

ABSTRACT

AZALIA NOVELA (2011). **Negative Characteristics of the Victorian Era Reflected by the Setting in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

This study aims to analyze the negative characteristics of the Victorian Era which are reflected by the element of setting in Charles Dickens' novel, *Oliver Twist*. The topic is formulated into two problems, namely how the Victorian era settings are depicted in *Oliver Twist* and what negative characteristics of the Victorian era are reflected through the settings of the novel.

This study uses theories of settings in literature by Abrams, Stanton, Holman and Harmon, Rohrberger and Woods as well as resources related to the condition of England in the Victorian era by Brown, Seaman and Pool.

The results of the study can be divided into two parts to answer each formulated problem. Firstly, the elements of setting found in *Oliver Twist* can be divided into three types, namely the place setting, the time setting, and the social setting. The place setting of the novel is England, specifically London and other cities and towns in England. The scenes take place in various places, from the workhouse, the streets, the prison, to the residences or houses of many characters. The time setting of the novel is early 1830's. The scenes take place during the whole year, including all the four seasons of winter, autumn, spring and summer, from mornings until nights. The social setting includes aspects of the workhouse and welfare system, the law and police system, the education system, as well as the lifestyle of various characters such as beadle, workhouse staff, police officers, law officers, businessmen or tradespeople, aristocrats, manual laborers, and last but not least, unemployed people.

Secondly, the settings above demonstrate two main negative characteristics of the Victorian era. As the first negative trait, there was a sharp gap between the upper- as well as middle- classes and the lower classes in the Victorian era. This gap is reflected in the place setting and social setting of the upper- and middle- class characters described in the novel, compared to the place setting and social setting of the lower class characters. Finally, as the second negative trait, the lower class people in Victorian experience life with very low standards, which are even below the basic human rights. This condition is reflected in the place and social setting, namely the lifestyle, environment and general surroundings of the lower class characters in the novel.

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Studi ini bertujuan meninjau sifat-sifat negatif dari jaman Victoria yang ditampilkan melalui unsur setting dalam novel karya Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*. Topik ini diformulasikan menjadi dua rumusan masalah, yaitu bagaimana setting jaman Victoria ditampilkan dalam novel *Oliver Twist* dan sifat-sifat negatif apa saja yang ditampilkan melalui setting novel tersebut.

Studi ini menggunakan teori setting dalam sastra oleh Abrams, Stanton, Holman dan Harmon, Rohrberger dan Woods serta sumber-sumber berkaitan dengan keadaan Inggris pada jaman Victoria oleh Brown, Seaman, dan Pool.

Hasil studi ini dapat dibagi menjadi dua bagian yang menjawab masing-masing rumusan masalah. Pertama, unsur setting dalam novel *Oliver Twist* dapat dibagi ke dalam tiga macam, yakni setting tempat, setting waktu, dan setting sosial. Setting tempat pada novel tersebut ialah Inggris, khususnya London dan sejumlah kota lain di Inggris. Adegan-adegan dalam novel berlangsung di berbagai tempat, dari *workhouse*, jalan, penjara, sampai pada tempat tinggal beberapa tokoh. Setting waktu dalam novel tersebut ialah 1830an awal. Adegan-adegan dalam novel berlangsung sepanjang hari dan tahun, mencakup keempat musim (musim dingin, musim gugur, musim semi dan musim panas), dari pagi hingga malam. Setting sosial dalam novel tersebut mencakup aspek-aspek sistem *workhouse* dan kesejahteraan masyarakat, sistem hukum dan polisi, sistem pendidikan, serta gaya hidup tokoh-tokoh seperti *beadle*, staf *workhouse*, petugas polisi dan hukum, pengusaha atau pedagang, aristokrat, pekerja kasar, dan juga pengangguran.

Kedua, setting di atas menunjukkan dua sifat negatif yang utama dari jaman Victoria. Sifat negatif pertama ialah adanya kesenjangan yang besar antara masyarakat kelas atas dan menengah dengan masyarakat kelas bawah. Kesenjangan ini ditampilkan melalui setting tempat dan sosial dari tokoh-tokoh kelas atas dan menengah dalam novel, yang dibandingkan dengan setting tempat dan sosial dari tokoh-tokoh kelas bawah. Sedangkan sifat negatif kedua ialah rendahnya standar hidup masyarakat kelas bawah di jaman Victoria, yang bahkan berada jauh di bawah hak-hak asasi manusia. Keadaan ini ditampilkan melalui setting tempat dan sosial, yaitu gaya hidup, lingkungan dan keadaan di sekitar tokoh-tokoh kelas bawah dalam novel secara umum.