

A comparison of the values associated with Jane Austen's Emma and Amy Heckerling's "Clueless" has proven to be of ~~more~~ more interest ~~than~~ than merely how the contexts of the texts have shaped their form and meaning. Through ~~an~~ understanding the ~~and~~ the techniques used by the composers context of each text, however, it is possible to understand why the values established by the growth and development of the character, the manners and conventions of the time, marriage and ~~and~~ women in society exist. In doing so the reader/viewer is able to gain a clearer understanding of both texts and see how the new resonates with the old and how the old resonates with the new.

Emma was written by Jane Austen in a time of great social upheaval due to the Napoleonic war that was being carried out in the early 1800s. ~~Resisting~~ The class structure of English society was being rethought and the power of the upper class was threatened. This context is reflected through the issue of Austen



addresses in her novel, although reference to specific events is not made as it was assumed the audience would be aware of them. ^{Her form of novel also reflects her context as this was a period of means of communication for the time.}

Austen, in response to this context, develops a central character who is beautiful, rich and intelligent although is possessed by some "real evils" - specifically she has a tendency to think "a little too highly of herself". This character construction reflects Austen's view of the typical women of Emma's same social position. Through the events and relationships established Emma grows and develops to learn the true meaning of charity - particularly through Mr Knightley who embodies the perfect gentleman. Austen is thus showing what she thinks the upper class women should be like and makes social criticisms of them through her use of judgement and irony.

Amy Tackelley transformed Emma into a modern day context when she made " clueless". Her context was one of an



American, supposedly egalitarian ~~used~~ society.

Her context is reflected through the her ~~set~~

development of her and the values associated

with this. As a movie, also, Heckling reflects the visual audience
she is aiming to as context was altered.

The values that Cher must learn are

similar to Emma. Cher, through Josh,

learns the true meaning of charity — that is

must be given with all your heart, not

just something one must do. She develops

as a character and learns the values and

responsibilities she must uphold through

Heckling having created a stereotypical blonde

then legitimising her through uncovering her

layers.

The manners and social conventions of

the times are reflected through the duties

and relationships that both the central

characters must uphold. Emma feels she

has to go to visit the poor Miss Bates and

the sick cottager because it is her duty. She

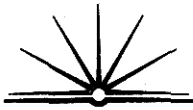
~~she~~ becomes offended when the Coles have the



audacity to invite her to tennis. Through these events Austen gives her opinion of the situation by becoming an intrusive narrator. ~~She reveals that Emma~~ This reflects her opinions on the values of the time, includes the reader in the novel and shows the manners and social conventions that had to be upheld.

"Charles" continues these values of maintaining the duties and positions of class ~~in the west~~ when Tai comes to the school. Heckuly shows ~~her~~ ^{society's} criticism of class mixing through Dianne who fears "our stock will plummet" if they talk to Thai. ~~She~~ She shows her own social criticism by developing the relationship with Tai showing that there should be class mixture in the supposedly 'classless society'.

The values of society ~~on~~ on marriage and romance are reflected in both texts ~~although~~ through this being their main focus. In Austen's context, marriage was of great importance and was the central role of a woman. She

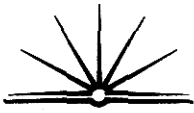


married for financial security, not love, and had to remain within her own class. ~~From~~ judgement of Emma in her false belief that Mr Elton would give Harriet "everything she wanted, - "consideration, independence, a proper home." it used to show that out of class marriages don't work. This is primarily carried out by Mr Knightley refusal to accept that Harriet should reject Mr Martin.

In *Chelmsford*, marriage is seen not to be of such importance. Instead, sex becomes the preoccupation of the girls. *Chelmsford*, ~~like~~ ^{echoing} Emma, has this value as a personal choice and once she comes to self knowledge and awareness is able to realise that it should be an act of love not merely an act to ~~show~~ conform with social convention.

With marriage ^{and romance} being the primal focus of the two texts ~~it is seen that~~ the reader/viewer sees the role of women in society.

From Austen's time in which women had little value but to have babies and care

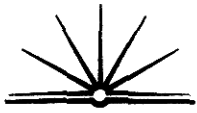


for the husband, ~~the~~ 'cheerless' shows how women now have more freedom to choose what they want from life and are encouraged to be educated and ~~to~~ make their own lives.

The voice over of Cher, the camera techniques of closeups showing her emotions and the music used (usually preppy pop) contrast her to Emma in their value to society but showing her as more independent and involved in the world.

The context in which each text is constructed provides ~~reflects~~ the values of ~~the~~ for each text. Thus, Heckerling includes in her movie open discussion about sexuality and includes multiculturalism.

These two factors are major influences on her and are expected by her teenage audience. Christian is included as the gay "Baldwin" and Murray and Dionne as black Americans are treated with racial tolerance. This reflects the changing values of a "bigger" world and emphasises the inappropriateness of discussion of these in Emma.



~~The context is~~ Through exploring the ^{values} ~~context~~ of the societies of Emma and ^{modern} ~~the~~ ^{audience} can come to understand both texts more fully, understand where a modern woman has come from and through the transformation of "Clueless" from Emma the values, which are mainly timeless, can be put into a contemporary situation, such that the values of Emma can be more deeply understood.

The contexts of Emma and "Clueless" shape their meaning and form and through understanding this a comparison of values can be more comprehensively understood.

It is therefore important, not to separate the two but juxtapose them so the new can resonate with the old and the old with the new.

- comparison of values of greater importance
as in doing this the new resonates w/ old & old w/ new.
- i) Growth & development of central character
- ii) Names / conve.
- iii) Marriage / Romance
- iv) Women in Society
- differences shaped by context
 - sexuality
 - multiculturalism,