

ABSTRACT

INDHY AGIVIENA PUTRI. **A Study of Characters and Setting to Reveal the Victorian Age Social Stratification in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2007.

Oliver Twist tells about a young orphan boy who lives with a lot of mysteries around him. Dickens describes the novel without losing sight of the workhouse in which the story begins and many interesting scenes are depicted in the Victorian age. The writer analyzed the Victorian Age Social Stratification through the portrayal of the characters and settings depicted in *Oliver Twist*. The story of Oliver is related to the tales of other characters of the story, and the settings portray the condition prevailing at that time. Oliver portrays the feeling of despair that Dickens experienced as a child.

The writer, in this thesis, would analyze (1) how the characters and settings are portrayed in *Oliver Twist*, and (2) how the Victorian Age social stratification is revealed through the characters and settings in *Oliver Twist*.

To do the analysis, the writer did several steps. First, the writer conducted close reading on the novel to get a deeper understanding about the topic, especially about the problems stated above. Next, the writer wrote down all the information that she considered important to her study. The next step she took was to find the secondary references. She obtained some essential information from books on literature. After getting all the selected data, the writer started to analyze the problems and apply those related theories in the analysis. The analysis focuses on obtaining the answers of two questions stated in the problems formulation. In this part, firstly, she answered the first problem by finding how the setting and characters are presented in the novel. In this case, she paid attention to the whole text focusing on the characters' attitudes and conditions that indicate them as the portrayal of their respective classes. The next step, she answered the second problem by finding out the Victorian social stratification of the story seen from the setting and characters using Marxist criticism. Finally, she drew her conclusions.

The result of the analysis shows that the characters and settings truly represent the Victorian age social stratification. The setting begins in the parochial world which is divided into three parts; the workhouse, the tradesmen, and the poor. Then the setting continues to the criminal world. The last one is the world of the Victorian middle-class. Then she found four divisions of the Victorian Age social stratification based on some theories. The first one is the *Middle-class* which is presented by Mr. Brownlow and his friends. The setting and their behavior toward others portray the condition of the middle class social stratification. Second is the *Lower Middle Class* which is represented by tradesmen family. Third is the *Lower Class* which is represented by the staff of the workhouse. The last one is the *Under Class* which is presented by The Lord of Underworld, Fagin, and his gang of thieves.

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Oliver Twist menceritakan tentang seorang anak lelaki yatim piatu yang hidup penuh dengan misteri di sekelilingnya. Dickens menggambarkan novel ini tanpa mengabaikan keadaan workhouse di mana menjadi awal dari cerita dan banyak bagian menarik di zaman Victoria. Penulis menganalisa gambaran kondisi stratifikasi social pada zaman Victoria melalui karakter dan seting di dalam novel *Oliver Twist*. Oliver menggambarkan keputusan Dickens pada masa kecil.

Dalam thesis ini, penulis akan menganalisa (1) bagaimana karakter dan seting digambarkan di dalam *Oliver Twist*, dan (2) bagaimana stratifikasi sosial zaman Victoria dipaparkan melalui karakter dan seting dalam *Oliver Twist*.

Dalam menganalisa, penulis melakukan beberapa langkah. Pertama, penulis melakukan pembacaan seksama agar diperoleh pemahaman lebih mendalam mengenai drama tersebut, khususnya berkenaan dengan masalah yang diungkap di atas. Lalu, penulis menulis semua informasi yang dianggap penting. Langkah selanjutnya adalah mencari referensi kedua. Penulis mendapatkan informasi penting dari buku-buku literature. Setelah memperoleh seluruh data, penulis akan memulai menganalisa dan menerapkan seluruh teori yang berkaitan. Kemudian, penulis menjawab masalah pertama dengan mendeskripsikan karakter dan seting dalam novel. Dalam hal ini, penulis akan memfokuskan pada tingkah laku karakter dan keadaan yang dapat menjadi fakta. Kemudian, penulis menganalisa bagaimana stratifikasi sosial zaman Victoria digambarkan dalam *Oliver Twist* melalui seting dan karakter dengan menggunakan pendekatan Marxism. Kemudian, langkah terakhir adalah menarik kesimpulan dari hasil analisa.

Hasil analisa menunjukkan bahwa tokoh dan seting benar mewakili stratifikasi sosial zaman Victoria. Setingnya berawal di lingkungan biasa. Lingkungan biasa dibagi menjadi tiga bagian; workhouse, pedagang, dan rakyat miskin. Kemudian seting berlanjut pada dunia kejahatan. Yang terakhir adalah lingkungan kaum terhormat. Selanjutnya penulis menemukan empat bagian stratifikasi sosial zaman Victoria berdasarkan beberapa teori. Yang pertama adalah *Middle Class* yang diwakili oleh Tuan Brownlow dan teman-temannya. Seting dan tingkah laku mereka kepada sesama menggambarkan kondisi stratifikasi sosial kelas menengah. Kedua adalah *Lower Middle Class* yang diwakili oleh keluarga pedagang. Ketiga adalah *Lower Class* yang dipresentasikan oleh pekerja di workhouse. Yang terakhir adalah *Under Class* yang diwakili oleh Fagin; raja kejahatan, dan kawanannya.