

GROOMING OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS IN NINETEENTH CENTURY: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF JANE AUSTEN AND LOUISA MAY ALCOTT'S CLASSICS

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ABSTRACT

*This paper analyses and compares the novels, Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* in exploring the grooming aspects of young female adolescent girls and the related family dynamics in nineteenth century England and America. Grooming differs across borders and cultures, but the ultimate goal of grooming is to be, as John Locke asserts is to be useful persons to themselves and the society on attaining freedom and individuality in adulthood. This paper is multi-disciplinary in approach to the grooming patterns in the two novels drawing reference to parenting styles, family communication patterns and John Locke's socio-political theories. The impact of the family dynamics in grooming adolescent girls is mapped in reference to Maslow's Theory of motivation. In addition, the historical and social environments of aristocratic England and democratic America in Victorian era are significant in studying the upbringing, education and nurturing of the female protagonists on their journey to adulthood.*

KEYWORDS: *Grooming, Family dynamics, Pride and Prejudice, Little Women, Victorian Era*

Article History

Received: 05 Jun 2019 | Revised: 12 Jun 2019 | Accepted: 18 Jun 2019
