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Ambivalence of success portrayed in diverse dimensions throughout the contemporary society of Charles Dickens' novel Great Expectations.

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Abstract:

This paper tried to look into the ambivalence of success in the major characters through diverse circumstances during the mid-19th century, due to its expansion in the field of the Industrial Revolution. It dealt with the dilemma of the Victorian era, and how the urge for success became a trauma notably for the protagonist Pip. This article also paid attention to the minor incidents just to relate the confusion of fantasy. The qualitative method has been used to formulate this paper, with the help of direct observations and literary critics. This paper also evaluates the vulnerability revolutionary circumstances create for people, as we see the protagonist consistently running after success to get the approval of a girl. It also portrays how people in this era keep running after this designated image of success just to be left mentally drained and dreadful. Nevertheless, it is expected to eradicate the misconceptions of gaining affluence in the time of the Industrial Revolution and how this became a hidden trauma for contemporary society. It tried to examine the context of the protagonist by shedding light on the complex circumstances he was navigating throughout the play. By adopting the insights of different critics, the study seeks to outlay a comprehensive understanding of the intricate dynamics surrounding success in the Victorian era. Ultimately, the main outcome of this research is to dispel misconceptions surrounding the acquisition of wealth and power during the Industrial Revolution and to illuminate how this pursuit carries out hidden burdens within contemporary society. With the meticulous analysis of character experiences and societal norms, this paper tried to contribute to a nuanced exploration of success and its consequences during a pivotal historical period.

Keywords: Victorian Era, Pip, Success, Dilemma, Industrial Revolution, Expectations.

Introduction: Great Expectations is the perfect picturization of the Victorian era, published in 1861 with the portrayal of ambiguity of success, chivalry, and trying to break the shackles of all the rigidity. Pip and other major characters are the victims of Victorian fantasy, who are restless in every circumstance to achieve that illusionary success. This

period in British history is marked by a dream for prosperity, progress, and personal achievement. The Industrial Revolution enhanced economic growth and created new opportunities for individuals to cherish higher social and financial status. When Pip was younger, Joe's humble and kind nature made Pip want to be a blacksmith like him. Pip figured despite being in a profession of such hard work, Joe managed to stay warm and kind towards him. However, Pip's ambiguity starts when he finally sees where and how the rich people live. Upon seeing Stella's negligence towards him, Pip got a reality check where according to the judgment of that timeline Joe was nothing but a hardworking peasant and people like Miss Havisham were the symbol of success. The very title of the book indicates the confidence of conscious genius. Charles Dickens masterfully illustrates the spectrum of pre-set goals crafted by the characters that ultimately put them to the diversity of success and how it became the ultimate curse for the emerging generations. This era placed a vivid emphasis on self-improvement, hard work, moral dignity, and the pursuit of knowledge. Pip's gradual development and emphasis on education reflected a broader social belief that personal betterment is not only attainable but also essential for the progress of life. The protagonist had cherished those untouchable dreams and sadly, he lost everything within a whisker of time. The metamorphosis emphasizes the novel's profound exploration of the consequences of ambition. Then again, as every action has some opposite reactions, this novel shows the power of self-confidence and dedication as the motto of a good outcome (Pip at last got his love in the form of Estella). In this, Dickens conveys the idea that even with the existence of adversity; one can find solace and happiness through dedication and commitment. The dilemma of success made Victorian society relentless and traumatized. The representation of success is just an illusionary fantasy for contemporary society. A lot of critics hold Miss Havisham as the antagonist of this novel. However, upon the analysis of why she has consumed such hatred towards men and was steadfast in bringing suffering upon men was the betrayal of her lover (Compeyson) and Magwitch. Still, every crime like this is committed out of helplessness or greed rather than to match up with the status of success set by society.

The analysis shows every time the urge to be successful haunts the character's day-to-day life. The stark economic disparities and rough working environment highlighted the darker side of industrialization. The assertion is done with a meticulous examination of the chapters, revealing the connection between the path to success and the hurdles of trauma. A mentionable example of this theme is easily traceable in the character named Pip, whose aspiration to become a role model, accumulate wealth, and embody the epitome of a flawless Victorian persona ultimately proves to be a tragic endeavor. The novel captures the essence of a society where the pursuit of success is an ever-present phenomenon, extracting a heavy toll on those who dare to chase this elusive dream. The main protagonist is the mentionable character as he lost everything while capturing the stigma of success. The exploration underscores the enduring relevance of the novel's themes, which serve as a testament to its literary merit and thought-provoking narrative. This novel remains a timeless exploration of the human condition, inviting readers to contemplate the diverse

nature of ambition, the misbalances created through the by-product of success, and the enduring power of perseverance in the face of adversity. Symbolically, these scenes can be termed as the Renaissance of the American dream in Europe.

Literature Review: David Hennessey, in his article, examined the intense guilt felt by the protagonist Pip due to the burden of fulfilling the ideals of being a gentleman. It created the development of a moral sensibility in Pip that results through the benevolent treatment of others. The expectations placed on Pip by the society who hoped for his success ultimately became a double-edged sword. In a sense, they drove him to excel in his newly acquired role model status. Unfortunately, on the other hand, they forced him to grapple with the moral implications of his actions, potentially leading to conflicts between personal ambition and the values instilled by his guilt-driven morality. As Pip ascends the social ladder, the benevolence that he encounters, coupled with fantasy, creates a complex ethical quandary. My research would try to argue the fact that this benevolence of others and their high hopes regarding success will act as a drift of dilemma in the protagonist.

Karl P. Wentersdorf, in his article, has mentioned the term materialistic Expectations regarding success has a demoralizing effect on Pip from childhood to adulthood. Furthermore, he narrated the protagonist was juxtaposed and contrasted due to the presence of numerous characters who lighted up Pip's personality. I agree with his views in many aspects and want to add that the term Materialistic Expectations has acted as a hidden burden for most of the characters, who just swam away to the path of nothingness to capitalize on success. The desire for success often leads to a sense of being lost, which has been vividly portrayed in Pip's characteristics.

Prominent Critiques Judith and Cohan, in their article, expressed Pip as the most psychologically complex of Charles Dicken's heroes. They added that Pip had so many drawbacks, and weaknesses; even after that he eventually became conscious and outgrows and it created a psychological disturbance in him regarding dreams and fantasies that created a dilemma in him for chasing his destinations in 'Great Expectations'. My research also focuses on the ambivalence and diversity of success in Pip which has always been his main enemy. It aims to sort out Pip's psychological battles, revealing how Dickens intertwines a rich narrative of a hero, who is facing both internal and external dilemmas in his quest for self-realization.

In contemporary Criticism by Jill Kriegel Pip's disregard towards other people's feelings was reasoned by the busy city life where people seemed to have no time for feelings. When everyone is running after time against money in their busy life, it is bound to also impact Pip, who from childhood was made to realize poverty and debt. by other people, finally after getting stability wanted to hold on to it, which resulted in his disregard towards the feelings of his dear ones (Joe, Biddy).

David Holbrook, in his article, reflected on the predicament of love, the urge to be a gentleman, and sophistication in every circumstance of life. Furthermore, he was surprised by Dicken's attitude towards contemporary women in 'Great Expectations' as imprisoned,

peevish, and sometimes murderous. However, he has articulated many aspects but the diversity of success was not mentioned in this article; (why it was the driving force for all the desires and how the final destination of success is turning out to be an illusion in disguise). This research focuses on the intricate nature of success that has been overlooked by Holbrook to quite an extent. The analysis lacks a comprehensive understanding of the characters' motivations in the novel.

Regarding the facts of these researches, the ambivalence and diversity of success have been missing in a broader sense. This paper is based on discourse analysis of Pip and other major characters concerning the dilemma of success and how this has been acted as a villain in the path of their happiness and contentment of that contemporary society portrayed by Charles Dickens. To formulate that, firstly, this study tries to articulate how Victorian society has always had an urge regarding success and sophistication. However, that turns out to be their hidden trauma and ambivalence in the path of contentment in life. They were escaping every moment just to get a bit more success and being that so-called perfect person. Secondly, this study has gone through different psychological and contemporary articles to generate how the characters in the novel undergo the diversity of success and how it unsettled them in every circumstance.

Research Method: Content analysis has been formulated for this research. We have analyzed the structure of the text by taking both the literary content and the sociolinguistic context to focus on Charles Dickens' skillful portrayal of ambition, chivalry, and the struggle against societal rigidity in the Victorian setting. Firstly, we have gone through a comprehensive review of the novel's chapters, critically exploring the characters' relentless desire for illusionary success. The analysis depicts how to pre-set goals become a curse for emerging generations, exemplified through the protagonist's tragic losses while chasing unmatchable dreams. Secondly, we emphasized the transformative journey of Pip, highlighting the profound consequences of ambition. Self-confidence emerged as a crucial element for positive outcomes, such as Pip getting Estella even after a series of dilemmas and uncertainties. Pip's journey embodies a perfect Victorian persona as this method has helped us to generate particular relevance by investigating other people's articles and narratives of a situation. Finally, we looked closely at each action Pip and other major characters take to understand their growth in the story. This helped us to see how passion, ambition, dreams, and societal rules shape the characters' lives with a series of processes. This approach not only added depth to our understanding but also helped us to see a bigger picture of the social and cultural background in Dickens' work, giving us insights into how people lived during that time. Pip's development and dilemmas have been taken under the mirror of the qualitative method by exploring the in-depth meaning of every action.

Discussion: In "Great Expectations," the author masterfully explores various aspects of Victorian society, while capturing the ambiguity of societal norms and values of his time. Class structure plays a vital role as it is a prominent theme that impacts heavily on individuals. The focal point, Pip, experiences a transformative journey from a struggling boy to a gentleman. Through Pip's involvements, Dickens portrays the rigidity of social

classes, exceeding the demand for success and shedding light on the superficial nature of societal judgments. Another mentionable character (Joe), Pip's humble brother-in-law, represents the simplicity and integrity of the so-called struggling class, emphasizing Dickens' criticism of the false vanity embedded in Victorian society.

In addition, Charles Dickens utilizes characters like Miss Havisham and Estella to showcase the obsession with wealth and status. Miss Havisham, stuck in memories, nurturing a grudge on humanity and consumed by the aftershocks of a broken marriage, becomes a symbolic figure representing the consequences of a society devoted to materialism. Estella's actions embody the dehumanizing effects of a society that values appearances over genuine human connections. Dickens emphasizes the role of women in Victorian society through characters like Mrs. Joe and Biddy. Mrs. Joe's domineering nature of avoiding anything with anger reflects the limitations placed on women, while Biddy, though humble, represents vivid potential choked by societal expectations. The ambiguity of success was so vicious that Dickens challenged the patriarchal norms of his time by presenting diverse female characters with unique strengths and weaknesses who kept on getting neglected due to the contemporary stiff social class.

In conclusion, "Great Expectations" serves as a powerful commentary on Victorian society. Dickens' exploration of class disparities, materialism, moral decay, and gender roles provides readers with a multifaceted critique of the societal norms and fantasy of success prevailing in his era. The novel was an immediate success upon its publication and George Bernard Shaw notably hailed it as Dicken's "most compactly perfect book".

Objectives: This article evaluated the fluctuation of feelings toward success by critically analysing the main characters. We have explored the ambivalence of success in major characters during the mid-19th century, particularly examining how diverse circumstances, shaped by the Industrial Revolution, influenced their viewpoints and preferences. Moreover, we have investigated the dilemma faced by individuals in the Victorian era, focusing on how the pursuit of success became a traumatic experience, with specific emphasis on the protagonist Pip. Next, we examined the role of minor incidents by highlighting the confusion of fantasy, providing a deeper understanding of how they contributed to the overall theme of the study. Qualitative methods have been utilized, including direct observations and literary criticism, to formulate a comprehensive analysis of the complex circumstances the characters had to navigate in their quest for success. We also portrayed the societal dynamics of the Victorian era, illustrating how individuals chased a designated image of success, contributing to mental exhaustion and hidden traumas. We tried to dispel misconceptions surrounding the acquisition of affluence during the Industrial Revolution by shedding light on the burdens that accompanied the pursuit of wealth and power in contemporary society. However, we circulated incorporate insights from different literary critics to contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the complexities surrounding success in the Victorian era.

Conclusion: Concerning all the difficulties of personality and ideology each of the characters has gone through it has become quite transparent that the main antagonist in the novel *Great Expectations* has been the stereotypical ideology of success set in the society. Each character in the novel is the victim of this societal perspective of success. The protagonist Pip got entangled from a very early age among all these societal expectations which blocked his other instincts to justify his later actions with more clarity even to himself. He therefore becomes the round character in the novel who undergoes major character development throughout the novel. His aim was very clear from the beginning (to be worthy of Stella). As maturity struck, he realized he would have to abide by the vision of a successful gentleman to achieve that. On his pursuit, because of his encounters and favors of people like Magwitch, Joe, Herbert Pocket is what restored his faith in goodness. Therefore Pip emerged as a great character whom the ambiguous idea of success constantly tried to occlude. Upon stumbling for fortune, and the way people's treatment changed around him, any young boy of that age was bound to become fascinated by that. Later in the Novel, he stumbled upon the reality that the money that brought him the visionary success was not from a chivalrous source, he found doubting his reality, later in the novel to evolve as a better man. During the course of the novel, Pip comes to realize that his "Great Expectations" –social standing and wealth–are less important than loyalty and compassion.

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