
**LOVE AND STRUGGLE OF THE MAIN CHARACTER AS REFLECTED IN
CHARLES DICKEN'S GREAT EXPECTATIONS NOVEL: A PSYCHOLOGICAL
STUDY**

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Abstract

This paper discusses the novel "Great Expectations" by Charles Dickens which reflects the author's society "Victorian Age". The objective of this study is to employ a psychological study on the main character "Pip" and the moral values from the story. The paper sheds light on Dickens and how he deals with the problems of Victorian society in Great Expectations. This paper entirely focuses on the struggle of the main character to find his dream as a gentleman and his love, the characterization of the main character, and moral values can be taken from the novel Great Expectations by Charles Dickens. It also consists of the conclusion that sums up the findings of the paper.

INTRODUCTION

In 19th-century, literature has become a very important source for the lifestyle of Victorian society mainly because it relies on a realist mode of representation. Thus, Victorian literature was characterized by a powerful, social stance because it offers a critique of social circumstances related to power, the conflict between classes as well as the children's rights. Hence, the works of writers tend to be close to the daily life of people by reflecting their inner feelings and external conditions in the most realistic way. *Great Expectations* is a novel that focuses on the journey of young Pip as he navigates his way through various trials and tribulations to become a gentleman in Victorian society. The novel explores many themes such as social class, guilt, and ambition. However, one of the most prominent themes in *Great Expectations* is love and struggle. Doing love and struggle in life is important to achieve something just like dream, future-plan, and achieving aims and goals. Two main divisions of struggle which represent in the novels such as individual struggle and social struggle (Touraine, 2003). The individual struggle can be seen from the individual action that appears because of conflict caused by such a difficult situation fulfills what he or she wants (Touraine, 2003, p.340). Meanwhile, the social struggle bring effect only could be understood if there is any confrontation toward the other social actor (Touraine, 2003, p.343). There are many aspects why do people struggle with life. Some can be simple, some can be complicated and some does not make sense at all. It can be complicated at times, but it is the cycle of life, people can be on top at times or you can be under. One of the aspects why do people struggle in life is they want to be successful. This means that they want to achieve something and they want to prove that they can do it by themselves. It can be hard but it is the only way to achieve success.

A novel usually talks about love and struggle of the main character in achieving the goal and solving the problem that becomes the obstacle. The main character has to struggle because his problem is difficult to solve. In making struggle of a peaceful life, the main character does not always find success. Instead, the main characters often find difficulties, danger, or even death. According to Stanton (1965, p.17) commonly there are two ways in using the character: it assigns the individuals appearing in the story, and it is refers to the combination between the interests, desires, emotions, and moral principle that makes up each of these individuals. Thus, character means, "story figure". Most stories contain a central character, which is relevant to every event in the story. It means that a central character/major character can be identified by her frequent appearance in the story and a minor character is less in his/her appearance in the story. Characters in the novel (prose) can be divided into two groups: (1) major or main characters and (2) minor characters. The major character can further be analyzed into three groups: (1) the protagonist, the very central character, or the hero/heroine, (2) the antagonist or the enemy (or the challenger) of the protagonist, and (3) the companions or the supporter of the protagonist (Subhan, 2006, p.8-9). In addition, the characters that appear in the novel can be learned through the moral values contained in the storyline. According to Kant in Tjahjadi (1991, p.47) moral value is the suitability of attitude, action us with the norm, and law of internal.

In relation to the struggle of doing something to achieve the success, the writers is interested to analyze a novel entitled *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens because of several reasons as follows: first, the novel tried to tell the reader to understand the England condition in warrior and prisoner, second, the author of the novel gives some images about romance that tell the story life of the main character from childhood until adulthood, about his struggles become a gentleman and his love, and the third reason is about moral values that can we take from the novel is do not give up from your dreams, although we have to so much struggle to be done.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous studies used different perspectives for exploring issues in Victorian literature from "Great Expectations" by Charles Dickens. Ögünç (2017) investigated the repressed individual in Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*. In the light of the critical perspective of the Frankfurt School theorists Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, this article argues that the bourgeois society in the early nineteenth century represented in Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* controls the individuals through normative values of the middle class and a process of identity construction enabled by false consciousness shapes the individuals' identity in order to protect the established social order. Hence, the hegemonic middle-class values in the early nineteenth century are treated as means of subjecting the individuals to social order. The protagonist Pip desires to become a gentleman almost all his life and he tries to adapt himself to the expectations of the middle-class society in London. Pip believes that social mobility is possible if he conforms to dominant norms imposed on the individuals. In *Great Expectations*, the conflict between the individual and the bourgeois society is experienced particularly by Pip whose identity is formed by the normative and homogenous social order to serve society. So, this article argues that, in line with Horkheimer's and Adorno's criticism of the bourgeois industrial society, the early nineteenth-century English society represented in Dickens's *Great Expectations* creates repressed individuals who conform to the social order, and demonstrates that the individuals are in conflict with the bourgeois industrial society.

Haque (2018) studied depiction of Victorian Era in the Novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. *Great Expectations* did disclose how was the situation of Victorian society through some important features such as higher class, corrupted judicial system between rural and urban England. Here in this novel, Dickens was concern about the education system in Victorian era where the lower class people get less opportunities of getting proper education. From the beginning to the end of this novel, Dickens explored some significant issues regarding higher and lower class system of Victorian society which did fluctuate from the greatest woeful criminal named Magwitch to the needy people of the swamp country, where Joe and Biddy were the symbol of that regime. After that we can proceed to the middle class family where Pumblechook was the person to represent that regime. Last but not the least Miss Havisham symbolized and bear flag of very rich and sophisticated Victorian woman who has represented the higher class society in the novel *Great Expectations*. Hence we can say *Great Expectations* has talked and displayed the class system of Victorian England and the characters of this novel therefore also did uphold the true reflection of Victorian era.

Lutfiansyah & Arsdia (2020) examined the novel 'The Great Expectation'. Researchers are interested in analyzing this novel because it is a picture of real life, especially life in the United Kingdom in the days of Queen Victoria. As a realistic writer, Charles Dickens is through people's descriptions reflect reality in his life time. This research uses the theory of semiotics which is collaborated with Karl Marx's theory which reveals class strata. In the science of semiotics, everything, even humans can be made a sign, which can be developed into a myth of life. Seeing from the main actor's novel, Pip, Everyone still has a lot to learn, such as his kindness, strength, and optimism. Individual growth is the process of growing into a perfect self. Although Pip's great hopes are disappointing, he finally returns to good moral character, and starts a new life. In addition, this study analyzes the style of the main character Pip which has its own points in interpreting the style of dress. In this novel, researchers want to prove that the style of dress can be a tool to prove the formation of a person's identity or the identity of a particular group that uses it.

Shrestha (2020) argues that Charles Dickens reflects the capitalist psychology of mid Victorian London in his novel *Great Expectations*. It is fully narrated in the first person and a time conquering master piece of Charles Dickens. In this novel, he touches on expectations in

the life of diverse characters, the greatest of which being the expectation of Pip, the central character of the novel and also his moves from childhood to adulthood. He portrays how difficult it is for a lower class person to become a gentleman. The life for the upper class is easy but the life for the lower class is hard and painful in Victorian England. He vividly represents the existing picture of the society working in the minds of various characters and their expectations. Dickens's themes include wealth and poverty, love and rejection and the eventual triumph of good over evil. The purpose of this study is to describe the writer's view of capitalism and its consequences such as ending of family units, illness, mutual exploitation, human passions, expectations and selfishness through character and plot.

This current study analyze the struggle of the main character to find his dream as a gentleman and his love, the characterization of the main character, and moral values can be taken from the novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.

RESEARCH METHOD

Psychology is the knowledge about human beings and the condition of their personalities. Literature on the other side has a relation to human expression in the form of literary works. Wellek and Warren (1998, p.81) explain that there are three major kind of psychology of literature. By psychology of literature, people may mean the psychological study of the writer as type and individual, or the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of literature of finally the effect of literature upon its readers (audience psychology). Psychology and literary works work on the same way. They have similar function and relationship that can be used in studying other people condition. Literary work studies about the soul of imaginary people, but psychology studies about the soul of the real people. Because of that, the psychology is one of extrinsic elements can be used to analyze the aspect of psychological especially about characters in a novel, because of that reason of the analysis could be called as the psychological study or psychological analysis. This current study used psychological and document analysis (Rapley, 2007) to analyze the research data from the novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. In addition, qualitative data analysis used in this research as follows; data reduction, data display and conclusion drawing and verification (Miles, Huberman, and Saldana, 2018, p.74).

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In this part, the writer will be discussed about love and struggle of the main character of the novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. This part is divided into three sub-parts. The first one is the character and characterization in the novel *Great Expectations*. The second sub-part is the struggle and love of the main character in his dream as a gentleman, and the last sub-part is the moral value of the novel *Great Expectations*.

Character and Characterization of The Main Characters

1. Character

In the novel *Great Expectations*, there are two major characters: Philip and Estella's name. In this novel, the main character more well-known as Pip nickname from Philip, Pip plays as the protagonist or the main character of the novel, and Estella as the companion character. However, the writer focuses, especially on Pip as the main character of the novel *Great Expectations*.

2. Characterization

In this sub-part, the writer especially discusses about Pip as the protagonist and the main character. The author of this novel characterized Pip as follows.

a. Helper

Pip was a help boy, as a child, he do not has a family just accompanied by his sister and her husband Joe. One day at a church-yard which is his parents buried in, he met a fearful man who need help from his escape from prison. Without thought the risks, Pip helped the man, as the following part in the novel below;

He looked at the iron ring on his leg, then bent me back as far as he could, so that his eyes glared into mine.

“The question is whether you’re to be allowed to go on living. You know what a file is?”

“Yes, sir.”

“And food?” he bent me over even more to frighten me.

“Yes, sir.”

“Get a file, and food. And bring them both to me, or I’ll have your heart and liver out.”

The quotation above shows that Pip really help to a man that he never met before, and he tried to do anything that the man want without thought the risks that would happen if he help the man.

b. Curious

Pip became a curious man as he was a gentleman because of mysterious tragedy of Mrs. Havisham. He want to know the truth and ask to the Wemmick, the clerk of Jagger as a lawyer of Mrs. Havisham.

“Please, said I, as the two ugly heads caught my sight again, whose likenesses are those?”

c. Hard working

Pip tried to hard working as a gentleman in London. He took some private class became a good man and a success man.

The Struggle and Love of the main character to find his dream as a gentleman and his love

In this sub-part, the writer discusses about the struggle of Pip as the main character in finding of his dream as a gentleman and his love in the novel Great Expectations. For further discussion, the writer presents the analysis in this following discussion. The struggle of Pip is described:

Pip came from poor family with his sister and her husband Joe as a blacksmith without much ambition, and it's assumed that Pip will follow in his footsteps. But one day, he got inherited a lot of money from an anonymous benefactor and must leave for London immediately, to become a gentleman. In London, Pip studies with a tutor and lives with a new and close friend, Herbert. Pip is certain that his benefactor is the rich Miss Havisham. In addition, he becomes convinced that Miss Havisham's financial support, toward his elevated social status, is the result of her desire that he may marry Estella someday. Pip passes many years in London; he remains ashamed of Joe, and they grow apart, Mrs. Joe dies, and though

he falls harder and harder for Estella--who seems to get colder and colder by the day--he never confesses his love.

Moral Values of The Novel Great Expectations

After reading the novel thoroughly, the writer found some moral values that can be taken as lesson in life, the moral values that the writer finds are as follows.

a. Struggle

Pip as the main character in the novel had much struggle on his life to clear the mystery that he got from child until his adulthood. As child he was met a fearful man, and he is an orphan without parents but he tried to become a gentleman someday.

b. Friendship

When he got inherited a lot of money from an anonymous benefactor and must leave for London immediately, to become a gentleman. In London, Pip studies with a tutor and lives with a new and close friend, Herbert. He do anything with Herbert, until the end to save a fearful man that he met in a church-yard, Magwitch from his escape.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings, the writers would like to draw some conclusion as follows. The novel Great Expectations by Charles Dickens tells about the struggle of the main character to find his dream as a gentleman and his love In this novel, Pip is the main character and he plays as the protagonist character because of his frequent appearance in the story. After analyzing, the writers founds Pip's characterizations portrays the moral values of struggle and friendship.

There are many ways to analyze literary works. One of them is by using psychological approach that is used by the writer to analyze this novel. So, since there are still many ways to analyze literary works, it is suggested for other researchers to use more varied approaches. Therefore, the writers suggests the readers or everyone who is interested in literature both reading and studying especially related to the novel Great Expectations. The family is important and people must protect the unity of the family, love and trust are important things. When family are facing the problem, together the members of the family, the problem will be easier and feels like anything that can be solved because family will support.

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