

Social Condition of French Society Portrayed in Charles Dickens's "*A Tale of Two Cities*"

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Portrayed in Charles Dickens's "A Tale of Two Cities"**

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THESIS

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Portayed in Charles Dickens'S "A Tale of Two Cities"**

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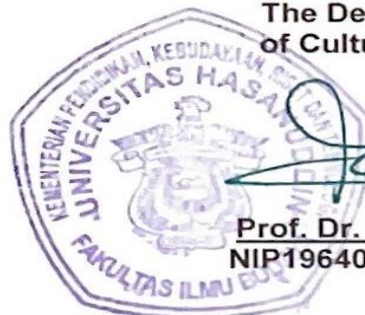

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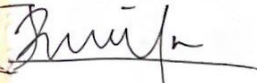
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The Researcher

ABSTRAK

LA ODE MUHAMAD IRWIN SYAWAL. Kondisi Sosial Masyarakat Prancis digambarkan oleh Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities* (Dibimbing oleh **Fathu Rahman** dan **M. Amir P.**). Penelitian ini menyangkut kondisi sosial masyarakat Prancis sebelum dan semasa revolusi Prancis serta kesamaan kondisi sosial dan peristiwa yang terjadi pada masyarakat. Prancis dengan membandingkan isi dari novel dan sejarah nyata Prancis, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan kondisi sosial masyarakat Prancis sebelum dan selama revolusi Prancis serta persamaan antara kondisi sosial selama revolusi Prancis dan novel Charles Dickens yang berlatar di Saint-Antoine, Prancis. Peneliti mengkolaborasi peran mereka dalam hal kondisi sosial sebelum dan selama revolusi serta persamaan kondisi sosial revolusi Prancis dan novel Charles Dickens yang digambarkan dalam novel *A Tale of Two Cities* karya Charles Dickens. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori deskriptif kualitatif dan strukturalisme genetik oleh Lucian Goldmann. Dickens menggambarkan bagaimana kondisi sosial pada masa sebelum revolusi dan kondisi sosial pada masa revolusi Prancis, karena pada masa itu masyarakat hidup di bawah tekanan feodalisme dan republik, serta persamaan kondisi sosial antara revolusi Prancis dan pada masa revolusi Prancis. dalam novel Charles Dickens. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa kondisi sosial masyarakat Prancis pra-revolusi sangat memprihatinkan bagi masyarakat yang berada di bawah tekanan besar dari para bangsawan dan ulama dan kondisi sosial selama revolusi di mana orang-orang saint-antoine bangkit dan menyebabkan kekacauan yang diakibatkan kebencian orang miskin terhadap orang kelas atas yang digambarkan oleh pengarang melalui novel. Ada tiga sisi yang digambarkan Dickens dalam karyanya, yaitu: (1) kondisi sosial sebelum revolusi : kemiskinan, kelaparan, monarki, kelas sosial, kekerasan (2) kondisi sosial pada masa revolusi : penghapusan monarki, kelahiran republik, pembunuhan massal/pembunuhan massal, hukum yang tidak adil, dekristenisasi dan (3) persamaan antara revolusi Prancis dan novel Charles Dickens dimana ditemukan beberapa relevansi oleh peneliti seperti : penyerangan penjara bastille, penghapusan feodalisme, dan dekristenisasi.

Kata kunci: kondisi social, revolusi, genetic strukturalisme



ABSTRACT

LA ODE MUHAMAD IRWIN SYAWAL *Social Condition of French Society Portrayed in Charles Dickens's "A Tale of Two Cities"* (Supervised by **Fathu Rahman** and **M. Amir P.**). This study concerns the social conditions of French society before and during the French Revolution and the similarity of social conditions and events that occurred in French society by comparing the contents of the novel and the real history of France. The aims of this research are to describe the social condition of the French society before and during French revolution and the similarities between social condition during French revolution and Charles Dickens's which set in France in Saint-Antoine. By means of the social condition in society, the researcher elaborates their role in term of social conditions before and during revolution and similarities between social condition French revolution and Charles Dickens's novel portrayed in *A Tale of Two Cities* novel written by Dickens. This research uses descriptive qualitative and genetic structuralism theory by Lucian Goldmann. Dickens described how the social conditions of in the era before revolution and the social condition during the French revolution, because at that period, the society lived under pressure of feudalism and republic, and the similarities of social conditions between the French revolution and during French revolution in Charles Dickens's novel. The results of this research s that the social condition of French society pre-revolution is very concerning for the people who are under the great pressure from the noble and clergy and social condition during revolution where the people of Saint-Antoine rise and causing chaos under the hate of the poor people toward the upper-class by the author through the novel. There are three sides which portrayed by Dickens in his work, such as: (1) the social condition pre-revolution : poverty, famine, monarchy, social class, violence (2) the social condition during revolution: abolishment of monarchy, birth of republic, homicide/mass murder, unjust law, dechristianization and (3) similarities between French revolution and Charles Dickens's novel where there several relevance are found by the researcher such as: attack on bastille prison, abolishment of feudalism, and dechristianization.

Keywords: Sociology of Literature, Social Condition, Revolution, Charles Dickens



TABLE OF CONTENTS

COVER PAGE.....	i
APPROVAL SHEET	ii
STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
ABSTRAK.....	vi
ABSTRACT	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	viii
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Identification of the Problem	4
1.3 Scope of the Problem	4
1.4 Research Questions	4
1.5 Objectives of the Research.....	5
1.6 Significances of the Research	5
CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW.....	7
2.1 Previous Studies	7
2.2 Theoretical Background	9
2.2.1 Sociology of Literature	10
2.2.2 Genetic Structuralism	13
2.3 Brief History of French Society.....	15
2.4 French Revolution	18
2.5 Social Class.....	25
2.6 All About “ <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> ”	26

2.7 Conceptual Framework.....	31
CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	32
3.1 Type of Research	32
3.2 Sources of Data	32
3.3 Instruments of Data Collection	33
3.4 Methods of Collecting Data	34
3.5 Methods of Analyzing Data	34
CHAPTER IV FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION	36
4.1 Findings.....	36
4.1.1 Social Condition.....	36
4.1.1.1 Pre-revolution Social Condition.....	37
A. Poverty	37
B. Famine/Hunger	38
C. Monarchy.....	39
D. Social Class.....	39
E. Violence	40
4.1.1.2 Social Condition During French Revolution	40
A. Abolishment of Monarchy/Feudalism	40
B. Homicide/Mass Murder	41
C. Unjust Law.....	43
D. Dechristianization	45
4.1.2 Similarities Between Social Condition of French During Revolution in history and in Charles Dickens Novel	46
A. Attack on Bastille Prison	46
B. Abolishment of Feudalism and Birth of Republic	46

C. Dechristianization	47
4.2 Discussion	47
4.2.1 Pre-revolution Social Condition.....	47
A. Poverty	47
B. Famine/Hunger	48
C. Monarchy.....	49
D. Social Class.....	50
E. Violence.....	51
4.2.2 Social Condition During Revolution.....	51
A. Abolishment of Monarchy/Feudalism	51
B. Homicide/Mass Murder	52
C. Unjust Law.....	53
D. Dechristianization	55
4.2.3 Similarities Between Social Condition of French During Revolution in History and in Charles Dickens Novel.....	56
A. Attack on Bastille Prison	56
B. Abolishment of Feudalism and Birth of Republic	57
C. Dechristianization	57
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	59
5.1 Conclusion	59
5.2 Suggestion.....	60
BIBLIOGRAPHY	61
APPENDIXES.....	64
<i>Appendix 1</i>	64
<i>Appendix 2</i>	67

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter composed of introduction, background, identification of question, objective of the study, and significance of the study

1.1 Background

Literature depicts as a collection of literary works that contain written and unwritten texts. It means that literature is an expression of a person that is represented by words, actions, and writings. Wellek and Warren (1956:39) state that “literary theory itself is the study of the principles of literature, its categories, criteria, and the like, and by differentiating studies of concrete works of art”.

Moreover, Wellek and Warren (1956:12) stated further, “literature is a social institution that reflects the phenomena of social behavior in society using a language as its media to express the author’s thought”.

In addition to Wellek and Warren statement, Rahman and Weda (2018) also stated “Literature is important for language teaching, also plays a vital role in building harmony and tolerance in certain communities. Literature has a high status in any community from ancient times to the modern era. Appreciation of literary works as cultural product is a must, either as an authentic material or as a tool to improve social awareness within a community”. Therefore, an author generally writes based on what happened around by exploring the phenomena as the topic to write in a

literary work. It can be deduced that literature is a result of art in society. The indication of social behavior in a certain society conveys the life activity of human being, also the problem of social, economics, and politics.

Humans need to voice their opinion on a tragedy in a certain era and the government often issues regulations that are against the wishes of the people, especially, lower class people reject these regulations which lead to chaos and in the end creating a revolution one of the examples is French Revolution.

Talking about revolution, (Sztompka, 2004: 357) Stated, “revolution is the most spectacular form of social change; as a sign of a fundamental split in the historical process; reforming society from within and re-shaping humans”. Therefore, revolution brought a change in the social structure of a more modern society, it describes Revolution as a concept and theory in sociology. One of the literary works that recounts the atrocities of the upper-class and lower-class during French revolution is the novel of *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens.

Regarding the novel that the researcher focused on *A Tale of Two Cities* is the only Dickens' historical novel, it is called historical novel because the story develops from a historical background of the French society and French revolution. The French revolution occurred because of the suffering and the social problem in the society. The social stratification, the economic classes, and the oppression of aristocrats to the poor people

were some factors which caused the problem. The situation in France was very terrible, then. People suspected each other. They were always careful about strangers because there was no certain rule or law that could be followed by the society. (Atkitson and Edward in Smith 2003:01)

In addition, French Revolution was an era of changes in the social order to create harmony between the government and its people. However, this revolution did not go well due to the greed of the French government, and they were not ready to face changes in the social order. (Atkitson and Edward in Smith 2003:01)

Moreover, there are many social problems caused by the greed of the French government such as poverty, slavery, crime, and abuse of power to the detriment of the little people. (Atkitson and Edward in Smith 2003:01)

Furthermore, the French government divided its society into 3 groups: (1) The royal family, (2) landowners and religious leaders, and (3) ordinary people/lower class. As a result of these rules, the number of feudalisms in the world decreased. This happened because feudalism was liked by the general public because of its landowner and religious leader injustices and abuses. On the other hand, all the people who opposed the government were beheaded, there were at least 40,000 thousand victims. (Atkitson and Edward in Smith 2003:01)

Related to the above cases, it is very important to search the relation between a literary work and social condition in reality because literary works portrayed life and life itself is a reflection of society.

The researcher comprehends that novel *A Tale of Two Cities* is famous and suggested to be the object of research studies because there is much that can be explored from the novel such as social condition, social stratification, French revolution, and so on. This research focuses on the impact of French revolution and social problems. The researcher hopes that after fulfilling the research objective, this thesis is expected to be for many people and the result of the study can be a reference for the further studies.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

After reading this novel, the researcher finds and identifies some problems as follows:

1. Social condition of French society
2. Social condition of French society pre-revolution
3. Social condition of French society during revolution
4. Social condition of British society
5. The impact of oppression from higher class
6. There is no justice for the lower-class
7. The reason why revolution occur in the novel
8. Symbol of violence that happens pre-revolution and during revolution

1.3 Scope of the Problem

A limitation is very important to do because it can make the researcher focuses on one problem to be analyze. There a several intrigue things in *A Tale of Two Cities*, but the researcher focuses on condition of society pre-

revolution and post-revolution. The researcher would like to see the portrait of social condition of French society in pre-revolution, social condition of French society during revolution and the similarities between social condition of French during revolution in the history and in the novel *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the background eluded previously, the researcher formulated the research question, as follows:

1. What are the similarities between social condition during revolution in history and in Charles Dickens's novel?
2. How are social conditions of French society pre-revolution and during French revolution shown in the novel?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

Based on the research question, the researcher aims to:

1. To elaborate the similarities between social condition during French revolution in the history and in Charles Dicken's novel
2. To reveal social condition of French society pre-revolution and during revolution portray in the novel

1.6 Significance of the Research

The researcher expected this research would broad the knowledge and information for everyone who are engaged in literary world and science especially regarding study of sociology, literature, and culture.

There are two significances of this research the first theoretical aspect and the second practical aspect.

Theoretically, this research could help some researchers to gains more information about sociology of literature. This research explained about the social condition of French society pre-revolution, during revolution and the relevance social condition of French during revolution and Charles Dickens's novel.

Practically, this research would give comprehension to the researcher about the social condition pre-revolution, during revolution, and the relevance between the French society during revolution and Charles Dickens's novel. Importantly, the researcher expects for the next researcher study regarding social issue in literature.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter composed of previous study, theoretical background, and conceptual framework.

2.1 Previous Studies

When discussing about research, there must be some other researchers have written about the same topics or the same objects. All the previous studies displayed here provide some insight/hints in comprehending some problems that are found in the novel/books. The researcher observed several published and unpublished theses and some journals focused mainly on research with similar problem from trusted sources.

Several previous researches need to be read and understood the context deeply to improve the knowledge and distinguish it with the previous ones, in this part, the researcher limited about previous submitted by the researcher are collected from theses, journals, articles, etc.

The first researcher was Yusuf Cahyo Budi Utomo(2013) titled *Marxist Analysis of French revolution in Charles Dicken's A Tale of Two Cities*. The researcher analyzes what happened during the French Revolution and the causes, the researcher found out a conflict between the aristocrats and the proletariats. The research above focused on Marxist approach. The researcher does not use the same approach to analyze the novel, the researcher focused on *Marxist analysis of the French Revolution in Charles Dickens's A Tale of Two Cities*,

The second researcher was Saefudin Apri Perdana (2018) under the title *Social Injustice Reflected in Charles Dickens's A Tale of Two Cities*. The researcher used sociology of literature approach to find social injustice during French revolution. The researcher found out that social injustice is reflected in novel with some structural element, this research focused on social injustice.

The third researcher was Intan Sari Nurislamiah (2020) from University Hasanuddin under the title *A Portrait of Society in the Era of Revolution as It Shows in Orwell's "Nineteen Eighty-Four"* this research described the situation in the era of revolution which set in London. By means of the social class in society, the researcher elaborates their role in term of work and their social class which Portraited in *Nineteen Eighty- Four* novel written by Orwell. This research used descriptive qualitative and sociology of literature theory by Goldmann. By means of the author's world view, The Researcher found out that the social class is still exist between two main characters in the novel. There are two sides which Portraited by Orwell in his work, such as; (1) the first side was the role and social life from the one who had the highest class in society, it was O'Brien. He holds the important post in the government and member of the Inner Party, also controlled its people life included postponed people's death which indicated *thought crime*. (2) Another side, Orwell also described the role and social life of society who had middle class, it was Winston. In government, he was an ordinary worker and a member of the Outer Party whose work under pressure and his life

was controlled by the government or the Inner Party member through telescreen, thought police and hidden microphone. He was one of the prisoners which did *thought crime* and his death was postponed by the Inner Party before admitting his mistake.

There is, of course, a difference between all the three previous studies and the current research. In this research, the researcher tried to reveal the social condition before and after the French revolution. By using genetic structuralism approach, this research was different with the previous research that were analyzing about marxist, impact of French Revolution on the main character, social injustice during French revolution, religious meaning, Portrait of Society in the Era of Revolution from Orwell's . That is why, the researcher observed the social condition of French society before and after revolution as shown in *A Tale of Two Cities*. The main reason why the researcher chose *A Tale of Two Cities* because it showed the reflection of economic, social, political and economic, condition of the French society before and after French revolution which occurred in 18th century.

2.2 Theoretical Background

The background is an important point in researching literary work. Literary theory was the ideas and methods used in the practical reading of literature. Literary theory was a description of the underlying principles, one might say the tools, the researcher attempted to understand literature. In this case the researcher tries to approach the problem in Charles Dickens

A Tale of Two Cities by using genetic structuralism approach by Lucian Goldmann.

In analyzing a literary work, theoretical background is required to provide in-depth explanations of terms that will be analyzed. In this case, the researcher uses sociology of literature study in analyzing a novel through a sociological perspective. The researcher analyzed the condition that happened in the society.

2.2.1 Sociology of Literature

Sociology of literature has a very long history. According to Jadhav (2012:25), it was H. A. Taine who firstly tried to arrange the sociological approach to be fit in literature in a scientific way. One of his works, entitled *History of English Literature* (1886) became the landmark in the history of the sociology of literature. Right after that, Karl Marx, Frederic Engels and their followers also gave a contribution to the development of sociological approach by looking the literature as an economic infrastructure of the society. However, the sociology of literature gained its success in the history of critical theory in the late 20th century. It is also inseparable from the thoughts of several social thinkers and critics, such as Lucien Goldman, Leo Lowenthal, Robert Escarpit, Alan Swingewood, Diana Laurensen John Hall, Georg Lukacs, even Wellek and Warren (Jadhav 2012:25).

Sociology of literature consists of sociology and how the sociology reflects in a literary work. Talking about sociology, it cannot be separated from the fact that it has relation with the society. It learns how the people

interact and socialize each other in one community. Therefore, sociological approach helps the researcher to see the relationship between a literary work and the society where the story was written. Sociological Approach was developed by many experts, such as Georg Lukacs, Lucien Goldmann, Laurensen and Swingewood, even Wellek and Warren.

George Lukacs clearly states in Milner (1981:27) that a literary work only possible to write if the researcher has experiences that directly related to the social world. Then for him, the great researcher must be able to put his thought, imagination, and experience in his literary work as an original writing and has an inseparable connection between human as a private individual and human as a social being, as a member of a society.

Besides, Goldmann (1980:11) states that a literary work must have relation with the historical background. That is why the text's sociality and communicability can be captured, so that Goldmann finds the relationship between literary work and society. Literary work comes as the reflection of how that society lives as the creation of an researcher to puts his thought, view, feeling and gives emotion about the real condition of a society in a certain period of time.

It also learns about human behavior in everyday life when they interact in their group or community. Therefore, sociological approach is an appropriate approach to not only study about human behavior in society, but also how the social communities influence or affect their behaviors in daily life.

“First, there is the sociology of the researcher and the profession and institutions of literature, the whole question of the economic basis of literary production, the social provenience and status of the researcher, his social ideology, which may find expression in extra literary pronouncements and activities. Then there is the problem of social content, the implications and social purpose of the works of literature themselves. Lastly, there are the problems of the audience and the actual social influence of literature.” (Wellek and Warren 1956:96)

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that there are three kinds of sociology of literature. The first is the sociology of the researcher. It shows how a literary work has relation to the life story of the researcher. Then, because the researcher himself is a part of society, the main point of his work is dependent on how the people and society around him. Second, sociology of the literary work means that the social aspects in the literary work will be analyzed to find out the relation with the society's condition. Third, sociology of the reader means that the readers will learn the social aspects to it used to analyze the social aspects when and where the story was written and how it influences the literary work.

Laurenson and Swingewood (1972:13) state that literature as the mirror to the age. It is indicating that the readers can discuss the social phenomenon which happens to the society in a certain period and certain place through the literary work. It means that literary work reflects the situation and condition of social life in the society.

The researcher of a literary work is influenced by the situation and condition where the literature is written because the researcher is also the member of society. Laurenson and Swingewood (1972:17) argue that this

approach deals with the social background of the researcher and how the researcher himself reacts and response to the system that has been built by the society where he has lived. A researcher should be more sensitive toward the social phenomena because a researcher is always produced a literary work that is inspired by what happened in the society. Through reading a literary work, the readers will get information about the cultural background of a story where the characters live by describing their feelings, thoughts, believes, traditions, customs and so on (Arafah 2018:29). Therefore, literature can develop the reader's knowledge not only about the literary work itself, but also the socio-cultural background where the story was written.

From all the thoughts of the experts above, the researcher will focus to use the theory of Sociology of Literature by Lucien Goldmann and then will try to reveal the social condition of French society pre-revolution and post-revolution as known as genetic structuralism

Therefore, a literary work can never be separated from the social background that includes in it. The readers who also read the literary work can get more explanation by exploring the extrinsic elements of the literary work.

2.2.2 Genetic Structuralism

Genetic structuralism is a combination of intrinsic elements (in the novel) and extrinsic elements (reality). Based on genetic structuralism, the

literary work is a significant structure (Goldmann, 1981:75). Genetic structuralism attempts to find structure in the novel and structure in society

Goldmann states in his book: "the literary work is critical insofar as it displays the writer's creativity and originality in his relation to society" (1981:24). There is a relationship when the intrinsic part and the extrinsic part are combined as reality. The importance of originality is related to socio-historical context. Genetic structuralism not only finds structure in the novel, but also reveals when and why the novel was written. The structure above relates to where the novel is produced and what the story of the novel is. If a novel depicts the society of the time and presents the thoughts of people of the same class, it will create a world image.

Goldmann (in Faruk, 2012:71-73) explains that the novel is a story about searching for authentic values within the world. This explains the meaning of literary works in the context of genetic structuralism theory. First, literary work is an expression of a worldview, and second, to articulate a vision of the world, author must create characterizations, objects, and relationships between them. It means that worldviews conform to each other in structure. Worldviews are virtual in a social group, having the same feelings and ideas when judging something, but different from another group because of the social conditions to which the collective subject is exposed. It can evoke different perspectives.

Genetic structuralism in literary sociology has provided much work in the search for what is particularly human. The theory compares the

structures of the novel with the reality that is taking place in the novel, as Goldmann explains. Genetic structuralism tries to find the structure of the text in its meaning (1981:24). Goldmann (in Faruk, 2012:56) believes that the literary work is a structure; it means that the literary work is a historical product and is a continuous historical process. Genetic structuralism describes a life system that exhibits regularity and integration.

The theoretical analysis of genetic structure should find not only an intrinsic factor, but also the social environment as an extrinsic factor in the creation of the novel. It is important to study the social background in relation to the collective consciousness that supports the human fact, because the search for the human fact is necessary as a first step in finding the collective theme in the novel. In the elaboration of the novel, a significant structure is built based on knowledge and science. Significant structure here is the structure in the novel that briefly explains the connection between literary work and society but is scientifically inseparable. A meaningful structure is influenced by human thinking and the conscious behavior of a writer when writing the novel.

A simple way to analyze literature with genetic structuralism can be formulated into three parts. First, analyze the intrinsic factors of a literary work as the basic data. Second, analyze the background of the author, author personality, style, ideology, and norms that influence his works. Third, analyze the socio cultural and historical background of the place where the literature is created by the author.

2.3 Brief History of French Society

French is descended from Vulgar Latin, the vernacular Latin (as distinguished from literary Latin) of the Roman Empire (see Latin language). When ancient Gaul (now modern France) was conquered by the Romans in the 2d and 1st cent. BC, its inhabitants spoke Gaulish, a Celtic language, which was rapidly supplanted by the Latin of the Roman overlords. In the 5th cent. AD the Franks, a group of Germanic tribes, began their invasion of Gaul, but they too were Romanized. Although modern French thus inherited several hundred words of Celtic origin and several hundred more from Germanic, it owes its structure and the greater part of its vocabulary to Latin.

By the 9th century, the language spoken in what is now France was sufficiently different from Latin to be a distinct language. It is called Old French and was current from the 9th to the 13th cent. The earliest extant text in Old French is the *Oaths of Strasbourg*, dated 842. Of the various dialects of Old French, Francien (the north-central dialect spoken in Paris and the region around it) in time became the standard form of the language because of the increasing political and cultural importance of Paris. French from the 14th through the 16th cent. is known as Middle French. During this period many words and expressions were borrowed from Latin, Greek, and Italian, and a group of French poets, the Pléiade (see under Pleiad), encouraged the French to develop and improve their language and literature.

In 1774, Louis XVI of the Bourbon family of kings ascended the throne of France. He was 20 years old and married to the Austrian princess Marie Antoinette. Upon his accession the new king found an empty treasury. Long years of war had drained the financial resources of France. Added to this was the cost of maintaining an extravagant court at the immense palace of Versailles. Under Louis XVI, France helped the thirteen American colonies to gain their independence from the common enemy, Britain. The war added more than a billion livres to a debt that had already risen to more than 2 billion livres. Lenders who gave the state credit, now began to charge 10 per cent interest on loans. So the French government was obliged to spend an increasing percentage of its budget on interest payments alone. To meet its regular expenses, such as the cost of maintaining an army, the court, running government offices or universities, the state was forced to increase taxes. Yet even this measure would not have sufficed. French society in the eighteenth century was divided into three estates, and only members of the third estate paid taxes. The society of estates was part of the feudal system that dated back to the middle ages. The term Old Regime is usually used to describe the society and institutions of France before 1789. The system of estates in French society was organized.

Peasants made up about 90 per cent of the population. However, only a small number of them owned the land they cultivated. About 60 per cent of the land was owned by nobles, the Church and other richer members of the third estate. The members of the first two estates, that is, the clergy and

the nobility, enjoyed certain privileges by birth. The most important of these was exemption from paying taxes to the state. The nobles further enjoyed feudal privileges. These included feudal dues, which they extracted from the peasants. Peasants were obliged to render services to the lord to work in his house and fields to serve in the army or to participate in building roads. The Church too extracted its share of taxes called tithes from the peasants, and finally, all members of the third estate had to pay taxes to the state. These included a direct tax, called *taille*, and a number of indirect taxes which were levied on articles of everyday consumption like salt or tobacco. The burden of financing activities of the state through taxes was borne by the third estate alone.

The Struggle to Survive The population of France rose from about 23 million in 1715 to 28 million in 1789. This led to a rapid increase in the demand for foodgrains. Production of grains could not keep pace with the demand. So the price of bread which was the staple diet of the majority rose rapidly. Most workers were employed as labourers in workshops whose owner fixed their wages. But wages did not keep pace with the rise in prices. So, the gap between the poor and the rich widened. Things became worse whenever drought or hail reduced the harvest. This led to a subsistence crisis, something that occurred frequently in France during the Old Regime

2.4 French Revolution

The term revolution has also been used to define a major change outside the political influence. Such revolutions are usually recognized as having shifted the society, culture, philosophy, and technology much more than political systems; they are often known as social revolutions (Fang: 1997).

Revolutions are either against (anti-monarchy, anti-dictatorial, anti-communist, anti-democratic) or for (pro-fascism, communism, nationalism etc.). In the latter cases, a transition period is often necessary to decide on the direction taken (Katz, 1997:12). Revolutions consist not only mass mobilization and ruler/dynasty change, but also more or less rapid and fundamental social, economic or cultural change, during the struggle for territory control.

The French Revolution, which occurred from 1789 until 1799, violently transformed France from a country ruled by a monarch with a rigid social hierarchy into a modern nation where the social structure was loosened, and power passed increasingly to the middle classes.

There is considerable controversy over the causes of the Revolution. There are some material factors (Sydenham, 1997: 1) such as: as the population increased, food supplies grew short; land had become divided into such small field that most Frenchmen lived close to the poverty level; and after 1776 agricultural recession forced property owners to exploit their

sources of revenue. Besides the material factors, commercial prosperity had stimulated the growth of a wealthy middle class that threatened the position of the established landed aristocracy. Also, other factors are the complexity of French society and the people questioning the importance of capitalism.

The weakness of the monarchy is also a crucial factor (Sydenham, 1997: 1). King Louis XVI (reigned 1774-92) was the absolute ruler of a united country, but actually the king had little freedom of action because of so many rights or privileges were retained by provinces, towns, corporate bodies, the clergy, and the nobility. Moreover, since offices in the legal and administrative system and the noble rank that went with them could be purchased and passed on as property, a new aristocracy of ennobled officials had developed. These men were able to monopolize profitable employment, to frustrate royal reforms, and to prevent the monarchy from raising taxes to meet the ever-increasing costs of government and of war.

The expense of the French participation in the American Revolution made fiscal reform or increased taxation vitally important after 1783. Since no further revenue could be raised from a peasantry already overburdened by taxes and manorial dues, the royal ministers particularly Charles Alexandre de Calonne attempted to tax all landowners regardless of privileges. When this plan met with resistance in the law courts and provincial assemblies, the ministers tried to replace those bodies with more representative ones. In 1788 this led to the Aristocratic Revolt, a wave of

defiance of totalitarianism that compelled the ministers to agree to convene the States-General for the first time since 1614.

The first phase of the Revolution was marked by moral and physical violence (Sydenham, 1997: 1). The States-General met in 1789 in Versailles but were paralyzed by the refusal of the Third Estate (the Commons) to meet separately as a distinct, inferior body. On June 17 the Commons took the crucial revolutionary step of declaring their assembly to be the National Assembly, thereby destroying the States-General. This first assertion of the sovereign authority of the nation soon inspired a popular rising in Paris, marked by the storming of the Bastille on July 14. At the same time, urban and rural revolts occurred throughout France. Suspicions generated by the political crisis had aggravated the discontent aroused by the failure of the 1788 harvest and an exceptionally severe winter. The peasants pillaged and burned the chateaux of the aristocracy--an episode known as the Grande Peur ("Great Fear")--destroying the records of their manorial dues. The National Assembly established a new legal structure by abolishing privileges, venality, and "feudal" obligations (August 4); formulating a Declaration of Rights (August 26); and specifying basic constitutional principles that left the king as the chief executive officer but deprived him of any legislative power except a suspensive veto. Louis' reluctance to sanction these decrees led to a second Parisian uprising, the so-called March of the Women. On October 5 a mob marched to Versailles and forced the king, who had to be protected by the revolutionary national guard under

the marquis de Lafayette, to surrender. Louis and his queen, Marie Antoinette, were moved immediately to Paris, followed by the Assembly. France thus became a constitutional monarchy, and legal distinctions between Frenchmen disappeared; but the king was practically a prisoner, and many people were permanently alienated by the pretensions of the Assembly and the prevailing disorder.

In 1789-91, the National Assembly did much to modernize France (Sydenham, 1997: 1). Despite the Declaration of Rights, the reformed franchise still excluded the poor; but the public maintained its faith in freedom and unity, as shown in the first Festival of Federation, a celebration of national unity on July 14, 1790. Bankruptcy was prevented by the confiscation of ecclesiastical land, and the church and law courts were reconstructed to conform with a rational and uniform system of local government by elected councils. Dissension nevertheless developed as several drastic changes, such as the reorganization of the church by the Civil Constitution of the Clergy (1790), followed in rapid succession. In 1791 the call for a clerical oath of loyalty crystallized the conflict between the new sovereignty and traditional loyalties and split the whole country. 15 When King Louis tried to escape from Paris (the flight to Varennes, June 20, 1791), civil war seemed imminent. The Assembly, however, retained control. A Parisian crowd, which had assembled to demand a republic, was dispersed by force on July 17, and Louis was reinstated after he had accepted the completed Constitution of 1791. The Revolution was then believed to be

over, and the National Assembly was dissolved on September 30. In reality, however, religious and social strife had shattered the unity of the Third Estate.

The Revolution of 1792 In 1791-92 the hard-won constitution collapsed. On Apr. 20, 1792, the new Legislative Assembly declared war on Austria, which it believed to be instigating counterrevolutionary agitation and thus launched the French Revolutionary Wars (Sydenham, 1997: 1). Louis, who looked to Austria for aid, vetoed emergency measures, and Austrian and Prussian forces invaded France. Rebellion broke out in Paris. On August 10 the palace was stormed, and Louis was imprisoned by a new revolutionary Commune of Paris. The Legislative Assembly could only dispute the Commune's pretensions and order the election by manhood suffrage of a National Convention. Meanwhile, the invaders took Verdun, and alleged counterrevolutionaries were massacred in the prisons of Paris.

Foundation of the Republic the National Convention horrified Europe by establishing a republic (September 22, 1792), inaugurating a policy of revolutionary war, and sending the king to the guillotine on January 21, 1793 (Sydenham, 1997: 1). It was also created conflict within France. A militant minority, the Monteguards, who spoke for Paris and the left-wing club called the Jacobins, demanded vigorous revolutionary measures. Their opponents, the Girondist leaders of the unformed majority, looked to the provinces and hoped to consolidate the Revolution. In the spring of 1793, as the military and economic situation deteriorated and a savage royalist

rising began in the Vendee region of western France, the Monteguards gained ground. Emergency bodies such as the Committee of Public Safety and the Revolutionary Tribunal were then established, but unified leadership was lacking until the Parisian insurrection of June 2 forced the Convention to expel the Girondists and accept Monteguard control.

The Reign of Terror, 1793-94 The Monteguard Convention then had to deal with invasion, royalist civil war, and widespread provincial revolts against "the dictatorship of Paris" (Sydenham, 1997: 1). Initially, Georges Danton tried to calm the provinces, and the democratic Constitution of 1793 was approved by plebiscite and celebrated at a Festival of Unity (August 10). After July, however, Maximilien Robespierre's influence prevailed, and armies were sent to subdue rebellious cities. When the city of Toulon voluntarily surrendered to the British, a demonstration in Paris forced the National Convention to establish (September 5) the repressive regime known as the Terror. A fearful time ensued: the Committee of Public Safety struggled to organize the economy and the war effort; the Revolutionary Tribunal sent state prisoners, including the Girondists, to the guillotine; and agents of the Convention known as Representatives of the People enforced bloody repression throughout France. A campaign of dechristianization, marked by a new Revolutionary Calendar computed from Sept. 22, 1792 (1 Vendemiaire, Year I), led to the closing of all churches on 3 Frimaire, Year II (Nov. 23, 1793). From December 1793, when republican armies began to prevail, both at home and abroad, the Terror became identified with ruthless

but centralized revolutionary government. Because protest against official policy was now classified as counterrevolutionary, moderate Monteguards such as Danton and extremists such as Jacques Rene Hebert, a leader of dechristianization, were guillotined early in 1794. The centralization of repression also brought countless victims before the Revolutionary Tribunal, whose work was expedited by the draconian Law of 22 Prairial (June 10). As a result of Robespierre's insistence on associating Terror with Virtue, his efforts to make the republic a morally united patriotic community became equated with the endless bloodshed. Finally, after a decisive military victory over the Austrians at Fleurus (June 26), Robespierre was overthrown by a conspiracy of certain members of the National Convention on 9 Thermidor (July 27, 1794). After trying in vain to raise Paris, the Robespierrist deputies and most members of the Commune were guillotined the next day, July 28

The Thermidorian Reaction During the following period (1794-95) of the Thermidorian Reaction, government was so weakened that anarchy and runaway inflation almost overwhelmed the republic (Sydenham, 1997: 1). In the southeast the royalists conducted a "white terror," and in Paris gangs of draft-dodgers, called *la jeunesse doree* ("gilded youth"), persecuted the patriots. Twice, in Germinal and Prairial (April and May, 1795), there were desperate risings demanding "Bread and the Constitution of 1793." Without the Monteguards and Jacobins, however, whose club was closed in November 1794, the Sansculottes (the name given to extreme republicans) could achieve nothing, and the Convention broke the popular movement

permanently with the aid of the army. The death of the imprisoned dauphin (King Louis XVII) in 1795 and an unsuccessful royalist landing in Brittany also checked the reaction toward monarchy, enabling the Convention to complete the Constitution of 1795. This liberal settlement was approved by plebiscite, and it took effect after a reactionary rising in Vendemiaire (October 5, 1795) had been suppressed by General Napoleon Bonaparte.

The Constitution of 1795 established an executive Directory, two assemblies, and a property owners' franchise (Sydenham, 1997: 1). Many provisions, including the initial derivation of two-thirds of the deputies from the Convention, guarded the republic against any reversion to either democratic Terror or monarchy. The only attempt to renew violent revolution, Francois Babeuf's communistic Conspiracy of Equals (May 1796), was easily prevented; but executive weakness and the annual election of one-third of the deputies made stability unattainable. In 1797 the directors purged the parliament ruthlessly, branding many deputies as royalists and sentencing them to the penal colony of French Guinea (called "the dry guillotine"). This coup d'etat of Fructidor (September 1797) was a devastating blow to all moderates. Thereafter, although administration improved and French power increased in Europe, coups against conservative or radical revivals occurred annually until 1799, when the Abbe Sieyes, determined to strengthen central authority, enlisted the aid of Bonaparte to effect the coup d'etat of Brumaire (November 9-10)

The Constitution of 1799 established the Consulate with Bonaparte as First Consul (Sydenham, 1997: 1). He used his power to affect a remarkable reorganization of France, most notably reestablishing centralized control and restoring Catholicism by the Concordat of 1801. Constitutional controls and republican institutions were nonetheless steadily crumbled until the creation of the First Empire (1804-15) ended the revolutionary period.

2.5 Social Class

The definition of classes comes up with the social categories sharing the attributes that were used by people to rank categories or groups within a system of economic stratification. Those categories included access to economic power, the level of economic reward, the values, expectations, beliefs, and experiences of a social group. Besides, class is defined in terms of material standards of living, usually indexed by income or, possibly, wealth. Tomida (2012:273) stated that class is indicated as a gradational concept and the standard image of levels.

More by Tomida (2012), Social class refers to a variety of criteria such as access to economic power, the level of economic reward, the values, expectations, beliefs, and experiences of a social group. Therefore, social class refers to the condition of social and economic of individuals within a social framework. It is a group of people whom share some characteristics in life.

Marx and Engels in Jadhav (2012:31) stated that the economic development is the basis for literary, religious, political, philosophical and legal development of one group or society. The nature of economic production creates a social relation in which people enter to form class relations and these class relations become the ideology of the society. Moreover, Jadhav states that Literature to George Plekhanov is the reflection of the class struggle, so he remarks: "*Cultural history is nothing but the reflection of the history of its classes and their struggle*" (Jadhav 2012:33).

2.6 All About "*A Tale of Two Cities*"

In this part the researcher would include a review and critique from the people who had read Charles Dickens's works "*A Tale of Two Cities*"

1. *A Tale of Two Cities* is a definite favorite of mine. Despite being published in 1859, it still has the ability to draw the reader into the story and engage the mind. There are certainly elements of the book that we cannot relate to, living in this day and age. On the whole however, each person can find parallels and lessons applicable to their own life. Like many Dickens novels, there will be what seems like pages of useless details. It can be slow reading at times. Yet by the end of the book, everything comes together in a fantastic story and an ending that will leave you blown away. I can't recommend this book enough. C.Graham (2017)

2. I read this book because it was on the AP suggested reading list. This book talks about terrible things, like torture and the French reign of terror, but the author uses such beautiful language that I never wanted to stop reading it. Each character is described so well that even the minor characters are unforgettable. I highly recommend the audio book that went with it as well. Sarah Swanick (2018)
3. Classic novels, in general, require concentration and a clear head. In my opinion, reading Dickens needs these qualities and a large dose of dedication. '*A Tale of Two Cities*' needs even more - the historical element means there is a lot of take in which even pushed and challenged me to muddy my enjoyment. As such, I often found I had to unwillingly put this book down - eyestrain and a novel-inducing headache from the intensity of Dickens work.

If you haven't come across this novel before, it's the one that famously begins: 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times!'. Yes, there's your small fact for a pub quiz. Set in the time of eighteenth-century London and France, there is a lot of history as Dickens describes the bloodied and violent streets of Paris. With the guillotine ominously hanging over society, (pun definitely intended!), many innocent civilians are somewhat slaughtered as the spies close in. There's a fair bit of fighting in this novel, a lot of chat and even more description. Lacking the humour of say, Austin, Dickens grimly Portraits a social mess that I found confusing and difficult to properly

appreciate. In honesty, it was the final part of the novel that I enjoyed the most and one where I really understood what was going on!

Sarah Brown (2018)

4. The second of Charles Dickens's two historical novels, this one takes us back to the French Revolution, with the tale taking place in London and Paris. It does have to be admitted that this is not the most accurate Portraits of the period, but what it lacks in historical accuracy it makes up for in drama. As with Dickens's other novels this was first serialized before being published as a book. Dickens did use some sources for this novel, including referring to Thomas Carlyle's work, amongst others, and according to Peter Ackroyd also a possible source was a certain play being put on at the time, which led to certain accusations of plagiarism. Despite that though, this has always proved somewhat popular, and definitely more so than his first historical novel, *Barnaby Rudge*. Taking place over a number of years, so our story first opens in 1775, where a former prisoner, thought to be dead is found alive and brought to England from France. With the saying 'Recalled to Life' so our story gets under way, and we have revolutionaries, spies and dastardly deeds aplenty. This does make for a good read, but somehow it ultimately lacks the magic that Dickens gave us in so many of his other works. The Paris scenes do not work as well as those set in London, which of course Dickens was so intimately familiar with, and also the

scenes of warfare on the streets of Paris are only really impressionistic views from a distance, so for instance they cannot compare with the descriptions in something such as *Les Misérables*.
M Dowden (2021)

5. I cannot begin to express how much I love this book. I first read it in 1986 before my 'O' Levels the following summer (it was part of the English Lit syllabus) and I reckon I have read it upwards of 20 times since.

In many respects, this is different to Dickens' other works. It is much shorter for one thing and unlike novels such as *Bleak House*, all the various strands are brought together by the end, with no dead-ends or red herrings. Additionally, not a word in this is wasted. There is much use of foreshadowing, for example spilled wine foretells of the spilling of blood come the revolution: The time was to come when that wine too would be spilled on the street-stones and when the stain of it would be red upon many there.

6. I'm about 25% in and just too bored to continue. Still giving it 2 stars though because, well, I'm having trouble figuring out why I'm bored. Let me explain. The only other book by Charles Dickens I've read was *Great Expectations*, which I wasn't much impressed with either. I thought this might be because I read that book in High School, but now I realize it's just Dickens' style that seems to lack a certain something to draw me in. At first glance, *A Tale of Two Cities* seems

to have everything I would enjoy. Set in a historical point in time (I love history), written in descriptive and colorful prose (of which I thoroughly enjoy), I thought for sure I'd enjoy this read about 5% in. And yet, that's just not what happened.

Maybe it was lack of characterization, developing the wants and needs of characters beyond a superficial description of their looks and actions. Perhaps it was the lack of clear stakes, or maybe the purple prose was just a bit too much for me this time around or focused on things I just couldn't get interested in. Perhaps this was just the wrong book at the wrong time for me, and five years later or earlier, I would have loved it. I don't really know.

All I do know is that I hit the 25% mark and just couldn't care less what happens next, so I'm putting it down and moving on. I'd still recommend others give it a shot though. You might just love it.

2.7 Conceptual Framework

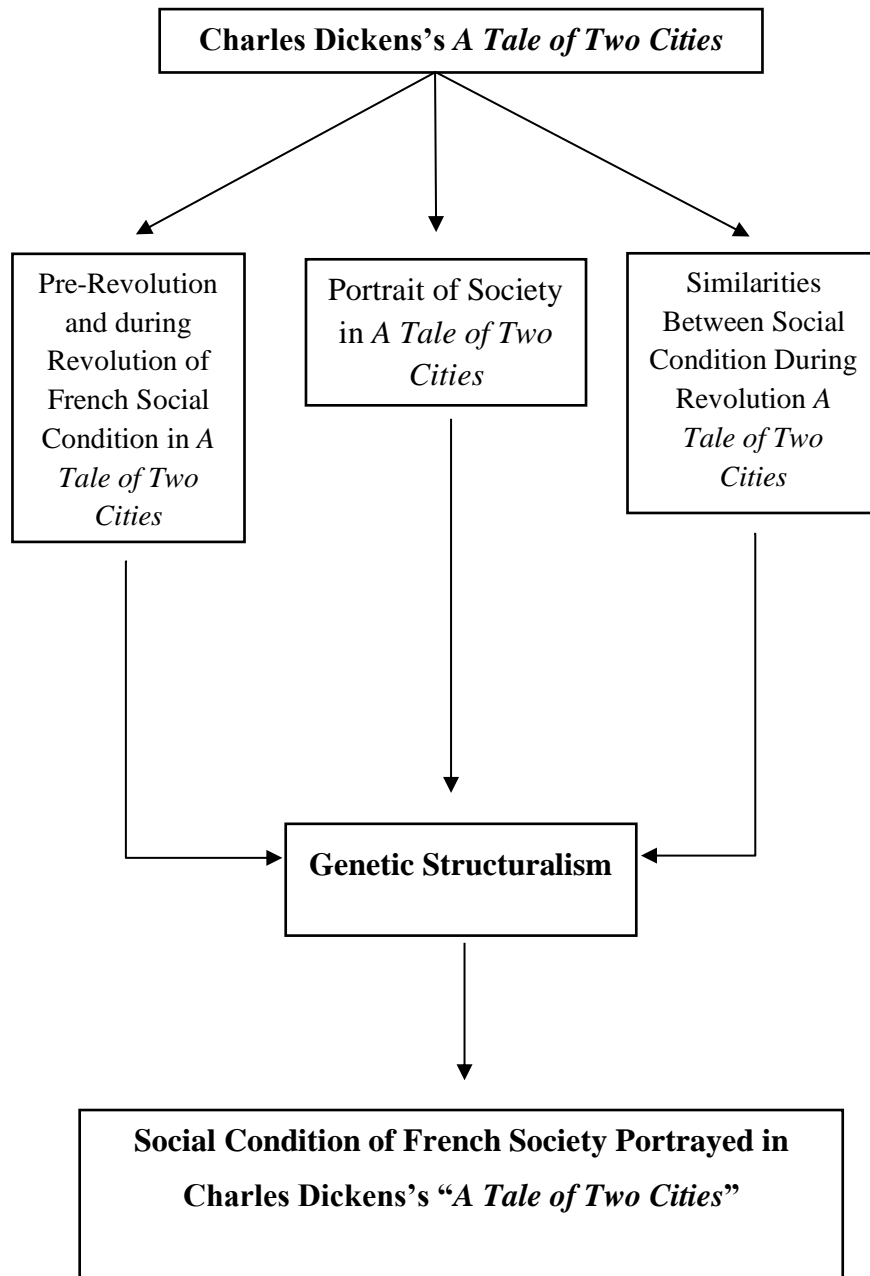


Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework Diagram