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محاضرة نموذجية تركز على حياة الشاعر جارلز دكنز واحد رواياته ديفد كوبر فيلد في الادب الانكليزي

Charles Dickens and one of his novels (David Copperfield)

Charles Dickens was born in 1812 near Port Sea. He made his first visit to America in 1842. Then, he became the first editor of the Daily News. He was a famous writer of his time as he focused his attention on the childhood agony, the poor, dysfunctional families, of the initial Victorian era and the less fortunate in an English society. He was greatly affected by the industrial revolution of the Victorian era and these issues were reflected in his writings. As he was a poor boy, he worked in a factory. He was treated with no respect. Many children like him, had to work in cruel, squalid and dangerous conditions. For example, Oliver Twist represents Dickens's childhood. Oliver also worked in a factory like his creator. Oliver became victim just like Dickens as he was exploited by the factory owner. He worked very hard for many hours a day so that he would get a meal, and a place to sleep. Furthermore, children were verbally and physically abused by their parents, and the upper class workmen of the English society. Charles Dickens dealt with these issues realistically in his writing. He challenged these issues and argued that paupers and criminals are not evil at birth; they are not born criminals, but they turn bad because the world deals with them inhumanly and circumstances lead them to become criminals. All these issues come out in his writings like David Copperfield. David was verbally ['Beware of him, he bites'] and physically abused by his parents when his step-father used to beat him and his mother used to throw a great deal of guilt for him. A young boy such as David becomes a victim as he is emotionally, psychologically, and physically abused by his parents.

Solitariness is the distinguishing quality of Charles Dickens' characters. His people live in a world of their own. They do not talk to one another. They talk to themselves. There are problems created by society as individuals are segregated into different classes which represent diverse values and so they cannot communicate with other members of the society. They are alienated from society. In Dickens's

world, one character becomes the victim of another character. They are victims either of society, circumstances, industrialization or laws. They are aware of the social issues, but they cannot communicate with others. They stand very close to reality and deal with the problems and the harshness of the real world. They are absorbed in their own worries and problems.

David Copperfield is a heartwarming story by Charles Dickens. The story is about a young boy named David Copperfield. He undergoes many struggles throughout his life. It is a novel of selfish exploitation, ardent jealousy and sexual worsen. All these aspects play a vital role in victimizing the characters of this novel. Dickens wanted to show what life was to him. In other words, he wanted to show that the story of the novel is closely related to him because he was also a victim as he underwent many struggles throughout his life. So, the novel is autobiographical. The full original title of the novel, 'The Personal History, Adventures, Experience, and Observation of David Copperfield', proves that. For example, Charles Dickens's father, John Dickens, does not seem to have been a warm and pleasant father, but his lack of responsibility, especially with money, later leads his family into serious difficulties. The story deals with the consequences of love and its preservation in human life.

Charles Dickens shows the shocking and terrible abuse of the weak, helpless and wretched people throughout David Copperfield. He shows that exploitation is the rule in an industrial society. He concentrates on orphans, women, and the mentally disabled persons in his novels. He draws upon his own experience as a child to describe the inhumanity of child labor. David starves and suffers in a wine-bottling factory as a child. Though Dickens' characters suffer due to the punishment at the hands of external forces, they remain morally good. The sufferings of the innocent make the novel very powerful, pathetic and effective .

Mr. Murdstone exploits David as a factory laborer, because he is small / young. Similarly, the boys at Salem House have no refuge against the cruel Mr. Creakle. As a result, the children are deprived of the care and affection of their natural parents and suffer at the hands

of their own so-called protectors who are, in fact, cruel and inhuman. Thus, children become the victims of the insensitive and cruel society.

David Copperfield never stands against the powerful, unjust people in his society. For example, David doesn't stand up to Mr. Murdstone and challenge his authority. On the contrary, he escapes to the wealthy Miss Betsey, whose financial stability enables her to shelter him from menacing Mr. Murdstone. In other words, David has a weak personality as he has no support of a strong family. Thus, he becomes a victim and he is aware that he is a victim, but he is helpless and so he cannot muster his courage to fight against the oppressive forces. He is simply unable to do so. A.E. Dyson (1968: 190) observes:

David's folly, his blindness to her [Miss Betsey] incompetence, begins with spelling lessons at Blunder stone, and ends with a disastrous marriage and another death. Dickens criticizes the views of his society which considers wealth and high class as measures of a person's value. He uses Steerforth, who is wealthy and powerful but these traits are more likely to corrupt than improve a person's character. Steerforth is treacherous and self-absorbed. On the other hand, both Mr. Peggotty and Ham are poor, generous, sympathetic characters. Thus, Dickens uses two kinds of characters in his novels - the first one, the victimizers, and the second one, the victims.

During Dickens's time, many people had the belief that those who are poor deserve to suffer because of their inherent deficiencies. On the other hand, he sympathizes with the poor and implies that their problems result from society's inequities and not from their own failings. Thus, there is an emphasis on the society as a victimizer in Charles Dickens' novels .

Dickens does not show that all poor people are absolutely noble and that all rich people are utterly evil – minded. David was defrauded by poor people frequently when he was young, even though he himself is poor and helpless. Dickens does not paint a black and white moral picture but shows that wealth and class are unreliable indicators of character and morality. Finally, he allows his readers to judge his characters based on their individual deeds and qualities, and not on the way the cruel world deals them. As a result,

sometimes the characters themselves become victims because of their own deeds.