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Aminah S.-2018-Parenting-Social Injustice as Reflected in Charles Dickens’ Oliver Twist

**Appendix**

Copies of the primary and secondary sources used in the research, including:

(1) Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens (Barnes & Noble Classic, 2003)

(2) Various books, articles, journals, and online sources related to sociology, social injustice, poverty, social stratification, and child labor.

(3) A list of the characters in Oliver Twist and their respective social classes.

(4) Additional analysis of social injustices not covered in the main research, such as gender inequality and discrimination.

**Abstract**

This research explores the depiction of social injustice in Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist, focusing on poverty, social stratification, and child labor. By employing a descriptive qualitative research approach with a sociological perspective, the study analyzes the novel's portrayal of these issues and the characters' reactions to them. The research reveals that Dickens vividly depicts the harsh realities of Victorian England, including the suffering of the poor, the rigid class divisions, and the exploitation of child labor. The findings highlight the novel's significance as a social document and its relevance to contemporary discussions of social inequality.

**Introduction**

Social injustice, a pervasive issue throughout history, continues to challenge societies worldwide. Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist, a classic novel set in 19th century England, provides a poignant illustration of the social injustices prevalent during that era. This research aims to analyze the novel's portrayal of poverty, social stratification, and child labor, examining how these injustices shape the characters' lives and the ways in which they respond. By employing a sociological approach, this study seeks to understand the social context and implications of Dickens' depiction of social injustice.

**Materials & Methods**

The research utilizes a descriptive qualitative approach, analyzing primary data from Oliver Twist and secondary data from various sources related to sociology, social injustice, poverty, social stratification, and child labor. The primary data includes relevant quotes and descriptions from the novel, while the secondary data consists of scholarly articles, books, and historical documents. The research process involves:

1. Reading and comprehensively analyzing Oliver Twist.

2. Identifying and categorizing instances of social injustice within the novel.

3. Analyzing the characters' reactions and responses to social injustice.

4. Comparing the novel's portrayal of social injustice with historical and sociological perspectives.

**Results**

The research reveals several key findings:

1. Poverty: Oliver Twist vividly depicts the poverty experienced by the lower class, highlighting the lack of resources, inadequate housing, and poor living conditions.

2. Social Stratification: The novel portrays a clear social hierarchy, with the upper middle class exerting power and control over the lower classes. This is evident in the characters' interactions and the limited opportunities available to those in lower social positions.

3. Child Labor: The novel exposes the exploitation of child labor, with children working in dangerous conditions and being deprived of education and childhood experiences.

The research also examines the characters' reactions to social injustice, finding that while some characters, like Oliver, actively resist and seek to overcome their circumstances, others are resigned to their fate or resort to criminal activities as a means of survival.

**Discussion**

The findings of this research align with sociological theories regarding social inequality and the impact of social structures on individuals. Dickens' portrayal of social injustice in Oliver Twist serves as a powerful critique of the Victorian social system, highlighting the suffering and exploitation of the poor and marginalized. The novel's relevance extends beyond its historical context, as it continues to resonate with contemporary discussions of social inequality and the need for social justice.

The research also raises questions about the responsibility of individuals and society in addressing social injustice. While Dickens depicts the limitations faced by individuals in a system characterized by inequality, he also suggests the possibility of change and the importance of compassion and empathy in creating a more just society.