SOCIAL MOBILITY IN CHARLES DICKENS’ *GREAT EXPECTATIONS* NOVEL (1861): A MARXIST PERSPECTIVE

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SOCIAL MOBILITY IN CHARLES DICKENS’ GREAT EXPECTATIONS NOVEL (1861): A MARXIST ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT

This study is describe about social mobility that reflected Charles Dickens’ Great Expectations novel. The purpose of this study is to know and describe the indicator of social mobility, to analyze the depiction of social mobility through character and plot, and to reveal the reason why Charles Dickens illustrated the social mobility in novel. The researcher uses qualitative method with Descriptive analysis and the Marxist perspective. The study deliver some conclusions. Firstly, there are three indicators of social mobility there are occupational, property and authority structure. Secondly, the depiction of the social mobility is depicted through the character and the plot. Thirdly, the reason why the author writes the novel is to describe to public about the social problem that happened in Victorian Era.

**Keywords**: Great Expectations, Marxist, Social Mobility

1. INTRODUCTION

Great Expectations has been researched by four researcher using different issues and theories, the two of them focuses on the main character, as follow: The first is “Great Expectations: Democracy and the Problem of Social Inclusion” this journal discussed about (Tamai, 2002). The Second is second journal is from Cilea Alves Menezes with the title “The Analysis of Pip as a narrator and focalizer in Great Expectations” and the purpose of the purpose of this study is to analyze the Victorian novel entitled Great Expectations by Charles Dickens. The third The third journal is from Maria Magdalena who studied in Department of English Letters, Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta entitled “Charles Dickens’s Great
Expectation as a Work of Realism” this study explores the role of Great Expectations as a realistic writing. The fourth journal is from Alicia Upham who studied in St. John Fisher College (2012) entitled “Class Structure in Great Expectations: Dictate Your Own fate” this study analyze about Charles Dickens’ Great Expectations portrays about two different class structures in the Victorian Era through the stories experienced by Pip. However, based on the previous studies, some of the researchers just focusing on the characteristics of Pip as the main character. The researcher found that the issue of social mobility has never been researched yet. Social Mobility is a movement from higher to lower or lower to higher. Social mobility have some types, there are 4 types of social mobility, The first is Horizontal Mobility, horizontal mobility individual movements and social movements taking place at the same level. The second is Vertical mobility is the mobility that changes in employment and economic status that lead to a change of position. The third is intergenerational mobility, intergenerational mobility leads to a change of social status. The latter is the work monopoly of change that occurs due to the high shyness of low employment and want to have a better job. This study conducts Great Expectations novel with the issue of social mobility by using Marxism Theory. It aims to describe how the issue of social mobility is depicted.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This study is a descriptive qualitative research. The researcher conducts two objects of this study as follows, formal object and material object. The formal object is discussing about social mobility by using Marxism Theory, the material object is Charles Dickens’s novel published by Wordsworth Edition. There are two data sources can be found in this study, as follows: primary data source and secondary data source. Primary data source is Great expectations novel. Secondary data source consisting books, journal, articles and internet to complete the data analysis. In the techniques of collecting data, the researcher uses five steps are follows: 1) Reading and understanding the novel “Great Expectations”, 2) Browsing and reading the related articles and some information needed in the internet. 3) Taking notes of the important related with the study. 4) Identifying the problem in Great Expectations and finding the data. 5) Making conclusion and its suggestion based on the
results. In analyzing data, the researcher uses qualitative data analysis by Miles and Huberman (1994).

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Indicators of Social Mobility

In this novel, the researcher found 3 kinds indicators of social mobility, namely occupational, property and authority structure. The following are the indicator of social mobility depicted in the novel.

3.1.1 Occupational Structure

Occupational structure is one of important thing that caused social mobility happened. There are five occupations of the play. The first is Blacksmith, The Second is Servant, The third is Clergymen, The Fourth is Wheelwright, The Fifth is Corn Farmers. All of this occupations depicted through the character of the novel.

3.1.2 Authority Structure

People with high authority have the ability to control society. People with high authority can have a major impact on society. There are two characters that divided into Rich people and Huge Heritage Holders.

3.1.3 Property Structure

Property is quality or thing owned or possessed. The property is one of factors which make people get higher class. Each community, has a different property structure is different. There are 3 kinds of property that depicted in this novel. Firstly is House, Secondly is Horse, Thirdly is Carriage.

3.2 The Depiction of Social Mobility

There are four parts to depict the issue of social mobility in the novel, such as through character, setting, events and style.

3.2.1 Through Character/Characterization

The first character is Upper Class. Miss Havisham is from Upper Class because she has a lot of wealth and has a big house called Satis House. Miss Havisham also has highest social status in that era.
The second character is Lower Class. Character who involved as Lower Class is Pip’s family such as Joe Gargery and his wife and also Pip. Joe Gargery worked as blacksmith and his wife worked as Servant.

The third is Character is Rich Character. The rich character in this novel is Miss Havisham, she has categorized as Rich Character because she has a lot of wealth and she has big house called Satis House with the iron hedge in the front of her house.

The fourth character is Poor Character. Poor character is people who do not have persistent work and also people who have less income to fulfill their everyday necessary. The poor character in this novel is a prison who haven’t wealth and categorized as a poor character.

The fifth character is Moving Class Character. There is one moving character who played by Pip. Pip is an ordinary boy and now he is a gentleman and having authority to use wealth that given for him. From that movement, can be concluded that there is moving class character from Lower class to Upper Class and called as Vertical Mobility.

3.2.2 Through Setting

Setting is the place where events or stories occur. Settings contain information such as place and time names. Setting aims to build the atmosphere of the scene and the story and develop the plot in order to produce the real character. There are two place in this novel, the first is Down Town. Down town is placed in the small area/edges area. Down town usually dirty, dense and didn’t maintained and usually become a division between one regions with another region. The second is uptown. Uptown is area which is placed in the center of the town and it’s called as uptown. One of Uptown in this novel is from London.

3.2.3 Through Events

Through the plot of the story, Charles Dickens depicted social mobility through Victorian Era in 1861. In the beginning of the play, pip is an ordinary man who treated by her sister and brother in-law and Pip also adopted by Miss Havisham a woman who very rich and very mysterious. As time goes by, pip grows into a handsome teenage boy. Suddenly there was a philanthropist who gave free treasures and inheritance to pip
and told Pip to move to London to learn to be a gentleman and finally Pip became a Gentleman.

3.2.4 Through Style

Charles Dickens uses Figurative Language, symbolism, and diction to represent social mobility in the novel, as follows:

3.2.4.1 Figurative Language

Figurative Language is the way to describe techniques that writers use to bring life to their work such as using similes, hyperbole, metaphors, personification and symbol. The purpose is to examine a few examples of these from the novel Great Expectations. In the novel, Charles Dickens uses personification to give the assigning of human attributes to inhuman things. Charles Dickens included a hyperbole in describing how Pip in planning his future. Another figurative element in this novel is Simile. This is an explicitly made comparison using words “like” or “as”.

3.2.4.2 Symbolism

Symbolism is a symbol used to describe moods and emotions in a literary work. The first is Satis House is Miss Havisham’s house and this is the old, crumbling estate where Miss Havisham is living out her days as a total eccentric. In Pip's modest village, Satis House is the sole symbol of affluence. The Second is The Rising Mists is a popular symbol throughout the novel, usually signaling an obscure vision, and the mists rise many times in the novel. The rising mists in Dickens' Great Expectations offer moments of clarity for Pip.

3.2.5 Diction

Diction is the author word choice in a book to make the book intriguing. One of example of diction in Great Expectations is Charles Dickens using the name Pip. He created this name based on the two names Pirrip and Phillip

3.3 The Reasons of addressing Social Mobility in Great Expectations Novel

The Reason Charles Dickens addresses Social Mobility in the novel because Social Mobility is important issues in his life journey and important issues in that era, Victorian Era. Charles Dickens also wants to illustrate the different class in that era. He wants the public to learn about social class

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3.4. Discussion

Based on the results of the study, this novel counted as Victorian Literature. It has written by Charles Dickens in 1861. This novel tells about the man who raise his success but can’t keep it until the end of his life. He also tells about struggling life and also there is a social class. Charles Dickens has illustrated the social mobility from the character and the plot of the play. It can be seen through their dialogue in the play.

The character who experience the social mobility is Pip. Pip is the only one who experiencing the social mobility. Pip get the movement because there is someone who give all his wealth for pip and ask pip to go to London to be a gentleman. After Pip become a gentleman he forget he was come from. He bought anything that useful and after he lose all of his wealth he become confused and he has a lot of debt and he can’t pay it.

Charles Dickens wrote this drama to show the social mobility that happened in 1861. In the Victorian era, people are classified by high class and lower class. The high class who own the most property and have the highest social status, and also may not need to work for produce money. Besides it, the lower class must be hard work to have money to fulfill their necessary to live their life every day. Charles Dickens illustrated the kind of social mobility through the pip by wealth and authority.

Marxism notices the social mobility is one of the impact of the social change. The social and cultural change is a kinds of materialism (Marx and Engels 1848). The social mobility can happen if there is an encouragement to make their life better than before. However, social aberrations happen by mistake. With social mobility also destroys capitalism. It also ruined that the bourgeoisie must marry someone from the same class. Therefore, the proletariat has the opportunity to marry the bourgeoisie if they love them.

4. CONCLUSION

After analyzing the findings and discussion of this study, the research comes to three conclusions, as follows: First, the playwright figured a social mobility that can be classified through three indicators, namely occupational, authority and property. Second, the playwright depicted social mobility that can be classified through the depiction of the character and the plot. The depiction of the character is characteristics of the character itself, which figured the social issue in the novel. The depiction of the plot some event of the play, which made it into a story. It
illustrated some social problem in the novel. Third, the social mobility addressed in the novel because the social mobility often happened in nowadays and often happened in Victorian Era. The social mobility happened some years in the Victorian Era. Charles Dickens narrated that issue is to represent the different of lower class and high class. Charles Dickens also wants to tell that all of people can make a better movement in order to make their life better than before.

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