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Article

Representation Analysis of “Great Expectation” Novel by Charles Dickens

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KEYWORDS

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A B S T R A C T

This research examines 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.

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INTRODUCTION

In England, there was a period, Victorian era. The era was called the Victorians era, because at that time was coincided with the reign of Queen Victoria, who was crowned around 1830 until in the early of 1900. It was a period of peace and during that time the important social changes took place as well as rapid economic and technological development. These changes are in one aspect called the industrial revolution. What is meant by the industrial revolution is all radical change that is caused by new discoveries in industrial technology and

transportation. This revolution contains positive and negative aspects. One of the most serious problems is the increasingly striking difference between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Lots of ideas are put forward to solve this problem. The positive aspects of the revolution can be seen with the increase in prosperity and natural science that discover new miracles, for example electric power that can be utilized for human interests. In this era, the developing literature had been influenced by the previous era, it was the era of Romanticism. The Romanticism era was a period when literary works were heavily influenced by the French Revolution which had a lot of themes about freedom, equality, and brotherhood. It leads the French Revolution

as the starting point for the development of the flow of ideas and objective condition that was existed in Europe at that time and these three ideals explicitly encouraged the emergence of a romantic movement in England. According to Samekto (1975), the romantic movement in England is spawned more literary works in the form of poetry. In this research, the researchers intend to examine one of the novels, the work of Charles Dickens. The researcher intends to use the theory of Structuralism. Structuralism is the main characteristic of the development of language studies where it studies the society and culture. Although structuralism thought has been criticized for its inflexibility, rigid and impractical in the sense of form and structure, it is actually still quite flexible and has many formulations including social and historical forms (Castle, 2007).

The common characteristic of the Victorian Period literature is prose. Many quality poems were produced during this period. The phenomenon of bourgeois and proletarian society attracted the attention of many writers at that time to capture the state of society in the midst of facing such great changes into literary works. Literary works that developed in the Victorian era were mostly in the form of prose, because they were influenced by technological developments that encouraged many people to write in the form of prose, examples of developing prose were magazines and newspapers. The development of prose in this era refers to the development of the novel. The more widespread public education, the greater the number of readers are. The more advanced science, the increasing number of scientific books about nature and aspects of human life. Another important characteristic is that the prose and poetry literature is devoted to a goal to improve people's morale. Therefore, the novel not only describes life as it is, but also presents how life should be. More prose was produced in the Victorian Period. Besides that, prose is said to be a truth devoted to a goal. The novels produced in the Victorian Period are generally called 'problem novels'. Because it aims to improve the morale of the community, these novels are called 'didactic novels'. One of the famous novelist figures in this period was Charles Dickens.

Charles Dickens is an English writer and social critic. He creates some of the world's best known fictional characters and is regarded by many as the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. His works enjoyed unprecedented popularity during his life time, and by the 20th century, critics and scholars had recognized him as a literary genius. Charles Dickens eventually becomes a full-time novelist, producing more complex works in an amazing time period: the most popular poplar novel that he wrote was *Oliver Twist*, *Master Humphrey's Clock* and many more. All of

the works were published in a monthly format. After that, finally those literary works were being printed.

In this research, the researchers intend to examine one of Dickens' works, namely *Great Expectation*. The object of this study is the novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens, which was printed in 2014. This novel is the story of an orphan named Phillip Pirrip known as Pip who has ambitions to have Gentleman status. His family background is from the lower social class and he lives far from the city. When he arrived at Satis House, he met Estella. Estella insulted him as a hick. At that moment Pip began to think about changing his life to be on par with Estella's. Until Pip got a donor he considered Miss Havisham. Changes occur in Pip's life. His social status made him took far away from his family, and was ashamed of his social status. Pip becomes arrogant and unjust to his family. Until one day Pip was heavily in debt and almost went to prison. Joe and Biddy, his family and friend tried to help him in his downturn. Finally Pip realizes and regrets his behavior with Joe and Biddy. This is the effect of stratification that influences the main character Pip. Each character in the *Great Expectations* novel is categorized from their social class and the influence of social stratification on Pip

In this present research, researchers study the message in the novel. The message in a literary work, including novels, can be seen as part of mass communication, not only limited to the words, but all aspects of the film also have a meaning. For this reason, researchers try investigate the *Great Expectation* novel, by using semiotics, related to class theory. The problem of this study is how Pip's becomes representation of the social class main character during his life. The first thing that might be the purpose of this research is to identify and to describe social stratification in the *Great Expectations* novel. Then, the purpose of this study is to analyze the psychological representation of the main actor Pip in the *Great Expectations* novel.

Semiotics studies the systems, rules, conventions that allow these signs to have meaning. This theory was put forward by Barthes (1957). In his theory, Barthes developed semiotics into two levels of signification, namely the level of denotation and connotation. Denotation is a level of signification that explains the relationship of signifiers and markers to reality, producing explicit, direct, and certain meanings. Semiotics tries to explain the fabric of signs or the science of signs systematically. This is also revealed by Hoed (2013), "Semiotics is the study of signs in human life. That is, everything present in our lives is a sign which is something we must give meaning to". Barthes is the successor of Saussure's thought. Saussure was interested in the complex way in which sentences were

formed and the way in which sentence forms determined meaning, but less interested in the fact that the same sentence could convey different meanings to people of different situations. Santosa (1993) also gives a semiotic definition, that is, it is how the work is interpreted by observers and the public through signs or symbols. Furthermore, Luxemburg in Santosa (1993) states that semiotics is the science of systematically studying the signs and symbols, their systems and processes of symbolism.

In this research, the researchers also insert the ideology of Marxism in the novel *Great Expectation*, analyzed using the semiotic method, especially Barthes's semiotics. The researcher chose Barthes's semiotics because the semiotic theory of Barthes discussing more deeply about semiotics to the level of ideology. In addition, John Fiske's semiotic theory is one of the most appropriate theories for analyzing social class where in the process of analysis the social class, all elements of reality and representations are analyzed up to the level of ideological levels which represents a reality, it is possible to include ideology in the construction of reality. The basis for the insertion of the theory of Marxism, researchers argue that all Marxist literary theories have the same simple premise. As stated by Robey, et. al. (2007), literature can only be understood within a larger framework of social reality.

Barthes (1957) continues this thought by emphasizing the interaction between the text with the personal and cultural experiences of its users, the interaction between the conventions in the text and the conventions experienced and expected by its users. Barthes's notion (1957) is known as order of signification, including denotation or the real meaning according to the dictionary and connotation, known as a meaning, born from cultural and personal experience. Barthes also sees another aspect of labeling, the myth that marks a society. Myth, according to Barthes lies at the second level of signification, so after the sign-signifier-signified system is formed, the sign will become a new marker which then has a second sign and forms a new sign. So, when a sign that has a connotation meaning then develops into a denotation meaning, then the meaning of the denotation will become a myth. Relating to the difference of the order of signification, Barthes (1957) also states that the first stage of the order of signification is denotation and in this level the data consists of signifier and signified. Then connotation is the second stage of the order of signification, where the use of denotation as a marker and make it an addition.

Speaking of representation, representation according to Chris Barker in Vera (2015) is a social construction that requires us to explore the formation of textual meanings and requires an inquiry into the ways in which meaning is

produced in various contexts. Cultural representations and meanings have a certain materiality. They are attached to sounds, inscriptions, objects, images, books, magazines and television programs. They are produced, displayed, used, and understood in certain social contexts. Representation means using language to say something that is meaningful or represents the world, which is meaningful to others. Representation can be interpreted as an important part of the process in which meanings are produced and exchanged between cultures. Representation involves the use of language, signs and images that represent an object of research. From the explanation above, it can be explained that representation is the production of meaning through language. In representation, the construction of an opinion uses signs and arranged inward different languages, which are used to communicate with other people. Language can use signs to symbolize objects and reference objects.

This research includes the theory of Marxism because in the scientific realm, literary theory is different from practicality theory which may be bound of variety of more general methods such as theories of knowledge, thoughts, interpretations, desires, powers, and so on. Every effort might formulate a literary theory would not be complete, if not described the relationship between general theory and special theory. It will not be perfect if it does not pay attention to the historical context. In scientific theories, new discoveries tend to replace old ones, so does literary theory continues to develop along with the development of general theories, such as Marxism or psychoanalysis which are also used in literary theory. In this case, it is collaborated with the theory of semiotics to get a representation of Pip, the main character.

Marxism is the thought of Karl Marx who formulated a theory relating to economic systems, social systems and political systems. Karl Marx's thoughts are contained in the book *Political Party Manifesto*, written by Marx with Friedrich Engels. Marxism is a form of Karl Marx's rejection of the capitalist system that causes the division of social classes between the lower classes and upper classes.

METHOD

This research used descriptive qualitative method with Roland Barthes (1957) Semiotics analysis approach. Qualitative approach describes a phenomenon experienced by the subject in depth that is about behavior, one individual or group in a particular context as a whole. Qualitative methodology is a research procedure that produces descriptive data. Data collected in qualitative research in the form of words, images and not numbers. 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.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The main character in the Great Expectation is Phillip Pirrip, better known by the name Pip, is a reflection of the social layer of society at that time. Pip is described as a young child who came from Kent, England. He lives with Mrs. Joe Gargary, his sister, who is described as a bad woman and Joe the blacksmith who always defends Pip. Pip's family background is the lower class of society who lives far from the city. There was a change in Pip's ambition from being a blacksmith like Joe to ambition to become a gentleman. In this case, gentleman is a man of high social status who lives in luxury. His arrival at Satis House met him with Estella, Miss Havisham's adopted son, who changed his ambition to become a gentleman. Pip's desire to be a gentleman to be equal with Estella represented the social gap at that time. The working class lifestyle was described as 'haphazard' by Estella when she was asked to describe Pip. Estella insulted Pip's social status from her lifestyle and clothes.

Pip's desire to be a gentleman to be equal with Estella represented the social gap at that time. The working class lifestyle was described as 'haphazard' by Estella when she was asked to describe Pip. Estella insulted Pip's social status from her lifestyle and clothes. Clothing can be used as a marker, when he stood as a cloth covering the body. However, then it can be interpreted as a sign, when it passes the significance of who uses it. In this case, researchers see that fashion is a form of non-verbal communication because it does not use spoken or written words. Related to this, Barnard (2011) argues, "Although the garment is expressed in words such as the brand, what strengthens it is the literal meaning of the brand", as in the following figure:

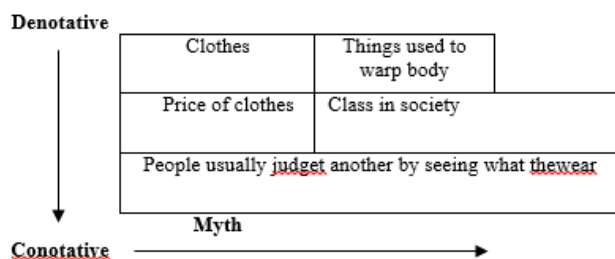


Figure 1 Literal Meaning

From the translation of the figure above, the author divided the clothes for the party, men use tuxedo and women use dresses. To work in an office, men wear work shirts and

sometimes in work suits, women usually wear blouse. People from the lower classes, such as construction coolies, they will not wear this type of clothing. Roach and Either in Barnard (2011) stated that fashion symbolically binds a community. Fashion is considered as one way to form a social bond. For party clothes, the material used also uses expensive materials, such as silk, wool and so forth. For this reason, clothes are not just used as body armor, but because of the development of the textile world, people will wear clothes. The evidence from the above explanation can be proven from the sentence, which is said by Estella to Pip, by looking at the clothes worn by Pip in Dickens (2014) as below:

“Calls He calls the knaves, Jacks, this boy!’ Said Estella with design before our first game was out. ‘And what coarse hands he has! And what thick boots!’ ‘I never thought of being ashamed of my hands before; but I began to consider them a very indifferent pair. Her contemplation for me was so strong, that it became infectious, and I caught it”.

From the translation of the insults, which Estella said to Pip, it can be explained that the style of dress can indicate a person's social status. Clothing and fashion are often used to show social status, and people often make judgments about people based on what they wear. Conveying identity means showing others how we behave and how others should treat us. Many nonverbal messages are communicated through the way of clothing and other artifacts. Jewelry, facial make-up, buttons, stationery used, cars driven, homes occupied, home furnishings and how they are arranged, office size and location, and, in fact, almost every object related to humans also communicates meaning. Both the Pierre Cardin and Rolex watches provide information about the same and correct time, but both communicate different things about the dresses.

This is also expressed by Danesi (2012) that clothing can be fashion, fashion itself is a kind of macro dress code, which sets standards of style according to age, gender, social class, and so on. The clothes we wear are powerful statements that can reveal who we are. Clothing in the realm of formation of personal or community ideology is a stylish dimension. This style of order and guidance is often interpreted as an effort to express the desire and the recognition of identity in the context of social life. Uncontrolled expression in style encourages some persons to give the limits of clothes that are comfortable and suitable or not to be shown to the general public, at least the social community. This limitation of dress style, which is often seen as irregularity, is accepted and placed in certain cultures. Conflicts and interrelationships would be related to religious, moral, and ethical values in addressing the products of dress art appeared in various

ways. On the other hand, the distortion of the meaning of clothing as a basic need becomes clothing as a luxury requirement for style.

Furthermore, at the representation stage, it is found that the ideology of Marxism is embedded in the use of dialogue in each scene. In addition, there are several dialogues in a scene that emphasize the existence of Marxism ideology. The dialogue is in the form of an explanation of the behavior that can only be done by the bourgeoisie, as well as a dialogue of how the main actor in the novel Pip, in the symbol of class struggle. In addition, there are several scenes, which represent the ideology of Marxism, in which the scene shows, how the bourgeoisie treats the proletariat. What Estella said, made Pip rise. He always remembers that a bitter life will make a proletarian easily insulted. The following quote can be used as a marker and a marker, how Pip has big ambitions, to raise the class strata in his life: Dickens wrote: *“That was a memorable day to me, for it made great changes in me”* (Dickens, 74).

The quote above showed how Pip wanted to be better and more respected. He even also learned things that were done by a gentleman, because it was known that lower classes such as him were difficult to get a chance in getting an education at that time. The sentence *“That was a memorable day”* can be made significant, because something that is memorable (continues to be remembered in someone’s life, is certainly not easily forgotten, and is usually used as a whip, for someone to achieve what he wants. Then, in the sentence: *“For it made great changes in me”* is proof, which can be explained in the second stage of the significance system, and outlines the myth, that Pip is determined to change his life, to reach the upper class level. From the explanation above, the writer can prove that the theory of semiotics can also be linked to the class theory of society, which was invented by Karl Marx, using signification system.

Besides that, the signified of Pip’s down psychological, would also see, when Pip explains the emotional stress that arises from his financial class grouping, when he says, *“As we get more and more indebted, breakfast becomes a more hollow and more hollow form ... I went so far as to take the Avenger with his blue collar and shake. He was from his feet...for presuming to suppose that we wanted a roll”* (Dickens, 340). In the other hand, from that quotation above, it can be explained that Dickens focused on the devastating consequences of the lack of morals and financial powerlessness, when Pip’s great hopes, which came because of people, without names, who supported Pip’s economy, Suddenly, Pip faced with truth that his “big expectations” were simple, that they were not reality, and that Pip’s hopes were based on false hopes and fantasies. This is consistent with what happened in the reign of Queen

Victoria. Economic disparity at that time, made a lot of British people, who faced with delusions that they wanted to be in the position of the bourgeois as in the figure below:

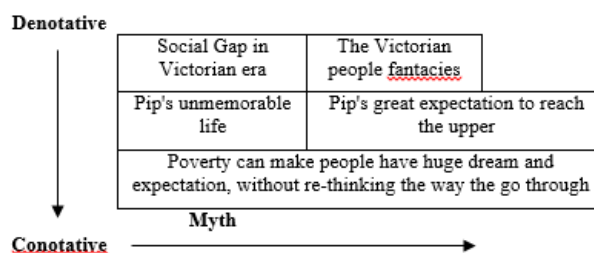


Figure 2 False Hopes and Fantasies

From the figure above, then connected with Pip’s statement, it can be analyzed, that the slightest movement or words might give the impression. The data above explains that Pip’s grown like rapidly. In this context, Pip describes that he got the shock culture of being the upper. On the other hand, Dickens illustrates Pip’s direct journey might be a life lesson to show that finance can cause emotional upheaval. Therefore, Pip’s life journey may ultimately lead to something more positive, to the realization that a sincere relationship and moral self are more important than superficial pleasure and social status. Pip no longer tries to impress Estella because she also no longer puts herself above others. In fact, without loving Estella, Pip is able to become a more compassionate and lovable man.

CONCLUSION

In this section, the researchers present several conclusions, taken from the reference of the Great Expectation novel. According to the discussion above, connecting of the Pip’s characters in The Great Expectation novel, Pip’s identity construction through life style, it is divided in three categories.

1. The first conclusion is the sign that relates to the class society of someone’s dressing style. The dressing style with its simplicity is the style of the upper people with its extravagance and an idol style with her glamor, as seen from the statement spoken by Estella on Pip. From the discussion above, it is found that some ideologies beyond the dressing style of the characters in the novel are rebellion toward the owner of capital culture and their domination.
2. The Great Expectation novel is a picture of the real life of Queen Victoria’s era of power, where social gaps are very real. In reality, at the time of the Queen of Victoria, economic disparities were visible. One reason is the industrial revolution. In that period, many people put their hopes that their economic situation would be better.

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