

**BOUNDERBY'S STRUGGLE FOR BETTER LIFE IN
CHARLES DICKENS' *HARD TIMES* NOVEL (1854): AN
INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Charles Dickens' *Hard Times* is a novel with a social message which the author brings to life through character and setting. Dickens apparently expects his readers to accept his portrayal of Bounderby as being typical of this new breed of industrialists, but the character reflects none of the beginnings of modern scientific principles of management date emerging in the first half of the 19th century. The novel was written to depict what life was like during the industrial revolution and to reflect the distinctions between the classes during that era.

The novel can be summarized as a book about two struggles. One struggle is between fact and imagination and the other is the struggle between two classes. Thomas Gradgrind, the father of Louisa, Tom, and June, does not only stress facts in the classroom in which he teaches, but also at home to his family. He has brought up his children to know only the "facts." Everything is black and white, right or wrong with nothing in between. Gradgrind does not like the idea of going to the circus or having flowered carpet. Everyone knows a person cannot have flowered carpet. He would trample all over them and they would end up dying. The second struggle is between the classes which is illustrated between Stephen Blackpool and Bounderby. Blackpool represents the working class and Bounderby the bourgeois or middle class. He is a warm-

hearted man who feels he deserves this mediocre life. Struggle has a general meaning as a way to get the best result and something worth. People will do everything to get it. This occurs in many kinds of field, one of them in literary works.

Beside *Hard Times* novel, Charles Dickens also write some other novels, the first novels, during the years of 1837 to 1850 Dickens wrote some of his most successful novels: *The Pickwick Papers* (1837), *Oliver Twist* (1838), *Nicholas Nickleby* (1839), *The Old Curiosity Shop* (1841), *Barnaby Rudge* (1841), *A Christmas Carol* (1843), *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1844), *Dombey and Son* (1848), and *David Copperfield* (1850). Dickens always had a longing for journalism which came to fruition in 1850 when he began writing for the weekly publication *Household Wares* and then *All the Year Round*. Middle novels, during these more troubled times Dickens wrote *Bleak House* (1853), *Hard Times* (1854), and *Little Dorrit* (1857). His production slowed because he found he enjoyed spending his time traveling and reading to live audiences. Last years, in his latter years Dickens continued to spend time traveling and reading to audiences. This caused a great strain on his health culminating in his collapsing in the April of 1869. Final novels, during the final decade of his life Dickens wrote several more successful novels: *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859), *Great Expectations* (1861), *Our Mutual Friend* (1865), and the unfinished novel of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (1870).

Charles John Huffham Dickens is one of the most popular and beloved writers who ever lived. His novels and tales catered to a vast and intensely

loyal audience. More than just an entertainer, Dickens used his enormous popularity to attack injustice and strengthen the sympathies of his readers for the poor and the helpless, for orphans and outcast persons. He was born in Portsmouth, Hampshire, England on February 7, 1812, to a family in the middle-class. His father was a minor government official, a clerk in the navy's pay office; his paternal grandmother had been in domestic service, as a housekeeper. In his boyhood, Dickens' family experienced money troubles. For a time, his father was even imprisoned for debt in London's Marshalsea Prison. His wife and younger children accompanied him to the prison.

At the age of five his family moved to London where he would live for most of the rest of his life. His father went to jail because he couldn't control his spending and young Charles was forced to quit school and go to work. It is here that he gained his knowledge of the working class that would be his focus for many of his works. After his father was released from prison, Dickens was allowed to return to school but then quit at the age of fifteen. At 15, Dickens left school to become a clerk in a law office. After teaching himself shorthand, he became a legal reporter, and covered debates in Parliament for the newspapers. His skepticism about organized politics and established institutions probably dates from this time in his life. Early years, after his withdrawal from formal schooling he became a clerk in a solicitor's office and then a shorthand reporter in courtrooms. This is where he gained his knowledge both of the court system and of the government. During this time

he got his literary start by contributing stories and essays to magazines and newspapers.

Middle years, Dickens always had a longing for journalism which came to fruition in 1850 when he began writing for the weekly publication *Household Wares* and then *All the Year Round*. The 1850's also brought about a more difficult time in Dickens' life as he began having problems with his wife which led to their separation. However, his writing became more mature as his novels became darker and more developed and his characters became more complicated. His production slowed because he found he enjoyed spending his time traveling and reading to live audiences.

Last years, in his latter years Dickens continued to spend time traveling and reading to audiences. This caused a great strain on his health culminating in his collapsing in the April of 1869. He died just over a year later on June 9, 1870 and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

Hard Times is perhaps the archetypal Dickens novel, full as it is with family difficulties, estrangement, rotten values and unhappiness. It was published in 1854 and it is the story of the family of Thomas Gradgrind (perhaps the archetypal Dickens name) and occurs in the imaginary Coketown, an industrial city inspired by Preston. Gradgrind is a man obsessed with misguided 'Utilitarian' values that make him trust facts, statistics and practicality more than emotion and is based upon James Mill (the Utilitarian leader). He directs his own children, Louisa and Tom, in this same way: enforcing an artless existence upon them. For instance, he makes Louisa marry

Josiah Bounderby who is three decades her elder. Her only love is really for her brother who is in Bounderby's employ.

The cynical James Harthouse arrives and attempts to seduce her but she is inspired by the experience to escape her constricted life and her imagination takes over. Her father becomes aware of the nonsense of his own scheme and he protects his daughter from her husband. Not everything is cleared up, though, and Tom steals from the bank and dishonestly tries to shift the blame. He does so successfully for a time but eventually gets found out and must leave the country. Dickens is trying to help the reader get an understanding of what is to come. Dickens shows the way the working classes are fighting for a say in the way they are treated at work by forming unions and how a bad negotiator can ruin things. He shows from the start that the education system is based on "fact" and not "fancy." The breakdown of the "fact" based education is shown when Gradgrind himself asked a question that is not fact based. In the end, the whole system of education is reversed and the "fancy" is fancied.

Hard Times novel by Charles Dickens is an interesting novel. The writer has four reasons why choosing this novel. First, because the story discusses what message Dickens is trying to portray to the reader, such as value judgments of people and family values, as a representation of his time. *Times* were hard for children and adults alike. People, who questioned what they were taught, often went through struggles and "hard times".

Second, the literary technique that is used in hard times novel can be aroused contempt or amusement in the reader.

Third, the story is about the meaning of life. Because, the *Hard Times* novel tells about the struggle of life. For example about the struggle of Bounderby, from child until he gets the better life as a wealthy merchant, banker, and businessman.

Fourth, the story has social message which the author brings to life through character and setting. Dickens apparently expects his readers to accept his portrayal of Bounderby as being typical of this new breed of industrialists, but the character reflects none of the beginnings of modern scientific principles of management date emerging in the first half of the 19th century.

Thus, by understanding the novel and reading the theory of individual psychological, the writer can see the positive effect of the *Hard Times* story that tell us about the life in real world. The story can give knowledge to be better in life and human spirit. Therefore, in this research, the writer wants to analysis of “BOUNDERBY’S STRUGGLE FOR BETTER LIFE IN CHARLES DICKENS’ *HARD TIMES* NOVEL (1854): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH”.

B. Literature Review

The novel *Hard Times* by Charles Dickens is an interesting novel as for as the writer concerns, the research on the novel *Hard Times* has been conducted by two researchers from the internet.

The first researcher is Johnson Charles (1998) Middle East Technical University, entitle "*Evil Intentions are the Evil Person's Own Undoing.*" The research is about the distinction between two classes, middle class and upper class. *Hard times* been viewed varied even conflicting ways different critics. Critics drawn detail with convincing relationship real world with inner life. Opinion majority characters flat oppose round. Definition flat characters purpose this essay lacking depth maintains those characteristics throughout story. This developed reflect different aspects humanity uses their personalities depict moral themes. Example Gradgrind represents felt evil only interested looking after number even goes willing sacrifice sister Louisa better social situation when wants marry Bounderby rich banker philosophy life revolves around rationalism self.

The second researcher is Philip V. Allingham (1998) Faculty of Education, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, Ontario, entitle "*Charles Dickens's Hard Times for These Times as an Industrial Novel*". In his research, he talks that Dickens described the appalling conditions of life in factory towns; preached that the poor were entitled to the same justice, the same healthy conditions, the same freedom, as the rich; attacked every kind of public pest, especially those whose love for the public was really a love of publicity; and above all ridiculed the typical bureaucratic mentality which substituted scientific accuracy for imaginative reality, convinced that facts and figures were all-important, while fancies were beneath contempt.

Different from the two previous researchers, this study focuses on the struggle of Bounderby, one of the major characters in this novel by an individual psychological approach. In this study the researcher gives the title “BOUNDERBY’S STRUGGLE FOR BETTER LIFE IN CHARLES DICKENS’ *HARD TIMES* NOVEL (1854): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH”.

C. Problem Statement

The prime problem of this study is “how the struggle of Bounderby to get the better in life being reflected in Charles Dickens’ *Hard Times* novel?”

D. Limitation of the Study

To carry out the study, the researcher needs to limit the study. The researcher is going to analyze the major character in *Hard Times* novel written by Charles Dickens in 1854, based on an individual psychological approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- a. To analyze the novel in terms of structural elements.
- b. To analyze the novel based on Individual Psychological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The study of the struggle for life of Charles Dickens's *Hard Times*, has several benefits there are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

- a. To give some information which can be used by the other researchers who are interested in analyzing this literary work.
- b. To give a contribution to other literary research especially in the study of *Hard Times* novel.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. To get deeper understanding about An Individual Psychological issues in *Hard Times* novel.
- b. To enrich the literary study, particularly among the students especially on Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

G. Research Method

a. Type of Research

In analyzing Charles Dickens *Hard Times* the writer uses the qualitative method, because it does not need statistic to explore the fact.

b. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The type of the data in this research is textual data, which consist of words, phrases, and sentences. In this research the writer uses two data source there are primary and secondary data source.

i. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the novel itself *Hard Times* by Charles Dickens

ii. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source are taken from other sources, which are related to the primary data, such as the biography of the author, the website from the internet about the novel *Hard Times* and other resources that support the analysis.

c. Technique of the Data Collection

The method of data collection in this research is documentation. This data collection is as much as possible done through the library. *Hard Times* written by Charles Dickens is treated as the primary from other sources; the writer uses theories of literature, and other books that support the analysis are treated as secondary data. In the process of writing this research, the writer would like to use a procedure as follows:

- i. Reading the novel many times until the writer gets adequate information or data analyzed.
- ii. Identifying a particular part considered important and relevant for the analysis.
- iii. Making note of the importance parts in both primary and secondary data.
- iv. Classifying the data into some categories.

- v. Selecting them by rejecting the irrelevant matters that do not support the topic of the study.
- vi. Drawing the selecting materials into a good unity supporting the topic of the study.

d. Technique of the Data Analysis.

In analyzing the data the writer employs the descriptive qualitative analysis, in this case the writer gathers the data using the text to interpret the data, analyzing the data source and comparing once. In secondary data the writer as several one from the theory of Individual Psychological, and then analyzes the theory with the major character in *Hard Times*.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research consists of five chapters which are presented as follows: Chapter I is introduction of the research that includes the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, theoretical approach, and research method, and paper organization. Chapter II presents the underlying theory consisting of Individual Psychological. Chapter III is the structural analysis of the novel by describing character and characterization, setting, a point of view, plot, theme and style of the novel and a brief discussion. Chapter IV is Individual Psychological Analysis dealing with the problems in the novel. Chapter V contains conclusion and suggestion.