

**WEALTH & POVERTY IN DICKENS' A *CHRISTMAS CAROL***



*A Thesis*

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Science Hasanuddin University  
in Partial Fulfillment to Obtain Sarjana Degree  
in English Department*

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FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCE  
HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY**

**2023**

**LEGITIMATION**

**THESIS**

**WEALTH & POVERTY IN DICKENS' *A CHRISTMAS CAROL***

**BY**

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It has been examined before the Board of Thesis Examination  
on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 2023  
and is declare to have fulfilled the requirements.

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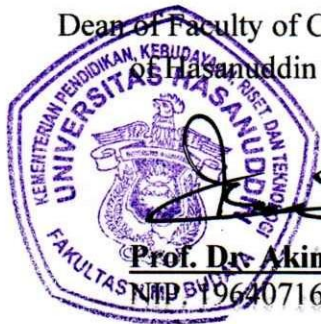


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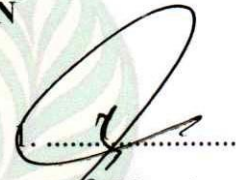


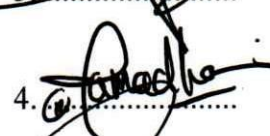


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**AGREEMENT**

On Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> 2023, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by **ANDI NUR ATIRAH** (F041191078) entitled "*Wealth & Poverty In Dickens' A Christmas Carol*" submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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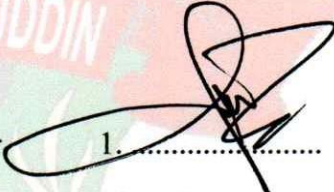
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**DECLARATION**

The thesis by **ANDI NUR ATIRAH** (F041191078) entitled "*Wealth & Poverty In Dickens' A Christmas Carol*" has been revised as advised during the examination on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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**APPROVAL FORM**


With reference to the letter of the dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No.1947/UN4.9.1/KEP/2022 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis draft by **ANDI NUR ATIRAH** (F041191078) to be examined at the English Literature Study Program of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.


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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas expect the quotations and references.

Makassar, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2023



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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Firstly, I want to thank Allah SWT for blessing and giving me the opportunity, strength and inspiration to complete my thesis. In this life, may Allah SWT always protect us.

Secondly, many people contributed to the completion of this thesis with their support, assistance and contributions. To express his deepest gratitude, I would like to thank the following :

1. My beloved parents, Andi Ashar and Andi Inna who have given me their greatest love and support. Thank you for love and everything.
2. The English Department head, Dra. Nasmilah, M.Hum, Ph.D., Secretary of the English Department, Sitti Sahraeny, M.AppLing, and all the lecturers and academic staff of the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University, who have contributed to lecturing and administration.
3. My first and Second consultants, I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Fathu Rahman, M.Hum, and ma'am A.ST.Aldilah Khaerana, S.S., M.Hum for their valuable ideas, suggestions, corrections, guidance, and remarkable patience.
4. My beloved grandmother, A.Sumarni who have given me love and support. Thank you for some jokes to keep me cheerful.

5. My beloved brother, Andi Muh. Aiman, my sister A. Nurul Albasyirah, and A.Nadzirahtul Airah who always provide support for me. Thank you for your laugh as my new spirit when I get stuck to finish my thesis.
6. Friends in the English study program, especially classmates from the 2019 year, Harisa, Indy Christiani Imbo, Aldi Musa, Suci Muqaddimatul Jannah, etc. My apologies, I cannot mention each one individually. Thank you for your kindness.
7. Friends in Help me gank Ninda Widya Astika, Nurani, Harisa, Sucirawati, and Miftahul Mitzar who always support me in every situation.
8. Last but not least, I wanna thank me, thanks for doing all this hard work. I would like to thank to my playlists on spotify, especially to The Jansen, Paramore, The 1975's music, which were always with me while working on this thesis.

The writer realizes that this thesis is still far from perfect. Therefore, all suggestion and criticism for perfection will be most welcome and receive with gratitude. The writer hopes that this thesis will helpful for all reader who are interested in analyzing the similar topic.

Makassar, April 11<sup>th</sup> , 2023

The Writer,

Andi Nur Atirah



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## ABSTRACT

**ANDI NUR ATIRAH.** 2023. *Wealth & Poverty In Dickens' A Christmas Carol* (Supervised by **Fathu Rahman** and **A. ST. Aldilah Khaerana** )

This study aims to discuss the intrinsic elements that build the novel contained in the novel *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, and also to discuss wealth and poverty that occurred in Victorian-era London in the novel *A Christmas carol* by Charles Dickens. This study uses structuralism approach in analyzing. This study uses a qualitative method.

The results of this study indicate that the Victorian era in London was the heyday for England and besides that, at the same time, London was a city inhabited by many poor people. The character of Ebenezer Scrooge shows that even though he has a lot of wealth, he has a poor heart because of his bad attitude toward fellow social beings. Besides that, Bob Cratchit's character comes from a poor family, but he has a rich heart because of his clever attitude toward life.

*Keywords :Structuralism approach, A Christmas Carol, Victorian, Ebenezer Scrooge*



## ABSTRAK

**ANDI NUR ATIRAH.** 2023. *Wealth & Poverty In Dickens' A Christmas Carol* (dibimbing oleh **Fathu Rahman** dan **A. ST. Aldilah Khaerana** )

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkapkan unsur intrinsik yang membangun novel yang terdapat dalam novel *A Christmas Carol* dan juga membahas kekayaan dan kemiskinan yang terjadi pada era viktoriana London dalam novel *A Christmas carol* karya Charles Dickens. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pada era viktoriana di London adalah masa kejayaan bagi Inggris dan disamping itu juga pada saat yang bersamaan London adalah kota yang dihuni oleh banyak warga miskin. Karakter Ebenezer Scrooge menunjukkan bahwa meskipun dia memiliki banyak harta akan tetapi dia memiliki hati yang miskin karena sikapnya terhadap sesama makhluk sosial yang buruk. Selain itu karakter Bob Cratchit yang berasal dari keluarga miskin, akan tetapi dia memiliki hati yang kaya karena sikapnya yang pandai bersyukur terhadap kehidupannya.

*Kata Kunci : Pendekatan strukturalisme, A Christmas Carol, Viktoria, Ebenezer Scrooge*

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Literature is a creative and imaginative activity. Literature, as a creative activity, is a language art of imaginative nature. The reality presented in a literary work may be real, it seems as if it can be used as a historical study, but that type of reality is a modified reality that the author reconstructed by his desires.

According to Klarer (2004:1), all written expression is considered literature, with the caveat that not every document can be considered literature in the more precise sense of the word.

A novel is a literary work generally written by writers, as it is inspired by everyday events in everyday life, and even many novels are based on historical events in an environment aimed at criticizing government. The industrial revolution, which occurred during the Victorian era in London, is one of the historical events that generally depicted in literary work. In this period, London grew into the largest city in the world. But it turned out that for all of London's cultural affluence and fame, 27% of its residents were in poverty.

This Victorian period was a time of uncertainty, but many changes and rapid developments in almost every field in this period, and that changed the future of the nation. The population nearly doubled, the British Empire expanded exponentially and advances in technology and industry helped Britain become the most powerful nation in the world. However, in this era, factory and workhouse

conditions were horrendous - such as long working hours, low wages, and no insurance - as governmental attempts to reduce poverty, hunger, and destitution were exacerbated by the lack of insurance available to the proles.

One of the writers of this period was Charles Dickens. Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* in the early Victorian period. Charles Dickens was a writer and social critic in England, therefore, the writer is interested in making one of his works to be used as a research object, namely *A Christmas Carol*. Dickens through his stories and novels is known to often indirectly criticize the social conditions that happened around him which are depicted through the characters in the story. In *A Christmas Carol* Dickens criticizes the wide gap between rich and poor in English society, where the rich (Ebenezer Scrooge) is only interested in his money, while the poor (Bob Cratchit) finds himself in workhouses with low pay. Dickens also introduces Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit's son, as a child with disabilities in *A Christmas Carol* to encourage empathy for children but also for the rest of the underprivileged. Besides that, this book teaches us that although we cannot change the past, at least we still have the opportunity to learn from those mistakes and make sure they don't happen again in the future.

*A Christmas Carol* tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an old man who initially has three characteristics, namely cold-hearted, selfish, and materialistic. Scrooge does not want to celebrate Christmas and he hates it so much. On Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by the spirit of his friend, Jacob Marley. The encounter marks the beginning of the journey of Scrooge and the three spirits that take him to the past, present, and future. Because of this, Scrooge turned into a

kind and generous person after realizing his mistakes. The message that Dickens wants to convey in the novel *A Christmas Carol* is that everyone must have made mistakes in their past and that doesn't mean they can't change for the better, everyone has the right to change to be a good person and learn from every mistake he has ever made.

Based on the previous description, the writer is interested in analyzing wealth and poverty in England as depicted in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Published in December 1843, this novel is part of the Victorian era which cannot be separated from the historical events that occurred in London at that time. In *A Christmas Carol*, Dickens raises this issue as a social problem as part of the reality of London society in this novel.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Based on the explanation above, the writer tries to identify several research problems, including:

1. London's wealth and poverty in the Victorian era depicted in *A Christmas carol* novel by Charles Dickens
2. Ebenezer Scrooge's characterization of the novel is selfish and materialistic.
3. Anxiety problems in Scrooge's character.
4. Ebenezer Scrooge mistreated Bob Cratchit.
5. Harsh and dangerous working conditions for the working class.
6. There are inequitable that the lower classes are poor, lack education, oppressed by the upper classes.



7. Despite earning a low salary, women are forced to work to help run their households.

8. People of the working class live in slums, live in cramped quarters, and share their private facilities.

### **1.3 The Scope of the Problem**

This research focuses on analyzing London's wealth and poverty in the Victorian era depicted in *A Christmas Carol* novel by Charles Dickens, using the structuralism approach.

### **1.4 Statement of the Problem**

Based on the scope of the problem above, the writer tries to formulate research problems, into "How are wealth and poverty in London depicted in Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* novel?"

### **1.5 Objective of the Study**

In this research, the writer intends to find out wealth and poverty in London as depicted in Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

### **1.6 Significance of the study**

The following benefits of this research are theoretical and practical:

1. Theoretical significance:

a. This research is expected to provide information about wealth and poverty in the Victorian era of London that can be investigated through literary works.

b. This research is also expected to increase the reader's knowledge about the history of London particularly during the Victorian era .

2. Practical significance:

To Provide readers with useful information and to become a reference for further readers who want to conduct research with similar topic.

## **1.7 Sequences of Chapter**

Chapter one covers the background of the study, the identification of problems, the scope of the problem, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, and the sequences of the chapter.

Chapter two consists of previous studies, approach to support this analysis and explanation about London during the Victorian period.

Chapter three consists of the methods the writer uses to analyze the novel, including the methodological design, data source, data collection techniques, and data analysis techniques. *cal design, data source, dataaction ata*

Chapter four is the center of the analysis. It contains the analysis of intrinsic elements and wealth and poverty in Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

Chapter five consists of the conclusion and suggestions.

## CHAPTER II

### LITERARY REVIEW

#### 2.1 Previous Study

There are several related previous studies that used *A Christmas Carol* novel as the object of study and applied structuralism approach to analyze the study.

Supadmi et al, (2014) analyzed *Development Of Human Personality perfection Reflected In Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol Novel (1843): A Psychoanalytic Approach*. The aim of this study is to show the development of human personality perfection in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* novel by using the psychoanalysis approach. In this research, the researcher used qualitative research. The result of this study shows the following findings. First, from the structural analysis, it shows that Charles Dickens wants to convey the message of how human personality is subordinated by money and how they develop their personality from the error ways to be better. Second, based on psychoanalysis analysis, Charles Dickens wants to convey the psychological phenomenon that tends to lead and give the development of human personality transformation in *A Christmas Carol* novel. He creates someone's heart awareness where the person can change his personality and gives the best selection.

Rakhman's et al, (2015) study entitled *Philanthropism In Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol: A Genetic Structuralism Analysis*. The aim of this study is to explain what factors caused Charles Dickens to have a philanthropic worldview. This study uses Lucien Goldmann's theory of Genetic Structuralism and uses qualitative research methods. From the analysis, it is found that Charles Dickens has a world view of Philanthropism. The worldview contained in his work arises because of Charles Dickens's sad childhood, the plight of the poor in England, and the religion he adheres to.

Rizki (2020) study entitled *Zoe's Strategies And Efforts In John Escotts ' Money To Burn ( Structuralism Analysis )*. The aim of this study is to find the strategies and efforts undertaken by the main character named Zoe in dealing with a problems she faces in a short story created by John Escott entitled Money to Burn. This study used the structuralism approach. The results of this study show the strategies that Zoe did to save her younger brother Mark where the first Zoe burned the stolen money to make smoke as a sign so that the police who were on patrol could find out that the thieves who was being sought by them was hiding in her house , the next strategy was by fighting with Petra who is one of the thieves who is alene looking after her younger brother Mark.

Based on the previous studies mentioned above, the first and second previous studies have the same object with this research, but they have a different approach from the writer's analysis. Meanwhile, the third previous study has the same theory as the writer's analysis but has a different object of



analysis. In this research, the writer only focuses on analyzing wealth and poverty that occurred during the Victorian era in London as depicted by Charles Dickens in *A Christmas Carol* using structuralism approach.

## **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

### **2.2.1 Intrinsic Elements**

#### **a. Character and Characterization**

According to Abrams and Harpham (2012:42) characters are the represented persons in a narrative or dramatic work, who are later interpreted by the reader as being gifted with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the characters say and their distinctive ways of expressing it through the dialogue and from their actions. Also, Bennett and Royle (2004:60) state that characters are the life of literature: they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation. As Culler (2007:34-35) suggests, a character's core identity is formed in response to conflict with the outside world, but it may even be the source of those conflicts.

From some definition by an expert, the writer concludes that character is a person, animal, or even something else that has a role in the course of a story. Then, Nurgiyantoro (2002: 176-190) divides characters into several types namely, based on the aspect of role, namely the main character and additional characters. Based on the function of the appearance of the character, namely the protagonist and antagonist. Based on the character,

namely flat character and round character. Based on the development of character, there are static characters and developing characters. Based on the reflection of the character, the typical character and the neutral character. The main character is a character which is concerned as a priority in the story. The main character is the preferred character in a story. Protagonist character is a character who is admired by the readers. Antagonist character also is called a character which is into the cause of the conflict. A dynamic character is one who goes through some sort of change; they show characteristic development. Static character is a character who essentially does not change from beginning to end. Flat character is the character who shows only one aspect of characteristic, flat character does not have the properties and behavior that can give a surprise effect for the readers. Round character is anyone who has a complex personality. Round characters more resemble real human life, as well as having a variety of possible attitudes and action it is also often give a surprise. Minor character is often called as peripheral character. Minor character can be called as supporting character because it is less important than the main character.

According to Minderop (2005:2) characterization is the portrayal of a character. Then, According to Nurgiyantoro (2002 ; 165) characterization refers to putting specific characters with specific characters in a story. From some definition by an expert, the writer concludes that in characterization, an attempt is made to show the characters or personalities of the characters.

Besides that, According to Minderop (2005:4) there are two types of Characterization, namely:

- Telling  
Characterization through the use of character names, character appearances, and through the author's speech.
- Showing  
Characterized indirectly or implicitly through their behavior, speech, and appearance as well as their opinions.

b. Plot

According to Alderson (2016:19) a plot is a series of scenes arranged by cause and effect to create dramatic action and tension that further a character's emotional growth and develop a theme. Then, Dipple (2018:3) also states that plot plays the most important role in a story because life and action determine happiness or unhappiness. From some definition by an expert, the writer concludes that a plot is a series of events that relate to each other in accordance with the law of causality.

Nurgiyantoro (2002:149) explains for dividing the plots into :

1. The situation stage

The situational stage is the initial stage which shows the description and introduction of the background situation and the story characters. This stage provides initial information which can be in the form of names of places, atmosphere and time of events. This information is closely related to the things that will be told at a later

stage. At this stage, you can also describe the story characters through their physical description or character. The situational stage aims to be the basis for the story to be told for the next stage.

## 2. The generating circumstances stage

The conflict emergence stage is a plot that contains events and various problems that cause conflict. Conflict can arise from within a character, external conflict, or the conflict that occurs between the protagonist and antagonist.

## 3. The rising action stage

This is the stage when the conflict that arises increases. This stage is a stage that contains conflict or events that have arisen in the previous stage but with increasing levels of intensity and increase. At this stage the conflicts that arise tend to be tense and increasingly gripping. The conflicts that occur, internal and external, conflicts, are clashes of interests between characters.

## 4. Climax stage

The stage when the conflict or conflict that occurs, is inflicted on the story characters to reach a breaking point. The action of rising the tension of a story, causing the main conflict to unfold and the tension in events to increase intensively. In the end, the climax shows many major events experienced by the protagonist and antagonist.



## 5. Completion Stage

It is the final stage or conflict in the story that finds a way out and the story ends. The tension is at this stage starting to be loosened.

This stage characterizes the whole of small conflicts and big conflicts that have explained the point of conflict and have been given a solution to all problems so that the story can be ended.

### c. Setting

In a story, the setting describes the time, place, and atmosphere of the events. According to Buckham (2015:13) Setting informs the readers about the geography, climate, social context, times of the story, foreshadowing, architecture, and much more. Setting provides a concrete and clear structure for the story, which is crucial to giving the reader a realistic impression, the intention is to create an atmosphere as if it had actually occurred and existed. Then, according to Tison and Margaret (2014:139) setting plays a vital role for understanding a fictional world, settings establish a background for events to help readers visualize them, as they also create an appropriate mood or atmosphere. From some definitions by an experts the writer conclude that the setting describes the objects and physical appearance of the place where the story is set, as well as the people in it, the sounds described, the smells, and the weather. Furthermore, Nurgiyantoro (2002:227-233) states that setting is divided into setting of place, setting of time, and setting of social. The three are interrelated and influence each other:

- Setting of Place, the location where the event occurred is told in a work of fiction. The place elements used may be places with certain names, certain initials, or perhaps certain locations without clear names.
- Setting of Time, is related to "when" it happened events are told in a work of fiction. The problem of "when" is usually associated with factual time, a time that is related to or can be associated with historical events.
- Setting of Social, is related to the behavior of the social life of the people in a place that is told in a work of fiction. The procedures for the social life of the community cover various problems in a fairly complex environment.

d. Theme

According to Tison and Margaret (2014: 141-142) The theme is the message or deeper meaning of a work of fiction, the theme describes the author's impression or idea about the events described in the narrative. Often the theme of a work does not present an idea as right or wrong but instead allows readers to contemplate a position and see the world from a new perspective. Other than that, as according to the writer theme is the meaning of a whole story, which is obtained after reading the story carefully.

### 2.2.2 Structuralism Approach

Theoretical background is a requirement for scientific writing. Due to its importance, it became a reference for the work. Moreover, the work will be considered a scientific work if it contains a clear concept based on a recognized theory and is considered an academic work.

In this study, the writer analyzes *A Christmas Carol* novel by using a structuralism approach. The structural approach is one of the most widely used approaches to analyze literary works. A researcher begins by examining the literary work itself as a starting point for doing research. A literary element is interconnected and relates to another. A literary work is a body, and the elements of a story are parts of the body. For instance, a character requires plots and plots require settings, and so literary works can become more alive and enjoyable. When the elements in the literature do not support each other there will be inequality and the literary work will not build each other and the story will not be interconnected.

Structural analysis is not sufficient to record certain elements of fiction work. It is more important to understand how these elements are related, and what contributions they make to aesthetic goals and content. This needs to be done considering that literary works are complex and unique structures. In addition, each work has its characteristics of complexity and uniqueness and this is what distinguishes one literary work from another (Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 37).

Structuralism was originally presented in France around the 1960s. Structuralism began with the book *Course in General Linguistics* (1916) by Ferdinand de Saussure which addresses language as a sign studied synchronically and diachronically (Syuropati, 2011:45). Russian Formalists (1915-1930) developed the structural approach. The background for this approach is to liberate literature from other sciences, such as psychology, history, and cultural research. This is because previously literary works were understood to psychology, history, culture, society, and other extrinsic factors. (Wiyatmi, 2008:89).

Levi-Strauss is the pioneer/main figure of structuralism theory. According to him, structuralism is all science that questions structure, that is, the parts of a system are interrelated. This means that a system will work if it has mutual relations and cooperation. If one part of the system is not functioning, the system unit will not work.

In a subsequent theoretical journey, this structuralism was developed in Czechoslovakia by Roman Jakobson, Jan Mukarovsky, and Felix Vodicka. It was later called the Czech structuralist school. This structuralism school believes that there is a relationship between art (literature) and aesthetics, and a relationship between literary works, individual creators, receiving readers, and social context.

The principle of the structuralism approach is a structural analysis that aims to dismantle and describe as carefully, in as much detail, and as deeply as possible the interrelationships and interweaving of all aspects and

elements of a literary work together to produce and form an overall and complete meaning.

Structural analysis of literary works can be done by identifying, studying, and describing the functions and relationships between the intrinsic elements of the fiction concerned. As a first step, identify and describe the events, plots, characters and characterizations, setting, theme etc. After trying to explain how the function of each of these elements is in supporting the overall meaning. I also explain between wealth and poverty in Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* novel.

### **2.2.3 London During the Victorian period**

The era of Queen Victoria, the 19<sup>th</sup> century is also known as the Victorian era, she reigned from 1837 to 1901. Between 1851 and 1881, Drew (2010:123) finds the capital's population density increased from 7.72 to 7.85 persons per house. Victorian era known as the industrial revolution era when most factories used more machinery than human resources because machines were more efficient than humans, In addition, the machine can produce large quantities of products quickly and affordably.

The industrial revolution made a lot of changes in Britain since many small farms were taken over by large manufacturers. Drew (2010:58) states that progressive and successful industrial growth fueled the Victorian economy, which led to the development of knowledge and skills. At the turn of the nineteenth century, towns and cities were well ahead of rural areas in

this respect. A large number of workshops and suppliers with access to transport networks, as well as the availability of cheap labour (and important) business growth in urban areas was driven by the availability of customers. In terms of wealth creation, this era was extremely successful. As a result, people who were thrown out of agricultural fields had to look for jobs in cities such as London, the capital of the country.

The Victorian period, or parts of it, has been referred to with unabashed sentimentality by several contemporary commentators and memoir writers as an 'Indian summer', a 'golden age', a 'golden calm', or a 'long afternoon'. As Michael (2008:32) points out that, there is a danger in referring to this or any period as such, since the Victorian era was not a period of glory, but rather one of tension, uncertainty and despair on the other side of the era. The early industrial revolution in England was built on the back of cheap labor driven mercilessly. In rural areas, many workers' standards of living fell precipitously, being constrained both by population growth and by competition from machine-made goods that were cutting into branches of domestic manufacture. Many rural women, for example, lost their manufacturing income when spinning was mechanized. With less land available to small farmers, fewer extra jobs, and competitive pressures on farm wages, severe misery is spreading across many farming districts. Although hand weavers enjoyed marked prosperity before 1800, when yarn production soared but mechanized weaving did not survive, their wages began to decline after. By 1811, wages were down by a third from their

1800 levels, and by 1832, when hand-loom and cotton were dying out in England, wages had fallen by 60 percent.

Drew (2010:70) states that in this era, semi-skilled craftsmen and labourers flooding the market with cheap labour and deflating wages. Skilled workers are needed to set up and maintain new machines. On the other hand, many employers who urgently need workers but also want to keep costs down to protect their expensive investments and allay fears of business failure—look for labor shortcuts. This search became the inspiration for employing orphans who were sent in droves from London. They employed orphans and women in return for employers providing food and barrack housing, but also because of the low wages they could be pressed for and this reflected early industrial pressures.

The city of London is filled with humidity and mud which blocks pedestrians. Very bad sewer smell and bad drains, when walking, often piles of rubbish such as plates or bits of teacups are strewn about and Broken bricks, bottles, or various discarded building materials lie in abandoned piles at street corners. Drew (2010 :17) points out that, as London developed the dirty trades were often located in the East. In the nineteenth century is of ragged children, crowded slums and immigrants with blank stares. The very streets of East London become synonymous with degraded and neglected humanity. Many middle-class families moved to the suburbs in the second half of the nineteenth century, seeking peace, quiet, and privacy. Instead of getting green suburbs, one finds in many cases the crime-ridden nature of

city life and gets poor drainage, poor public sanitation, and damp and poorly built houses in suburban London. The reason they moved to the suburbs was determined by their salary and jobs. On the outskirts of the city, both the new residences and the new train route are targeted at middle-class families whose primary breadwinners work long hours in London offices or shops, all of whom need convenient enough access to the city to work, shop, and who expect a higher level of income. certain privacy and domestic spaces. As time went on, they developed a character of their own, many losing their middle-class status without losing their suburban status.

The late Victorian period had witnessed a gradual rise in criminality after a steady decline from the mid-century. The slum clearance of the late Victorian period did little more than displace thousands of poor Londoners, forcing them to room with friends and family locally. Without easy and affordable transport links to their places of work. In the other words, poverty, prostitution and crime were the stains on the Imperial map that were not shown in the atlases of the day.