

CONSPIRACY REFLECTED IN CHARLES DICKENS' *OLIVER TWIST*

(1838) : AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH



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**CONSPIRACY REFLECTED IN CHARLES DICKENS' *OLIVER TWIST*
(1838) : AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**

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Abstract

This Study is about conspiracy. The problem of this study is what conspiracy expressed in Oliver Twist novel. The object of the study is Oliver Twist novel by Charles Dickens. It employed an individual pshycological approach. This study belongs to qualitative research. In this method, there are two types of data source, namely primary and secondary data source. The primary data source is the novel and the secondary data is other material related to the study. Both data are collected through library research and analyzed by descriptive analysis. The result of the study shows the following conclusion. Based on the analysis it is clear that there is a close relation between this novel and the individual reality in England in early nineteenth century. Dickens wants to explore the conspiracy of England in early nineteenth century through Oliver Twist novel.

Keyword: conspiracy, England, Oliver Twist, an Individual Psychological.

A. Introduction

Oliver Twist is a novel written by Charles Dickens. The novel is firstly published in 1838. It has 436 pages and 53 chapters. *Oliver Twist* is one of the most famous novels Charles Dickens. Charles Dickens' novels are useful, easy, and pleasant to be read. Dickens creates Oliver Twist as the major character. Among the lists are *Oliver Twist* (1837), *Nicholas Nickleby* (1838), *A Christmas Carol* (1843), *David Copperfield* (1849), *Hard Times* (1849), *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859), *Great Expectation* (1860), et cetera (Samekto, 1998: 84).

Charles John Huffan Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England, on February 7, 1812 until June 9, 1870. He is the excellent writer for both didactic and problem novels. His childhood was spent under the shadow of economic depressions of his family, emptiness, and this experience cannot be forgotten. He was the second of eight children. He created some of the world's most memorable fictional characters and is generally regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian period. Over his career he edited a weekly journal for 20 years, wrote 15 novels, 5 novellas and hundreds of short stories and non-fiction articles.

There are some researchers who previously conducted different studies of Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. Among the lists are "Poverty In Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*: Sociological Approach" by Renitasari Oktaviastuti (2005). The second is study which was conducted by Tri Yuni Arinto in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta student (2008) entitled

“The World View of Charles Dickens in *Oliver Twist*: A Genetic Structuralism Approach” by Arinto, Tri Yuni (2008). The third is study which was conducted by Tunjung Wulandari in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta student (2014) entitled “Protest Against Child Exploitation Reflected in Charles Dickens’ *Oliver Twist* (1838): A Sociological Approach”. The last is study proposed by Nur Aini Akhtaj in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta student (2010) entitled “Inferiority Feeling Of Oliver Twist In Roman Polanski’s *Oliver Twist*: An Individual Psychological Approach” by Akhtaj, Nur Aini (2010).

Conspiracy Theorist are generally assumed to be irrational (Coady, 2007). Sunstein and Vermeule define a conspiracy theory as “an effort to explain some event or practice by reference to the machinations of powerful people, who attempts to conceal their role (at least until their aims are accomplished)” (Hagen, 2009:205).

Conspiracy is defined as two or more people getting together to plot an illegal, secret, or immoral action, then we can all agree that there are plenty of conspiracies. Many criminal acts are the consequences of conspiracies; security agencies whose plans are necessarily confidential are continually conspiring; and companies who seek to preserve commercial confidentiality— while sometimes employing others to infiltrate the confidentiality of others— often act in a conspiratorial fashion (Aaronovitch, 2010).

B. Research Method

This study belongs to qualitative method. There are two types of data source, namely primary and secondary data source. The primary data source is the novel *Oliver Twist*, meanwhile the secondary data sources are other materials related to the study. Both data are collected through library research. In collecting data, the writer will takes some steps as follow: reading and learning the original novel for several times to get deep undertsanding, determining the character that will be analyzed, taking notes of important thing both of primary and secondary data source, reading some related books to find out the theory, data and information needed, classifying and determining the relevant data and drawing conclusion based on the analyzing data.

In analyzing the novel,the writer analyzes the data based on an individual psychological approach. Focus will be on the conspiracy reflected in *Oliver Twist* novel and in England in early of nineteenth century.

C. Research Findings and Discussion

The writer gets some research finding in analyzing *Oliver Twist* novel. Each finding has some cases to be discussed. After they have examined, all of components will get back together in a schematic manner in the discussion.

1. Findings

In analyzing *Oliver Twist* novel, the writer gets some findings. There are type conspiracy in *Oliver Twist* novel and conspiracy in reality in England.

a. Conspiracy in *Oliver Twist* Novel

In this novel, Oliver Twist as the major character, is the portraits of victim from conspiracy who does like him. Another person wants to hide the real identity of Oliver and make him be a bad person as thief. Oliver feels inferior because he is an poor orphaned boy who lives in local infant farm.

When in the local infant farm he get bad treatment and punishment. He wants to prove himself by going to work for the beadle. To gets better life he runaway from Mr. Sowerberry's house to London. He changes it to be a great power and be superior man by his inferiority feeling. He strives very hard to reach his final goal by wrong way. Then of his great effort are useless but he begins to emerge his emerge his struggle by excessive ambition.

When Oliver runaway from Mr. Sowerberry house and he introduced to Fagin by Artful Dodger. Fagin is the leader of thief gang. Conspiracion between Fagin and Bill Sikes makes Oliver to become thief for striving life. Even it is a bad thing that is nothing he can do.

b. Conspiracy in reality to the next future

Conspiracy is not new issue in the world. Sunstein and Vermeule define a conspiracy theory as “an effort to explain some event or practice by reference to the machinations of powerful people, who attempts to conceal their role (at least until their aims are accomplished)” (Hagen, 2009:205).

Area where conspiracy theories can be dangerous relates to the feelings of rage and powerlessness that they can engender. With certain personality types, this runs the risk of making them feel that they have no stake in the democratic system and no way for their voice to be heard (Pope, 2012).

Conspiracy theories can be broadly classified into event conspiracies, systemic conspiracies, and super conspiracies. Event conspiracies are those that focus around a single event, such as the assassination of John F. Kennedy, or the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Systemic conspiracies are those that involve complex systems over a long period of time, such as water fluoridation, or the establishment of a dictatorial World Government by some elite group. Super conspiracies consist of multiple separate conspiracies spanning the entire spectrum of subjects, all linked together into one overarching master plan (West, 2013).

2. Discussion

The story of the *Oliver Twist* novel is reflection of what occurred in that time. The author represents the phenomena of the conspiracy by writing the novel. There correlation between the novel and reality in England. The novel tells about conspiracy like hide the real identity of Oliver Twist and conspiracion between Fagin and Bill Sikes makes Oliver to become robber for striving life. The author delivers her idea through the novel in order to make the reader more understand about conspiracy in England in early nineteenth century. In *Oliver Twist* novel, Dickens wants criticize about happen at the time in England. It is drawn clearly by Charles Dickens that conspiracy reflected in *Oliver Twist* novel.

D. Conclusion

After analyzing *Oliver Twist* novel, the writer wants to deliver the conclusion. The story of the novel reflects conspiracy of human.

The first based on basic principle is analyzing the fictional finalism hoped by Oliver. His fictional finalism is getting the better life. He wants to get better condition in his life. The second Striving for superiority constitutes one's effort to become better and achieve ideas goal. Oliver begins to accept the reality that living in London is not easy. He becomes a part of the great thief gang in London. The thirdh inferiority feeling arises when someone confronts task of life that should be mastered. Oliver is the

major character in the novel surely who has inferiority feeling that should be faced and finished. Oliver is a young orphan boy who always feels nervous, fear, and strong in his life. The fourth Style of life is a unique way in facing the task of life and achieving the goal of life. In *Oliver Twist*, the ways to reach better life influenced his life style. Oliver is categorized to avoiding type person who fears failure more that desiring success. The fifth *Oliver Twist* novel, shows that Oliver is young orphan boy with lack of social interest. He is unable to differentiate the bad man and the good one. He meets a member of thief gang when he arrived in London.

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