

CLASS DIFFERENTIATION  
IN  
***SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER***

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## WHAT DO WE MEAN BY *CLASS DIFFERENTIATION*?

- The term **Class** or **Social Class** has been used since the early Neoclassicism by thinkers like **Thomas Hobbes**, **John Locke**, and **Jean-Jacques Rousseau**.
- It was described in detail by **Karl Marx** in his outstanding work ***The Communist Manifesto***.

## TYPES:

- **Upper Class:** This class controls the means of production, and has both social, and political power over the other classes.
- The class is distinguished by the possession of a large inherited family wealth. This wealth boosts the class's opportunities to gain enormous amounts of money without making any serious effort i.e. the income of these people are usually tens of times higher than the normal members' income from the other classes although these upper class members don't work as much as others.

## TYPES:

- **Middle Class**: It is a social group between the upper and working class. It consists mostly of salary/wage earners, and professionals who are paid more than normal workers
- Nowadays, they are often referred to as **White collar** employees.
- Sometimes, members of this class go up to the upper class or down into the working class due to the economic changes in the country.

## TYPES:

- **Working Class:** It is a social group consists of people who are employed for wages, especially in manual or industrial works.
- They usually work hard and for many hours a day but the wage is not that much.
- They are often referred to as **Blue** or **Pink collar** employees.

## *SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER (1773)*

- It is about two families living in the late eighteenth century England.
- The two families are apparently from the **Upper Class**, and they seem very conscious about making connections with the lower or working class members.
- They simply imposed themselves and their wishes upon the others from the other classes.

- **Mrs. Hardcastle**, from the beginning of the play, starts complaining about the place where they are living in. She says “**Here we live in an old rambling mansion,**”.
- She also complains about the visitors and the neighbors who visit them now and then. She simply thinks that she is better than the other people living around her, and she should be living somewhere else with people of a higher class, for example, with the upper class families living in London.

- When her son, Tony, wants to go to the local ale-house, she warns him not to deal with lower class people. She wonders if her son is going to hang out “**with a low, paltry set of fellows**” or not because she doesn’t want him to make any connection with the lower people.

- **Mr. Hardcastle** also pays too much attention to his own reputation as an ***upper class*** gentleman in front of his guests. He asks the servants to be well-prepared, attentive and always be alerted to his own commands. He even asks one of them to stand behind **his own chair!**

- **Marlow**, the future son-in-law, gives us a complete picture of the ways that the upper class treated the lower class individuals at that time.
- Marlow, as well as the majority of upper class, gives himself the right to use, abuse, and exploit the lower class ladies.
- Marlow could be regarded as one of the lousiest characters with extraordinary lust for the lower class young ladies.

- In one instance, he talks about them, and he simply refers to the ladies of the lower class as **things**. He **objectifies** lower class ladies and uses them for his own pleasure.
- Oddly, the upper class people, including the ladies, don't seem to **mind** his immoral and shameless exploitation of the young lower class ladies.
- **Kate**, Marlow's future wife, insists that Marlow is still a **modest** and **respectful** young man although she is quite sure that Marlow is involved in fornication, and he is **unlikely** to quit it.

## **Summary:**

The upper class members, in ***She Stoops to Conquer***, see the lower class people as objects that they can use for their own leisure and pleasure whenever they want to just because they have wealth and title.

- Questions?.....

- .....Thank  
you