

way does she gain from Anne Elliot overall delaying her marriage to Wentworth. Anne coolly rationalises her decision to take Lady Russell's advice to Wentworth himself 'If I was wrong in yielding to persuasion once, remember that it was to persuasion exerted on the side of safety, not of risk. When I yielded, I thought it was to duty' (p.163). Here shows recognition within Anne's mind that her decision of 'yielding to persuasion' (p.163) may have been the wrong one, but that does not matter, because she followed the advice of a trusted friend.

Anne's isolation within the novel is clearly therefore due to the people that surround her; she is trapped in a land of pure consciousness, and is not allowed to speak for herself, being 'only Anne' (p.5). Anne's internal monologues become a necessity within the novel to learn about the heroine, due to her manipulative father who will not take Anne's advice or value her 'her word had no weight' (p.5), as well as being seemingly controlled or influenced by Lady Russell. Anne is perpetually absorbing the feelings of others, 'Anne knew that Lady Russell must be suffering some pain... to become truly acquainted with and do justice to Captain Wentworth' (p.165) and with this Anne stays silent about her own judgments. Through Anne Elliot, the difficulties of communication are presented by her escapism into a realm of wordless communication. The presentations of these difficulties of communication with others happen frequently throughout the novel, 'Up to *Persuasion* she (Austen) has been concerned with the dangers of the imagination, but *Persuasion* shows us the perpetual and common difficulty of being human.'³ The difficulty of other characters are presented to be the problem for Anne and the reason dialogues take place in her head, 'Anne heard nothing of this. She was still in the astonishment...by her friend's penetration' (p.128).

Although Austen writes about marriage, her novels are not always compliant with the typical romance novel of the Romantic era. Passions must be moderated by reason and practicality if

³ Barbara Hardy, *A Reading of Jane Austen* (London: The Athlone Press, 1979) p.192