# THE IMPACT OF FRENCH REVOLUTION IN CHARLES DICKENS'S

# "A TALE OF TWO CITIES"

**A Thesis**

***Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University***
***in Partial Fulfillment of Requirement to obtain a Undergraduate Degree***
***in English Literature Study Program***


**BY**

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**THESIS**

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Makassar, 29 June 2021

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The thesis by **RISKY KHAERUNISA** (Student Number: **F041171009**) entitled, **THE IMPACT OF FRENCH REVOLUTION IN CHARLES DICKENS'S "A TALE OF TWO CITIES"** has been revised as advised during the examination on 29 June 2021 and is approved by the Board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners:

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## STATEMENT OF WORK'S ORIGINALITY

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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 except the quotations and references.

Makassar, 29th June 2021

Risky Khaerunisa



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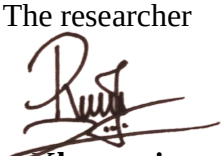
The researcher



**Risky Khaerunisa**

# ABSTRAK

**Risky Khaerunisa**. 2021. *The Impact of French Revolution In Charles Dickens's A Tale of Two Cities* (Dibimbing oleh **Abidin Pammu** dan **A.ST.Aldilah Khaerana**)

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui dampak Revolusi Perancis terhadap karakter utama dalam novel *A Tale of Two Cities* karya Charles Dickens dan mengelaborasi masalah sosial yang muncul selama Revolusi Perancis seperti yang digambarkan Dickens dalam novel *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Penelitian ini menggunakan teori sosiologi sastra oleh Wallek dan Werren untuk mengetahui dampak Revolusi Perancis terhadap lima karakter utama dalam novel dan juga memaparkan masalah sosial yang muncul selama Revolusi Perancis.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ada lima karakter utama yang merasakan dampak Revolusi Prancis seperti mengalami tekanan batin, kehilangan keluarga dan kehilangan sahabat mereka. Selain itu, selama Revolusi Perancis muncul masalah sosial seperti kemiskinan, kriminalitas, pelecehan sexual, penyalahgunaan kekuasaan dan perbudakan yang digambarkan Dickens dalam novel *A Tale of Two Cities*.

Kata Kunci: Dampak Revolusi Perancis, Masalah Sosial, *A Tale of Two Cities*.

## ABSTRACT

**Risky Khaerunisa**. 2021. *The Impact of French Revolution In Charles Dickens's A Tale of Two Cities* (Supervised by **Abidin Pammu** dan **A.ST.Aldilah Khaerana**)

This research aims to find out the impact of French Revolution on the main character in *A Tale of Two Cities* novel by Charles Dickens and to elaborate the social problems during French Revolution as depicted in Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*.

The researcher applies the sociology of literature theory by Wallek and Werren to find out the impact of French Revolution on the five main characters in the novel and to elaborate the sosial problems during French Revolution in the novel.

The result shows that there are five main characters who experience the impact of the French Revolution such as enduring mental stress, losing their family and losing their friends. As reflected in *A Tale of Two Cities* novel, it is also found that during the French Revolution, the social problems that happen such as poverty, crime, sexual harassment, abuse of power and slavery.



Keywords : *The impact of French Revolution, social problems, A Tale of Two Cities.*

# CHAPTER I

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1. Background

Humans are social creatures who depend on each other and need a place to express their feelings. Humans are not free from mistakes both from the past to the present. Humans need the media to voice their opinion on a tragedy in a certain era and the government, one of which, often issued regulations that were contrary to the wishes of the people, especially the lower classes, such as the French Revolution. According to (Sztompka, 2004: 357) 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.

Talking about revolution, Revolution is a quick change. But, there are some countries which are not ready with the revolution. Revolution brought a change in the social structure of a more modern society. It describes Revolution as a consept and theory in sociology.

French Revolution was an era of changes in the social order to create harmony between the government and its people. However, this did not go well due to the greed of the French government and they were not ready to face changes in the social order. 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. The French government divided its society into 3 groups: (1) The royal family, (2) landowners and religious leaders, and (3) ordinary people. As a result of these rules, the number of feudalism in the world decreased. This happened because feudalism was something that was disliked by the general public because of its

injustice. On the other hand, all the people who opposed the government were beheaded, there were at least 40,000 thousand victims.

One of the literary works that recounts the atrocities of the French Revolution is the novel of *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens. The French Revolution government seeks to control the agricultural products of the lower classes for the sake of personal interests and social divide between upper and lower class people. Some people started to rebel because they could not feel the results of their hard work. The French government considers that the lower class people do not deserve to be side by side with them because of differences in social status.

In addition, *A Tale of Two Cities* tells about the sacrifices of a person and the tribulations of life. A banker from England Mr. Jarvis Lorry goes to France with a man who has been in prison for 18 years, Doctor Manette who is treated unfairly and innocently. In addition, he also brings his daughter Lucie Manette who thinks his father has died all this time. Their peace is not last long because they had to testify in court against a man named Charles Darnay. On the other hand, when Lucie and Darnay met, they immediately fell in love. When Darnay wanted to propose to Lucie, Doctor Manette found out he was the Marquis' niece. Marquis was a symbol of Aristocrats cruelty. This makes Darnay hate his uncle so he decides to leave the kingdom and live as an ordinary people.

Due to Darnay's noble blood, he is at risk of being punished by the poor who form a movement against the greedy aristocrats. The movement made by the poor to fight the aristocrats marked the end of aristocratic rule and their suffering.

Paris and London lare the setting of place in Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities* that described the situation before and after French revolution. The researchers chose *A Tale of Cities* because there was still little research on the French Revolution and its

described the great impact of French Revolution and some social problems that arose during the French Revolution such as poverty, crime, sexual harrasment and power abuse that led to rebellion among the lower classes until today. With the various problems mentioned, *A Tale of Two Cities* has attracted the researchers' interest to analyze it.

The researcher realizes 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. This research focuses on the impact of French revolution and social problems. The researcher hopes that after fulfilling the research objective , this thesis would be useful for many people and the result of the study can be a reference for the further studies.

## 1.2. Identification of Problem

1. The influence of Aristocrats who wanted to control the agricultural products of lower classes
2. Social gap between lower class society and upper class society
3. Government regulations that are against the wishes of the lower classes
4. The love story experienced by the main character in *A Tale of Two Cities*
5. The industrial revolution taking place London and Paris

## 1.3. Scope of Problem

The writer focuses on the impact of French Revolution by applying the literary sociology approach.

## 1.4. Research Questions

Related to the background of study above, the researcher has formulated the problem of the study in the following questions :

1. What is the impact of French Revolution on the main characters in Charles Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*?

2. What kind of social problems during the French Revolution were reflected in Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*?

## 1.5. Objective of Study

1. To find out the impact of French Revolution on the main characters in Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities.*

2. To elaborate the social problems that occur during the French Revolution as reflected in Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities.*

## 1.6. Sequences of Writing

This writing consists of five chapters. Chapter one is the introduction that consists of background of writing, identification of problems, scope of problem, research of questions, objectives of problem, and sequence of the chapter. Chapter two is literature review that consists of previous study, sociology of literature approach, general view of social problems, and French Revolution to support this analysis. Chapter three consists of research methodology, data source, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data. The next chapter consists of finding and discussion. The writer makes an analysis of what has been found in the novel and relates it with the underlying theory. The last chapter consists of conclusion and suggestion. The writer makes a conclusion and suggestion for the readers to do further analysis for the relevant study.

# CHAPTER II

# LITERATURE REVIEW

## 2.1. Previous Study

There are some researches that have taken the similar object or approach with this research. First, a thesis written by Yusuf Cahyo Budi Utomo in 2013 entitled *Marxist Analysis of French Revolution in Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities*. The researcher would like to analyze what happened during the French Revolution and the causes. The writer uses a method of data collection for this thesis. According to this analysis is found a conflict between the aristocrats class and the proletariats.

The theses above focus on the Marxist approach. The researcher does not use the same approach to analyze the novel. Utomo's thesis focuses on *Marxist analysis of the French Revolution in Charles Dickens's A Tale of Two Cities,* while this research focuses on the *Impact of the French Revolution in Charles Dickens's A Tale of Two Cities*. The researcher uses a sociological approach to analyze the novel. For the gap itself, the writer wants to avoid plagiarism. It addresses the same topic but uses a different approach from previous research.

The second previous study that the writer finds some similarities with this research is Moh. Syamsuri's thesis (2007) under the title *Social Stratification during The French Revolution In Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities.* The researcher would like to analyze social stratification during the French revolution. According to this analysis, it is found that the Proletariat always became the victims of the Aristocrats which related to real life during French revolution. The thesis focuses on the Genetic Structuralism approach. The researcher does not use the same approach to analyze the novel. The writer focuses on *Social Stratification During The French Revolution In Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities,* while the researcher focuses on the *Impact of the French Revolution in Charles Dickens's*

*A Tale of Two Cities*. The researcher uses a sociological approach to analyze the novel after reading some references. For the gap itself, the writers had different topics of problem such as impact and social problems during the French Revolution described through two elements in the novel.

Third, a study written by Saefudin Apri Perdana in 2008 entitled *The Social Injustice Reflected in Charles Dickens's A Tale of Two Cities*. Perdana would like to analyze the social injustice during the French revolution. According to this analysis, it is found that social injustice is reflected in novels with some structural element. Perdana's work and this research uses the same approach to analyze the novel namely sociology of literature approach. The difference lies on the research focus, Perdana discussed social injustice in *A Tale of Two Cities* while this research focuses on the impact of French revolution.

## 2.2. Literature Review

### 2.2.1. Intrinsic Elements

A novel is a long work of fiction adapted from the author's imagination or the author's true story. Novel consists of two supporting elements : intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements to support the contents of the novel itself. According to Nurgiyantoro (2010: 4), a novel is a work of fiction offering a world, a world that contains an idealized life model, an imaginary world, which is built through its intrinsic elements such as events, plots, characters, settings, points of view, and others all of which, of course, are also imaginary.

The intrinsic elements of a novel are those that directly participate in building the story. This is supported by the opinion of Nurgiyantoro (2010: 23), the intrinsic elements are the elements that build the literary work itself. There are so many of expert opinions regarding the kinds of intrinsic elements is limiting this research is on the characters, settings, plot, themes and points of view in the story.

a. Character

Characters are individuals doing all the scenes in the story. According to Abrams (Nurgiyantoro, 2007: 165) character in a story is a person (s) who is shown in a narrative work, or drama, which readers interpret as having moral qualities and certain tendencies as expressed in speech and what is done in action. Based on this opinion, it can be stated that a character is an individual in the story who has a moral quality that is adjusted to the scene being played.

In a work of fiction, the characters in the story can be grouped into several types of naming based on the angle where the naming is carried out. A character based on views and points of view can be grouped into several types of names at once. According to Aminuddin (Nurgiyantoro, 1995: 79-80), stated that there are two types of characters in a story : major character and minor character.

1) Major Character

A character who has an important role in a story is also called a major character. He experiences the most or more dominant events in a story and is usually well-behaved and tends to trigger conflict.

2) Minor character

A character has fewer roles so they only appear occasionally and their presence only helps major characters.

b. Setting

According to Suparmin (2009: 54) it can be concluded that what is meant by setting is the place, time and atmosphere used in a story which will affect the core of the story and take the values the author wants to express, covering the circumstances of the actors in a story. The setting is a very important part of

fulfilling the needs and attractiveness of a story. The setting can be place, time and environment. The choice of setting is very important to bring the story to life.

1) Setting of Place

Setting of place is where a stories takee place such as street names, house and etc.

2) Setting of Time

Setting of time is when a story occurs. There are many types of time settings.

3) Setting of Atmosphere

Setting of atmosphere contains the environment of a character, for example living in a good or bad environment.

c. Plot

Plot is the sequence of events in a story. According to Stanton (1965:14), a plot is a story that contains a sequence of events, but each event is only connected causally, one event is caused or causes another event to occur. The plot has stages of events: Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action and Resolution.

1) Exposition

The intended exposition is that the author will provide a lot of information about the characters in the story like atmosphere, conflict and etc.

2) Rising Action

At this point, the conflict begins to escalate which causes problems for the characters in the story.

3) Climax

At this point, the problem begins to break down, causing the character to determine his attitude, fight on or give up on the situation.

4) Falling Action

At this point, the tension of the problem has decreased and the fate of the characters is predictable.

5) Resolution

At this point, all problems have been resolved and found a way out.

d. Theme

A theme is an idea or main idea that is expressed in a work of fiction such as a novel. According to Nurgiyantoro (2013: 115) theme is a general basic idea (meaning) that supports a literary works as semantic structures and are abstract in nature that are repeatedly appear through motives and usually done implicitly. Themes can be further divided into major themes and minor themes. Nurgiyantoro (2000: 83) suggests that themes can be divided into major themes and minor themes.

1) Major Theme

Major theme is the core theme that becomes the main idea of story. Theme major is the most dominant theme in the novel, this theme is often related to the author's ideology, social background, culture, religion, and also the author's own educational background.

2) Minor Theme

Minor themes are additional themes that can be taken from each events or incidents in the novel. Minor themes contain meanings additions only.

### 2.2.2. Extrinsic Elements

Extrinsic elements in the novel are the elements that build the novel from outside the structure of the work. The extrinsic element of the novel relates to the background of the author, society and the values of life. Wellek and Warren (Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 23) also argue that extrinsic elements are a state of the author's subjectivity regarding attitudes, beliefs, and life views that underlie the birth of a work of fiction, it can be said that the biographical element of the author determines the characteristics of the work to be produced. This life picture is in the form of the relationship between humans and humans, relationship between humans and environment, relationship between humans and God and relationship between humans and themselves. The description of life in the novel is the result of the author's idea or the influence of the community, which raises various social problems, for example: poverty, crime, power abuse, sexual harrasment, slavery and etc.

## 2.3. Sociology of Literature Approach

Etymologically, the word sociology comes from the Latin, socius, means friend and logos, which comes from Greek, which means knowledge. Soejono Soekanto explains the following :

> "In short, sociology is a social science whose object is the whole of society in relation to the people aroundthat society. As a social science, it mainly examines the symptoms in society, such as norms, social groups, strata of society, social institutions, social and cultural changes, as well manifestation. Apart from that, sociology also explores social symptoms abnormal and abnormal symptoms or pathological symptoms that can be raises social problems (Soekanto, 1996: 4)."

Sociology of literature is an approach that departs from orientation to universe, but can also depart from the orientation of the author and reader. According to the sociology of literature approach, literary works are seen to be related to reality, the extent to which literary works reflect reality. Thus, the sociological approach

literature pays attention to the documentary aspects of literature, with a foundation the view that literature is a description or portrait of social phenomena. On in essence, social phenomena are concrete in nature, occur around us everyday can be observed, photographed, and documented. By the author, a phenomenon is raised back into a new discourse with a creative process (observation, analysis, interpretation, reflection, imagination, evaluation, and so on) in form literature work.

Sociology of literature is an approach which discusses people or social aspects. Wellek and Warren (1976) discuss the relationship of literature and society as follows:

> Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. They are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society. But, furthermore, literature 'represent' 'life'; and 'life' is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary 'imitation'. The poet himself is a member of society, possessed of a specific social status; he receives some degree of social recognition and reward; he addresses an audience, however hypothetical. (1976: 94).

Sociology is a categorical objective science, limiting itself to what is happening today (das sein) not what should have happened (das sollen). Instead literary works are evaluative, subjective and imaginative. From the statement above, the author can conclude that the sociology of literature will never be separated from social problems experienced by people who rely on literary works and become the object of discussion.

Sociology approach to literature has a very broad meaning. Welek and Warren divide sociology of literature as follows:

1. Author's sociology, this is related to the author's biography. Author biography is the main source, but this study can also extend to the environment where it originated. In this case, information about the family background or the economic

position of the author will have a role in the disclosure of the sociological problems of the author (Wellek and Warren, 1990: 112).

2. The sociology of literature which includes the literary work itself as the subject of its study or what is implied in the literary work and what becomes collected. This general suggestion of sociology as social literature is a portrait of social thought. (Wellek and Warren, 1990: 122).
3. The sociology of literature that concerns readers and the social impact of literary works, The extent to which literature is determined or depending on social background, change and social development.

Wellek and Warren's classification is in line with Watt's classification (in Damono, 2003: 3-4) which includes the following matters.

1. The author's social context, in this case has to do with position social writers in society, and their relation to society readers include social factors that can influence the work literature.
2. Literature as a mirror of society, meaning how far literature can be considered a carmin of the state of society.
3. The social function of literature, that is how far literary value is related to social values.

Based on the sociological literary approach, we can get a complete and comprehensive description about the reciprocal relationship between writers, literary works, and society. A clear picture of the interrelationships between the three elements is very important for increased understanding and appreciation of literature.

The relationship of literature with the public is also conveyed by Wellek and Warren (1995: 109), "Literature is a social institution that uses the language of speech. Traditional literary techniques such as symbolism and mantra are the

conventions and norms of society. Literature, after all, promotes life, and life consists largely of social reality, although literary works also mimic nature and the subjective world of humans."

According to Ratna (2003: 2) there are a number of definitions of the sociology of literature that need to be considered in order to find the objectivity of the relationship between literature and society, among others :

1. Understanding of literary works with consideration of social aspects.
2. Understanding of the totality of works accompanied by social aspects contained therein.
3. Understanding of literary works as well as their relationship with the background of society.
4. Literary sociology is a two-way (dialectic) relationship between literature and society, and
5. The sociology of literature seeks to find the quality of interdependence between literature and society.

According to sociology of literature approach, literary works are seen as related to reality, the extent to which literary works reflect reality. The reality here has quite a broad meaning, that is, everything that is outside of literary works and that is referred to by literary works.

From the theory, the researcher concludes that sociology of literature approach is closely related to society. It is explained that a relationship has influence and mutual relations between society and literature. Studying the relationship between society and literature is not a new phenomenon, we often encounter it in daily lives. We can see the sociology of literature approach from the author's perspective.

## 2.4. General View of Social Problem

Social problems are actions that arise because of the incompatibility of elements of the community's culture, causing various problems and can endanger social groups. According to Soekanto (1990: 401), the problem is a problem, because concerning immoral behavior, contrary to the law and destructive. Therefore social problems will not be possible without considering community standards about what is considered good and what is considered bad.

Social problems arise because of various influencing factors. According to Soekanto (1990: 401) social problems arise from deficiencies in humans or social groups that are based on economic factors, biological, biopsychological and cultural. who is the society have norms relating to welfare, material, physical health, mental health, and self-adjustment indivindu or social groups. Deviation of these norms is an abnormal symptom become a social problem.

From the explanation above, the author concludes that problems can only be called social problems. Social problems have a negative impact on social groups to the detriment of them.

The author easily identifies in the novel what can be categorized as a social problem.

## 2.5. French Revolution

The nobles played a very important role in politics, so everything was decided by the nobility while the king only allowed it. Injustice in politics can be seen from the selection of government employees based on descent and not based on profession or expertise. This caused chaos to the state administration and resulted in corruption. Other political injustices do not allow small communities to participate in government activities.

The kings of France, Louis XV and XVI realized that state financial problems could be overcome if each person or group paid taxes. However, because they do not have the authority to take action against groups I (The royal family) and II (Landowners and religious leaders), these groups still have special rights and are free from taxes.

One of the causes for the outbreak of the French Revolution was financial problems due to excessive spending by the French kings in the 1600-1700s. To solve this problem, the French king used a tax system for his people. However, the tax system used by the government is not benefiting some people. Groups I and II are tax free and some rich people buy tax-free licesens, while group III, ordinary people are taxed including income tax, land and house tax, salt tax and wine tax.

There are two factors that triggered the French Revolution to happen:

External Factor :

• The thinking of the Enlightenment movement has brought new ideas and ideas to the French people.

• The American Revolution which fought for the equal freedom of all citizens.

• The success of the Glorious Revolution 1688 in England in eliminating absolutism.

Internal Factor :

•Bankrupt state finance. This is due to state mismanagement caused by the influence of Marie Antoniette in government.

•Marie Antoniette's luxurious lifestyle, which caused a deficit in the state budget.

• Louis XVI raised taxes so that the people were even more miserable.

•The people were miserable due to the tax burden imposed by the kingdom and also by the church (dimes).

•The price of basic necessities (wheat) has soared so that people's purchasing power has decreased.

• Hunger that swept across the country, causing casualties.

•Unemployment has increased sharply, causing social problems.

The impact caused by the Revolution was the emergence of liberal understanding growing very rapidly to all corners of the world such as Spain, Germany, Russia, Austria and Italy. Along with the French Revolution also the understanding growing of democracy, parliamentary, republican, and so of course also started growing in other countries. The social class that was originally divided into three groups has been eliminated and all people have the same position. On the other hand, peasants were given land rights to support their lives and the feudal taxation which had previously been detrimental to farmers was abolished. Meanwhile, the king and his subordinates were sentenced to death for their bad attitude.