

REFLECTION OF THE BRITISH SOCIETY DURING THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN *THE GREAT EXPECTATIONS* NOVEL

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ABSTRACT

'*The Great Expectations*' in the Victorian era was written where technology advancement began to emerge during the Industrial Revolution in Great Britain. This study was aimed at finding out about the setting of time and place in the novel and the society's life in novel at the Industrial Revolution Period in the novel. Using qualitative content analysis, results of the study show that the setting of time and place reveal that the main characters and the minor characters interactively communicate with one another describing how a big dream of a young boy is finally fulfilled. Life style of living in a big city like London made the main character forget who he was and where he comes from leading him to a misery of losing all his assets and wealth due to his own life style. With the help of his forgotten neglected old friend he managed to get back up on being a gentleman again. Literary sociology describes the technology advancement as well as the differences among the rich and the poor in Britain during the Industrial Revolution that has turned agriculture-oriented period into the fast-moving machinery period making people richer and poorer. Conclusions reveal that a big dream can turn into a reality, but luxury should not blind a person from being appreciative to others and that the Industrial Revolution has created new classes in society dividing people up into newly formed new strata.

Key words: *The Great Expectations, British Society, the Industrial Revolution, a big dream, Victorian Era.*

ABSTRAK

'The Great Expectations' di era Victoria ditulis di mana kemajuan teknologi mulai muncul selama Revolusi Industri di Inggris Raya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui latar waktu dan tempat dalam novel serta kehidupan masyarakat dalam novel pada masa Revolusi Industri dalam novel tersebut. Dengan menggunakan analisis kualitatif, hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa setting waktu

dan tempat mengungkapkan bahwa karakter utama dan karakter minor berkomunikasi secara interaktif satu sama lain yang menggambarkan bagaimana impian besar seorang anak laki-laki akhirnya terpenuhi. Gaya hidup hidup di kota besar seperti London membuat tokoh utama lupa siapa dirinya dan dari mana asalnya menuntunnya pada kesengsaraan kehilangan semua aset dan kekayaannya karena gaya hidupnya sendiri. Dengan bantuan teman lamanya yang terlupakan, dia berhasil bangkit kembali menjadi pria terhormat. Sosiologi sastra menggambarkan kemajuan teknologi serta perbedaan antara orang kaya dan orang miskin di Inggris selama Revolusi Industri yang telah mengubah periode berorientasi pertanian menjadi periode mesin yang bergerak cepat membuat orang semakin kaya dan semakin miskin. Kesimpulan mengungkapkan bahwa mimpi besar dapat berubah menjadi kenyataan, tetapi kemewahan tidak boleh membutuhkan seseorang untuk menghargai orang lain dan bahwa Revolusi Industri telah menciptakan kelas-kelas baru dalam masyarakat yang membagi orang ke dalam strata baru yang baru terbentuk.

Kata kunci: The Great Expectations, British Society, Revolusi Industri, mimpi besar, Era Victoria.

A. INTRODUCTION

A novel by Dickens 'Great Expectations' described the British society in the middle age. Society in Great Britain was living on the agriculture basis when suddenly there were many inventions. The invention led to a sudden drastic change in their social life. They moved from agriculture society to industrial society. They had to leave their agriculture life and faced the industrial revolution, a drastic change. It happened all of a sudden. People were not ready for this kind of drastic change. People of Great Britain were not ready for industrial revolution. Agriculture was very slow, while industrial was very fast. People were expected to work very fast, therefore, they are not ready.

This research used the theory of literary sociology to finds about what the society's life is like in the Dickens' Great Expectations novel at the Industrial Revolution period. Literary sociology is important in researching the novel. This direction (literary sociology) is a science that considers the society's sides. This study is very important because it relates society and literature. Literary sociology is expected to give a bridge between the author and his or her readers. And also the setting of the novel to finds the setting of the story.

B. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Bellow were contained the related theories and review of previous studies. This study focused on theories of literary sociology and the setting of novels.

Setting

According to McCully (2018) Setting is important whether one writes in poetry or prose that includes novel. Setting does not just concern nice descriptive passages about houses, woodlands, mountains, roads and so on. Setting does not

mean merely 'scenery'. Careful choice of setting would direct the reader's attention to significant details of character or action, would play off character against the environments in which they live, and enhances the credibility of a piece of writing. Setting can be divided into:

1. Setting as an Interaction

It is the interaction that is important: an author must convince the reader of why that human interacts with the setting in that particular way. By concentrating on and describing this interaction one can manipulate the mood, reveal important traits of the character, and move on the action of the scene as shown in the following examples.

"We camped that night on a grassy slope, sleeping under the open stars. And what a lot of them there were. The sun had been brutal during the day, so hot that I felt always half-afraid my cartridges would go off when I slipped them into the blistering shotgun. As the sun slid down now it shot the core of its orange flame against the clouds. The clouds threw it back against the earth. The result was bewildering. It was as if the world around us had suddenly turned to gold. The green leaves nevertheless had become a peculiarly resonant green. The Italian blue of the sky had taken on a green tinge, across which now slowly floated islands of pale flamingo clouds. Towards the direct set of the sun the trunks of the forest above us were an ebony fretwork against flaming orange. In these few minutes a hyena brayed and laughed ironically. Then it was night. Negley Farson, *Behind God's Back*, 1940" (Burroway 4)

2. Setting as a Mood and Symbol

Setting can be used almost symbolically. It can stand for a mood, a state of mind, an emotion. One of the best authors at using setting in this way was Graham Greene, the opening of whose *Brighton Rock* was given to one group earlier. Here's another excerpt from the same novel:

"Outside the window the sea ebbed, scraping the shingle, exposing a boot, a piece of rusty iron, and the old man [a beachcomber] stopped, searching between the stones. The sun dropped behind the Hove houses and dusk came, the shadow of Mr. Corkery lengthened, coming slowly up from the Belvedere carrying the suitcases, saving on taxis. A gull swooped screaming down to a dead crab beaten and broken against the iron foundation of the pier. It was the time of near-darkness and of the evening mist from the Channel and of love".(Greene & Rock 211) in Watts (171).

3. Setting as a Camera

Many films begin with a long shot (distance), then a middle shot, then a close up. This three-fold use of the camera is called the 'establishing shot' and is a commonplace of screenwriting. Beginning with a distance/ wide angle 'shot' and then moving in to ever-closer details is also widely used as an orientation technique in both poetry and prose as shown in the following example.

“They saw a valley far below. They could hear the voice of hurrying water in a rocky bed at the bottom; the scent of trees was in the air; and there was a light on the valley-side across the water. (...) Their spirits rose as they went down and down. The trees changed to beech and oak, and there was a comfortable feeling in the twilight. The last green had almost faded out of the grass, when they came at length to an open glade not far above the banks of the stream. (...) Just then there came a burst of song like laughter in the trees. (...) They were elves of course. Soon Bilbo caught glimpses of them as the darkness deepened”. (J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*, 398).

4. Setting as Action

Characters (and their motivations, desires, hopes) may be juxtaposed against the settings in which they appear. They may occupy the setting comfortably, or be uncomfortable in the settings in which they are placed. Here is an example.

“Pop...owned two horses, one a young black mare for Mariette, the other a piebald pony for the other kids. Mariette...was wonderful about horses. She looked amazing on a horse. Perck, he thought.

‘Hullo, hullo, hullo,’ he said. ‘Good morning. Afternoon rather. Looking for me?’

The man, young, spectacled, pale-faced, trilby-hatted, with a small brown tooth-brush moustache, carried a black brief-case under his arm.

‘Mr Sidney Larkin?’

‘Larkin, that’s me,’ Pop said. He laughed in ringing fashion. ‘Larkin by name. Larkin by nature. What can I do for you? Nice wevver.’

‘I’m from the office of the Inspector of Taxes.’

Pop stood blank and innocent, staggered by the very existence of such a person.

‘Inspector of what?’

‘Taxes. Inland Revenue.’

‘You must have come to the wrong house,’ Pop said.

‘You are Mr Sidney Larkin?’ The young man snapped open the brief-case, took out a paper and glanced at it quickly, nervously touching his spectacles with the back of his hand. ‘Sidney Charles Larkin.’

‘That’s me. That’s me all right,’ Pop said.

‘According to our records,’ the young man said, ‘you have made no return of income for the past year.’ (Bates, 1958) in McCully (11).

Sociology of Literature

The definition denotes that sociology is related to the study of society where there are categories that form intellectual structure. Society has different categories based on the social facts found in these strata. Of course, there are individuals that form a society. Griswold (740) also defines that the nature and consequence of the connections between a society and its literature is the province of literary sociology. Literature is not a discrete entity, but has

links with the social world. The theory of literature used in this study is that of Lawrenson and Swingewood (21) who view literatures as:

1. Literature as a mirror of age – sociology of literature considers to the documentary aspects of literature on the grounds that literature as a mirror of the age. This approach views literature as a direct reflection of the various aspects such as the social structure, family relationships and class conflicts.

2. Social Background of the Author – this approach in sociology of literature moves away from the emphasis on the literary work itself to the production especially the social situation of the writer

3. Sociology of the readers – this perspective demands the skills level of the particular society in receiving the literary work in the particular historical moment.

Sociological Condition of Britain in the Mid 18th Century

Charles Dickens, a British novelist wrote ‘the Great Expectation’ from 1860 to 1961. When the novel was being written there was great social change in Britain. There was increasing movement from the countryside to the towns, education was slowly improving and the legal system was being changed. Everything just drastically changed in Britain. The novel reflects such changes. The Industrial Revolution occurred from the 18th to 19th centuries. In that period, the agrarian rural societies in Britain all of a sudden became industrial and urban due to the industrial revolution. Before the Industrial Revolution, manufacturing was often done in people’s homes, using hand tools or basic manual machines. Industrialization marked a shift to powered, specialized machinery, factories and mass production. While industrialization brought about an increased volume and variety of manufactured goods and an improved standard of living for some, it also resulted in often grim employment and living conditions for the poor and working classes.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Research design

The approach that applied in this research was qualitative research approach. Design of this study is classified qualitative by nature. In more specific in analyzing the data, the writer used qualitative content analysis. According to Hsieh and Shannon (57) content analysis has widely used qualitative research technique. Applications of content analysis show that there are three distinct approaches: conventional, directed and summative. All of them were used to interpret meaning from the content of text data and adhere to naturalistic paradigm.

2. Data sources

As objects of the Research are not human beings, research object in this study is the novel entitled ‘the Great Expectations’ written by Charles Dickens. Data and sources of data were entirely taken from this novel. the data collected from this novel were: 1) Monologues uttered by character, 2) Settings of: society’s life and the characters’ life style changes, 3) Interaction of the characters with others (dialogues) and 4) Plot of the story

3. Data collection

In this research, there are some techniques that the researcher uses to get the data. The techniques are read the novel, reading and understanding the dialogue, and also the scene. The data collections are obtained from the following steps: first was reading and understanding the *Great expectation novel*. Second was analyze it, and the last was highlighting.

4. Data analysis

In analyzing the data, the author used content analysis based on the literary sociology theory. This content analysis was classified a qualitative research approach. The 'Triangulation Technique' was also used in this study depending on results of analysis. Triangulation side might be needed when the sociological contents were connected with the real situation in Great Britain during the Industrial Revolution in 1800s. Document traces were also needed to refer to what had happened in the past historically.

5. Research instrument

The research instrument of this study was the author himself where he became the research instrument on his own from initiating to analyzing all qualitative measurements needed of this study. He also took the data from the novel, processed, analyzed them and interpreted their results to get conclusions.

6. Coding Category

This study uses classification category in its coding category in collecting the data from the novel. The data needed were classified based on their nature: character, plot and setting. Those that were needed were then quoted by giving them codes, such as (character 1), (character 2), etc.

7. Triangulation

This type of triangulation is the use of multiple theories or hypotheses when examining a situation of phenomenon. In this research, the researcher used data triangulation taken from the other relevant sources to get better results and validity. The purpose of this data triangulation in this research was to strength then the validity of this present research which all its results that is supported by related data from relevant sources such as articles, and journal.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. The Setting of Time and Setting of Place in the 'Great Expectations'

The setting of time and the setting of place the novel 'the Great Expectations' can be classified 'episodic'. In the first few chapters the setting of time and place look flat in its story line that it starts from a childhood and moves forward to teenager. Dickens involves chronological order colored by unexpected incidents in every part showing how the main character and the minor character interact one another making it interesting and challenging. Each chapter shows types of different characters in details and how they influence the main character in the beginning of a story with the main character, Pip as a young child having no power and facing the fact that he

has to be raised by his sister and her husband. In the first few parts of the story, the novel describes that a child is powerless and is dependent on adults. This is quite normative that it all happens to every child all over the place. Pip, a young child under custody of her sister and husband are described in a normative way. Conflict rises with him having a hard time with her sister who has been trying to educate him in a wrong way. The husband, however, is described as a gentleman with a good heart, despite the fact that he has been under control over by his wife who is apparently more powerful than he is in terms of marriage life.

Setting of the novel forms an impression that living together as the whole family have made Joe the husband have a good relationship with Pip, the young child like blood-brothers. Dickens's bright idea also describes the mutual benefit between Pip and Joe where Joe, without his wife knowing is learning to read from Pip. Although they have no blood relationship, they have become blood-brothers living in harmony. This is a sign that this novel is episodic by classification looking at how the story is presented in every chapter and how the peak or the conflict exists in every part of the novel. Dickens explores conflict almost in every chapter or episode of the story, all these conflicts range from the biggest to the smallest representing whether it is the main conflict or the minor conflict.

Society's Life in the 'Great Expectations' Novel

Most of the action of *Great Expectations* occurred before 1830. Industrial revolution occurred during the period this novel was set. The story ended with Pip returning to England in 1840, but it was not described the way the country had changed. Not only had 1830s been only a period of growing industrialization, but also a period of social and political agitation with the first Reform Bill (1832) extended suffrage, initiating progressive social measures; and Queen Victoria crowned in 1837. In the novel Pip was described to return in 1840 to a new England with progressively developed industrial revolution.

2. Analysis of the Literature Sociology

Data analysis in this study is based on Lawrenson and Swingewood (1972: 21) as described in chapter of literature review of this thesis with the following views: 1) Literature as a mirror of age, that is, a direct reflection of the various aspects such as the social structure, family relationships and class conflicts; 2) Social Background of the Author, that is, the social situation of the writer; 3) Sociology of the readers, that is, the literary work in the particular historical moment.

3. Social Structure of the British Society

Social structure of the English society in 1800s in the Victorian time in the 'Great Expectations' novel is as follows:

a. Social Classes

Basically there were two big classes of British society at in industrial revolution. The rich and the poor, the rich is represented by those that have

capital that they do not have to work for anyone else because they have had enough money to keep them live. Their money works for them, while the poor were described as having nothing, struggling to live with a minimum amount of money to support their living. The rich and the poor are best described through the characters.

Pip is the narrator as well as the main character of the story in 'great expectations. When he was a little kid, he was described as a poor person having lost his parents and lived with his sister, Georgiana Maria, but known as Mrs. Joe due to her marital status to Joe Gargery. As the main character Pip is described as a poor character in his childhood having to live with his sister living with her husband as a blacksmith.

"I give Pirrip as my father's family name, on the authority of his tombstone and my sister,--Mrs. Joe Gargery, who married the blacksmith. As I never saw my father or my mother, and never saw any likeness of either of them (for their days were long before the days of photographs), my first fancies regarding what they were like were unreasonably derived from their tombstones. ... "Also Georgiana Wife of the Above," I drew a childish conclusion that my mother was freckled and sickly. To five little stone lozenges, each about a foot and a half long, which were arranged in a neat row beside their grave, and were sacred to the memory of five little brothers of mine,--who gave up trying to get a living, exceedingly early in that universal struggle,--I am indebted for a belief I religiously entertained they had all been born on their backs with their hands in their trousers-pockets, had never taken them out in this state of existence" (Page 1).

The data (page 1) shows that Pip is an orphan boy whose father, mother, brothers and sisters died. The reader is required to read between the lines that Pip is poor character having no one except the only sister who is Joe Gargery's wife with who he has been living with. The writer Dickens describes Pip in the first person as a protagonist who interacts with the other characters in the story.

"I had heard of Miss Havisham up town,--everybody for miles round had heard of Miss Havisham up town,--as an immensely rich and grim lady who lived in a large and dismal house barricaded against robbers, and who led a life of seclusion" (Page 43).

(Page 43) describes Miss Havisham as an exclusive person who lives in a house isolated from average people. As commonly rich people her house is describe having a high fence to keep her safe from robbery and burglary. Her wealth comes from the inheritance left by her father who ran a successful business in the past.

The British adored richness as the symbol of wealth where people have things like property running a big business that he or she has become a capitalist employing a number of people working for him or her to represent materialism at industrial revolution. A gentleman sometimes does not have anything to do with a well-known rich man or woman, but can also be represented by a reputable occupation within the community as shown by the following church clerk, who serves many people within the community with his dedication.

"This other gentleman," observed Joe, by way of introducing Mr. Wopsle, "is a gentleman that you would like to hear give it out. Our clerk at church" (page 61)

The main protagonist character, Pip is thirsty of being a gentleman through richness and prosperity as people imagine what a gentleman would look like. In a dialogue to another character, Pip tells his will to Biddy what he has been expecting so far and that being a gentleman is a good thing for him.

"Biddy" said I, after binding here to secrecy, "I want to be a gentleman." "O, I wouldn't, if I was you!" she returned. "I don't think it would answer. "Biddy," said I, with some severity, "I have particular reasons for wanting to be a gentleman." "You know best, Pip; but don't you think you are happier as you are?" "Biddy," I exclaimed, impatiently, "I am not at all happy as I am. I am disgusted with my calling and with my life. I have never taken to either, since I was bound. Don't be absurd." (Page 104)

Luckily, however, a miracle comes. Dickens, the writer makes the protagonist character come true. Pip finally becomes a gentleman as he has always been greatly expecting as the novel was entitled 'the Great Expectations' through a sudden expected good fortune. A person whose name is to be kept secret temporarily has appointed him a benefactor of his property and money, of course, through a lawyer named Mr Jaggers.

"I am instructed to communicate to him," said Mr. Jaggers, throwing his finger at me sideways, "that he will come into a handsome property. Further, that it is the desire of the present possessor of that property, that he be immediately removed from his present sphere of life and from this place, and be brought up as a gentleman,--in a word, as a young fellow of great expectations." . . . "I should think not! Now you are to understand, secondly, Mr. Pip, that the name of the person who is your liberal benefactor remains a profound secret, until the person chooses to reveal it. I am empowered to mention that it is the intention of the person to reveal it at first hand by word of mouth to yourself. When or where that intention may be carried out, I cannot say; no one can say. It may be years hence. Now, you are distinctly to understand that you" / (page 114)

Mr Jaggers, the lawyer explains everything to Pip and has treated him as a gentleman, who has become a benefactor of a property and a large amount of money from somebody whose name is being kept secret. The expression 'Mr Pip' indicates who new Pip is in the protagonist character in the story. A respectful call 'Mr Pip' has changed the status of 'Pip' from an average person to a special person in his community, a gentleman as he has always been expecting and dreaming of so far.

Unfortunately however, Pip is thinking that the person who has given him the inheritance must have been Miss Havisham, the rich lady who lives in the same countryside as he is and who he has been in touch now and again. The reason is quite logical that she is unmarried and adopted a daughter named Estella. She might not get along with My dream was out; my wild fancy was surpassed by sober reality; Miss Havisham was going to make my fortune on a grand scale.

“Now, Mr. Pip,” pursued the lawyer, “I address the rest of what I have to say, to you. You are to understand, first, that it is the request of the person from whom I take my instructions that you always bear the name of Pip. You will have no objection, I dare say, to your great expectations being encumbered with that easy condition. But if you have any objection, this is the time to mention it.” My heart was beating so fast, and there was such a singing in my ears, that I could scarcely stammer I had no objection. (Page 114)

Changes to the lifestyle are described as characteristics of being a gentleman one of which is living in a big city like London instead of living in the countryside. This is reflected in the protagonist character Pip. Before he comes to London to receive his inheritance, he has to change how he looks – to be a gentleman not somebody from the outback living in the countryside. He has to undergo a particular training to be a gentleman. Dickens, the writer, is very good at playing the readers’ mood to guess what happens next in the story. Readers are influenced that the owner of property who has given away her inheritance is Miss Havisham as narrated by Pip in his own mind.

Once more, I stammered with difficulty that I had no objection. “I should think not! Now, Mr. Pip, I have done with stipulations.” Though he called me Mr. Pip, and began rather to make up to me, he still could not get rid of a certain air of bullying suspicion; and even now.... “We come next, to more details of arrangement. You must know that, although I have used the term ‘expectations’ more than once, you are not endowed with expectations only. There is already lodged in my hands a sum of money amply sufficient for your suitable education and maintenance. You will please consider me your guardian. Oh!” for I was going to thank him, “I tell you at once, I am paid for my services, or I shouldn’t render them. It is considered that you must be better educated, in accordance with your altered position, and that you will be alive to the importance and necessity of at once entering on that advantage.” I said I had always longed for it. (Page 115)

b. Family Relationships

During his childhood, Pip is able to learn to read by himself and he finds that Joe illiterate. With the skill acquired, Joe keeps Pip his apprentice as he gets older with his earnings being saved for him later when he needs it. Joe treats Pip in a nice manner unlike his sister who sometimes treats him the opposite way. When looking at the beginning part of the story or the flashback, it is easily remembered in the first part that Magwitch, the convict is introduced to run into pip, the main character of the story. Later in the story, Magwitch is found to be a person who gives away all his treasure to Pip and a father of Estella, who, in the end of the story, Pip marries. The one that does not have familial relationship himself is the lawyer to Miss Havisham, Jaggers. His immediate family is Bentley Drummle and Startop, who play role in Pip’s life. Pip and Herbert Pocket who is an example of brotherhood in the story. Mr. Wopsle and his great aunt and her grand-daughter, Biddy is the family that plays an integral part in Pip’s upbringing. Joe’s Uncle Pumblechook and Mr. and Mrs. Hubble are those that have sympathy when Pip starts to dream on his expectations.

The familial Relationships in Great Expectations can be summarized as follows:

- 1) Philip Pirrup (Pip)-Georgiana Pirrup (Mrs. Joe Gargery)
- 2) Joe Gargery-Mrs. Joe Gargery
- 3) Miss Havisham-Estella
- 4) Miss Havisham-Camilla & Cousin Raymond-Georgiana-Miss Sarah Pocket-Matthew Pocket
- 5) Miss Havisham-Arthur
- 6) Matthew Pocket-Belinda Pocket-children
- 7) Mr. Jaggers-Molly
- 8) Mr. Wemmick-Aged Parent-Miss Skiffins
- 9) Herbert Pocket-Clara Barley-Mr. Barley
- 10) Mr. Hubble-Mrs. Hubble
- 11) The Joe Gargery's-Uncle Pumblechook
- 12) Mr. Wopsle-Great Aunt-Biddy
- 13) Miss Havisham-Compeyson
- 14) Abel Magwitch-Molly-Estella
- 15) Joe Gargery-Biddy-Young Pip
- 16) Estella-Bentley Drummle
- 17) Abel Magwitch-Pip
- 18) Herbert Pocket-Pip
- 19) Pip-Estella.

In short all of the characters' relationship is described in the following family tree.

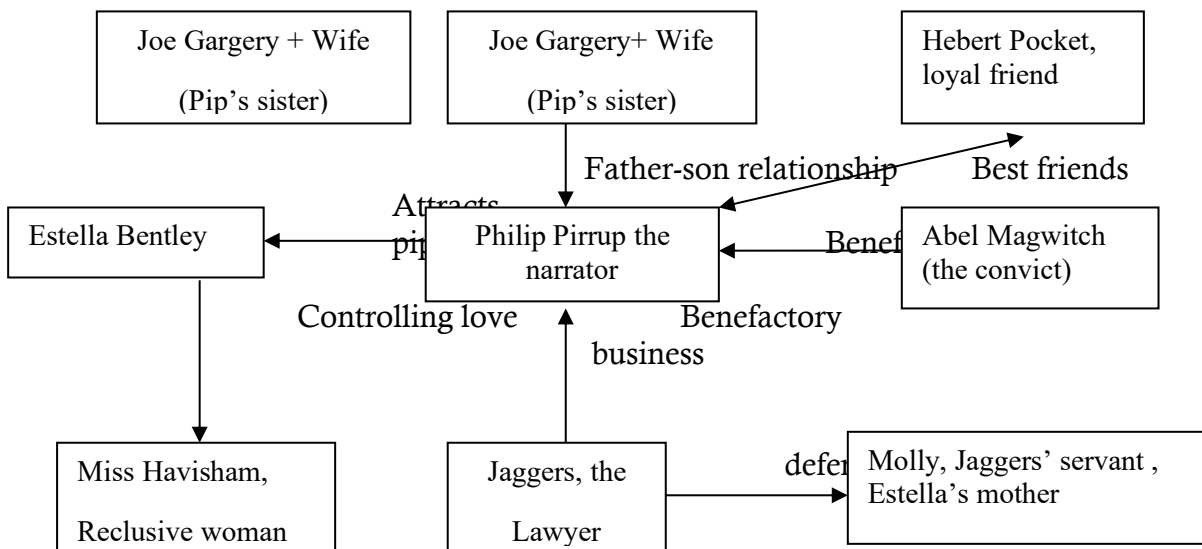


Figure 4.1 Family Tree of the Characters

In the novel, there are major characters and minor characters. The main characters interact among themselves with the support of minor characters. The minor characters in the novel are those that move quickly, that is, they come and go as quickly as if nobody expects them to be. Among the minor

characters are the lawyer Mr. Jaggers and Molly, his wife. Although they are just minor characters who emerge and disappear within a short period of time, they changed Pip's life through a sudden surprise. Among the minor characters are the lawyer Mr. Jaggers and Molly, his wife. He appears in the middle of a story to mediate the benefactor and the one that receives the treasure. Although they are just minor characters who emerge and disappear within a short period of time, they changed Pip's life through a sudden surprise. The other minor ones among others are Mr and Mrs. Hubble, Mr Wemmick-aged parent and Miss Skiffins. All these characters emerge to give color to the whole story through their interactions with the main characters.

E. CONCLUSION

The structural elements (setting, time and situation) in the Dickens' Great Expectations novel reveal that a dream of a young child to become a gentleman is finally fulfilled having undergone a hardship throughout all his life cycle from his childhood living with his married sister to his adulthood as described in the setting of the novel. Plots moving from one situation to the others in the novel is able to describe how being a gentleman is not always perfect as it looks as the main character, surrounded by all his new colleagues is gradually confronted to the social conflict with his new bad habit leading him to a bankruptcy where he loses all his belongings as a rich man. The main character ends penniless that he has to get back to the village trying to get his life back into being a gentleman again through the help of his brother in law who does not lose his heart as a man with a big moral.

Society's life in the Great Expectations novel is very much influenced by the Industrial Revolution with machinery working with cheap labour humans in factories and mechanical transportation had started to replace humans' manual labour work. The impact of the Industrial Revolution is breaking the society apart into different social strata based on their wealth: the low or the poor class, the middle or professional class and the upper or the have class. The middle and upper class live quite decently, but not the lower or labour class who live even worse than they used to be before the Industrial Revolution.

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