

Great Expectations: A Manifestation of Gothicism and Romanticism

Zakir Ullah¹, Ahmad Ullah², Haroon Iqbal³, Zohaib Zahir¹, Akbar Zaman¹

¹MS English Scholar, ^{2,3}MPhil English Scholar,

^{1,2}Northern University, Noshehra, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

³Hazara University, Mansehra, Dhodial, Pakistan

ABSTRACT

Charles Dickens is the most typical representative Victorian author: his epic stories, vivid characters and depiction of contemporary life are unforgettable. He tries to depict the severe life of English society with a particular focus on their miseries. His novels also provide a harsh criticism on social evils and its destructive nature, such as, formation of different classes in the society. Charles Dickens father was imprisoned, and he was sent to work in Warren's blacking factory by his mother, where he endured appalling conditions as well as loneliness and despair. Charles Dickens harsh experiences at Warren's blacking factory are fictionalized in his famous novel *Great Expectations*. This thesis focuses on the Gothic and Romantic elements in *Great Expectations*. The objective of the research is imagery and setting of *Great Expectations*: Effects of Gothicism. Romantic elements in *Great Expectations*: Effects on human relations.

KEYWORDS: Gothicism, Romanticism, Imagery, Life

How to cite this paper: Zakir Ullah | Ahmad Ullah | Haroon Iqbal | Zohaib Zahir | Akbar Zaman "Great Expectations: A Manifestation of Gothicism and Romanticism"

Published in International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development (ijtsrd), ISSN: 2456-6470, Volume-4 | Issue-5, August 2020, pp.420-425, URL: www.ijtsrd.com/papers/ijtsrd31885.pdf



IJTSRD31885

Copyright © 2020 by author(s) and International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development Journal. This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (CC BY 4.0) (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>)



INTRODUCTION

Charles Dickens's was born in Land port, Portsmouth, on February 7, 1812. He was the second of eight children to John Dickens, a clerk in the Navy pay office and his wife Elizabeth Dickens. The Dickens's family moved to London in 1814 and two years later to Chatham, Kent, where Dickens's spent early years of his childhood. Due to financial difficulties, they moved back to London in 1822, where they settled in Camden Town, a poor neighborhood of London. His father, who had a difficult time managing money, was constantly in debt. Failing to pay the debts, he was imprisoned in the Marshal Sea debtor prison in 1824. Dickens was withdrawn from school and forced to work in a shoe-polish making factory and support the family. After a few months, Dickens's father was released from prison, and Dickens was allowed to go back to school. At fifteen his formal education completed and he found employment as a Clerk while he studied shorthand at night. In 1830, he worked as a shorthand reporter in the courts, and afterwards as a parliamentary and newspaper reporter. In 1833, Dickens began to contribute short stories and essays to periodicals. Dickens's main profession was writing novels. He wrote his first novel social novel *Oliver Twist* (1837-39) and *Nicholas Nickleby* (1838-39). Dickens's series of five Christmas Books were soon to follow; *A Christmas Carol* (1843). He published *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859-53), one of

the greatest English historical novels, with background of the French Revolution. This was followed by *Great Expectations* (1861).

Charles Dickens died at home on June 9, 1870 after suffering a stroke. Contrary to his wish to be buried in Rochester Cathedral, he was buried in South transept, poets corner. Charles Dickens's was a Victorian novelist with a purpose. His purpose was to focus on the various evils of his time. His novels mirror his age in all its manifold contradictions. Thus, it is essential to understand the Victorian age thoroughly. From the two novels of Dickens, *David Copperfield* and *Oliver Twist*, we may get a vivid picture of the evils of the work houses and the consequent sufferings of the poor. The capitalists looked down upon the poor. Dickens's was a realist and a satirist. Dickens's novels reflect a vivid picture of the life of the poor in London of his day. He is a popular novelist because he is the social chronicler of lower class of London life. His novels reflect hypocrisy, ignorance and tyranny of the poor people. Hence Charles Dickens is treated as representative novelist because he satirized the stupidity of his age. All his novels reflect the conditions prevalent in the contemporary England. In fact, he is the romancer of London life. Dickens was deeply influenced by the prevailing conditions of London life.

Plot is the one element of Dickens's novels, which fails to display the dramatic quality in which art chiefly consists. In their structure, they carry on the tradition of the Picaresque romance, following a titular hero with many digressions and side-plots. Some of his novels depict the career of the hero from his infancy to manhood. The plot is generally loose and ill constructed in the Victorian novel which is largely in the tradition of the eighteenth century. The Victorian story possesses a large variety of characters and incidents which cluster round the figure of the hero. The characters and incidents are connected together very loosely by an intrigue.

Although, Dickens did not succeed in plot construction, yet he was very successful in telling the story. He had a very strong power of description. David Cecil very rightly says "he may not construct the story well but he tells it admirably". Charles Dickens has a great descriptive and narrative power. George Gissing says "this power of suggesting country atmosphere is remarkable in Dickens".

The title of the novel has been chosen well because it has overtones of ironic bitterness. The great expectations of various characters are closely connected. Pip dreams of gentility; Magwitch dreams of making Pip a gentleman; Miss Havisham dreams of revenge on all men for the humiliation she suffered at the hands one faithless lover. Some expectations are however rewarded, but these are not great expectations. Fantasies are by the end of the novel cut down to be exposed for what they are. Pip and Estella have grown to maturity by the end and their fantasies have become humanized.

Great Expectations written by Charles Dickens in 1860 and published in November 1862 is a masterpiece in English literature. Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* is almost an autobiography of his own life. He implements his own life experiences on his protagonist. Charles Dickens's father was imprisoned, so he started working at Warrens blacking factory. His father was released when he was 12 years old, but his mother insisted that Charles should continue working at the factory. After that, his father admitted him at school in London. The dark secret became a source of his creative energy, such themes of isolation and infidelity are dominant in his work *Great Expectations*.

Theoretical Framework

This research focuses on the Gothic and Romantic elements in Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*. In the late eighteenth century there was a literary amalgam of Romanticism and Gothicism to thrill and terrify the readers. Those gothic elements survived through the Victorian era both in physical and psychological forms. *Great Expectations* is a gothic novel. It explores various gothic genres which are mysterious and gloomy. The setting is dim and dismal and the gothic genre is created so that it would be familiar to a Victorian audience. I observe that Gothic and Romantic elements in this novel are abundant. Their communion with the writing style of Charles Dickens adds rich dimensions to this novel. The objective of the research will be the effects of Gothicism on the imagery and setting of the novel. Romantic elements in the novel also have their effects on human relations.

Literature Review

This section contains the views of different critics about the novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.

Brain Cheadle in his book *the Cambridge Companion to Charles Dickens* argues that the basic purpose of the novel is Pip's intuition of life. In addition he says that Pip wants to achieve high status in society by shifting to London. The Pip tries to move toward modernity with passage of time. His novel reflects hypocrisy, ignorance and tyranny of the poor people (Cheadle 30, 2001).

George Orwell in his book *Charles Dickens* writes that readers can see in Dickens's was consciousness that society is wrong somewhere at the root. He criticizes the moral aspect of society. There is no suggestion in his works, but his attitude at the bottom is also not destructive. He further says in the same book *Charles Dickens* that Charles Dickens's target is not society but human nature. Charles Dickens wants to convey the idea that humanity and individual sympathy are the remedy for everything (George Orwell, 1940).

Robert Mighall in his work "Gothic criticism". *A New companion to the Gothic* says that the Dickens's novel produces mysterious atmosphere and depicts the social problems of the haunted British society. His novels main purpose is to focus attention on the various evils of his time. Thus for understanding *Great Expectations*, it is essential to understand the Victorians age thoroughly. Dickens's novels reflect a vivid picture of the life of the poor of London of his day. Dickens was deeply influenced by the prevailing conditions of London life (Mighall 265, 2000).

James R. Kincaid argues in his book *Dickens and the Rhetoric of Laughter* that "Dickens's humor is dark to the point of grotesque, because he often asks us to laugh at the subject he is asking us to sympathize or be angry with" (Kincaid, 108, 1973).

A. H Gomme states in his work that the *Great Expectations* novel is based on judgment and the laws. Dickens himself acts as a judge in the whole story by using different description. The prisoners were treated like animals. The prison laws were very severe and cruel.

The John Bowen in his work "The Gothic in Great Expectations Portraits" says that this is a Gothic novel in simple sense. The forms used in *Great Expectations* looking specifically at the use of gothic paraphernalia, supernatural events, death scenes, the heroine, the male tyrant other evil woman and good lover (Bowen, 2014).

John Mullan in his work "Crime in Great Expectations" states that Charles Dickens was certainly interested in crime and punishment in his own society. In the novel, we may divide the characters into good and bad according to their attitudes to Pip. There are degrees of goodness and badness of course. The novel shows Dickens's ability to approach characters in many different ways, ranging from the comic caricature to the profound psychological portrait. (Mullan, 2017).

Sophie Ratcliffe in his work "The condition of England novel" considers that Victorian novels reflect on the unhappy state of things in Victorian England. It highlights the divisions between the employers and the employed. It was an age expansion and progress. The poor were encountering untold suffering. Hence, there was the frequent striking of the factory workers who were suppressed by force (Ratcliffe, 2014).

Features of the Gothic and Romantic Elements

The Gothic novel was invented almost single-handedly by Horace Walpole, whose *The Castle of Otranto* (1764) contains essentially all the elements that constitute the genre. Walpole's novel was imitated by the eighteenth century novelists.

Gothic novels contain the following features:

The action of the Gothic novels mostly takes place in and around old castle, sometimes seemingly abandoned. The castle often constructs secret passages, secret rooms, trap doors, dark or hidden staircases, and possibly ruined sections. The horrible gothic caves often seem home to terrifying creatures such as monsters. The purpose of the dark and mysterious setting is to create a sense of unease and foreboding, contributing toward the atmosphere of fear and dread, and of mystery and suspense. There is a threatening feeling, a fear enhanced by the unknown. An ancient prophecy is connected with the castle. The prophecy is usually obscure, partial, or confusing.

Characters of the gothic novel may have a disturbing dream vision or some sensation which for bode the coming of events. Sometimes portent will be used for foreshadowing. Woman in distress, as an appeal to the pathos and sympathy of the reader, the female characters often face events that leave them fainting, terrified, sobbing and screaming. A lonely, pensive, and oppressed heroine is often the central figure of the gothic novel, so her sufferings are even more pronounced and the focus of attention. The women suffer all the more because they are often abandoned.

The narration of the Gothic novels may be highly sentimental, and the characters are often overcome by anger, sorrow, surprise, fear, and especially terror. Characters of the novel suffer from raw nerves and a feeling of impending doom. Crying and emotional speeches are common feature in the gothic novels. Breathlessness and panic are frequent.

The metonymy of gloom and horror is common element of the gothic novel. Metonymy is a subtype of metaphor, in which something (like rain) is used to stand for something else (Like sorrow). The metonymies for "doom and gloom" all suggest some element of mystery, danger, or the supernatural. In addition to the standard gothic machinery above, many gothic novels contain elements of romance as well. Romanticism, the literary movement traditionally dated 1798 to 1832 in England, almost affected all the arts throughout the nineteenth century. The romantic period was a very imaginative and creative period of thinking.

Elements of romance include these:

Romantic novels have powerful love. Love of nature is presented. There is heart stirring; often sudden emotions create a life or death commitment. Many times this love is the first the character has felt with are overwhelming power.

Romantic novels have faith in inner experience and the power of the imagination. The imagination is unleashed to explore extreme states of being and experience.

Romantic novels have childhood and the adult developing from childhood experience are presented realistically. Characters in romantic novels mostly concern with identity and the creation of the self.

One of the common elements of romanticism is the supernatural or the possibility of the supernatural.

Great Expectations: A Manifestation of Gothicism and Romanticism

Great Expectations is a masterpiece written by Charles Dickens's, who is one of the world's greatest novelists of the nineteenth century. He is widely known for the criticism of the bourgeois society of the time. In the late eighteenth century, there was a literary amalgam of Romanticism and Gothicism to thrill and terrify the readers. These gothic elements survived through the Victorian era both in physical and psychological forms. Gothic novel which were extremely popular in the mid-19th century, aimed at creating a sense of fear by using dark, foreboding settings and supernatural or mysterious events. Gothic deals with bizarre or disturbing situation, and focuses on the story of decay and death. In his novels, Dickens produces a scary, menacing and mysterious atmosphere and similarly depicts social problems of the haunted British society (Mingall 86). This is explicitly true for Dickens's novel *Great Expectations*. Though it was not basically meant to be a Gothic novel, yet Dickens used enough Gothic elements to intensify its effects

In the very first chapter, readers are frozen with horror because the scene is started in a graveyard and alongside a fearful man. The man's intentions to cut Pip's throat if he moved, gives the impression of a Gothic novel (chapter 1). Similarly, when Magwitch leaves the graveyard, he looks to Pip, as if him in. What is true for Pip is also true for the readers of the book as at certain moments, the dead seem to try to grab you.

The tragic anti hero of *Great Expectations*, Magwitch is in many ways an archetypal Gothic character, Magwitch, a fearful man, all in coarse grey, with a great iron on his leg. A man with no hat, and with broken shoes and with an old rag tied round his head. This is described as the grotesque. It is a Gothic motif which depicts an ugly, unnatural appearance of a character.

Miss Havisham is a character in *Great Expectations* whose Gothic effects prevail to the novel. Her lifestyle, her personality, her screams, her hair, makeup and clothing, everything is presented in a Gothic and grotesque way.

"Once, I had been taken to see ghastly waxwork at the fair, representing I know not what impossible personage lying in state. Once, I had been taken to one of our old marsh churches to see a skeleton in the ashes of rich dress that had been dug out of vault under the church pavement (page 51, chapter 8)."

Gothic forces are seen on a bigger scale in one of the turning points of the book, when Pip sees Miss Havisham for the first time. "Dressed in rich material's satins and lace and silks all of white. Her shoes were white. She had a long white veil dependent from her hair, but her hair was white. Some bright jewels sparkled on her neck and on her hands, and some other jewels lay sparking on the table. Dresses, less splendid than the dress she wore, and half packed trunks, were scattered about. I saw that everything within my view which ought to be white, had been white long ago, and had lost its luster, and was faded and yellow. I saw that the bride within the bridal dress had withered like the dress, and like

the flowers, and had no brightness left but the brightness of her sunken eyes”.

His description of Miss Havisham's outlook resembles a strange incarnation, suddenly punctuated by the simple words of his impossible exclamation. I should have cried out, if I could. Miss Havisham's living seems to resemble the dead as if her life trembles between life and death. She is haunted by her own dead past and she seems almost willing to be haunted and draws other into her own dead-alive world. She has become a living corpse of her own happiness. She has got imprisoned in her past by staging herself as a bride. Unable to let go of the past, to move forward or back, she is a figure simultaneously powerful and powerless. Gothic with its fascination, with its eroticism and death, and with its understanding of how deeply they are entangled together, is the perfect medium and idiom for her.

The imaginary student pursued by the misshapen creature he had impiously made was not more wretched than I, pursued by the creature who had made me, and recoiling from him with a stronger repulsion, the more he admired me and the fonder he was of me (chapter 10).

The imaginary student pursued by the misshapen creature is of course Frankenstein, from Mary Shelley's novel of 1818, who is a student when he first creates the monster. Pip at first seems to be comparing himself to the creator of the monster but in fact and much more sinisterly, he thinks of himself as someone pursued by the creature that had made me. He is both like Frankenstein and the monster, and most troubling of all like a creature created by a monster a kind of monster's monster. This tiny Gothic illusion over in a sentence, tells us so much about Pip, his state of mind and his relationship with Magwitch.

The setting of Gothic novels is very important as they essentially contribute to the mysterious and menacing atmosphere, creating suspense. Moreover, they illustrate human characters and their behavior in an allegorical and psychological way (Snodgrass 158). So the inner state of the Gothic characters is often visualized through the settings.

In the novel *Great Expectations* Dickens creates a menacing atmosphere that dominates the whole novel right from the very beginning, *Great Expectations* opens in a sinister and scary Gothic setting. Young Pip is on a foggy churchyard at the grave of his parents and his five little brothers. This exposes him as an orphan who is endangered by Gothic horror. Pip is threatened by a convict. Dickens here uses Gothic devices to emphasize Pip's transformation. Landscapes and people that seem hostile or evil to him turn later out to be good and vice versa.

The landscape and the weather foreshadow subsequent happenings but also express Pip's feelings of horror and fear. The marshes are a wild gothic landscape often hung with deep mist. Therefore, the atmosphere is mostly very scary, dark and menacing.

When Pip brings the file and the food to Magwitch, the mist of the marshes is very thick and the elements of nature seem to become alive accusing Pip for his theft (chapter 3, 15-16).

The hunt takes place in a scary Gothic atmosphere as the convicts are searched in the dark churchyard and in the

dismal still wilderness of the misty marshes. Likewise, in the night when Pip's sister is attacked, there is a heavy, wet and thick mist. Heavy mist indicates wicked, sinister and criminal happenings. Near the end of the novel, darkness, mist and heavy rain again indicate and foreshadow subsequent events. Pip tries to find his way through the marshes in the dark night when the full moon is shining and a melancholy wind is blowing. This scene is so dismal that even Pip who knows the marshes well, hesitates to walk across them.

“A stranger would have found them insupportable and even to me they were so oppressive that I hesitated half inclined to go back. But I knew them, and could have found my way on a far darker night, and had no excuse for returning, being there” (chapter 53, 376).

Darkness and mist transform the marshes into a gothic labyrinth Pip is lured by the light of an old. Sluice house is also a typical Gothic setting as it is abandoned, decayed and broken and there is a choking vapor of the kiln that creeps in the ghostly way forwards me Pip (chapter 53, 377).

But when Pip comes back home at the end of the novel, the atmosphere is transformed into a pleasant and delicious weather.

Satis House shows a lot of parallels to the Gothic castle as it decayed, ruinous and mazy and has a grotesque owner. The architecture of the house evokes a mysterious and sinister atmosphere and the events and characters at Satis House highly influence Pip's personal development. The appearance of Satis House is strongly connected to Miss Havisham's character as, the house symbolizes Miss Havisham's inner state of soul (Thomson 132-133).

The ruinous decay of Satis House indicates Miss Havisham's inner moral decay and the mazy architecture alludes to her inner chaos. In a metaphorical way, Satis House is Miss Havisham's fort, the symbol of her self-imposed incarceration. At Satis House, Miss Havisham retires from society and plans her revenge and rears the beautiful Estella to a proud woman in order to hurt all men.

Inside the house, there are dark passages and staircases; Estella leads Pip through this dark maze with a single candle. Her light seems to him “like a star” (Dickens 50) which shows him his way into future. Later in the novel it becomes clear that this light is more like a will-o-the-wisp which alienates Pip from his natural environment. No daylight in Miss Havisham's room, a decaying banquet table, and a clock that was stopped at the same time, all these things captured Pip. Apart from this, the personality and dressing of Miss Havisham is more like a ghost than a human. Pip even associates her long veil, she wears with a “Shroud” (51). This corpse like appearance makes him near to cry out of horror.

Pip is disgusted but also fascinated by all the decays he sees. The description of the room and the decaying objects, and the airless smell are oppressive, the candles can hardly lighten the darkness, everything is covered in dust and mold and is about to shatter into pieces, and vermin like spiders, mice and black beetles are all over the Place. On the dusty banquet table there is a wedding cake which is overhung with cobwebs and “looks like a black fungus”. All these grotesque elements continuously to be in use throughout the story.

Dickens uses the Gothic form, death throughout his novel. One of the Gothic elements is murder and in *Great Expectation*, Miss Havisham, Mrs. Joe. Magwitch had caught hold of Compeyson earlier during Pip's boyhood. Later on when Magwitch was being smuggled out of London, Compeyson informs the customs people and gets Magwitch arrested. At this time Magwitch pounces upon Compeyson and both of them fall into the water where Compeyson gets drowned but Magwitch gets re-arrested.

Effects of Gothicism on the Imagery and Setting of the Novel:

Imagery is a literary device that signifies more than just images. A writer uses imagery to appeal to all of the reader's senses. When a reader is reading and feels transported into the world of the novel by descriptive language, that's successful imagery. Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* abounds in such images. Events, characters and settings are so vividly described, readers that can practically see, hear, smell and feel them.

Dickens uses imagery to highlight the striking difference between Mrs. Joe and Miss Havisham. The vivid description of their dressing helps the readers to know about the extent of their grotesque characters. Mrs. Joe wears an ugly and thick apron showing her as a common member of the lower class. It is stuck through with pins and needles, and she never takes it off. Her dressing gives impression of a normal poor woman. On the other hand Miss Havisham's dressing shows that she belongs to some other world. She is dressed all in white. Pip's description of her dressing proves her a member of upper class, on the one hand; and on the other hand, it shows her more a witch than a human.

"In an arm-chair, with an elbow resting on the table and her head leaning on that hand, sat the strangest lady I have ever seen, or shall ever see" (Dickens).

She was dressed in rich materials satins, and lace, and silks – all of white. Her shoes were white, she had a long white veil dependent from her hair, and she had bridal flowers in her white hair. Some bright jewels sparkled on her neck and on her hands and some jewels lay sparkling on the table.

Dickens uses the imagery of a dog to highlight the grotesque element in Magwitch's character. Years later, when Pip, as a gentleman in London, watches Magwitch eating in disgust as one would feed a dog. The convict is compared to a hungry old dog, and the language is so descriptive that a reader would certainly feel fear to approach such a convict.

Dickens also uses imagery to help foreshadowing the worst/bad in the novel. He often does this using weather. For example, during the night Pip has a scary encounter with the convict on the marshes, there is a heavy mist that is nearly impenetrable. A sense of doom prevails convict comes back into his life; his arrival is foreshadowed by a spectacular storm. When the weather gets rough, Pip is usually in for some testing times.

The imagery of Miss Havisham's garden also catches the readers at the spot. One cannot feel at ease in that ruined part. The garden is overgrown and ruined. The vivid description of the rotting garden helping the readers imagine the nasty smell and ugly sights serve to symbolize the

inhuman and Gothic effect similarly, the imagery of bugs inside Miss Havisham's house, also helps the reader form an overall impression of decomposition and rot around the old woman. Spiders and beetles scurrying around the dreary old house also help the reader to imagine a scary and horrified place in advance.

Miss Havisham's courtyard reflects that her life and situation are overgrown and tangled with weeds, neglected and not loved. The courtyard is also lifeless with no animals.

The empty brewery next to the house used to be successful but is now empty, only with memories to hold on to a reflection of Miss Havisham's Gothic character.

Another significant setting that adds to the grotesque features of the novel is Dickens's portrayal of London. Upon arrival, Pip thought London was unattractive and dirty, yet it is the place where the second exciting stage of Pip's expectations began.

Romantic Elements in the Novel *Great Expectations*: Their Effect on Human Relations.

Great Expectations is purely a realistic novel of Victorian Era, but the writer does have taken the help of romanticism to make it interesting and more effective. Romantic elements include imagination, love, strong emotion and feelings.

In the story, romantic elements are seen in love, where pip fights for his love, Estella.

Romantic elements include strong senses, emotions and feelings like those is felt by Miss Havisham about the broken heart of her future husband didn't turn up for at the wedding. she still uses the dress and partly equipment that is not disturbed. By hardening her heart and suppressing her affectionate nature, she committed crime against herself. Miss Havisham's love for Compeyson is of a compassionate kind, this blinded her to her true nature as Herbert remarked "too haughty and too much in love to be advised by anyone".

At Compeyson's desertion her anger and sorrow became extreme and she threw herself into Satis House into perpetual mourning and a monument to her broken heart, shutting the world out and herself from the world. Her only concession is her adoption of Estella. This is not a loving action on her part in but a full planning to turn the child into a haughty heartless instrument of revenge against men. She feels extreme hatred towards the male members of the society which makes her so heartless that she does not think of anyone: As a result of this hatred, Estella is encouraged to practice her disdain on Pip and to break his heart.

The love element does exist between Pip and Biddy, but that is almost one sided. In Pip's relationship with Biddy, he is very condescending and shows disregard for her feelings.

"If I could only get myself to fall in love with you" is a prime example. Pip compares Biddy to Estella and overlooks her obviously good qualities. After his loss of fortune, Pip decides to honor Biddy by marrying her. "I would go to Biddy" Pip still snobbishly thinks Biddy would be glad to marry him. However, Biddy has married Joe. Though she was half in love with Pip, Biddy recognized his obsession for Estella and

wisely sought a partner elsewhere. Joe and Biddy have an innocent and happy relationship.

Biddy and Joe share the same values and are ideal partners. Herbert and Clara, Mr. and Mrs. Pocket have loving steady relationships. Pip's attraction for Estella is more romantic ideology than genuine love. He envisions Estella as a captive princess and himself as the heroic knight, only he can awaken love in her heart. Even though Estella tells him, "I have no heart", he does not believe her.

Conclusion

Dickens in *Great Expectations* depicts the pros and cons of the Victorian society. In which the lower class suffered, while the upper class prospered. He has also depicted the dominant gender distinction in the society. Women were considered inferior to men and were not getting equal rights like their counterparts. Charles Dickens has shown various types of characters. They include a good and honest man like Mr. Joe and also criminals like Magwitch and Compayson. He has also presented strange characters like Mrs. Joe and Miss Havisham. These various types of characters had played an important role in the plot of the novel.

Dickens's novel *Great Expectations* presents a harsh criticism on the social evils and its destructive nature. Through the character of Miss Havisham, Charles Dickens shows the suffering of women at the hands of men. He criticizes the patriarchal society in this novel.

Charles Dickens was essentially a novelist of London life. He has portrayed London life in all its aspects, but he hasn't portrayed it as a photographer does. His imagination has always stood in good stead. Through his imagination, he has tried to give rich color and variety to the realities of London life. Hugh Walker truly says, that "What Dickens gives us is not the bare hard fact, but the fact suffused with the glow of a rich imagination".

Dickens depicts in this novel a lot of social injustice over and above the individual injustice found in several persons. The condition of the English prisons at that time was the direct result of the social injustice prevalent in the then England. The tale of his criminal career related by Magwitch clearly points the accusing finger at the society. Even a repentant criminal like Magwitch is not pardoned.

In *Great Expectations*, we find that sadness and joy have been interwoven together and that it appeals to the readers. *Great Expectations* is not a comic novel. The dominant tone of the narrator is sober, saddened and ironic. The fact is that the novel is of tragi-comic perception. Much of the comedy is touched by seriousness. Indeed, the comedy often serves to intensify and enhance the serious concerns of the novel.

The novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens is the tale of tragic love and all consuming passion. These Romantic themes coupled with a sense of horror make *Great Expectations* a Gothic novel. Elements of Gothic fiction include the above mentioned theme as well as grotesque

imagery, dark and foreboding mansions and landscapes, chaos, pain and doomed love. He uses the Gothic style to evoke terror and fear. One of the classic features of Gothic literature is that of the supernatural. The first and most vivid description of supernatural being appears to Magwitch when Pip is wandering in the Graveyard. A ghostly and bloody apparition of Miss Havisham appears at His Satis House. Gothic novels typically take the setting of a dark castle. The weather mirrors the passion and wildness of the inhabitants of the marshes of Kent. The estate of the marshes of Kent, the wild weather and the dangerous moors which surround it combine to create a truly Gothic setting. The tragic anti-hero of *Great Expectations*, Magwitch, is in many ways an archetypical Gothic character. He is mysterious, dark and exceedingly dangerous. He is wholly bent on revenge for perceived past wrongs and his passion is all consuming.

However, in this thesis the researcher showed that Gothic and Romantic elements in this novel are abundant. Moreover, the effects of Gothicism on the imagery and setting of the novel are also clearly visible.

This thesis gives new approach to the readers of the novel. We will be able to understand the problems by comparing with the Victorian era. People will have good understanding of life of Victorian era and their approach toward life. We can be able to understand our social problems by comparing with Victorian era. People will have good understanding of life through my research thesis.

Works Cited

- [1] Cheadle, Brian, and John O. Jordan. "The Cambridge Companion to Charles Dickens." (2001).
- [2] Orwell, George. "Charles Dickens." *Inside the Whale and Other Essays* (1940): 9-85.
- [3] Robert Mighall. "Gothic Criticism." *A New Companion to the Gothic* (2000): 265-287.
- [4] Myers, William. "DICKENS AND THE RHETORIC OF LAUGHTER, by James R. Kincaid (Book Review)." *Victorian Studies* 17.1 (1973): 108.
- [5] Leigh, Mary K. "The Cultural Crime of Femininity: Advocating for Viable and Successful Womanhood in Charles Dickens and George Eliot." (2014).
- [6] Kaiser, Matthew. "The World in Play: A Portrait of a Victorian Concept." *New Literary History* 40.1 (2009): 105-129.
- [7] CellierSein (2000). "The Monstrous Feminine" Female Abjections in the Works of Charles Dickens.
- [8] John Mullen. "Crime in the Great Expectations", 15th May 2017, Oxford Press, London.
- [9] John Bowen. "Great Expectations and Class", 15th May, New York.
- [10] Sophie Rateliffe, "The Condition of England novel", 15th May 2014, London.