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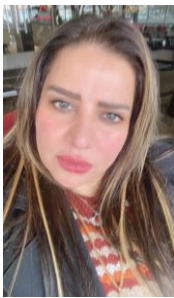
Vol. 10. Issue.3. 2023 (July-Sept.)

INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER
INDIA
2395-2628(Print):2349-9451(online)

THE SELF-REALIZATION FOR ACHIEVING GREAT EXPECTATIONS IN CHARLES
DICKEN'S NOVEL, *GREAT EXPECTATIONS*

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Article information

Received:11/6/2023
Accepted:17/7/2023
Published online:08/8/2023
doi: [10.33329/ijelr.10.3.54](https://doi.org/10.33329/ijelr.10.3.54)

ABSTRACT

The great impact of maltreatment, sentimentality and feeling of disillusionment effect on the personality growth of the main character Pip. Chasing his dream to reach the highest hopes in *Great Expectations*. Dickens conveys the protagonist's route from an innocent boy into a self-important gentleman to give the reader the bildungsroman's order to find the redemption for what he did. Looking back as an adult through his past, suffering to gain his position throughout the world of wealth. The class distinction leads the protagonist to lose his real identity after all, Throughout the thirst for wealth creates from him ungrateful person to those who have absolute loyalty towards him. In this sense, the author tries to clarify how class identity as well as the cruelty of the divisions of the society throughout Pip's ambitions impact on self-realization.

Keywords: Redemption, Expectation, Ambitions, Moral Code, Maltreatment

Great Expectations is an autobiographical novel by Charles Dickens. It conveys his experiences and the details of his own life to embody the role of the protagonist Pip in this story. In fact, there are many similarities between Dickens and his protagonist.

Charles Dickens was born in England in the year 1812, and he spent his childhood living in the marshes of Kent in England, in the same period and place Pip lives. At the age of nine Dickens' family moved to London as Pip eventually moves, to pursue his dream to be a gentleman. Dickens and Pip both of them experienced the life of poverty during the childhood period. At the age of twelve Dickens's father put in the debtor's prison and his mother moved his brothers to prison with their father, but the second-oldest Dickens, was living outside the prison and worked in a blacking warehouse, this experience was remarkably perturbing for Dickens, as Pip's job with Joe as a blacksmith, but hated the job after all. Furthermore, after three months of working at the blacksmith shop, he returned to his education at the Wellington House Academy, and finally became a law clerk and then as a court reporter eventually becoming the novelist that everybody knows. His experience as a law clerk had impacted Dickens' career as a novelist, since he was dealing with justice and law. The same his characters like Wemmick and Jagger who involved around the idea of *Great Expectations*. In order to pursue his career as a journalist forced him to join the staff of *A Mirror of Parliament* newspaper. (*A History of English Literature*, 292-293).

Dickens achieved a fabulous success at the young age during his first book, which was published in 1836 as a collection of stories, Dickens's pseudonym titled *Sketches by Boz*, like Pip achieved his success at the young age as well. In addition, at the age 46 he separated from his wife, leaving her with 8 children and began a new

life with an actress named Ellen Ternan. Dickens continues writing novels and becoming a well-known and a great figure in literature. (*Charles Dickens, Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society, p 115*).

Additionally, Dickens's position among the English authors in terms of his literary status make many authors praise him as a second man after William Shakespeare. At his home, Dickens died in 1870 from a cerebral haemorrhage and buried in Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey in London, on his tombstone was written "He was a sympathizer to the poor, the suffering, and the oppressed; and by his death, one of England's greatest writers is lost to the world." The Scottish historian and author Thomas Carlyle said "the good, the gentle, high-gifted, ever-friendly, noble Dickens—every inch of him an honest man ". Dickens' novel sheds light the directly speaking toward his life and his father's one and their desires as well. The story of Pip reveals how the coincidence played a great role in his life. Pip tries to elevate the social ladder as the narrator and the protagonist of the novel. (*Great Expectations* introduction 8).

Dickens pointed out in his *Great Expectations* that the period of Victorian England and industrial revolution, established the significant place and time in which the novel and his life portraits, the most important theme the struggling to climb the good rank of the social class. Victorian period shows how social class had been changed where society divided people into two categories poor and rich. This division was extremely widespread at that time. During the Victorian era, the mores of the upper class and the proper education enable a man to become a gentleman, since, both of them were a very necessary characteristics to define the status. Pip's ambition compels him to rise from a common labouring blacksmith to be a gentleman has his own reputation among businessmen. He tries climbing the ladder of the social class as along as, he realizes that the whole rules and expectations, whether being a big or small will lead him to seize his opportunity. The same situation, that Dickens experienced. (*Great Expectations* introduction 8).

Great Expectations seeks to define the Victorian society through shedding light on Pip's Character, who rises from shame, guilt and humble life to success, wealth and high status. These terms are dehumanizing haunt Pip's mind. However, the open scene starts with a horror gothic setting and a suspense events. Crying, weeping and talking to his parents' grave. Until someone came threatening his life, asking for food. It later turned out that he was a fugitive from the law. However, Pip narrates his story by looking back towards his life from childhood to adulthood.

He describes people who, affected his happiness as a soulless, devoid of affection and tenderness. Because of what he faces, He tries to achieve wealth and power through pride and ambitions, but as a result, he abandons the closest person to him like Joe. (*Great Expectations* plot summary 9).

"*Great Expectations*" had been written to criticize the period of Mid-Victorian England. When the values of traditional society had been declining and dehumanization of individual by creating the divisions of the society. The novel starts with the protagonist Pip, Pip's name, signifies something like small seed will grow and develop. Pip narrates his story as an orphan boy growing up in the marsh country of Kent, lives with his sister Mrs. Joe and her husband Mr. Joe brother-in-law, his ambitions to be a gentleman leads him to be another person, who sacrifices the quality of friendship and loyalty to win Stella's love.

Pip terrifies by a man who dressed a prison uniform with a great iron on his leg, Dickens starts this scene with theme of justice to lead the readers to the scene of redemption. when Pip goes to the cemetery to visit his parent's gravestones. He feels alone, vulnerable and crying because of unfairness. Dickens opines the novel by including the gothic elements, describing the man as a criminal escape, cruel and desperate to get help. Although the novel is not considered a Gothic novel, but foreshadowing to build a moment of psychological crises that surrounded the protagonist's life. However, in order to transform Pip to what will happen later these moments effect on his ethicise. At the beginning of the story Magwitch, the convict who puts his hands around Pip and threatens him "*I will cut your throat*" and Pip pleads in terror "oh! Don't cut my throat, sir" (*Great Expectations* 18) as if the ghost arises among the dead tries to grab him. When the convict questions Pip about his parents, he tells him their names as if they appear on the gravestone indicating that he's innocent boy, and the material world that is surrounded by, it tries to taint that innocence. Dickens through the story tries to convey the problems and maltreatment that relates to childhood at that time. (*P 11*).

Although Pip is terrified by the presence of the convict, but he embodies the moral side trying to help him and brings what he needs, a file and food. In fact, he treats him with sympathy and courtesy and he could simply escape and never returned. He struggles as if he tore apart between his honesty to stick with his word and stealing. Pip notes that he "was too cowardly to do what I knew to be right, as I had been too cowardly to avoid what I knew to be wrong" "Dickens conveys the duality of feelings which are the guilt and moral obligation to create a greater impact for the flow of events. The most important point that Pip tries through the novel's progresses to establish economic and social self-advancement.

Moreover, Dickens uses the most important characters who affects Pip's journey towards London and class identity, the convict Magwitch and Mrs. Havisham to establish the idea of growing up through pain. According to the moments that Pip encounters Mrs. Havisham for the first time, he describes her as if a ghastly waxwork "skeleton in the ashes of a rich dress" (*Great Expectations* 73). Mrs. Havisham's life associates with darkness and airless, when he enters to the Satis House notes that the architecture of the house adds a mysterious atmosphere and. The characters of the Satis house extremely impact on Pip's personal growing. Mrs. Havisham's old wedding dress and decaying atmosphere there shows that she is stuck in the past and the Satis House is a very haunting place dark, cold and decaying appearance "The cold wind seemed to blow colder there, than outside the gate..." (71). Pip realizes that all these signs of decomposition and also the time has stooped resulted Mrs. Havisham's dead soul from the moment she was jilted.

In addition, the novel surrounded by the Gothic Elements in order to grow the suspense and the mystery which added many developments in the character of the hero who tries to elevate the upper class. The first step in which Pip tastes to be from the higher class from the moments he enters into the Satis House and meets Estella. At the moment her adoptive mother Mrs. Havisham was playing card it is the moment when he starts feeling ashamed and embarrassed. In fact, he is as if a tool or a toy for both of them. Pip feels as if tore apart between being humiliated and his attraction to Estella, despite the latter treats him roughly in many occasions. In chapter 8 she said to reject him "common laboring-boy." (75) But, Mrs. Havisham replies "well! You can break his heart," she precisely embodies the bourgeoisie in Marxist terms, shaping his own position according to the society's divisions (*The Communist Manifesto* 45). Mrs. Havisham's thirst for revenge and it consumed her by teaching Estella to be rude towards the men. Nevertheless, Pip tries to be an uncommon man by getting help from Biddy to get an education to be valuable for Estella who loves.

Dickens criticizes the Victorian society's tendency towards its structure of looking down on the working class as dirty and their value is worth less than the more civilized man leading a wealthy lifestyle. In this sense, Joe has his own priorities, he didn't see the differences in social status and classes levels. Instead, Joe's interests to concentrate on an individual self-value, emphasizing personal morality and hard working. It would be difficult for Pip to share what Joe's moral obligation or how his value system works. Yet, he preoccupies by Estella's opinions, as he becomes another person. Pip with his ambitions to be "uncommon" judging his actions according to Estella's superficial standards —Pip will stay by these new values for a long time. The delicious power of money and social class as two roads play a significant role leading Pip to be a gentleman through climbing the ladder to find happiness. On the one hand, Pip feels fascinated when watch at the first time Mrs. Havisham's guests and gives the readers glimpse about the room in which has time and sunlight excluded. The darkness, the emptiness surrounded the room like everything has been stopped.

"When the house and the clocks all stopped together" (99). Mrs. Havisham's, and her relationship with her relative bases on greed and absolutely no love, they are waiting for her death to inherit her money and also, she clearly realizes that. Satis House represents a higher class, money and power, but loveless environment this Class which Pip aspires to reach. On the other hand, the relationship at forge with Joe relies on love, kindness and respect despite of they consider from laborer class. The narrator points out that Pip's desire to be a part of high society that means empty relationships where people merely treat as a tool. As well as a decision to choose something against his nature. (*Great Expectations* 95).

Moreover, when Pip keeps dreaming to become a gentleman, a stranger man named Jaggers, who encounters Joe and says that Pip now has "great expectations" and adds that Pip "brought up a gentleman"

(156) yet on one condition Pip never tries to discover the identity of his benefactor under any circumstances. The big dramatic change effects on Pip's future, but unfortunately feels isolated. But Pip satisfies his vanity and starts treating people differently, especially Joe and Biddy.

Pip leaves his past and the marshes to establish a new life in London for his great expectations. "This is the end of the first stage of Pip's Expectations" (*Great Expectations*179). When Pip sees London, he compares it with the image of the marshes he describes it by saying "ugly, crooked, narrow and dirty." (180).

In London, Pip encounters Herbert Pocket who recognizes him later, the latter tries to insulted him. Pip wants to take his revenge, when they start the fighting in Mrs. Havisham's garden and when he wins, Estella gives him a kiss as a reward. In London Herbert, becomes a best friend to Pip who teaches him the moral code and manners, lifestyle and how behaving as a gentleman, Herbert and his father's sharing the same definition about a gentleman term by saying:"... no man who was not a true gentleman at heart, ever was... a true gentleman in manner." (199).

In this sense, Mrs. Havisham and Estella's seducing Pip to abandon his own nature as well as, achieve his transition into the bourgeoisies. Pip discovers that he is unrelated to work he used to. Marx considered that labour seems to be good as long as remains free of isolation. During the late of 18th in the middle of the 19th centuries and through the world of new industrialized people were isolated from the benefits of their work and the workers in the factories using machinery were manufacturing things for bourgeois, who own the resources of production, increase their capital. Nevertheless, the workers, they will suffer from privation.

"a stage has been reached where the exploited and oppressed class—the proletariat—cannot attain its emancipation from the sway of the exploiting and ruling class—the bourgeoisie—without, at the same time, and once and for all emancipating society at large from all exploitation, oppression, class-distinctions and class-struggles. (*Economic and philosophy Manuscripts 1844 -6*).

Furthermore, Because of his convict, Pip belongs to the upper class to be a gentleman through earning the money, which the convict gives not from his personal work and this has no meaning to his capital. "In bourgeois society capital is independent and has individuality, while the living person is dependent and has no individuality" (*The Communist Manifesto*). In this sense, basically the money, which Pip dependent on in fact, as if robbing him of personhood by saying that "risen to manhood content to be partners with Joe in the honest old forge" (*Great Expectations* 295). Pip points out that when he spends time with Joe in the past gives him a sense of honesty and integrity. The money at the forge gives him a sense of personal pride and the quality of his identity, whereas, Magwitch's money provides merely serves to isolate him from his real class. In addition, the relationships between Pip and the marshes' people are alienated, and subsequently, Pip's alienation helps to reveal the truth about the real identity of the mysterious benefactor Magwitch the convict who met him at the symmetry not Mrs. Havisham.

Angels and Marx show the history of class struggle in a similar way," a history of class struggles, contests between exploiting and exploited, ruling and oppressed classes" (*communist Manifesto* 6), as Joe Gargery believe that the world works in such a way:

"Life is made of ever so many partings welded together ... Divisions among such must come, and must be met as they come. If there's been any fault at all today, it's mine you and me is not two figures to be together in London "(*Great Expectations* 245).

The most visible situation of class divisions reveals when Joe visits Pip in London. Even when Pip returns to visit him in the marsh, Dickens did not transmit such an extreme recognition by any of the characters. However, once Joe recognized that the common identity that shared with Pip and the same situation Pip confronts with his old life in juxtaposition. Furthermore, Joe realizes that as he tells Pip: "I'm wrong in these clothes. I'm wrong out of the forge, the kitchen, or off th'meshes. You won't find half so much fault in me if you think of me in my forge dress with my hammer in my hand" (*Great Expectations* 245). Joe submitted to the expectations which control over the class, he apparently belongs. His actual identity linked with his work. Without the suitable clothes in which do not express his true personality. He is literally cannot deny what he

truly is. Pip's feelings towards Joe solely intensify these feelings of shame and ungrateful inwardly pushes Pip into the wrong direction by denying his real identity.

According to Marx, Magwitch considers is one of the lumpenproletariat. He considers from the low class and unprofessional workers, displaced persons and criminals. He in some way splits from his origin, identity and gains capital. Marx defined the lumpenproletariat as a group whom not ever accomplish class consciousness. In fact, Marx recognized them as the "passive purifying of the lowest layers of old society" (*Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844 First Published: Progress Publishers, Moscow 1959*).

Magwitch's desire to gain money for Pip to make him a gentleman by rewarding his kindness at the beginning of the story indicates that Marx might contradict because through the mysterious Magwitch's awarding that Pip becomes isolated from his being. Nonetheless, if the coincidence never happened and Magwitch never helped Pip's transition from the proletariat to the bourgeoisie, as well as the latter will never have revealed the respective of class consciousness.

Pip's route towards London takes him and brought him back to his former status. In fact, no longer he feels happy with his new position of the gentlemanly world. Besides, when Magwitch reveals his identity the anonymous benefactor and Pip meets him after many years, he says: "the abhorrence in which I held the man, the dread I had of him, the repugnance with which I shrank from him, could not have been exceeded if he had been some terrible beast" (*Great Expectations* 343). As a boy from the proletariat, Pip gives Magwitch food and helps him and therefore after his transition to the bourgeoisie, Pip finds himself involved with the criminal as a source of his class position. Although Magwitch shows his kindness "I reluctantly gave him my hands. He grasped them heartily, raised them to his lips, kissed them and still held them" (339). Magwitch creates the Pip's gentility "Yes Pip, dear boy, I've made a gentleman on you " (342) and his moral attitude serves to achieve Pip's dream as if he lived his life for him to repay what Pip did "you acted nobly, my boy"" noble Pip! And I have never forgotten it!" (339), "Look'ee here, Pip. I'm your second father." (343).), he shows him nothing but kindness and he returns to see him under threat of police by telling him he is as if his father living his life for him in order to repay his debt.

Moreover, during the development of events, there is a bond in which the relationship between Pip and Magwitch become intelligible. Pip refers to Magwitch as (my convict) (300). Magwitch himself is an orphan like Pip and he suffers from harsh conditions. Magwitch represents a proletariat class, through the world of crime establishes his fortune. Despite of Magwitch as a convict, but in fact he represents the loyalty as well as the honesty on the contrary those whom represent the bourgeois class.

The most important figures in Pip's life are Joe and Magwitch. They embody the father who Pip lacks. In this sense, Pip regrets for chasing his quest to be a gentleman. Hence, he collapses from the idealization of the world of superficiality. When Pip gets sick nobody takes care of him but Joe. The sickness of Pip may be referred to his redemption as well as his rebirth as a new man. Able Magwitch who leads Pip to learn the meaning of humility, and eventually Pip tries to save Magwitch's life. "*Dickens, Europe and the New Worlds* ".

Conclusion

One's personal identity is the important vital part of life. Without knowing our identity and our uniqueness to perceive life, it will be difficult for others to understand us. One's desire to be another and being far from the real identity who basically presents, would isolate him/her from people who really loves.

An autobiographical *Great Expectations* reflects a clear image of one's attitude towards his/her identity. Pip tries to take a role doesn't belong to his real character. The title of Dickens's *Great Expectations* carries the full meaning to illustrate the issue of class struggle between the Proletariat and the Bourgeois as well as it predicts what Pip confronts his fate as a member wants to be a gentleman and elevates to high position. His first reaction since his conversion as a blacksmith to a life of well-being rejects Joe, the only person who really cares and humiliates him in London. As well as, the second one when he discovers the real identity of his benefactor Magwitch who, makes him a gentleman in the first place, and treats him with prejudice. Although Pip reaches

his great expectations whether great or small, but eventually crushed since he continues believed his benefactor is Mrs. Havisham.

In addition, Dickens criticizes the lifestyle of the bourgeois and their obsession with titles through portrait the character of Mrs. Pocket who represents the highest-class system, spends the time to read about them and neglects her duties towards her children, in fact Dickens emphasizes not just physically abused but also psychologically as well.

Money has a delicious power makes people doing things to each other's. Dickens exemplifies that how money can change people and causes the class distinction. The novel shows Pip alone in the graveyard; thus, it portrays the failure, social and emotional isolation. Like other Characters Mrs. Havisham, who remains isolated from society and raises Stella to reject and abuse all men she meets. On the other hand, Mrs. Joe's way towards her brother is biased on the beating and shouting. She feels isolated from the society in which the rich people represent the superiority. In order to gain money, she sends her brother to work in Mrs. Havisham's house.

She represents the woman who lives in the Victorian society, following the it's mores. It represents at that time the class distinction in which the divisions exist between bourgeoisie and the proletariat.

Moreover, Pip's transition from the proletariat to the bourgeoisie waking him up from his hallucinating and ignorance by understanding that the idea of the class structure and the divisions between individuals. Redemption and forgiveness are the most important lesson in Victorian morality for those who refuse to give forgiveness to the others, sooner, it will destroy themselves. Pip redeems himself by trying to save people around him. He realizes the important lesson that to be a gentleman meaning to be honest, generous and being loyal even towards those whom shows as low or common.

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