



## SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE NOVELS OF CHARLES DICKENS

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**Abstract.** *This paper examines the major social issues reflected in the novels of Charles Dickens, one of the most prominent writers of the Victorian era. The study focuses on such problems as poverty, social inequality, child labor, injustice of the legal system, and the harsh living conditions of the lower social classes. Through the analysis of selected novels, the research reveals Dickens's critical attitude toward the social structure of nineteenth-century England and his deep sympathy for the poor and vulnerable members of society. The paper shows that Dickens uses realistic portrayal, emotional narrative, and vivid characters to expose social injustice and to call for moral responsibility and compassion. The findings confirm that the social themes raised in Dickens's works remain relevant today, making his novels an important source for understanding both historical and contemporary social problems.*

**Key words:** *Charles Dickens, social issues, poverty, social inequality, Victorian literature, realism.*

**Research Aim.** The aim of this research is to analyze the major social issues depicted in the novels of Charles Dickens and to reveal the writer's critical attitude toward social injustice in nineteenth-century English society. The study seeks to examine how problems such as poverty, social inequality, child labor, and the unfair legal system are represented in Dickens's works and how these themes contribute to the author's humanistic message[4].

**Relevance of the Topic.** The reflection of social issues in literature plays a significant role in understanding the historical, moral, and cultural development of society. Literary works often serve as a mirror of social reality, revealing problems



such as inequality, injustice, and the suffering of vulnerable social groups. In this context, the novels of Charles Dickens are of particular importance, as they provide a vivid portrayal of the social conditions of nineteenth-century Victorian England.

Dickens addresses a wide range of social problems, including poverty, child labor, class inequality, and the cruelty of social institutions. His realistic depiction of everyday life and his strong humanitarian position allow readers to comprehend the deep social contradictions of his time[2]. Moreover, Dickens's works played a crucial role in raising public awareness and stimulating social reforms.

The relevance of this topic is also determined by its modern significance. Many of the social problems depicted in Dickens's novels remain актуал today in different forms, such as social inequality and the protection of children's rights[5]. Therefore, the study of social issues in Dickens's works contributes to a deeper understanding of literature as a tool of social criticism and highlights the enduring value of Dickens's artistic legacy.

**Research Aim.** The aim of this research is to analyze the major social issues depicted in the novels of Charles Dickens and to reveal the writer's critical attitude toward social injustice in nineteenth-century English society[1]. The study seeks to examine how problems such as poverty, social inequality, child labor, and the unfair legal system are represented in Dickens's works and how these themes contribute to the author's humanistic message.

**Research Materials and Methods.** The research materials of this study include selected novels by Charles Dickens, such as *Oliver Twist*, *Hard Times*, *David Copperfield*, and *Great Expectations*. These works are used as primary sources for examining the representation of social issues in Victorian England.

The study applies qualitative literary research methods. The textual analysis method is employed to analyze narrative elements, character portrayal, and key episodes that reflect social problems such as poverty, child labor, social inequality, and injustice. The descriptive and analytical methods are used to identify and interpret the main social themes and their artistic expression in the novels.



In addition, the historical and social approach is applied to examine the connection between the literary texts and the socio-economic conditions of nineteenth-century England. The comparative method allows for the identification of common and distinctive features in the depiction of social issues across different novels. These methods ensure a comprehensive and systematic analysis of social problems in Dickens's works.

**Results.** The analysis of the novels of Charles Dickens demonstrates that social issues occupy a central place in his literary works and serve as a key element of his artistic and ideological vision. The research reveals that Dickens consistently exposes the harsh realities of nineteenth-century Victorian society, particularly the problems of poverty, social inequality, child labor, and injustice within social and legal institutions[7].

The results show that Dickens portrays the lower social classes with deep sympathy and humanism, emphasizing their moral strength and dignity despite difficult living conditions. Characters such as poor children, workers, and orphans are used to highlight the cruelty of social systems and the indifference of the upper classes. At the same time, representatives of authority and wealth are often depicted as morally flawed or insensitive to human suffering.

Furthermore, the study indicates that Dickens employs realistic description, emotional narration, and vivid characterization as effective tools of social criticism. His novels not only reflect social problems but also encourage readers to develop compassion and moral responsibility. The findings confirm that the social themes raised in Dickens's works remain relevant today, as they address universal issues of inequality, justice, and human dignity.

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