A FIGHT AGAINST THE SOCIAL INJUSTICE
IN CHARLES DICKENS’ *THE TALE OF TWO CITIES*;
A MARXIST APPROACH

RESEARCH PAPER

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by

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SUMMARY


This research is aimed at analyzing the structural elements of A Tale of Two Cities and describing a fight against the social injustice in the story based on Marxist approach. The study focuses on a fight against social injustice. The major problem of this study is how a fight against the social injustice is reflected in Charles Dickens’ A Tale of Two Cities based on Marxist Approach.

This research paper is descriptive qualitative research. The object of the study is A Tale of Two Cities novel written by Charles Dickens. The primary data source is A Tale of Two Cities itself and the secondary data sources are several references, literary criticism, and articles from internet. The method of collecting data is library research. The technique of data analysis is descriptive analysis.

The result of the study reveals the way of fight against the social injustice in Charles Dickens’ that was inspired by the French Revolution which ranged from 1789 to 1793, involved an overthrow of the aristocratic ruling order by the lower classes and was followed by a period of terror. Starting from the polarization of classes, the cruel and unjust condition, and Revolutionary movement has led the writer to conclude that Dickens’ A Tale Of Two Cities clearly reflected the Marxism theory.

Key word: ATOTC (A Tale of Two Cities), Marxist, Social Injustice, Literature, Human being
A. Problem Statement

The major problem of the study is: “How is a fight against the social injustice reflected in Charles Dickens’s *A Tale of Two Cities*?”

B. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher will focus on a fight against the social injustice reflected in Charles Dickens’s *“A Tale of Two Cities”*

C. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the structural element of the novel
2. To analyze the novel based on Marxist perspective.

D. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to give contribution to other literary researchers, especially in study of Charles Dickens’s work.

2. Practical Benefit

This research is expected to able to give deeper understanding for the researcher about the content of the novel that consists of structural elements which is viewed from Marxist perspective.
E. Theoretical Approach

This study employs the theory of Marxist, which focuses on analyzing the social condition and fight against in social injustice in the novel. To make easier in applying Marxist theory in this study, the writer takes the following steps:

1. Identifying the structural elements of “Tale of two cities” novel.
2. Finding a special characteristic in the story that is appropriate with social condition.
3. Determining the characteristic in the story into oppressor and oppressed based on their characteristics.
4. Searching the representation of dialectical materialism, historical materialism, alienation and class struggle in “Tale of two cities” novel.
5. Analyzing the entire class and formulating the in form of Marxist analysis.

F. Research Method

1. Objective of the Study


2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The type of data is text, while the data sources are divided into two kinds:

a. Primary data source

The primary sources of data are the literary work itself that consist of words, phrases, and sentence.

b. Secondary data source

The secondary sources of data are books of literary criticism, and articles on the internet.
3. **Technique of the Data Collection**

The technique of data collection in this study is library research. It consists of some steps, as follows:

a. Reading the novel rapidly and tries to imagine to understand the novel
b. Identifying the data
c. Takes notes and underlines the important words, phrases of sentence, which are related to the study
d. Classifying the data into some categories

4. **Technique for Analyzing Data**

The technique of data analysis of the research is descriptive analysis. In this case, the researcher tries to describe the structural elements of the novel and sociological analysis. Hence, the collected data will be interpreted and analyzed in detail through the appropriate approach, in this case is Marxist approach to show a fight against the social injustice reflected Charles Dickens’s “*A Tale of Two Cities*” with Sociological Approach

G. **Conclusion**

After analyzing Charles Dickens’ *A Tale of Two Cities*, the author comes into conclusion. The first is that *A Tale of Two Cities* was first publishing in 1859, belonging to the period age that is often using to cover the whole of nineteenth century. In both countries, England and French, there was outbreak in social, religious, and cultural aspects of life. The people there were restless and anxious about the unjust and cruel tyrant monarchy.

Second, the whole structures of the elements of the novel support the theme. In this novel, Charles Dickens vividly paints the aristocratic maltreatment of the lower class.
Dickens maintains a complex perspective on French revolution because although he did not particularly sympathize with the gruesome and often irrational result, he sympathized with the unrest of the lower order of society.

Third, Charles Dickens was inspired by the French Revolution which raged from 1789 to 1793, involved an overthrow of the aristocratic ruling order by the lower classes and was followed by a period of terror. The Marxism theory is apparent. Starting from the polarization of classes, the cruel and unjust condition, and Revolutionary movement has led the writer to conclude that Dickens’ *A Tale of Two Cities* clearly reflected the Marxism theory. The elements in Marxist approach, dialectical materialism, historical materialism, and revolution are apparent, while the alienation element is not.

**H. Suggestion**

After analyzing Charles Dickens’ *A Tale of Two Cities*, the writer concludes that it is an interesting novel. It has heroic and social value in it. It also shows the sacrifice and love intrigue. The moral value of this novel is that not to underestimate people by its class in society. Further, a leader should always put justice as his or her principle. The Revolution held by people toward their tyrant leaders is also apparent today.

Beside using Marxist approach, this novel can be observed using other kinds of theories dealing with social injustice. They are Sociological approach and Genetic Structuralism. In using Sociological approach, other researcher can observe from sociological aspect about this novel. While in Genetic Structuralism approach emphasizes not only on the literature of this novel but also its relationship with history.

This novel can also be analyzed by using feminist, behaviorism, and religious approach. It has few points and statements in the novel that resemble respective approach. The writer hopes this thesis will be very useful to the reader and can become a stepping stone for other writer who is interested in this novel.


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