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THE EFFECTS OF CLASS CONFLICT ON INDIVIDUALITY: A MARXIST ANALYSIS OF CHARLES DICKENS' GREAT EXPECTATIONS

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ABSTRACT

This research paper investigates that Great Expectations, a masterpiece of Charles Dickens, gives a graphic picture of social subjugation and class exploitation. This research paper explores the tragic character of Pip and brings into light his victimization of social class differences in Victorian society. The aim of this article is to trace the impact of cruel laws on Pip's personality and to examine Pip's life in proportion to these difficulties in Dickens' work. The rationale of this study is to highlight the labor exploitation by the bourgeoisie. This research paper tends to trace how capitalist culture makes life worse across the globe. In this research, the researcher uses Karl Marx's ideas as a theoretical framework to illustrate materialistic concerns and their consequences.

INTRODUCTION

Great Expectations is one of the most influential and prodigious works. In this novel, Dickens throws light on the ruling agency of dominant classes and the drawbacks of economic inequality. Dickens has made his work a medium to become a history, he has also worked as a social commentator. While structuring the theme of the novel, he is particularly known for his moral sensibility to find out the unequal distribution of the economy that causes class differences. In the light of Marxist theory, this research article will illustrate the adverse consequences of capitalist society on Pip's upbringing in Dickens's Great Expectations.

Pip's struggle to become a gentleman turns him into a guilt-ridden snob who outwardly conforms to the norms of the elite class but inwardly suffers from personal dilemmas. The hegemonic power of Estella's class leads Pip towards self-destruction thus he loses his individuality. This research explores the novel Great Expectations through the Marxist perspective of the unequal distribution of wealth which gives birth to class conflict. Class consciousness is used to explore Pip's endeavors to gain his individuality and to combat exploitation ignited by the class conflict.

Class mobility which was a staple in Victorian society is very much apparent in Charles Dickens's novel Great Expectations. The novel's multifaceted sense of genre helps to create a complex portrait of the Victorian class system and human psychology. It also demonstrates the corrupting influence of money in a modern capitalistic society. The evils of injustice and greediness of the upper class are exposed throughout the novel. Money manufactures the mentality of the persons concerned.

The idea of expectations is the psychological mechanism that encourages character development. Charles Dickens's Great Expectations portrays the two models of class structure in the nineteenth century through the story of Pip. Identity distortion and guilt are caused not by original sin, but by an unkind and abusive society, which buoy a person to live in an enchanted world of illusion. Pip struggles to sort others and himself because of the social developments that occurred in England during the nineteenth century. He rather discovers his own particular way of choosing his character and circumstance inside society by coordinating his own fate. The story exhibits the issues of imbalance and exactitude that exist with upholding different leveled structures and handles another model of the social course of action that is reliant upon confidence and the ability to achieve status. He rather finds his own particular manner of deciding his character and position inside society by directing his own destiny. The novel exhibits the issues of disparity that exist with implementing an inflexible various leveled characterization structure and handles another model of social game plan that is needy upon confidence and the ability to achieve status by exercises instead of birth.

Through this research paper, the researcher tries to trace the class struggle and class politics in Great Expectations. Furthermore, the consequence of class conflict on Pip's maturation and personality development will also be highlighted.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Dickens represents the frightening childhood of many Victorian children. He shows the dark, dirty, and harsh realities of class struggle by the bourgeoisie through his novel *Great Expectation*. The novel covered slum areas of London, the people who lived there were neglected, depressed, or going through suffering. Images of sad children and stone-hearted adults appear in his novels again and again. He wanted to highlight issues through his writings. Dickens wanted to convey this message that a warm attitude towards others could reduce the suffering of other people and make this society a better place to live.¹

Charles Dickens was a great social reformer; he was an unswerving advocate of oppression in society. He hated subjugation, and he hated the subjugating behavior of one person toward another. He was sensitive towards the sufferings of poor factory workers, children screaming due to the tyranny of cruel teachers, hardships of disgusting prison life, and the absence of justice in society. He held a mirror to the filthy side of the English society.²

Great Expectation is a collection of lots of characters belonging to the higher and lower class. Furthermore, it shows the Victorian society, which suppressed the individual of the lower class. Charles Dickens, through his novels, tries to convey the message so that he could contribute to reducing the suffering of the people.³

Dickens uses the concept of class struggle and succeeds in reflecting the real situation of the Victorian era and digs out the social class differences by giving realistic touches. The motif of social oppression and inequality traveling from the higher class to the lower class has been illustrated in the novel. Moreover, the novel is about the categorization that occurs in society and the wrong way of judging people based on their actions rather than genetics. If someone is doing wrong and he is rich then it is acceptable but if someone is poor and makes a mistake that is not acceptable. Furthermore, Pip is repeatedly told about the status differences in society and he is reminded of the typical social structure while he is at the Satis House. Miss Havisham also inculcates the old school of thought in Estella and makes her believe in the rigidity of social classes and weird social structures.⁴

Dickens cautions in *Great Expectations* that wealth and status corrupt and cause social emptiness, lethargy, snobbery, and vengefulness. The novel shows how materialism and class inequalities ruin relationships. Dickens also compares poor and rich people, showing how a poor family member struggles to realize his *Great Expectations*. *Great Expectations* explores Georgian and Victorian class systems. In *Great Expectations*, social class plays a major role. In Victorian times, it was practically certain that persons born into a class would stay in that class their whole lives.⁵

Victorian capitalism had side effects. Dickens's *Great Expectations* is about the upper bourgeoisie manipulating the lower and destitute classes. Poor people were overworked and mistreated. Rich individuals were materialistic and impoverished people aspired to improve their lifestyles. The wealth gap

created nasty characters and robbed many individuals of their innocence. Dickens's *Great Expectations* renders a world in which "the individual human freedom and fulfillment are frustrated by what is usually promulgated as society's 'Great Expectations,' and those values usually associated with progress, civilization, and modernity"⁶ (2006,p. 167).

Dickens harshly criticizes capitalism and the way it turns humans into miserly, greedy creatures. He talks about the horrible effects of the Industrial Revolution and capitalism, which deprived society of emotions, affection, sympathy, and love for other beings and brought selfishness, meanness, and cruelty. Marketing and collecting money became the sole purpose of many people's lives.⁷

Dickens desired responsible power utilization. Dickens criticized capitalism by stressing the selfishness, materialism, and callousness of the upper class. He was upset that the court system primarily served the privileged and left the poor to the church. The Victorian English poor had no rights and were treated as tools.⁸

In *Great Expectations*, characters go through social transitions in both ways, from poor to rich and from rich to poor, as it was the age of financial instability. Pip also becomes rich for living a life of the poor and downtrodden due to an unknown benefactor, and this happens under the impact of capitalism. Pip becomes rich overnight. Dickens talks about the behaviors of both classes. He talks about small details like clothing, accents, identities, etc. He always raises his voice for the ones whose voices get suppressed by the rich and upper class. He brings forward the marginalized people of society who try to become a part of society and try to fit themselves in. Dickens has given birth to characters who struggle to improve their living styles. However, their desire to become rich makes them greedy, selfish, and mean.⁹

Chesterton, G. K. gives his perspective: When people claim that Dickens cannot give a good portrayal of a gentleman, they mean to say that Dickens does not describe a gentleman like a gentleman. He does not describe a gentleman from the point of a feeling of view. He describes a gentleman only from an appearance point of view.¹⁰ (1911,p. 125)

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The qualitative method has been employed in this research article to conduct the study. The qualitative analysis of primary texts through the application of selected theory allows the reader for an in-depth explanation of the themes of class conflict and oppression. The research paper investigates how Marxism highlights that society is generally divided into different classes. Dickens has represented this division in society which has created many problems. Class division in a society brings an economic crisis. It is the dominant upper class that owns the means of production whereas the subjugate class does not own it. The subordinate class is usually exploited to do productive work and maintains the interest of the upper class. The issues of poverty and inequality, as demonstrated by Karl Marx, are being faced by people in every society and

of all ages. The unequal access to resources and ownership of wealth leads to a division of class.

Furthermore, his works illustrated that the working class i.e., the proletariat is being used and exploited by bourgeoisie. Therefore, Karl Marx's Marxist theory is based on the criticism of capitalism. According to his analysis of class struggle, rich people manipulate the labor power and take advantage. In this way, greed, lust, and other social evils are born. The dominant class gets richer and richer while the working class becomes more neglected.¹¹

The working class extols the world for what it is worth; the nation's youngster is deceived by this grand social environment of the industrialized society. The bourgeoisie society develops a misinterpretation of social amicability for the person who struggles to pursue his dreams while struggling to keep his individuality intact.¹² Moreover, social persecution of a person makes one a curbed individual, an agreeable persona. Pip in *Great Expectations* is a character who loses his individuality and tries to adjust to the average society with the end goal of upward social development.¹³

Furthermore, Karl Marx elaborates that society is maintained by base and superstructure. The productive forces known as economic base or substructure are controlled by the dominant class and superstructures like law, ideology, and politics keep the working-class blind so that they can spread the interests of the elite class. Thus, the profit comes from the exploitation of labor on which poor labor has no claim.

In all societies of different ages, there were classes and class struggles. The main problem is discrimination and economic struggle in society. In all these classes, there were oppressed and oppressors, who were always in opposition to one another for their interests. This opposition in all ages either ended in revolution and drastic change in society or the complete submission of the working class. According to the Marxist theory, the society is divided into two classes: the higher class which belongs to the Aristocrats and the lords; and the other one is the working class which belongs to the proletarians.

The bourgeoisie society pretends to be in harmony with one another in order to dupe an individual who deludes to being a part of this class, but in reality, he is struggling hard to retain his interests. The tug of war between the individual and bourgeoisie industrial society can be well explained from Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno's perspective. Max is of the view that individuals are isolated because of their self-interest, yet they try to be in harmony and become a part of the system to fulfill their self-interest (p. 139).

The entire bourgeoisie system expects the individual to completely submit themselves to their norms. Individuals, who do not have mutual interests, do so in order to achieve their goals. It creates in them a sense of false consciousness that they can only be successful if they keep following the norms of the elite class. In this way, the individuals are rather hypnotized to do whatever the bourgeoisie society tells them to.

Horkheimer also argues that since childhood one is made to become a certain figure and is not encouraged to find and retain his individuality. This is one of the reasons that Pip became a complete imitator. He tried to see himself through others' eyes and never tried to embrace his own identity (p. 291).

Moreover, Horkheimer argues that society also plays a role in making an individual an imitator by setting a goal that everyone is supposed to reach. The person is constantly in a state of false consciousness and does not even know about it. So, there is no individual in the bourgeois system. All it creates is people who have no individuality and who conform to its norms so that particular people could take advantage of that. (1947)

Adorno is of the view that there comes a time when individuals come out of the bubble and try to be their real selves. In such cases where the individuals enter the phase of self-actualization, the main question to ask is whether society lets such people realize their true worth and allows them to be free. The answer to it is that society does not allow a person to be free of its shackles. A person merely has an illusion of freedom but he never gets away with societal norms. Even when a person thinks that he is finally serving his cause, he is serving the bourgeois society. Pip too wanted to realize his worth but ended up becoming a slave to the society. (1973)

The study revolves around the character of Pip to show how a person is made to pursue becoming a part of bourgeois society instead of following his dreams and finding his individuality. Using social realism as a narrative technique, the novel aptly depicts Victorian social life and renders a space to critically view the novel from Horkheimer and Adorno's perspective. The study shows how Pip, through his tireless efforts to become a part of bourgeois society, loses his identity and self-consciousness and ultimately becomes a common man by submitting to social values.

Moreover, Marxism is a social theory that mainly lays emphasis on the conflict that exists between the two social classes: the working class and the capitalists. According to this theory, economic discrimination results in the formation of different social classes. The conflict between the two classes often forces the working class to resist which can lead to revolution. The revolution is the demand of the working classes for equality and to have a better life. Marxism mainly talks about capitalism that in the capitalist system bourgeois gets wealthy by exploiting the labor of the working class or the proletariat. Capitalism is all about antagonistic interest where the interest of one actor is the loss of others. The workers are rendered helpless, exploited, and they become alienated. Through this process of alienation, the elite class exploits them and produces their interest. Workers work hard, they are the ones who produce and render value to the produced items, yet they do not own anything. They do not have access to what they produce, make it valuable, and then the capitalist owns the produced work and gives no credit to the laborers. This act is the basic reason for laborers feeling alienated.¹⁴

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

According to Marxist ideology, 'class' is largely divided into several categories, which are: the bourgeoisie, middle class, and proletariat. Dickens has perfectly showcased a society that is shackled by the class system. Moreover, he accentuated the class consciousness found within the main characters of the novel. Class mobility, a staple of Victorian society, has also been shown explicitly. It highlights the nefariousness of money that prevailed in a modern capitalistic society. This novel discusses how men, women, and children from the lower strata of society have constantly been subjected to inhuman behavior projected by the upper class. Through this research, the researcher aims to unmask the harshness, inequity, selfishness, and greed of the upper class. Many characters in the novel possess a money-manufacturing mentality. Dickens' Great Expectations sketches the journey of a small boy who grows up in his sister's hands. Through the life phases of his main character, Dickens has portrayed phases of English society. It is a true account of the Victorian society of the 19th century. This novel is one of the quintessential representations of the harms of money. It is a tale of 'class' conflict.

In Great Expectations, Dickens 'examines social classes, i.e., the working class and the upper class. Characters like Joe and Biddy represent the honest working class. They are hardworking, kind, patient, and forgiving. There is a decency about them that some of the wealthier characters lack. Even when Pip is a boy, he realizes that he should be proud of his social class, but meeting Estella means he cannot do so. He struggled to fulfill his Great Expectations by the end of the novel.

Class Conflict

The very title of Great Expectations requires a specific interpretation. The social class holds certain expectations from its members; such as, how to look, what to wear, how one should present oneself according to one's financial position, and whom to befriend and associate with. Throughout his life, Dickens saw and felt a wide gulf between the rich and the poor of his country. Marx explains that;

Our epoch, the epoch of the bourgeoisie, possesses, however, this distinctive feature: it has simplified class antagonisms. Society as a whole is more and more splitting up into two great hostile camps, into two great classes directly facing each other-bourgeoisie and proletariat (1948,p. 3).

Engels and Marx take a history of the world to be a history of class struggle (p. 62). As Joe Gargery voices the same idea when he says;

Life is made of ever so many partings welded together, as I may say, and one man's a blacksmith, and one's a whitesmith, and one's a goldsmith, and one's a coppersmith. Divisions among such must come and must be met as they come (p. 316).

One of the most prominent examples of class divisions in the novel is when Joe comes to meet Pip in London. Dickens didn't show this clash of classes when Pip visited his home in the marsh as vehemently as he highlighted the stark difference of classes when Joe came to Pip's place. It looked as if Joe's visit has brought back Pip's old life to London. Joe understands Pip's reaction and says, "I'm wrong in these clothes. I'm wrong out of the forge, the kitchen, or of the meshes. You won't find half so much fault in me if you think of me in my forge dress" (p. 317). Joe has conformed to the behavior of the world towards the proletariat class and how the proletariat class is expected to behave in an oppressive world. He completely accepts his profession and proletariat status when he is not wearing his trade clothes, he feels abnormal or wrong. He feels uncomfortable- an outcast. Seeing Joe and internalizing the shame he has brought to him, Pip's desire to be a part of the bourgeoisie class increased even more, unable to realize that he is part of a lower class and will always be. Being a part of the upper class for some time, Pip started believing himself to be their part. He starts behaving like them, hating Joe for his ignorance and profession. Marx inscribes: "The human being is in the most literal sense a political animal, not merely a gregarious animal, but an animal which can individuate itself only in the midst of society"¹⁵ (p.223). When Pip comes to know who his mysterious benefactor was, the prejudice he has recently developed towards the proletariats, being a high-class gentleman, gets visible. Magwitch, who once was part of the lumpenproletariat, manages to gain capital and change his status.¹⁶ (p.98). Marx took the proletariat to be a group that can never gain class consciousness. Marx believed them to be "passive purifying of the lowest layers of the old society" (1848, 72). But Magwitch alters this idea because of his class consciousness. It was his yearning to smash the boundaries of the ruling class that instigated him to do work, to make Pip a gentleman. Although Magwitch helped Pip; his help couldn't do much for Pip. Pip's whole journey of becoming a 'gentleman' comes full circle and left him back in his same old class. When the old criminal uncovers the truth of him being the unknown benefactor, Pip says, "The abhorrence in which I held the man, the dread I had of him, the repugnance with which I shrank from him, could not have been exceeded if he had been some terrible beast" (p.453). Strangely, when Pip was young and an unadulterated member of the proletariat class, he was ready to help Magwitch. Now, as he has stepped into the bourgeoisie class, Pip hates criminals for being the reason for his class mobility. Eventually, that contempt drove Pip to understand his out sidedness in the bourgeois class and how unfit he was among them. Marx probes that the modern bourgeois society that has sprouted from the ruins of feudal society has not done away with class antagonisms. It has but [has] established new classes, new conditions of oppression, new forms of struggle in place of the old ones (1848, p. 62).

His father has to suffer at the hands of the rich during a dispute. Policies made to suppress and oppress the poor expedited during the industrial revolution and the rise of capitalism. This also paved the way for class mobility, which was not at all visible during feudalism. Getting fame and acknowledgment after such suffering, Dickens was able to comprehend the class struggle found in his society. Dickens "sympathized with the plight of the poor, and through his

writing as he sought to bring awareness to Victorian society of the injustice and harsh condition of living experienced by the poor”¹⁷ (p. 645).

With the help of his protagonist, and to some extent Magwitch, Dickens showcases how an individual from the proletariat class found his way into the bourgeoisie class. Pip also goes through the inner turmoil of eschewing his ascribed status and his acquaintances in that social sphere. In the end, Pip after becoming a part of the bourgeoisie family realizes the reality of class. The novelist took Pip from the marshes and left him in the city to make him realize the fact that humans are an inextricable part of the class/society they are born in, as Marx says, “The human being is in the most literal sense a political animal, not merely a gregarious animal, but an animal which can individuate itself only in the midst of society” (p. 84). This journey from proletariat to bourgeoisie class was an immense necessity for Pip to get up from his sleep of utter ignorance and enable him to understand the idea of a class that is a social construction of division among individuals.

Through the works of Marx, the understanding of the class in nineteenth-century Britain left a huge impact on the world. Marx propounded class conflict on an economic basis; however, more recent philosophies tend to see class as a whole way of life. According to this view, class is a kind of complicated relationship between economic order and societal order. People born in different classes of society are unable to merge into one another. The upper class hardly welcomes the people from the proletariat class. Even if the poor work hard and honestly moves up the social ladder, there is a stigma still attached to them. They are always taken as an outsider. James Eli Adams highlights, “the proliferation of such terms in the nineteenth century in itself suggests the conservative dynamics of class”¹⁸ (p. 49) Hence, only the next generation of the bourgeoisie class was the descendants of the previous generation. No one from outside the class was allowed to be part of their class. Moreover, the novel clearly depicts the subjugation of proletariats at the hands of the bourgeoisie as shown in the case of Pip and Estella. Pip who belongs to the proletariat is constantly being ridiculed and objectified by Estella who is from the bourgeoisie. Estella, being part of the high class, incessantly makes fun of Pip’s physical and mental state.

Elements of Sobriety

They mean that Dickens could not describe a gentleman as gentlemen feel a gentleman. They mean that he could not take that atmosphere easily, accept it as the normal atmosphere, or describe that world from the inside. Dickens did not describe gentlemen in the way that gentlemen describe gentlemen. He described them in the way in which he described waiters, railway guards, or men drawing with chalk on the pavement. He described them, in short (and this we may freely concede), from the outside, as he described any other oddity or special trade.¹⁹ (p. 146).

Finally, the changed Pip develops as a real gentleman effacing his reprehensible past. In the end, he starts working as a common worker with Herbert. He eschews his slothful, loathsome, and luxurious lifestyle and shifts

to be a worker who is respectful of hard work and struggles. Pip gets reborn as a real gentleman. It would be wrong to call Pip a fake bourgeoisie trying to attain power and authority over others; rather, he should be seen as a “redeemed bourgeoisie”.

In the Victorian era, the rapid growth in industrialization and economic activities accelerated the racking up of wealth in the hands of the middle class. Time in which Dickens lived, the prerequisite of gentility was not derived from anybody's birth but from money. For example, Magwich being a criminal and a person coming from a lower stratum of social structure easily accessed money and invested in Pip's life, trying to make him a gentleman. It was the delusive impact of the money that persuaded Pip to disregard his inmates and pursue a high social status. Hence, *Great Expectations* showcases that perseverance, resilience, courage, dignity and self-culture, loyalty, and honesty never go unrewarded. Pip marked a boundary line between others and himself because of the societal shifts he has seen around England in the nineteenth century. But he soon learns to seek his own identity and position in society by shaping his fate. This research paper highlights the issues of inequality that are being enforced through a rigid hierarchical system and tries to showcase a new model implicitly presented by Dickens of social classification that is based on self-determination and on one's ability to earn status by one's actions instead of acquiring it by birth. From the commencement of the novel, Pip is shown as a person who is completely confused about what class difference and hierarchy he belongs to. This confusion is born as he doesn't know anything about the lives of his parents and their social standing. At the novel's beginning, Pip, who is a young boy at that time, is all alone in a graveyard keenly examining the tombstone of his parents' tombs then comes to know that Pip has never seen his parents; resultantly, he tries to create an image of his parents' personalities and appearances with the help of shapes and inscribed messages of their gravestones. From the very beginning of his life, Pip starts relying on his observations to lead his life. As an adult, Pip admits that he misinterpreted the text written on his mother's tombstone, 'Wife of the Above' to be a hint of my “father's exaltation to a better world”. Furthermore, John Bowen remarks, “[...] it is striking how little happiness Pip's good fortune and gentility brings, how little pleasure comes with money and status” (p. 38). Pip wrongly read the hierarchical position of his parents, believing the term “above” to be a reference to the status of his father instead of just the placement of their names. This confusion is symbolic of how in his later life, he was unskilled in understanding social roles and using them properly.²⁰ Moreover Brooks aptly argues, “It is important to note how this beginning establishes Pip as an existence without a plot”²¹ (p. 100).

The Arrogance of Upper Class

Miss Havisham exhibits the persona of the people of the upper class, who want all other classes to be their subordinates. She directs, “Estella, take him down. Let him have something to eat, and let him roam and look about him while he eats. Go, Pip” (p. 85). In the same instruction, Miss Havisham goes to the extent of telling Estella about when Pip can eat and what actions he can

do while he is in their home. This extreme control over someone's physical activities is an explicit example of the arrogance and pride she has because of social status. Miss Havisham further fortifies the rigid class structure by reminding Pip and Estella that Pip can never enjoy a relationship with Estella. The only thing she allows Estella to do with Pip is she can break his heart. She tells her that "Break their hearts my pride and hope, break their hearts and have no mercy!" (p. 134). Instead of openly allowing them to create any type of relationship with each other, she right away draws a demarcation line. This outright denial resonates with the idea of individuals of different classes not dating one another. The inequity and intolerance of mobility between classes are exemplary of the rigidity of class structure in the early 18th century. The rigid attitude of both the hosts at Satis House induced negative behavior in Pip. He is incessantly commanded to do certain things and avoid others; resultantly, he is unable to utter a single word in front of them and keeps on following their commands like a robot. This is also the reason behind his behavior with Joe but at the end, he realizes and repents. Stange claims;

The moral of this return to Joe sharply contradicts the accepted picture of Dickens as a radical critic of society: Joe is a humble countryman who is content with the place in the social order he has been appointed to fulfill. He fills it 'well and with respect'; Pip learns that he can do no better than to emulate him.²² (p. 523).

He loses his freedom and identity the moment he enters Sati's House. When he confronts a pale young boy at Sati's house and is directed to fight with him, he readily follows the command. Although he knew that fighting is something despicable, he does what he is told. He says, "I never have been so surprised in my life, as I was when I let out the first blow and saw him lying on his back, looking up at me with a bloody nose" (p. 128). Like a typical person of a lower class, as described by Pip, who has lost his self-consciousness, Pip's willingness to adopt bad behavior showcases how people of the lower class are manipulated by the rich. To say simply, the negative attitude in Pip's personality was the fruit of his interaction with the people of the upper class.

Dickens makes it clear that money equals power. However, those who have inherited money like Miss Havisham seem less satisfactory than people, including Pip himself. Bentley Drummle is a rich young gentleman. The description of him given by Dickens is far from flattering, using words like 'sluggish', 'awkward', and 'loll'. It is also made clear that Drummle lacks intelligence and what money he does have is gotten through inheritance rather than hard work.

Pip's Expectations

Dickens' delineation of Satis House and its demolition later in the novel is symbolic of the annihilation of the rigid model of class deeply rooted in the 18th century. Estella explains the word Satis to Pip as follows, "Its other name was Satis; which is Greek, or Latin, or Hebrew, or all three—or all one to me—for enough" (p. 78). The meaning of the house has a hint towards enough wealth the house owners have and also shows the greed of the house owners

that how they take possession of a mere materialistic thing to be 'Enough' (p. 78).

The Satis House could be taken as a symbol of Pip's youth and starting of life. The plot of the novel unfolds to show how Pip achieves the expectations he has created for himself. The story begins with Pip creating his expectations at Sati's house to Pip coming back to Sati's house throwing away his expectations. Peter Brooks adduces, "The returns always bring his regression, in Satis House, to the status of the coarse and common boy" (1994, p. 100). Whenever he returns to Sati's house, he remembers all his expectations and also those feelings of inferiority he felt when he first came to that place. His frequent visits to Sati's house also throw light on Pip's persistent desire to change his past life and complexes. Brooks propounds that throughout the novel;

Each return suggests that Pip's official plots, which seem to speak of progress, ascent, and the satisfaction of desire, are in fact subject to a process of repetition of the yet unmastered past, the true determinant of his life's direction (p. 100).

Pip's discontent with how his life is unfolding makes him return to the same place again and again where he first felt this dissatisfaction. It is as late as a chapter that a sudden shift happens when Sati's house is burnt to ashes, suggesting a complete end to Pip's remembrance of their past life. The fire episode further accentuates the negative traits of the members of the home and also of the home itself. Pip comes back to Satis House and in his meeting with Miss Havisham, she catches on fire. Pip says;

At the moment when I was withdrawing my head to go quietly away, I saw a great flaming light spring up. At the same moment, I saw her running at me, shrieking, with a whirl of fire blazing all about her, and soaring at least as many feet above her head as she was high (p. 567).

Resultantly, she loses much of her speaking ability. It is utterly ironic that it was the same speech by which she used to control Pip; but now, she is no longer able to give commands to Pip. Moreover, as Pip returns to Satis House in the final parts of the novel, Pip finds out, "There was no house now, no brewery, no building whatever left, but the wall of the old garden" (p. 682). Satis's house, the quintessential symbol of power, wealth, and rigid ideologies of the upper class in the novel, no longer exists. This burning down of Satis's house also proposes that the atrocities the poor suffer at the hands of the rich should stop just like Satis's house. It was because of this Satis House that Pip became bitter and negative and lost his identity and skills. He wanted to imitate people of the upper class so that he could eschew his past memory of Sati's house.

Change: Pip as "Other"

The base of the civilization is the middle-class individual because they have better knowledge of the modes and system of their values. Morality is superior

in classifying individuals socially during the end of the 19th century. ²³(p. 33). People of the elite class have considered members that spend their lives according to the ethos and management rules and regulations. Pip can see his future through the character of Joe if Pip managed to keep up inside the boundaries of the inflexible class structure as well as the belief systems that go with it. Pip considered himself as an equivalent to Joe regardless of the situation of Joe as a smithy since. This likening of status between him and Joe is obvious from the easygoing language and structure of the discussions between the two characters. Pip have asked Joe about his education and more especially spelling capabilities of Joe, "How do you spell Gargery, Joe?" (p. 62), Joe's answer shows that he has not had enough education and has no vocabulary, and doesn't have to know how to express himself in words "I don't spell it at all" (p. 63). This is the reason that Joe's character is innocent and the only one who is simple to such an extent that Pip cannot feel any hesitation to connect with them. Tamai asserts, "Although Joe is physically an adult, mentally he is also a powerless child, a larger species of child,' and 'no more than [Pip's] equal', as Pip puts it"²⁴(p. 58). Pip associates himself with Joe because of his simplicity. These attributes of Joe are the portrayal of Pip's future. He perceives the lifestyle of the upper class at Sati's house when he gains the chance to play there. This is the point when expectations started to arise in Pip as he gets disclosure to the elite members of the society. Pip started to judge the self that is based on the viewpoint of people around him because at first, he was not familiar with the difference between the lifestyle of the bourgeoisie and the proletariat (p. 7).

This commanding language shows that she has complete control over him as well as his actions. She is arrogant and the way she talks is incisive which often hurts Pip. Estella's behavior triggers him to become an individual according to the way she likes. She pays no affection towards him, just orders him. Pip reveals "I want to be a gentleman on her account" (p. 182). Estella's authoritative nature pushes Pip to become a gentleman to get her attraction of her. Pip wants to make her happy since it is the suitable thing for him just to get her love and to achieve better status in life. This is Estella's harsh and difficult attitude that permitted her not only to take decisions for herself but also for others. Such governing character made Pip think about class differences.

The entire story of Pip becoming a gentleman is all about him repressing his true individuality to become a slave to the elite class. Adorno contends that without having a sense of true individuality and true self-consciousness, a person is nothing but only a product of bourgeois society, as shown in *Great Expectations*.

This research paper could find out Pip's disclosure of the members of the high class because, over time, he becomes conscious and thinks critically about the rules and regulations of society. Through this research, the researcher tries to show the characters that experience problems. At the Satis house Pip's affection for Estella as well as for Miss Havisham constantly reminds him that he was a member of the lower class in the Victorian era. Pip was introduced to

the upper-class individuals i.e., Estella and Miss Havisham initially because of his repeated visits to the Satis House. Both Estella and the protagonist belong to two different classes, manners, way of life, education, etc. are totally different from each other. At the first meeting, she calls Pip a “boy” which shows that she exceeds him, not only in language but in every aspect. She shows through her communication and behavior that he is subordinate. When Miss Havisham says to Estella to play with him, her response is “With this boy! Why he is a common laboring boy” (p. 83). For her, he is the same as others. She is based on her class even though in speaking and playing etc. Estella constantly reminds him of his class by showing out his different manners of reasoning and tries to show her superior position in this way. She points out small things in Pip e.g. when he uses the card’s anime differently and this expression is quite changed for her. Pip confesses, “I had never thought of being ashamed of my hands before but I began to consider them a very indifferent pair” (p. 84). Pip’s confession clearly shows that he started accepting himself as incompatible with other people of the elite class.

CONCLUSION

This research paper has utilized advanced Marxist concepts to study Great Expectations. These have included themes of multifaceted society, class divide, the struggle of the labor class, otherization, and gender roles among others. It has identified how, in retrospect, Dickens’ characters, especially the protagonist Pip, had been under the exploitative culture of capitalism which had only given him an illusion of individuality . Moreover, Dickens’s fictional representation of the early Victorian society in Great Expectations aims to reflect this social issue and offers a critical attitude towards the condition of the lower-class individual i.e., Pip who experiences a conflict with society to achieve social mobility. This representation illustrates the oppression of the individual for a harmonious social order that aims to create submissive characters like Pip. In Great Expectations, the transformation of Pip’s prospects can be observed in line with his changing social environment, which results in a great conflict between Pip’s individualistic traits and social norms leading to a question of individuality in the bourgeois industrial society. The ideal to become a gentleman occupies Pip’s mind at the expense of conforming to dominant social norms. As Pip wants to become a gentleman, he adopts middle-class manners and moral values with a subservient attitude. Hence, Pip’s sense of individuality is gradually suppressed by the social order. Due to his attempts to become a respectable gentleman, Pip conforms to social norms and loses self-consciousness becoming a repressed individual. However, by viewing his story and the narration through cultural mechanisms constructed by Marxism, the readers get a bigger picture of how all these factors of the class divide were complicit in curbing Pip’s true identity which remained buried under the ‘Great Expectations’ which he had acquired by living in a capitalist society. Hence, the conflict between the individual and the bourgeois industrial society creates the repressed individual, who conforms to social values lacking self-consciousness.

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