorns and toils

#### INDEPENDENCE

The relationship between Jane Eyre and Edward occupies a large part of the novel. This part can intuitively feel the personality characteristics of Jane Eyre when she gets along with men - looking at Jane Eyre in a traditional society where men and women are not equal. However, Jane Eyre transcends the limitations of this social atmosphere and has an excellent ability to be independent. This section analyzes and understands Jane Eyre's independent characteristics from two aspects. They are Jane Eyre's views on love and economy.

#### INDEPENDENT VIEW OF LOVE

The relationship between Jane Eyre and her boyfriend can simply display Jane Eyre's character traits in the tradition of men's sexiness. Jane Eyre defies convention, possesses strong self-reliance, and is not reliant on men. This passage of Jane Eyre can hear a feminist analysis of Jane Eyre's independence in love and economy. Jane Eyre's love independence may be seen in his thinking. Because of his job, he did not give up his identity. Like Marxist feminism's call for the liberation of love. Jane Eyre ponders. She is entitled to the same amount of love as he is (p. 266):

*I have to keep repeating that we are forever separated:- and yet, I have to adore him while I breathe and think*

She needed to figure out how to tell them she had discovered consciousness. She should be accustomed to thinking, and she has chosen to make it a lifelong habit. Jane Eyre misread his wife and assumed he would marry another woman. (Rosemarie, 189) in order to demonstrate the attributes of love for a self-sufficient personality. Jane Eyre, too, bravely answered the option question (p.388):

*Do you have any doubts about me, Jane?' 'Entirely  
You don't believe in me?' 'There isn't even a smidgeon*

In addition, Jane Eyre has a strong personality and feels that men and women have the same right to make decisions and be wounded. When Edward would like to marry her. She turned down Edward's proposal because of this. She decided to end her relationship with Edward (page 463):

*I had to say goodbye to Adele and Thornfield.' I have to say goodbye to you for the rest of my life; I have to start a new life among unknown faces and strange scenes*

Men had a higher standing than women throughout the Victorian era, but radical feminism attempted to change this (Abeda, 2010). They tried to resist, just as Jane Eyre did not give in to Edward due to her gender. She has her principles and does not have to be with Edward solely, just as socialist feminists disagree with women subordinating men through marriage (Armstrong, 2020). Jane Eyre is also convinced that she is correct (p.538):

*Yes, I believe I was correct in following principles and law and rejecting and crushing unreasonable inclinations*

While subscribing to feminism, she has a very individualistic outlook on love, as evidenced by the word "principles".

#### ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

Women's economic independence, according to Barrett, is also an aspect of feminism. Jane Eyre was adamant about her financial freedom. She has a job, which Edward appreciates, and she is more confident than ever that work is an unavoidable aspect of life. Similarly, social feminism opposes patriarchy, denying women access to crucial economic resources (Zhang, 1999). She did not lose herself in the face of love; instead, as the radical feminist approach suggests, she pursues economic independence (p.247):

*I went about my day normally, although there were a few hints that I should leave. Thornfield kept darting through my head, and I found myself instinctively framing adverts and thinking conjectures about new situations: these were thoughts I didn't think to verify; if they were to, they may grow and generate fruit*

Jane Eyre eventually left Edward and quickly adapted to her new surroundings. Jane Eyre starts a new life and tries to impose her power and dominance over John. In the end, she elevated her social rank and claimed it. She tracked out Edward and informed him (p.663):

*I told you, sir, that I am both independent and wealthy: I am my own mistress. And you're going to stick with me? Of course, unless you object.' I'll be your next-door neighbor, nurse, and housekeeper. I notice you're lonely, so I'll be your companion—reading to you, walking with you, sitting with you, waiting on you, being your eyes and hands. Stop looking so sad, my darling lord; you will not be abandoned as long as I live.?*

Jane Eyre refuses to be linked to men and achieves gender equality by living a self-sufficient life. Changing people's perceptions of traditional women solely depends on men's social values and status. Jane Eyre understood the importance of economic independence and achieved economic independence. Jane Eyre demonstrated that women's strength and work should never be underestimated, just as radical feminism believes that women have the same societal importance and standing as men (Barrett, 1980).

#### RESIST AND CRITICIZE THE EXISTING SOCIAL CULTURE

Self-actualizing people have a personality attribute of resisting the established social culture. It aligns with the feminist anti-patriarchal resistance movement (Abeda, 2010). Injustice fought female power in the Victorian era, and Jane Eyre was a strong opponent of this social attitude. Jane Eyre is unconcerned about the public perception of gender inequity. This is what Jane Eyre and Edward discuss (p.212):



*Because it's difficult for me to remain conventional with you; and then your looks and motions will have more vigor and variety than they dare to offer now." "Through the close-set bars of a cage, I see the eye of a curious sort of bird: a lively, restless, resolute captive is there; were it but free, it would soar cloud high*

Edward uses the word "impossible" to describe Jane Eyre, implying that Jane Eyre's image opposes traditional social culture. Jane Eyre believes that she is oppressed in traditional society, that she is a "bird" in a "birdcage," a "captive" in a "patriarchal civilization." Jane Eyre is said to be able to fly higher after she breaks free from the cage, which might be interpreted as Jane Eyre's capacity to break free from the traditional social culture of inequality between men and women. In Edward's opinion, this is Jane Eyre's personality attribute. Feminism encourages women to take charge of their lives and then work to improve their standing. Feminism encourages women to take charge of their lives and then work to better their status in order to achieve social equality with men (Julia, 1980; Naomi, 1993; Noell, 2003). Jane Eyre is exactly what it says on the tin (p. 385):

*I'm sorry, but I have to leave!" I retorted, enraged to the point of rage. Do you believe I'm soulless and uncaring because I'm poor, obscure, plain, and small? You're mistaken! — I have the same amount of soul as you — and the same amount of love! And if God had bestowed upon me any beauty and fortune, I would have made it as difficult for you to leave me as it is for me to leave you now. I'm not speaking to you through the means of tradition, convention, or even mortal flesh right now; I'm not speaking to you via the medium of tradition, convention, or even mortal flesh; —it's my spirit speaking to your spirit, as if we'd both gone through the dead and stood at God's feet, equals, —as we are!*

Jane Eyre must rediscover the significance of her femininity. She said that she and Edward share the same soul (line 6) and that they are on the same stand. She chastised Edward as well as society's gender inequity. Jane Eyre also rejected John's suggestion (p.629):

*However, if I am not formed for love, I am not formed for marriage, in my opinion. Wouldn't it be odd, Die, to be shackled for the rest of your life to a guy who only saw you as a useful tool?*

John, she believes, "destroyed" her self-esteem, independence, and personality. She is unwilling to give up her job in order to help John. She believes John is only using her. That is why she said that to John (p.634):

*No. I will not marry you, St. John. I'm sticking to my guns  
Previously, because you did not love me; today, because you virtually detest me," I said. You would murder me if I married you. Now you're killing me*

Jane Eyre told John that she would not marry him. She even mentioned that John was

"killing" her. What was killing her was her pursuit of gender equality. Jane Eyre challenges and opposes the idea that male authority is superior to female power, and she seeks and yearns for gender equality. She is a firm believer in unrestricted marriage and self-actualization.

### CONCLUSION

According to the writers' research, Jane Eyre possesses the prerequisite of self-actualization, which involves self-esteem that includes self-respect, freedom, and independence. Jane Eyre also has five self-actualization personality traits with feminism ideology: perceive reality, accept self and others, being problem-centrist, independent, resist and criticize the existing social culture. In the process of analyzing these personality characteristics, we found Jane Eyre's feminist thoughts. Jane Eyre has improved her social status through the personality characteristics of self-actualization, thereby achieving equality between men and women. Through this research, women can be made aware of the benefits of a self-actualization personality for increasing their social position.

To some extent, a third practical technique for maintaining the spirit of feminism can be obtained: enhancing social position and achieving equality through self-actualization personality. Although it has been established that Jane Eyre achieved self-actualization through feminism, another issue might be investigated further, which could be the next research topic. The direction could be: how the main character Jane Eyre demonstrates other personality traits indicated in Maslow's self-actualization but not yet explored in this study, such as spontaneity, simplicity, naturalness, and detachment, in the conservative of self-actualization.

# Self-Actualization In Jane Eyre's Main Character: A Feminism Study

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