

VICTORIAN MARXISM REFLECTED IN CHARLES DICKENS' OLIVER TWIST NOVEL (1837)

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Abstract

In this study Charles Dickens's novel *Olliver Twists* analyzed in terms of the Marxist views. In this novel the authors focused on the issues related to Marxist notions that were based especially on labor, working classes and class struggles. By doing that, Dickens demonstrated the characters who were forced to work like machines at the hands of capitalist employers in such a way that the reader begins to comprehend that for getting rid of the oppression of capitalism the proletariat or working class should revolt. Thus, the Marxist elements become significant issues shown in the novel *Hard Times*. The present study was composed through literature review and aimed to reveal the effects of Marxist views in Dickens's novel. In this novel, one can realize that there were class differences and struggles that are related to Marxist thoughts. Like Marxists, the characters of the novel try to start a strike against the ruling class exploitation. To portray this exploitation Dickens stated that the rules of bourgeois or capitalist employers do not permit their employees to behave like human beings who have wisdom and reason. Due to the capitalists, the workers' capacities and abilities are ignored. As a result, this study displayed that in Dickens's novel *Olliver Twist* the influences of Marxist views are emphasized.

Key words: Marxism , Literature, Marxist Views. Victorian society

INTRODUCTION

Victorian society was the shift form feudalism to capitalism in England [1]. The Victorian society began in the second quarter of the nineteenth century and ended in 1900 [2], [3]. This age was the time of extensive social and political developments [4]. The social changes, the developments of the technology and industrial revolutions had great impacts on Victorian society [5], [6]. The greatest impact at this age was the capitalism economy system [7], [8], [9]. The economic system of capitalism in Victorian society makes workers have to struggle in order to survive in their existence [10], [11]. In 19th century different social classes and the gaps between these classes became the most significant social issue of Victorian age in England [12], [13]. Since this century witnessed the French Revolution, the results of this movement led to many changes in different sides of the social life [14], [15], [16]. In other words, the revolution caused the industrial world to dominate the life of individuals [17], [18]. In the cruel hands of the rich, the workers who were the members of lower class were oppressed considerably [19], [20], [21]. The poor had no voice, political or financial [22]. Specifically, kids were regularly abused and subjected to the poorest of

working conditions. As a matter of fact, the Victorian Era was described by the utilization of children to help add to the economy [23], [24]. The Industrial Revolution appeared at the end of the eighteenth century in Britain and later in the rest of European countries [25], [26], [27]. At that time, Britain witnessed an incredible economic progress thanks to the development of industries amongst other things [28], [29]. However, this revolution also affected social classes, intensifying the social inequalities [30]. Dickens indicated how shallow class structures were and uncovered how insensitive and wanton Victorian culture was [31]. These workers continued to live like machines or robots in the factories. They were not equal in the society and they didn't have the right for living independently [32]. Moreover, during this age even the kids were compulsory to work for surviving. Therefore, there was social and economic burden in the British society during that time.

Witnessing these problems, difficulties and inequalities in the society, one of the prominent Victorian age author Charles Dickens portrays the realities of this age obviously in his novel *Olliver Twist* [33], [34]. Dickens experienced poverty when he was a child and when he was grown; he witnessed lives of oppressed people in different countries where he went for trip [35], [36], [37]. Thus, his novel represents the oppressed people who try to live in very harsh and hard conditions in industrial polluted town in which there are the rich and the poor, so wealth and misery [38], [39]. Oppression by the rich both economically and socially proves to capitalist environment. Dickens attempts to depict the way for getting rid of these evil circumstances by using the Marxist views of starting revolt against all of these conditions [40]. To him, the lower-class people especially workers should realize the inequality that they experience in all parts of the society for not destroying individuality in the hands of masters of industrial world [41], [42]. In other words, it is required that the workers should realize the exact value of their labor and freedom [43]. The characteristic of literary works which are published in Victorian society was usually realistic work which portrayed the social condition [44], [45]. In Victorian society, the literary works almost give details of socio-economic condition, social struggle, economic problems and class discrimination, especially the economy system of capitalism that becomes issue in Victorian society [46]. One of the literary works in Victorian society that talked about the economy system of capitalism was Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. Charles Dicken is the novelist from England who was born on Febuary 7th, 1870 in Landport, Hampshire, England was the populer writer and social critic in that era. A childern namely Oliver was

the major character of this novel. The novel is started by the birth of the infant who had no father. Then Dickens presents the antagonistic novel namely Mr. Bumble, the selfish one, and Fagin's gang as the master of crime [47]. The food made Oliver grow into a skinny kid. Finally Oliver tried to ask it. Unfortunately it brings him to get the punishment, Oliver was imprisoned and called him as insurgent [48]. In the next day the council announced that anyone who wanted to take Oliver they would be given five pounds [49], [50]. By knowing nothing about London, Oliver ran away to London for more than seven days by walking [51], [52], [53]. The complication was begun. By meeting Fagin, the master of crime, Oliver is becoming part of them smoothly [54], [55]. Dickens perfectly presented that new problem had arisen [56], [57]. Fagin abducted that orphan boy and forced him to rob Mr. Brownlow's house. Nancy, the girl who lives with a cruel man, Fagin and Sikes, tell everything about Oliver to Mr. Brownlow. By giving the information to Mr. Brownlow, Nancy was killed by Sikes [58]. Sikes was killed in an accident and Fagin was arrested and sentenced by a heavy penalty [59], [60]. *Oliver Twist* describes how social conditions force the major character to live a horrible life. The main purpose of this study is to portray Marxist views and expressions in the novel *Oliver Twist*. To carry out this aim, the characters' views, behaviors, utterances and dialogues are analyzed and by the help of literature review method the Marxist elements are attempted to demonstrate in this study.

1. Victorian Age

Charles Dickens living in the nineteenth century is an English writer who reflects the nineteenth century's social issues in his works. As this century refers to the Victorian Age, Dickens's works exemplify the circumstances of this age. "Victorian era refers to the reign of the Queen Victoria (1837-1901)" [61]. During the reign of this queen, Britain changed due to the Industrial Revolution and she became the strongest country in the world. Queen's "character and moral standards restored the prestige of the British Monarch but gave the era a prudish reputation" [62], [63]. Dickens's writings that were the product of this era, both demonstrate the rise of Britain and Victorian society.

Because of rapid changes, that is, scientific and technological innovations in all parts of the country the society of the era were affected too much. There were three classes during that time. The three social classes were "the Church and aristocracy, the middle class and the working class" [64], [65]. The lower class included the working class and the poor. Since

there were three different social classes as a result of economic reasons the families were unhappy. “The workers in the Victorian period were members from the lower class. The conditions of working were bad” [66], [67]. Even the kids were forced to work during that period. The upper class referred to the factory and natural resources owners. They employed the labors and they have the control of political power of this time. The middle class referred to a group of merchants and small farmers [68]. This people have the power that increased by way of enhancement of industrialists and owners of factories. Thus, they were “the people who were poor in previous times and become powerful and self-made men afterwards” [69], [70]. The rapid changes in science and technology in Victorian age inevitably affected the literary works of this period. Additionally, the leading form of literature became the novel in Victorian age. These works primarily reflected the social problems and real conditions of daily life of Victorian age. The authors of this age wrote about the lives of the people who were divided into three classes. They displayed the real difficulties of the poverty. In their works, the changes after Industrial Revolution were shown obviously. Since the gap between the social classes was certain during the era, most of the Victorian works dealt with this issue and difficult lives of lower-class people.

2. Marxism and Literature

Marxism is “a system of economic, social, political philosophy based on ideas that view social change in items of economic factor” (Mirunalini & Devi, 2017, 13). Being a social theory, Marxism is Karl Max and Friedrich Engels’s economic, political and social doctrines. It is based on labor, social actions and class struggle. To Marxists, to destroy the conflicts a classless society should be established. In Marxist theory, the most significant element is class struggle that emerges among the members of working class since they sell their labors to employers. This struggle is so considerable because it put forward the class oppression that hinders society’s development. To Marxists, this oppression will lead to a revolt by the workers for establishing a classless society.

Marxism is antithesis of capitalism. “Marx claims that the species-being of man consists in labor and that man is alienated to the extent that labor is performed according to a division of labor that is dictated by the market” (Rosen, 1998, 1). In Marxism the dominant feature is public ownership of means of production. Under Capitalism, the proletariat and working class only own their capacity to work. They have right only to sell their labor. To Marx, a

class is defined by the relations of its members to the means of production. Marx thinks that the workers get minimum wage for surviving with their family. This is caused by the capitalist system. The workers act like slaves and they are alienated because they haven't any control over their labor or product that they produce. Due to this fact, to Marx, a proletariat or socialist revolution must occur. The reason for this revolt can also be seen as that the workers under capitalist class become miserable. They even lose their religious beliefs. Moreover, the bourgeois class objects to freedom of working class. Marxists have sympathy for the working class and proletariat. To them, the condition of workers is the same all over the world.

So, their position is universal. To them, there should be class consciousness or class awareness in order not to come across a class revolt. The ruling class controls the society's means of production, the superstructure of society and its ruling ideas. To Marx, exploitation is an element of capitalism and free markets. The profit gained by the capitalist is the difference between the value of the product made by the worker and the actual wage that the workers receive. In other words, capitalists pay workers less than the real value of their labor. Because of this fact, the workers become isolated day by day. Thus, alienation is an unavoidable result of capitalism. The working circumstances do not allow workers to feel and think. The literature after Industrial Revolution affected by the changes in many fields of life in Britain. Using Marxist theory "the society of the writer will be reflected on his/her writings" (Radja, 2014, 12). Mainly, he/ she tends to demonstrate social and economic progress. Moreover, these writers display the gap being so significant issue between the social classes. They also "focus on the representation of social conflicts between capitalist and working classes" (Utomo, 2013, 16). To them, capitalist society causes to destroy the humanity of the individuals.

The problems that will be analyzed in this work are the impacts of capitalism. It is about the injustice in the society where the rich becomes richer and the poor get poorer because the poor people is oppressed by the rich. The writer analyzes *Olliver Twist* because the novel showed how Bourgeoisie and Plotariat to get better life, but in the end they get diferent result. The rich become richer, the poor become poorer, because poor people was oppressed by rich man. Moreover, the writer thinks that economy is the object that still interesting to become a topic to be discussed today.. In analyzing this novel, the writer

wants to imbalances between classes (bougéoisie and plotariat) in Victorian society in England because the novel was written in Victorian society. Then, the writer wants the readers to more understand this work and shows how this work able to explore the social condition particularly in social economic aspect that happened in Victorian society which reflected in this work. Beside, the writer wants to prove whether it is true or not that literature represents the social reality and condition of human being in a society. The writer thinks that Olliver Twist is appropriate to analyzing by using Marxism and reflection theory by Karl Marx . This theory sees the contradiction based on economic system of capitalism in the society that can be reflected in literature. The writer wants to analyze how capitalist aspect influences class struggle and social condition and what kinds of impacts that happened in Victorian society. For this case, the writer tries to explore the social imbalance between novel and Victorian society in England because the novel was written in Victoria society.

In order to get sufficient analysis of Olliver Twist written by Charles Dickens, the writer uses Marxist theory to investigate the impact of capitalism on Victorian society as reflected in Charles Dickens' Olliver Twist Marxist theory is based on the idea formulated by Karl Marx and Frederick Engel as critique of industrial revolution. It focuses the attention on social history in relation to political economy, particularly with regard to class struggle. As in the book *Adventures In English Literature* note that "The industrial revolution was happen the sift during late eighteenth century and early nineteenth centuries from hand labor to the new methods of the factoring made possible by power driven machine" (1980:411). It means that the workers in Victorian society have to lose their job, because they were replaced by machines and it forced them to struggle to get job and better life.

The impact of capitalism or industrial revolution brough the injustice in the society where the rich becomes richer and the poor get poorer because they use capitalistic economic system, where the economic activities is handled by capitalist (owner). In Marxist's idea, economy is important thing in social life, economy as the 'base' and other as 'superstructure' (Sills, 1968:41). It means that economy has great influence toward all aspect in social life. This statement is supported by Louis Tyson who says: "For Marxism, getting and keeping economic power is the motive behind all social and political activities, including education, philosophy, religion, government, the art, science, technology, and the

media and so on” (2006:54). It means that everything people do in their life is oriented by money or economic aspect..

METHOD

In conducting the research, the writers had three steps namely: collecting data, analysing the data and presenting the result of analysis.

Method of Collecting the Data

In conducting this research, the writers applied library research method which related with books and other written sources. The primary data was *Olliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. Besides, the history book of Victoria Era’s social information also become the primary data since the writers wanted to compare and relate directly between the novel and Victorian society. While some books, thesis and journals or articles from the internet which related to the topic were the scondary data.

Method of Analyzing Data

The Research theory that writers used was the method of novel as reflected of the reality over the literary work. The writers focused on effect capitalism to people as reflected individualism, unfair treatment, inharmonism in British society.

Method of Presenting Analysis Data

Since the writers used the qualitative method, it was automatically applied the descriptive method in presenting the analysis because the collected the data were served from of words rather than numbers. The result of the research contained quotation from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation”. Then the writers explained the capitalism phenomenon which occurred in the novel in descriptive method. The descriptive method was used to see the problems from the researcher’s point of view..

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Olliver Twist focuses the reality of exploitation towards children into poverty. Dickens used *Oliver* to paint a vivid panorama of the lives of working class citizens living in early Victorian London. The story tells the orphan boy born in a workhouse without parents. He is forced to struggle for the life. His mother was unmarried when she gave

birth to him, and being a single mother was considered as a shame, especially when you were poor. The number of abandoned children during the Victorian era was high, and that can be explained by the fact that having a child cost a lot of money and the poorest families could not take care. Child labor played an important role in the industrial revolution. In point of fact, the Victorian Era was characterized by the use of children to help develop the economy. Child laborers received less than the essentials needed at home, school, and at work. In a nutshell, the life of a young worker was in essence the life of a slave. Many children worked 16-hour days under atrocious conditions, as did their parents. As more people commuted to town to work, the demand for clothes and food grew. There were more things needed as the cities grew. More and more machines were beings built in factories and with that, the companies needed cheap labor. In Oliver twist, Charles Dickens describes some issues that occurred during the industrial revolution: children of the poor were forced by economic conditions to work, some kids were used as commodities, and there was a great difference between the first, middle, and third classes. Some parents sent their kids to work because they did not have enough money to support their family. Kids were being paid 3s a week. If there were no work available at the factory kids would just go back to the farm, or others would end up going on the streets and becoming prostitutes. Most prostitutes were between the ages of 15 and 22 years old during the industrial revolution. In Oliver Twist, the character Nancy is prostitute. She had no education and the only means of getting money was if she was on the street. Dickens was showing the times of the industrial revolution, and through this, the story seems very real. During the industrial revolution, kids were used as possessions. In the beginning of the novel, Oliver is used to pike oakum. He lives in an orphanage where the kids are used as slaves. They were sold door to door to the right buyer. In chapter 3, Oliver's future darkens when Mr. Gamfield, a chimney sweep, applies to take the boy. Mr. Gamfield cares so little about Oliver that he does not care if the chimney catches on fire, as long as Oliver does his job. In the workhouse children were treated just like an animal. In the workhouse Oliver treated as a slave not as a child and he was doing work out of his capacity though they not have good foods with both qualities and quantities.

“Evening arrived; the boys took their places. The master, in his cook’s uniform, stationed himself at the copper; his pauper assistants ranged themselves behind him; the truel was served out; and a long grace was said over the ahort commons...child as he was, he was desperate with hunger, and audacious with misery. He rose from the table; and

*advancing to the master, basin and spoon in hand, said: somewhat alarmed at his own i
'Please, sir, I want some more"*

*What!' said the master at length, in a faint voice. 'Please, sir,' replied Oliver, 'I want some
more.'*

'For more!' said Mr. Limbkind.

*'That boy will be hung,' said the gentleman in the white waistcoat; 'I know that boy will be
hung.'*

*... For a week after the commission of the impious and profane offence of asking for more,
Oliver remained a close prisoner in the dark and solitary room to which he had been
consigned by the wisdom and mercy on the board (Dickens 2002:17).*

That quotation shows Mr. Bumble threatens Oliver with these punishments because he thinks that Oliver is ungrateful since he, an orphan boy, dares to ask for more food. Oliver Twist people in workhouses were deliberately treated harshly and the workhouses for child were similar to prisons. The harshness, lack of food and child labor in the workhouse makes Oliver run away from the workhouse. Especially after Oliver and Little Dick, Oliver's friend, has punished and beaten hard when they both starve and try to get more food. And because of that he punished badly by Mr. Bumble. In Victorian era rich people believed for poor people that they were lazy and needed to be punished. Oliver Twist appears to be a Marxist text that presents industrial revolution. The marxist critic believes that all human events has material and historical causes and since the analysis events and causes can give further insight on the distribution and dynamics of economic power (Tyson, 2015) it is but natural to assume that the working and under class' dissatisfaction with Victorian society, which is so specifically described in Oliver Twist was a result of several historical and material circumstances aswell. In his novel, Dickens pays attention to the largely ignored and neglected 'under class' while simultaneously portraying the "crumbling feudal structure" of society which is slowly, and inexorably giving way to industrial capitalism" (Stearns and Burns, 2011, p. 2)

Due to the Industrialisation, manual labour became automatized, leaving many members of the working class unemployed. The Napoleon War with France had also left its marks on England as its funding came from the taxpayers. On its own, the war lead to inflation and a

trade embargo which caused the increased scarcity of food and the eventual unemployment of war veterans. In short, many members of the working class had lost their employment and were hardly able to survive in these living conditions. Simultaneously, people still believed in the Christian idea of Pre-destination: all people were born into a social station of life which God had divinely appointed to them. Therefore, all people were expected to be thankful for their lives and those aspiring for social mobility were considered proud, as wishing for more in life implied that status was more valuable than life itself. This consequently meant that those born in the upper class were entitled to greater fortune than those of the lower and under classes, who struggled to survive with the few resources they had and had little to no chance of improving their living conditions. Overall, the early nineteenth century saw great unemployment, poverty and inequality between the rich and the poor. To prevent the poor from living in the streets or escaping into crime, the government introduced the Poor Law Amendment Act in 1834. Essentially, this law was passed to lower the costs of relief to the poor, but local boards of guardians were now given total control over poor relief, leaving them independent of many centralised control and with the possibility to . In *Oliver Twist*, Charles Dickens vilifies many of the structures that originated from the Poor Law Act, but also reinforces certain classist ideas of that time. Charles Dickens manages to direct the reader's attention to the struggles between the proletariat (those of the unemployed under and working class) and the bourgeois (those having power over the working and underclass). Dickens's *Oliver Twist* shows three different social classes. First, the parochial world. The Bumbles and Sowerberrys belong to this middle-class society. Second, the criminal world. Pickpocketing, house-breakers, and murders belong to this world. Poverty drives them to crime. Fagin, Bill Sikes, Artful Dodger, and Noah Claypole are part of this lower-class society. Finally, the world of the upper class society. Mr. Brownlow, Dr. Losborne, and the Maylies are its members. Newton (1990) explains that Dickens "has been significant for traditional Marxist criticism in that his texts deal explicitly with social issues" (p. 452). In their *Communist Manifesto* (1848), both Marx and Engels call for the rights of all people, especially the proletariat, or the lower class citizens on whose backs the bourgeoisie have built their empire. In the following quotation, Dickens does not shy away from satirizing governmental institutions for the mistreatment of the proletariat or to be more specific: of the poor and helpless children in child farms:

“the parish authorities magnanimously and humanely resolved that Oliver should be ‘farmed’ (...) under the parental superintendence of an elderly female who received the culprits at and for the consideration of sevenpence-halfpenny per small head per week. Sevenpence-halfpenny’s worth per week is a good round diet for a child (...). The elderly female was a woman of wisdom and experience; she knew what was good for children; and she had a very accurate perception of what was good for herself. So, she appropriated the greater part of the weekly stipend to her own use, and consigned the rising parochial generation to even a shorter allowance than was originally provided for them. Thereby finding in the lowest depth a deeper still; and proving herself a very great experimental philosopher.” (Dickens, 1837, p. 6)

The above quotation shows Dickens’s great use of irony and satire of the superintendent of the ‘farm’ where Oliver is brought up. The words ‘magnanimously’ and ‘humanely’ in combination with the phrases ‘a woman of wisdom and experience’ and ‘a great experimental philosopher’ give the impression that this workhouse is honourable and compassionate, whereas the underlying message proves the opposite: children are malnourished and the superintendent acts purely out of self-interest. Dickens’s use of irony makes the novel more humorous and therefore more palatable for its audience.

Other than vilifying capitalism and the abuse of governmental institutions, Dickens also focuses on the inequality originating from classism. While writing the process in which Oliver, who originally belonged to the upper class, is mistakenly taken for an underclass citizen as he is born into a workhouse as an orphan, Dickens illustrates what unfavourable consequences can originate from being born in a lower social class:

“And what an excellent example of the power of dress young Oliver Twist was. Wrapped in the blanket which had hitherto formed his only covering, he might have been the child of a nobleman or a beggar; – it would have been hard for the haughtiest stranger to have fixed his station in society. But now he was enveloped in the old calico robes, that had grown yellow in the same service; he was badged and ticketed, and fell into his place at once – a parish child – the orphan of a workhouse – the humble, half-starved drudge – to be cuffed and buffeted through the world, despised by all, and pitied by none.

(Dickens, 1837, p. 5)

The above passage from the novel reveals the opinion on orphans of the Victorian English community: they were underclass citizens who were entitled to nothing, but in need of help. Therefore, these 'needy' underclass citizens were considered a nuisance rather than actual human beings. This description of clothing and of class in particular, sets the tone of the events in Oliver's later life. The 'yellow' robes symbolise overuse and monotony as they are used for other orphans over and over again. With the phrases 'A parish child' and 'the orphan of a workhouse', Dickens suggests that Oliver is labelled with the stamp of the underclass. The use of the adjectives 'humble', 'half-starved', 'cuffed' buffeted', illustrates that he has come to meet his fate, which is to be an obedient prisoner of the class system, who is denied good care and education and destined to be judged by all. Adding the phrase 'despised by all but pitied by none' emphasises this depiction of an underclass orphan child and proves that members of the underclass were considered despicable and deserved no respect. As Dickens uses his literary skills to illustrate the life in underclass Victorian England, he raises awareness of classism with his readers, who can be both upper and lower class citizens.

Beside the fact that he provides his readers with Oliver's world of poverty and his ability to make his readers aware of the ways in which classism and capitalism can blind the people in order to keep subservient to the ruling power system, Dickens also proves to undermine the Marxist ideal of being born equal while he simultaneously reinforces some classist ideals. Oliver is born into poverty, but manages to climb the social ladder. Even though the ideology of classism is something that Marxism defends against, Dickens does prove his own dissatisfaction with the class struggles, otherwise he would not have offered his protagonist the opportunity for social mobility. However, Oliver is not saved by his willpower to rebel against classism, but because he is in actuality a member of the bourgeoisie himself. Dickens goes on even further to describe Oliver as a boy of moral goodness which he implies to be due to his birth right and not his own abilities. At one point in the novel, however, Dickens almost offers prostitute, gang member and member of the underclass Nancy a way out of her current living conditions, but eventually let's her decide on her own that there is no possibility for her but to stay in her station of life:

“ ‘Stay another moment,’ interposed Rose, as the girl moved hurriedly towards the door. ‘Think once again on your own condition, and the opportunity you have of escaping from it.

(...) Will you return to this gang of robbers, and to this man, when a word can save you?

(...)

'When ladies as young, and good, and beautiful as you are,' replied the girl teadily, 'give away your hearts, love will carry you all lengths—even such as you, who have home, friends, other admirers, everything, to fill them. When such as I, who have no certain roof but the coffinlid, and no friend in sickness or death but the hospital nurse, set our rotten hearts on any man, and let him fill the place that has been a blank through all our wretched lives, who can hope to cure us?'

(pp. 307-308)

Through this quote, Dickens literally poses Nancy before a crossroad: she is either to continue on the path that she was predestined to walk, but she is also given a way out of the horrid living conditions she has gotten accustomed to. By eventually letting Nancy choose to remain at her appointed station in life, Dickens undermines the Marxist believes which fight for equality of all and especially the proletariat.

"My dear child,' said the old gentleman, moved by the warmth of Oliver's sudden appeal, you need not be afraid of my deserting you, unless you give me cause.'

'I never, never will, sir,' interposed Oliver. 'I hope not,' rejoined the old gentleman; 'I do not think you ever will. I have been deceived before, in the objects whom I have endeavoured to benefit; but I feel strongly disposed to trust you, nevertheless, and more strongly interested in your behalf than I can well account for, even to myself. The persons on whom I have bestowed my dearest love lie deep in their graves; but, although the happiness and delight of my life lie buried there too, I have not made a coffin of my heart, and sealed it up for ever on my best affections. Deep affliction has only made them stronger; it ought, I think, for it should refine our nature.'

(Dickens, 2012, p. 98)

In the above quotation, Mr Brownlow shows to have a great faith in Oliver, even after suspecting him after stealing his handkerchief. The question here, is whether Dickens has chosen to make Mr Brownlow trust Oliver because of his exemplary moral goodness or because of the fact that Oliver originally belongs to the upper class? Overall, people of the

Victorian era believed that class and virtue were inextricably linked. Therefore, those of the underclass were almost always seen as immoral and those belonging to the upper class were considered to have a virtuous personalities. This we can detect in the characters of Fagin and Sykes, who are members of the underclass and whose natures demonstrate sinfulness and immorality, and those of Rose and Mrs Maylie, who belong to the upper class and prove to be trustworthy and moral ladies. Even though it is speculation, as there is no option to ask Dickens why Mr Brownlow chose to trust Oliver by the sight of him, it would be plausible to assert that because Mr Brownlow is of the upper class, he has the ability to recognise Oliver's honourable nature and therefore chooses to trust him.

“Although Oliver had enough to occupy his attention in keeping sight of his leader, he could not help bestowing a few hasty glances on either side of the way, as he passed along.

A dirtier or more wretched place he had never seen. The street was very narrow and muddy, and the air was impregnated with filthy odours. There were a good many small shops; but the only stock in trade appeared to be heaps of children, who, even at that time of night, were crawling in and out at the doors, or screaming from inside. The sole places that seemed to prosper amid the general blight of the place, were the public-houses; and in them, the lowest orders of Irish were wrangling with might and main.”

(Chapter 8, pages 68-69)

This passage exemplifies Dickens's perspective of London in *Oliver Twist*. It is bleak, seedy, poor, and filled with immoral people. These scenes of urban description throughout the novel are often set at night, or in the rain—the weather is rarely kind to the slums of London. The novel shows that each of classes runs their own business on their own and they look down upon one to another class especially to the underclass. This phenomenon leads to what is called social gap. There is a border between the rich and the poor and it breaks the relation between them. The rich people think that the poor people are a dangerous class that should be avoided and neglected. Thus the rich is getting richer and the poor is getting poorer. Social class drives people to live for themselves without thinking about other's life. Social class and social gap make the rich people does not want to help the poor. Thus, it leads to more crime because the poor has to survive on their own. It probably will be different if they are living together in harmony and help each other. Here the problem of children without caring parents is exemplified, too, for there are children

everywhere, yet no sign of any adults taking care of them. Instead, all of the adults seem to be busy drinking in the pubs. In the city, the poor gather in the pubs, while in the country they gather in the church, and this seems to symbolize the great difference between the two communities - why in one setting people can be picturesque and in another they are repulsive.

CONCLUSION

Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* is a novel that portrays the Victorian era. When Charles Dickens's novel *Olliver Twist* is analyzed, it is seen that Marxist elements and thoughts are used in this literary work. It is also the story about Dickens when he was child. He has ever worked as a labor. At that time, Victorian era was in the glory of economic growth. Industrial revolution was one of economic growth in the Victorian era, and it developed quickly at that time. The aim of this industrial is for creating modern economic to reach up the wealth of nation. Unfortunately, it did not run well as its theory. The wealth is on the bourgeois (capital), than the lower class (proletariat) was still in destitution. The structure is divided into three classes; they are the upper class, the middle class, and the lower class. The upper class is in the modern societies in the social class composed of the wealthiest members of society who also wield the greatest political power. In the *Oliver Twist* novel, Mr. Brownlow and Rose Mylie include the upper class. Middle class is a class of people in the middle of social hierarchy. Fagin, Nancy, Charles Bates, Dodger and Mr. Bumble include the middle class. Lower class is the segment of population that occupies lowest possible in the class hierarchy. *Oliver Twist* and Mrs. Mann include the lower class. The poor in Dickens' novel are exploited by the powerful bourgeoisie, as Oliver's labor is owned by the workhouse officials. Olliver is degraded in the best interests of the wealthy, who contribute to molding beliefs and ideas in accordance to their needs. By purposely underfeeding Oliver and the workhouse laborers, the wealthy are able to extract more labor for a lower cost. In *Oliver Twist*, the writer found both contemporaries

Karl Marx (1818-1883) and Charles Dickens (1812-1870) addressed multiple crises of a new underclass in response to the escalation of European capitalism and classism. Dickens clearly illustrated the plight of the proletariat in *Oliver Twist*, whereas Marx's *Communist Manifesto* and *Das Kapital* proved his interest in the evolution of economic production. Both men influenced a world in the Industrial Revolution was emerging by using complementary perspectives. With his use of irony and satire, Dickens clearly expresses

his dissatisfaction with classism and the corruption of the capitalist governmental institutions. This proves him to fit the Marxist profile which encourages the proletariat to stand up against the bourgeoisie. In some ways, it can be said that the worldview conveyed in *Oliver Twist* offers Marxist ideas as it reveals the distribution of economic power and the hypocrisy of a classist society. Thus, what can be concluded from Dickens's *Oliver Twist* is that it possibly is an early piece of writing which includes Marxist ideals, and that it has opened the eyes of many contemporary readers of both upper and under classes despite the fact that it does not offer a solution to the problems that classism and capitalism pose on society.

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