

**Kasdi Merbah University of Ouargla**  
**Faculty of Letters and Languages**  
**Department of Letters and English Language**



**Thesis submitted for obtaining the master's degree in English language**

**In Literature And Civilization**

**Title**

# **IRONY IN GREAT EXPECTATIONS BY CHARLES DICKENS**

**Presented And Publically Defended By**

**YAMINA CHERFAOUI**

**On 05/09/2022**

**Members of the jury**

**Dr. sayehelmbarek samira                      supervisor                      -Ouargla**

**Dr. hanafi hind                                      examiner                                      -Ouargla**

**Academic Year: 2021/2022**

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**Abstract:**

Great Expectations is the famous novel among Dickens's novel, that touched people's hearts during Victorian era, and still has an impact on people nowadays. Great Expectations is a novel talked about Pip who wants to be a gentleman. Pip is a young man lives with his sister Mrs Joe and his brother in law Mr Joe the blacksmith. Pip is an orphan youngman, works with Mr Joe in forge. Pip falls in love with Estella, who is an adopted daughter of Miss Havisham and her real father is the convict Abel Magwitch. Estella doesn't love Pip because she has a harsh-cold heart Although she is kind. Finally, Pip reached his goal and he becomes a gentleman but he doesn't like his way of living so, he decided to return to his first life living and live happily.

The objective of analyzing this story is to show how irony used in this novel.

**Key words:**, Victorian era, Irony

## الملخص:

الامال الكبيرة هي من اشهر روايات شارل ديكنز والتي لمست قلوب الناس اثناء العصر الفيكتوري ومزال تاثيرها موجودا في قلوب الناس والقراء الى يومنا هذا. الامال الكبيرة هي رواية تحكي عن شاب اسمه بيب الذي يحلم ان يصير سيدا. بيب هو شاب في مقتبل العمر يتيم الابوين ويعيش مع اخته وزوجها الحداد جو. يعمل بيب مع زوج اخته في المستودع.

كان بيب يحب فتاة تدعى استيلا ,هي فتاة تبنتها الانسة هافيشام والابنة الحقيقية للهارب ابل ماكوينتش, لم تحب استيلا بيب بتاتا بل كانت تكره الرجال عامة وهذا بسبب نصح الانسة هافيشام التي جعلت قلبها باردا وقاسيا. وفي النهاية اصبح بيب سيدا لكنه سرعان ما اصابه الملل فقرر العودة الى حياته الاولى وعاش سعيدا.



## **Dedication**

*I would like to dedicate my humble work to my parents:*

*Meriem and Mohamed laroussi and to my sweet sisters Maria*

*,Assia , Habiba, Safia and the smalest sister Tassnime*

*To my brothers: Assem , Amine and Abd Al rahmane*

*May Allah bless and protect them all.*

*Also I dedicate my work to my kind supervisor Sayehelmbarek*

*Samira for her guidness and helpful during this short of time.*

*To my all friends especially: sweet sisters Sonia and Rania Ben*

*Aiche and Alex. Don Roberts ,Djamal for their patient and*

*helpful, May Allah bless them all.*

*Yamina*





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*First of all, I would to thank ALLAH who guides and give me the patience and the capacity for countiuaning this research.*

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*I am thankful to all members of the board examination who accept to examine and evaluate my dissertation.*

*Yamina*

## **General Introduction**

The Victorian Era is the period of the queen Victoria who rules Britain from 1837 till she died in 1901. It is one of the longest reign in British History. During the period of Victoria many interesting social and historical changes which marked expanded.

Literature has always been part of our life, we find literature in books, stories, poems, and other writings. In abroad sense, literature refers to any type of written works that expresses imagination, interests, or ideas with expensive style to achieve the effect of rich and beautiful expressions, literature usually makes up the events and the crises.

Nevertheless, literature still allows us to get the benefits of it. One way or another, it allows people to grow their personality and intellectuality. Also, it helps people to be more sensible and sympathetic towards one another, and the other living things. Its content mostly centers on human's life stories and feelings, and also nature.

The form of literature chosen is different from one author to another since it reflects the way the author delivers the content in his/her literary style.

In the side of Victorian Era is rich in literature such as; Drama, novels, short stories, plays and poetry. Charles Dickens is regarded as the one of Great Novelists, he study the whole human being.

The Victorian Age was characterized by rapid change and development in nearly every domain. Moreover, they were interested in politics, this period saw spread of political movements, most not ability socialism, liberalism ,and organizes feminism. Also, many places in the British colonies were named after her and referred to her Victorian era.

Furthermore, a social life in Victorian period was divided into classes ; upper class, middle class and lower class.

Concerning literature, The Victorian age was the great of the English novel; realistic and crowded with characters. It was also the ideal form to describe contemporary life.

Charles Dickens is regarded as the one of great novelist, he studied the whole human being. The novels of Charles Dickens full to drama, humor, and endless variety of vivid characters and plot complications.

The majority of Victorian writers reacted to the writing of previous generations. The novel could be considered one facet of the Victorians' literary exploration.

Great expectations is one of the most famous works of the Victorian age. The novel divided into pieces from December 1860 to August 1861.

As literature aims at conveying people's thought or feelings, therefore it's common that authors use figurative languages to deliberately stir the reader's emotions and thinking. The figurative language usually carries out ambiguity although sometimes this is also the intention of the authors(Roberts and Krenz,1994).

One type of figurative language that has the effect of contrasting the real meaning with what is said is irony. The use of irony in literature is often to provide the readers with moral lessons since irony lets the readers see" a disparity between what characters think can, should, or will happen and what actually transpires"(Thompron,2014).

Victorian literature is the body of poetry, fiction, essays, and letters produced during the reign of queen Victoria and duringthe era

absorb her name. It forms a link and transition between the writers of the romantic period and the modernist literature of the twentieth century

During the nineteenth century the novel became the principal form of literature in English. The works by pre-Victorian writers such as; Jane Austen and Walter Scott had perfected both closely observed social satire and historical fiction.

The nineteenth century is often regarded as a high point in European literature and Victorian literature, including the works of Emily and Charlotte Bronte, Robert Browning, George Eliot, Thomas Hardy, Charles Dickens and secondary schools.

Charles Dickens considered the Victorian novelists better than any other writer, Dickens is still the most popular and read author of the time. His first real novel, *The Pickwick Papers*, written when he was only 25 years old.

The Victorians are sometimes credited with inventing childhood, partly via their efforts to stop child labor and the introduction of compulsory education.

The Victorian age marked four general characteristics; Realism, moral purpose, Doubt, faith and philosophies and Idealism. After the romantic revival, the literature of the Victorian age entered in a new period. The literature of this period.

The literature of this period expresses the fusion of romanticism to realism.

*Great Expectations* can be seen as an influence not only Dickens's period life, however, but also of society at the time. Also, themes and characters of *Great Expectations* can be seen as an image of transformation of nation.

Great Expectations is the thirteenth novel by Charles Dickens and his closing completed novel. It portrays the education of an orphan nicknamed Pip. It is Dickens' second novel, after David Copperfield, to be fully narrated in the first person. The novel was first published as a serial in Dickens's weekly periodical All the year Round, from 1

December 1860 to August 1861. It published the novel in three volumes. Great Expectations novel is full of extreme imagery, poverty, prison ships and chains, and fights to the death.

It's popular both with readers and literary critics, has been translated into many languages. In addition Great Expectations is its autobiographical nature, it's one of Dickens most personal novels.

Moreover, Dickens uses Pip and other characters in order to expose the flash hood that seemed to support Victorian Era' class structure.

## **2) Motivation**

Although the style writing of Charles Dickens is really difficult to understand it, I like to read his works. I have chosen Great Expectations novel in order to study and analyze it. Great Expectation is a famous classic story which takes place back in the mid, to- late of 19th century.

I love this novel because it has a great plot and splendid characters. Also, Charles Dickens is one of my best English novelists. I am going to analyze in my thesis irony in Great Expectations since no body study it. And I love Dickens writing especially Great Expectations.

My motive beyond selecting Charles Dickens' Irony in Great Expectations is because firstly; Charles Dickens is considered as one of the greatest novelists in Victorian Era.

Secondly, the novel of Great Expectations is a story of a young poor child. Pip who lives with his sister and her husband ; Besides, it's a story that talks about Pip who wants to be a rich gentleman.

Another motive beyond choosing this novel is to analyze irony in the Great Expectations and irony considered the main figurative language in literature.

### **3 Objectives of the study**

The objective of the study is to show Charles Dickens's Irony in Great Expectations and its use. Also, showing Dickens's style of writing that is that is mostly inspired by his miserable childhood experience. In addition the study aims to introduce a real image of English society during Victorian period and how they treated children especially orphans as a result of class system.

Another objective beyond studying this book is to show how Charles Dickens was Great creature among English novelists during Victorian period. At least but not last my objective of study is first to depict irony in Great Expectations and how it has big influence in the novel. Second, is to study irony and its underline meaning.

### **4) Problematic**

Victorian Era was known by the system social classes; the upper class, the middle class and the lower class .The later was the class of poor people who were suffered a lot at that time, especially children among them were the orphans, who worked as child labor and they treated them as non- human. Victorian Era was the period of inhumanity. Charles Dickens was one of those children, he suffered a lot in his childhood.

He carried big expectations and at last became the greatest English novelist at that time. Dickens wrote Great Expectations in order to show his real life when he was a child.

The problem that I would like to analyze is

How is Irony appeared in Charles Dickens' Great Expectations?

### **5 -Aims**

This dissertation aims:

- 1- To explore irony in Great Expectations novel and its impact in Victorian Literature fiction.
- 2- To clarify the reflection of the writer's life on his literary works.
- 3- To show how Dickens' inspiration clear in the novel.

### **6-Research Question**

- 1-In what extent Charles Dickens' works reflected his real life ?
- 2-Irony is a literary device in Literature. Charles Dickens used Irony in Great Expectations' novel. The Question is how Dickens portrayez irony in?

### **7-Hypothesis**

- 1- I think the text somewhat reflects the authors autobiography.
- 2- I presume that irony is used in characters.

### **8-Methodology**

This research paper used descriptive analysis method to study the sentences and events in order to figure out the irony in Great Expectations.

The purpose was to make a clear and systematic description allow the irony used in the story.

Where Dickens' novel is analyzed through applying formation theory. This is in order to show irony in the novel.

I would like to apply the formalism method by Roman Jakobson, Russian theorist.

### **9-Organization of the dissertation**

The present study is divided into four chapters; the first chapter deals with the historical and social context of the novel *Great Expectations*. The second chapter defines a literature review about Charles Dickens including; short biography of Charles Dickens and his style of writing.

The third chapter represents the concept of irony, the use and its type. The fourth chapter represents the analysis of irony in the novel *Great Expectations*.



## **Chapter One**

### **The Historical and Social context**

#### **Introduction**

Great Britain has known several period and among all the historical periods, that England had passed through the Victorian Era is considered one of the most important period that changed the history of Britain and the world.

Through this chapter we try to present those essential events that events The Victorians and the whole society.

#### **1-1 The Victorian Era**

The Victorian Era is an age of British history spanning the 64 years reign of Queen Victoria(1837-1901). It is one of the longest reigns in the history of England. In the year 1837 Queen Victoria succeeded William the fourth on throne of Great Britain Ireland. The period marked by many important social and historical changes.

The period saw the British Empire grow to become the first global industrial power<sup>1</sup>. By this the role of the monarch was to reign rather than rule. The period is known for economic progress, poverty and exploration(monad,edu.in).

##### **1-1-1 Social life during The Victorian Age**

Living in The Victorian era was exiting because of all the new inventions and pace of change and progress, but it was a hard time to live in if didn't

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<sup>1</sup> Britich Empire

have much money. Even very young children had to work if their family needed them to.

At the beginning of Victorian Era in 1837, most people would have used candles and oil or gas lamps to light their homes and streets.

By the end of Victorian Era in 1901, electricity was available and rich people could get it in their homes

Additionally, whole poor families would sometimes have to work so they all have enough money to buy food. Children in poor families could work in mines, mills and factories or in workhouse.

Whereas, rich families didn't have dangerous jobs like these.

In fact, some didn't even have to work.

### **1-1-2 The Victorian Literature**

While in the preceding Romantic period poetry had been the dominant genre, it was the novel that was most important in The Victorian period.

Charles Dickens(1812-1870) regarded the first part of Victorian's Reign.

Dickens is the most famous Victorian novelist. He is still one of the most popular and real authors of that time period. His most important works includes Oliver Twist(1837-1838), Great Expectations(1860-1861) and other works. Moreover, the style of The Victorian novels tend to be idealized portraits of difficult lives in which hard work.

Furthermore, The Victorians are credited with inventing childhood partly via their efforts to stop child labour and the introduction of

compulsory education<sup>2</sup>. As children began to be able to read, literature for young people became a growth industry, with not only established writers producing works for children(www.ucm.es).

### **1-3 The Literary Background**

#### **1-3-1 Marxicism Theory**

Victorian Age is the period of the Reign of Queen Victoria. This period saw the spread of the novel, novels were mainly published episode of the same series, so writers could change the plot following the public's taste; that's why this novels are usually long and plots are sometimes difficult, incoherent and with no deep analysis of characters.

During the Victorian age there were several literary movements:

Later Romanticism,aestheticism and Decadenticism. There were several famous writers during the Victoria age: Dickens, who painted the lower, middle class(www.shuola.net).

#### **1-4 Social class in society:**

The Victorian society was divided into nobility upper class, middle class, and the working class<sup>3</sup>. The Victorian upper class consisted of The Aristocrats,Wobly Dukes, other wealthy families working in Victorian courts. People could for instance be distinguished by their income, clothing, education, living conditions, or type of work.

The formation of new social class during The Victorian period had been helped along by The Industrial Revolution(ca-1750-1859), which

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<sup>2</sup>-labor child.

<sup>3</sup> - Victorian society (www.student-dk.

was the transformation from a rural to an urban, industrialized one(www.studienet-dk).

#### **1-4-1 Layers of social class:**

The majority of people remained in the countryside nearly to The Victorian period, by 1850(Schuler 2003). As a result, various classes are social groups that differentiate themselves through, income, living and working conditions, employment, culture, religion( Cody2002). Families have also been divided into various classes: aristocracy, middle and upper class and lower class(HelpMe123). Consequently, social stratification is classified into three classes elite, middle class, and working class.

Elite class: is defined as the highest on hierarchy level, it consisted of the Gentry and Aristocracy level like Land Lords who own a great deal of wealth to give them a comfortable life(Mitchell).

Middle class: Due to schooling in public schools and colleges, this class rose from 15 to 25 percent in 1901(Mitchell). This usually includes people with the highest social rank, i.e. marine, military officers, clergymen, as well as people with high standing in government institutions, university and influential school professors for instance; those successful group of the middle class are Rothschild industrialists and talented authors like Charles Dickens(Wahrman1995).

Working class: the working class consisted of unskilled laborers who worked in brutal and unsanitary conditions(Victorian England social hierarchy). They didn't have access to clean water and food, education for their children, or proper, clothing(ibid).

Moreover, the working class was divided into three layers, the lowest being working men or laborer(picard2009). Additionally, working

class is defined as individuals in the labor force who don't have bachelor's degrees this includes high school dropouts, high school graduates, people with some college, and associate's degree holders. It includes the unemployed, who are counted as still in the labor force as long as they are actively looking for work(Johnson1992).<sup>4</sup>

## **Conclusion**

Literature follows each period of time and authors' writer work according their life time so, all their works inspired from their societies. Charles Dickens is one of the great novelist during Victorian era. It has social classes divided into three classes. Dickens was among working class. He was a child labor. Dickens novels were taken from his the worst experience i life. I see all his works talks about poor children and especially orphans like him. Dickens's Great Expectations is a work

which deals with the life during Victorian Era, he uses Pip the main character as an example of the orphan child who dreams to be gentleman and wealthy in the future. Also, Dickens's aim is to show the real image of people lives during the Victorian Age.

## **Chapter Two**

### **Great Expectations' Critical Review**

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<sup>4</sup>-Aristocracy, upper class,lowerclass and middle class,Johnson,1992.

## **Introduction**

Great Expectations follows the novel of David Copperfield in being narrated as first-person autobiography, with extensive childhood scenes.

### **2-1 Dickens's Biography**

Charles Dickens is an English author, continues to be one of the most widely read Victorian novelists. His novels describes the life and conditions of the poor and working class in Victorian class in the Victorian Era of England.

Charles John Hoffmann Dickens was born on February 7,1812 at Port sea on the southern coast of England<sup>5</sup>. At the age of twelve Charles worked with working class men and boys in factory that handled blacking or shoe polish. At age fifteen he was again forced leave school and work as an office boy. In the following year, he became a free lane reporter and stereographic.At the law courts of London.

Dickens wrote several novels such as; David Copperfield, Oliver Twist, Great Expectations and others. He was as popular in America.

Great Expectations is regarded by some us his most perfectly exulted work of art. It is a story of a young man's moral development from childhood to adult life. Dickens died on Jun 9,1870, leaving the novel, the mystery of Edwin Drood, unfinished(cloudfront.net)

### **2-2 Introduction to the novel Great Expectations**

The Great Expectations is one of the most hero is Pip. Pips 'aspiration to become a gentleman is filled by his expectations to be wealthy.

#### **2-2-1 Plot summary**

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<sup>5</sup> - Charles Dickens'sBiography(cloudfron,net

The novel *Great Expectations* is set in London in the early to mid-nineteen century and contains some of Charles Dickens's most celebrated scenes, starting in a graveyard where the young Pip is accosted by the escaped convict Magwitch.

The story follows the growth and personal development of an orphan named Pip. It begins with the scene of Pip, an orphan at the age of about seven, visiting his parents' graves. There he encounters an escaped convict, who scares Pip into stealing food for him, and a file from home he shares with his abusive older sister and her kind husband Joe Gargery, a blacksmith.

The next day, soldiers recapture the convict and return them to the prisoner ship.

Soon after, Miss Havisham asks Pip's uncle to find her a boy to play with her adopted daughter Estella. Long ago the old lady was jilted at the altar and since that every day, she is never taken her wedding dress off nor has she changed a single thing about her castle. Pip begins to visit Miss Havisham and Estella, with whom he falls in love.

On one of his visits to Miss Havisham's house, Pip confronts her with Estella's history. Miss Havisham stands too close to the fire which ignites her dress and she eventually dies from her injuries.

While attempting to escape, Magwitch is captured and sent to jail where he dies shortly before his execution. Pip is about to be arrested for unpaid debts when he falls ill. Joe nurses him back to health and pays off his debts. At the end, Pip meets Estella on the streets, who has remained after her abusive husband has died. Pip says that he is glad, she is a different person now from the cold hearted girl Miss Havisham reared her to be and that suffering had been stronger than Miss Havisham's teaching and

given her a heart to understand what my heart used to be." Pip remains single( Edzhierva2017).

### **2-2-2 Themes**

-Social class: Great Expectations is set near the end of Industrial Revolution, a period dramatic technological improvement in manufacturing and commerce that among other things, created new opportunities for people who were born into "lower" or poorer classes to gain wealth and move into a "higher" and wealthier class.

-Integrity and Reputation: In Great Expectations, Dickens explores pride.

Both Estella and Bentley Drummle's nobility to Joe and Biddy's moral uprightness.

-Parents: As the novel distrusts British culture's traditional blind faith in family lives, also looks skeptically at the traditional family unit. Great Expectations includes very few models of healthy parent. Child relations. Many of the novel's characters including Pip, Provis, Biddy are orphans.

-Justice: From Pip's encounters with escaped convicts at the beginning of Great Expectations, to the grotesque courts and prisons in parts two and three, the novel casts the British legal system in a dubious light. In the end, novel's most fulfilling portraits of justice are the sincere apologies and forgiveness exchanged between Pip and Miss Havisham and between Pip, Joe and Biddy.

-Generosity: Dickens explores many different understandings of generosity in Great Expectations. Though Pip's initial generosity towards Provis is mostly motivated by fear and responds by selflessly devoting his life's savings towards Pip's future. Later, Pip believes that the best kind



of generosity is anonymous and claims that his life's only good deed was his secret donation to Herbert's career.

-Ambition and Self-Improvement:<sup>6</sup> A Pip is a small seed, something starts off tiny and then grows and develops into something new. Pip's name, then, is an accident, as *Great Expectations* is bildungsroman a story of growth and development of its main character.

Dickens presents ambition to improve oneself that drives Pip along with many of the novel's secondary characters as a force capable of generating both positive and negative results.

### **2-2-3 Characters**

1-Pip-narrator: orphaned since infancy; lives with his sister and brother in law: goal to be a gentleman.

2-Joe Gargery: Pip's brother-in-law; blacksmith; kind; hardworking; abused by wife.

3-Mrs. Joe Gargery: Pip's sister; treats Pip and Joe harshly; brought up Pip "by hand".

4-Uncle Pumblechook: pompous corn and seed dealer; Joe's uncle.

5-Miss Havisham: eccentric, rich lady; left at altar on wedding day; seeks revenge for past rejections.

6-Mr. Wopple: parish clerk who becomes an actor.

7-Estella Havisham: Miss Havisham's adopted daughter; haughty; cruel girl; Pip loves her.

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<sup>6</sup> \_ Great Expectations themes.

8-Mr.Jaggers: London lawyer for several of novel's characters(Miss Havisham, Abel Magwitch, Molly and Pip).

9-Dolge Orlick: Journeyman (works in blacksmith shop) for Joe and one of Pip's life long enemies.

10-Biddy: kind village girl; teacher Pip; eventually becomes housekeeper for Gargery's.

11-Herbert Pocket: pale, young gentleman; in London becomes Pip's best friend and instructs Pip in the ways to become a gentleman.

12-John Wemich: Jagger's chief clerk; lives two lives; in office , he is impractical but at home he is creative and sympathetic.

13-Molly: Jagger's housekeeper; acquitted man's true mother.

14-Bentley Drummel: cruel student of Mathew pocket; rival for Estella's hand in marriage.

15-Startop: student of Mathew pocket; help Pip and Herbert were attempt to save Magwitch from capture.

16-Compeyson: unscrupulous former fiancé of Mrs Havisham; also double crosses Magwitch.

17- Abel Magwitch: escaped convict; Pip's benefactor; and father and many other secondary characters.

## **2-2-4 Style of writing**

Charles Dickens writes with imagery to create that atmosphere, the mood and to create impact for the writer's message<sup>7</sup>. He uses imagery to create the atmosphere by using material objects to symbolize and emotional

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11\_ Style of writing during the Victorian era.

state. Charles Dickens also elaborates on the mood of scene by using dark and light colors and using emotion to make the scene more dramatic. Dickens uses his stories to create and change of heart in his readers.

His characters are very important part in his writing, he uses his characters moods and emotions to create imagery. Furthermore, Dickens uses time to develop his characters by painting the characters in the present time.

In all of Dickens's novels, he has an extensive cast of characters in the novel, each one can be easily distinguished and remembered even when left un-mentioned for several chapters due to Dickens's brilliant characterization techniques.

In addition Dickens uses the past and future to create a vivid in the readers mind. He uses colors contrasting the light with the dark to create a mood for his character. Charles Dickens uses the Victorian Era to describe the environment that his stories take place in

He uses the colors of the Victorian Era such as different colors browns, and grays to create his imagery to describe the environment.

Also, uses candles on all stories as a source of light against the darkness. Dickens uses dark color to portrait death, loneness' and fear.<sup>8</sup>

Charles Dickens uses light colors to create a sense of love and happiness.

Additionally, Dickens has been greatly inspired by a variety of things when he started writing. The writing style of Charles Dickens is unique, his manner of writing is poetic, with a lot of satire and humor

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<sup>8</sup>light and dark color sites.google.com

Most of his novels and stories are episodic as his literary career started with working and writing for a newspaper. He regarded as the master of using the element of suspense to engage the readers, thus establishing their interest. The writing style of Dickens marked by prolific linguistic creativity. Moreover, the literary style of Charles Dickens is also a blend of realism and fantasy.

He used exaggeration in description to imply character traits. He was fond of metaphor, simile and frequently repeated words in a sentence to emphasize phrase. This made it easier for people to read and understand his work and also made his words more memorable. For example, the opening of A Tale of Two Cities uses repetition, "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times"....(Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities)(sites.google.com).

### **2-2-5 Irony as literary device**

Irony is a literary device or an event in which how things seem to be it is in fact very different from how they actually are. Some linguistics defined irony as an insincere statement, where the speaker intends the listener to perceive it as insincere and where the statement constitutes a misfit with some aspect of context.

### **Conclusion**

Charles Dickens writing is different than other writers. He uses real characters in his works that make the readers love to read it.

Charles Dickens's autobiography is an important feature in understanding his works. Also, Dickens style of writing is totally different than other writers' styles, he makes the readers live within his stories and like them.

According to his novel *Great Expectations*, Dickens shows the bad mirror of treatment during the Victorian Age. He shows the poverty, Also, it represented how much Dickens's childhood reflects on his writing to create a very inspiring story that attracts the readers.

## **Chapter Three**

### **The concept of Irony, its uses and types**

#### **1)- Definition of Irony**

According to Merriam-Webster<sup>9</sup>; Irony is the use of words to express something other than and especially the opposite of the literal meaning. Another definition of irony is a characterization of a situation which discloses that what on the surface appears to be the case contrasts consequently with what is actually the case. Irony is an important rhetorical, device and literary technique.

Additionally, Irony is one of the most important techniques in all literature.

#### **2-plot Device**

Irony in various forms is a powerful plot device. Unexpected events or character behaviors can create suspense for readers, heighten the humor in a literary work, or leave a larger impression on an audience. As a plot device, irony allows readers to re-evaluate their knowledge, expectations, and understanding.

#### **3- Writing Irony**

Overall, as a literary device, irony functions as a means of portraying a contrast or discrepancy between appearance and reality. This is effective for readers in that irony can create humor and suspense, as well as showcase character flaws or highlight central themes in a literary work

It's essential that writers bear in mind that their audience must have a

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<sup>9</sup> - Merriam webster dictionary.

understanding of the discrepancy between appearance and reality in their work. Otherwise, the sense of irony is lost and ineffective. Therefore, it's best to be aware of the reader or viewer's.

### **3-Types of irony**

Irony can be categorized into different types, including verbal, dramatic and situational irony<sup>10</sup>.

The ironic form of simile, used in sarcasm, and senators of litotes can emphasis one's meaning by the deliberated use of language which states the opposite of the truth, devise the contrary of the truth or drastically and obviously understands a factual connection.

#### **A- Verbal irony**

Arises from a sophisticated or resigned awareness of contrast between what is and what ought to be and expresses a controlled pathos without sentimentality. It's a form of indirection that was a smart thing to or censure, as in the casual irony of the statement 'that was a smart thing to do!'.

#### **B -Dramatic irony**

It is a form of irony. Dramatic irony is both a literary and theatrical device in which the audience knows more than the characters they are following. The characteristic's actions have a different meaning for the audience than they do for the actions or characters. It creates tension and suspense. Example: When Herbert doesn't know that Pip is his benefactor, but the audience do.

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<sup>10</sup> - types of irony

Depends on the structure of a work rather than its use of words. In plays it's often created by the audience's awareness of a fate in store for the characters that themselves are unaware of. Henry's short story is also an example of dramatic irony (liberalarts.oregonstate.edu).

### **C- Situational irony**

It occurs when something happens that is completely different from what was expected, usually, these instances incorporate some type of contradiction and a certain level of surprise or shock. Example:

The story of an hour by Kate Chopin tells the tale of a wife who learned her husband was dead. The husband returns and she dies of shock. Each of these situations involves a turn of events that is unexpected.

### **The use of irony**

#### **a)- comic irony**

Irony is often used in literature to produce a comic effect. This may also be combined with satire. For instance, an author may facetiously state something as a well-known fact and then demonstrate through the narrative that the fact is untrue.

#### **b)- Romantic irony and met fiction**

Romantic irony is an attitude of detached skepticism adopted by an author towards his or her work, typically manifesting in literary self

consciousness and self-reflection. This conception of irony originated



with the German Romantic writer and critic(Karl Wilhelm Friedrich Schlegel).

Another critic named Joseph Dane writes "from twentieth century perspective, the most crucial area in the history of irony is that described by the term romantic irony". He discusses the difficulty of defining romantic irony:"But what is romantic irony? A universal type of irony? The irony used by romantics? or an irony envied by the romantics and romanticists? He also describes the arguments for and against its use(62).

However, in a book entitled English Romantic Irony, Anne Mellor writes referring to Byron, Keats, Carlyle, Coleridge, and Lewis Carroll(64)

Romantic irony is both a philosophical conception of the universe and an artistic program. Ontologically, it sees the world as fundamentally chaotic. No order, no far goal of time ordained by God or right reason, determines the progression of human or natural events(...) of course, romantic irony itself has more than one mode. The style of romantic irony varies from writer to writer(...)

### **C-Socratic irony**

It is the dissimulation of ignorance practiced by pretend to be ignorant of the topic under discussion. The Charles Dictionary defines it as "a means by which a question pretends to know less than a respondent, when actually he knows more."

## **D- Awkwardness**

The 1990s saw a cultural expansion of the definition of irony from "saying what one doesn't mean" into a general stance of detachment from life in general(74).

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, irony was and still is one of the most powerful tools of a writer for subtly describing characters, societies and ages, for sharply criticizing social ills and political wrongs, injustice, but also one of the pleasant devices to offer advice, to correct some straying judgment or to support and enliven weakened beliefs.

## **Chapter Four**

### **The Analysis of Charles Dickens in Great Expectation**

#### **Introduction**

The Great Expectations is Charles Dickens' thirteenth novel. The story is witnessed through the eyes of the protagonist, Pip, who is an orphan. In the beginning, he lives with his sister and brother-in-law and later goes on to live in Miss Havisham's house where he also happened to find the love of his life, Estella, the cold-hearted beauty.

Ironies are not just confined to our actual existence; they draw breath in literature too<sup>11</sup>. The irony, when it is being a literary device, is the Variance between what we expect out of a situation and what is actually bound to happen. Literary ironies are used to in the depth of story in order to effect the otherness wants on the readers(ie.pining.com).

#### **3-1 Irony in Great Expectations**

##### **A)-Dramatic Irony**

The Great Expectations' the most prominent example of dramatic irony. That crops up is Pip's arc of perception, until the thirteen chapter, in relation to Miss Havisham. It was possible for us to point out this irony way before Pip can even though he is the narrator because Pip is actually telling us the tales of his past which connotes that Pip from the present time knows everything, Whereas, Pip from the past (the less of story) in clueless about what is going to happen next.

##### **B)-Situational Irony**

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<sup>11</sup>-irony in great expectations,ie.pining.com

The Great Expectation irony in which the realities of certain aspects are hidden from or unknown to both the readers and the characters, unlike dramatic irony in which the reader is more aware than the characters. An example of situational irony in this novel has to be the mystery of who actually is Pip's benefactor. Till a large part of the story,

Pip believes the rich old lady, Miss Havisham to be benefactress. In the end it is confirmed the readers and the protagonist that in all actually, the convict, Magwitch, who Pip had helped as a child in his benefactor.

Instances of situational irony can also be pinpointed in some of the actions of Estella, where she lives both, Pip and the readers, conflicted.

### **C)-Verbal Irony**

Verbal ironies are the easiest to catch in the sense that they have a physical presence in the form of text, whereas. Verbal irony transpires when something which is contradiction to genuine intent or meaning is put in black or white. There are way too many illustrations of verbal irony in The Great Expectations; Few examples can be the description of the instrument his sister used to hit him.

Also, the use of elusive and tangible literary irony added dimension to the piece and added to its endurance(ibid).

### **D)-The Shackles injustice**

In the third part of Great Expectations, Dickens uses irony to communicate the following about injustice; it constrains the people that are experiencing it, whether it be physically, mentally, or emotionally.

There are many examples throughout the third part, most of which I found to be a little sad.

Dickens uses irony as a very powerful tool to display the theme of injustice and what it does to be the characters. Also, an injustice done to Estella was how she was taught to be hard-hearted(<https://eduzaurus.com>).

### **3-1-1 Pip in Miss.Havisham**

Dickens portrays Miss Havisham in very unique way. There is a dramatic irony between Miss Havisham and Pip, it is ironic how she wanted to watch him become miserable, just because he is of the male gender, and ironically. She grew to like him, she even paid for part of Pip's expenses for the partner-ship. Yet what is more ironic is that Miss.Havisham doesn't praise herself for the good deed. In the beginning of the novel, Miss Havisham displayed a harsh, cold attitude toward Pip. This is showed in her deceptive actor page 69, where she says, "well, you can break his heart?". As the novel ends Miss.Havisham's attitude completely changes. She realizes the pain she has caused Pip and apologizes to him.

Because of positive changes she becomes more likeable to the audience

Furthermore, one of the greatest examples of irony is brought out between Pip and the convict. On page 12<sup>12</sup>, the convict speaks to Pip Get me a file, Pip listen to the convict and brings him food and a file. This is ironic how a simple task, such as this, changed Pip's life forever.

### **3-1-2 Pip in blacksmith forge**

There is the relationship between Mr Joe and Pip that consists of verbal irony. Pip says." My sister, Mrs.JoeGargery was more than twenty years older than I, had established a great reputation with herself and the neighbors because she brought me up? by hand?(p.14).

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<sup>12</sup>- Great Expectations,page12.

This is ironic because Pip interprets it as if being brought up by hand meant that he was punished and displaced with beatings. Ms. Joe however, meant that she alone had to bring him up with no help. They both have totally opposite ideas of what the same thing means.

The many different ironies Dickens used to create suspense and conflict between Pip and the others gave the novel flavor. It keeps it interesting and keeps the reader awake.

### **3-2 Irony on Estella character**

#### **3-2-1 The linguistic irony to Estella**

The relationship between Pip and Estella is very complex and ironic. A major irony, of situation, occurs when Estella kisses Pip after insulting and degrading him. The reader becomes confused with Estella's actions and feels sympathy for Pip. On page 104 Estella says, "Come here! you may kiss me, if you like. This something unexpected, which Livens up

the story. Moreover, Estella is a supremely ironic creation, one who darkly undermines the notion of romantic love and serves as a bitter criticism against the class system in which she is mired. She wins Pip's deepest love by prachicury deliberate cruelty. Unlike the warm, winsome, kind heroine of traditional love story, Estella is cold. Ironically, life among the upper classes does not represent salvation for Estella. Dickens uses Estella's life to reinforce the idea that one's happiness and well-Being are not deeply connected to one's social position. Despite her cold behavior and the damaging influence in her life, Dickens nevertheless ensures that Estella is still a sympatric character: By giving the reader a sense of her inner struggle to discover and act on her own feeling rather than on the imposed motives of her upbringing(www.Sparknotes.com).

### **3-2-2 The social irony to Estella**

In Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* (1861), Miss Havisham "groons" and educates her ward, Estella, within the confines of the ruined Satis House to become "Miss Havisham's revenge."<sup>13</sup> And while scholars have discussed the representations of space and characters reflect one another, it is important to also understand how physical spaces foster particular interactions and behaviours that disturb class and gender ascriptions to those spaces. While Miss Havisham takes advantage of Estella's beauty, a feminist analysis of *Great Expectations* reveals that Estella is both oppressed yet empowered through her education at Satis House.

### **3-2-3 Personal irony of Estella**

Throughout the novel Dickens portrays Estella as extremely uncaring and a person who would play with emotions of others. An example of Estella's cruelty can be seen when Havisham is talking with Pip about Estella but then she suddenly grabs him while explaining "Love her, love her, love her how does she use you" (240). Additionally, Estella also courts her with other men which makes Pip angrier because he is unable to keep Estella for himself.

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<sup>13</sup>- irony in Estella.

Moreover, Estella is a victim of Miss Havisham's behavior and teaching, she doesn't learn what love is or how to love another person.

Estella enter adulthood incapable of slowing her emotions and having normal relationships with others, she treats people cruelly and has a generally icy demeanor, her beauty cannot overcome her personality and the way she pushes other people away or manipulates them to do as she wishes. Furthermore, Estella often cited as Dickens's first convincing female character, Estella is an ironic creation (ibid).

In addition "I thought of the beautiful young Estella with absolute abhorrence of the contrast between the jail and her. Come back to this question later, after completing the novel, and explain this statement is <sup>14</sup>ironic. It's ironic because Estella's own father is a convict and much of her real story is connected to jail. Also, she is an effect in a jail at Miss Havisham house.

### **3-3 Irony to Pip's the protagonist character**

Pip has low-self-esteem. He isn't valued and doesn't value himself. He feels guilty for his very existence, thanks to his sister who constantly reminds him how she has suffered because of him. Also, Pip, abused by his sister, is a passive personality who fears the stronger emotions in him. He rarely shows power, passion, or self-determination, reacting limited to those around him and living his life as a dreamer.

The ironic that the source of gentling is from a creature more socially deter.

#### **3-3-1 Verbal Irony to Pip**

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<sup>14</sup> - Irony in Pip (ibid).



Dickens used verbal irony to bring out the awkwardness in that visit when Pip proceeded towards his life as a gentleman his new environment he forgets about the people who raised him. and having incidentally shown his tendency to call me sir(pg.241) A visit from Joe was quite unexpected by Pip . As Joe referred to Pip as since, however, earlier in his life, he had changed from an innocent, caring boy into an arrogant young man as a result of his illusion and foolish desires. Therefore, it's good to say, that irony helped keep the story together.

Additionally, Pip thinks that Miss.Havisham is his benefactor, and it's obvious that it's not. His benefactor ends up actually being Magwitch(chapter39). Magwitch doesn't know that Comeyson is free and in London(chapter45)(prezi.com).

Joe thinks that the convict stole the food and not Pip(chapter5)(ibid).

### **3-3-2 Dramatic Irony**

Wemmick, Jagger's clerk, is basically two different men. At work, he is a very serious man and only focuses on work, but at his home, he is fun and easy going, however, Pip thinks there will be a friction between him, and Herbert, but they become friends and roommates(chapter21). When Pip and Herbert are counting up bills and debits, but have a nice meal with expensive wine while doing it(chapter34). When Pip is worried, he will get in trouble, at the Havisham house, but the event is never brought up chapter12(ibid).

Furthermore, Dickens infers that Estella lowers herself much too confined and well-bred to associate with Pip, the common laboring-boy.

The irony in this relationship can be about when Pip began to think that his being common was a bad thing.(pg.143)The presence of dramatic irony

was present here because even though pip didn't specify his reasons for waiting to be a gentleman, it was implied that he was doing it for Estella.

#### **4-4-1 Irony in Great Expectation's title**

In Great Expectations, irony is particularly directed towards the relationship between ideals, be they social or romantic, and the circumstances of fulfilling such high aspirations, the backhand of revenge and ,again, the clash between appearance and reality, expectations and outcomes. This gap between expectations and his real situation has almost nothing to do with the greatness of tragic hero, but fits far better into a comic world in which pride is ruthlessly punished. The ironic tone may be perceived from the very title, " Great Expectations": there is obviously something wrong with these expectations which implies, to a higher or lesser degree, some kind of pride, pride that represents a sin and for a sin one is supposed to be punished. Nevertheless, Frederic Harrison doesn't necessarily blame human nature but rather the age, for the sin of expecting too much: Mr. Carlyle, Mr. Ruskin, the Aesthetes, are all wrong about the nineteenth century. It is not the age of money-bags and cant, soot, hubbub, and ugliness. It is the age of great expectation and unwearied striving after better things. But there is no irony in Harrison's use of great expectations, only his sense that hope and hard work should be mutually reinforcing activities.

One example of irony in Great Expectations is fact that as Pip becomes a gentleman and also a snob, he learns that his education had been paid for by a convict. His dreams of becoming respectable are mocked at by the fact that they are nourished and supported by an outlaw. Miss Havisham's desire to use Estella as a tool of her revenge against Pip as one who belongs to the male gender, gradually leads her

into becoming attached to the boy. Irony can also be traced in Pip's despising Joe and Biddy in order to be finally confronted with their happy simple life and warm house <sup>15</sup>(ibid).

The title Great Expectations is ironic because expectations are usually great and Pip's expectations are false.

### **3-3-3 Situational Irony**

Pip promises that he is going to visit both Biddy and Joe after, but he knows he won't(chapter27). There is irony in the title of Great Expectations, Pip's, supposed "Expectations" change dramatically throughout the story.(Title page).

One pip finally lives the life style he used to always want. He discover that he isn't happy at all. All he wants is.

In Great Expectations, Charles Dickens show us how Victorian society is divided into three system social classes since he mentioned them all in his novel. Pip who is the protagonist in the story, he is a poor young man so he is from the working class. Pip who struggled to be a gentleman . this is an example about the last system class in Victorian era.

Whereas Estella who belongs to Borgoize class system

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<sup>15</sup> - irony in Biddy(ibid).

## Conclusion

Many professors, analysts, and common readers believe that *Great Expectations* was possibly the best work of Charles Dickens. That is due to the diversity of the themes chosen by Dickens. Moreover, suspense and conflict are major elements in exciting the reader to continue reading the novel feeling curious about what will occur next. A clear example of that is in the suspense and conflict displayed in plot events related to Estella, Miss Havisham, The convict, Joe and Mrs Joe. Furthermore, the relationship between Pip and Estella is very complex and ironic which keeps the readers entertained all along the story. A major situational irony occurs when Estella kisses Pip after insulting and degrading him. This raises confusion among readers due to Estella's actions and feeling sympathy for Pip. This way Dickens manages to keep the readers on the edge of their seats, being unable to expect the upcoming surprise. Miss Havisham, on the other hand, is portrayed by Dickens in a very unique way. Making dramatic irony between Havisham and Pip in the way in which she wanted him to become miserable, simply because he is of the male gender. However, later, she grew to like him. Another ironic thing about Miss Havisham is that she doesn't praise herself for the good deed.

Eventually, one of the greatest examples is the irony brought out in the sudden confrontation between Pip and the convict. On the 12th page the convict speaks to Pip "get me a file". It's ironic how a simple task such as this changed Pip's life forever.

## **General conclusion**

I think that i have reached into the last point of my thesis about Irony in Great Expectations by Charles Dickens. That is mean i have depicted irony in the most of chapters in this novel. Also, i rony is too clear and well- portrayed in the text.

I have discovered irony trough several reading characters conversations which were full of satire and bullying especially in the beginning of the story.

Additionally, Irony in great expectations permit it aesthetic image that made it really more charismatic to both readers and critics.

Moreover, I got the point that more to use irony in writing the more you made it very acceptable and likable for readers.

Charles Dickens irony in great expectations considered as the main and so important to study it. Since Charles Dickens; most writing were about orphans and his autobiography that make readers live within the story.

Though Charles Dickens&; writing is too hard to understand and analyze it.

Victorian literature was really rich with great novelists and books like Charles Dickens and his priceless writing.

At least but not the last I have enjoyed reading and studying Great Expectations novel. Also, I have found it different than other style of writing that i have read before.

This is my a special study and may anyone analyzed according to his/her purpose.

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