

## Theme

Great expectations deals with a number of themes but the main theme of the novel is the greed for money and corruption influence which it has upon human beings. It shows power of money is victorian age. There are a great many characters and their actions which show the super power of money. The following characters and their attitude may be discussed and her isolation.

- i. Miss Havisham and her isolation.
- ii. Steva and her pride.
- iii. Pip and his snobbery.
- iv. Herbert and his poverty.

We know that Miss Hanisham is a rich old lady. She lives alone with an only adopted child. She prefers to live alone because she thinks that all the relatives try to touch her for money. Her poor relatives call on her, especially on her birthday, to win her favor and to get some money. She is once deceived and she does not trust anybody. Her lover deserted her on the very day of her marriage-day because of this greed for money.

The heroine of the novel Stella also pose love for wealth. Pip loves her from of his hearth but she always treats him maliciously. It was Pip's poverty which urged Stella to make fun of him. She knows that Pip loves him. But she is not ready to accept his love and prefers to marry Drummle because of money. She knew very well before her marriage that the marriage will be unsuccessful, yet as Drummle is a rich man, she marries him.

Pip, the hero of the novel, is also influenced by monetary considerations. He becomes a snob. He starts regarding money and prosperity superior to human relationships. After meeting Estella and Miss Havisham, the ladies of a much higher social class, he develops a sense of inferiority. The work of a black smith which he used to like once now seems to him coarse and inferior. His entire outlook on life changes, his attitude towards his nearest and dearest ones changes. When Joe goes with him to meet Miss Havisham, Pip feels:

“I was ashamed of the dear good fellow”.

When he gets a chance to leave Joe, he does not show much regret at the time of bidding farewell to Joe, and when he receives a letter that Joe is coming to meet him in London, he feels annoyed. He is embarrassed by his rustic manners at Herbert's apartment. Later, when he goes to his native town, instead of staying at sanity, he stays at an inn: Biddy and Joe feel huri by this change in Pip but they keep quiet.

Herbert, who is considered to be a good man, is also not an exception. He also expected some money from Miss Havisham and he had the hope that Miss Havisham will offer Estena to him in marriage.

Thus, Dickens has shown a corruption influence and power of money which was exactly a matter of an arch in the victories age. This novel truly and artistically deals with this theme.

## Humour

As Shakespeare is unparalleled in the field of play writing. So, Dickens is in the field of Humor. Almost his every novel is a proof of his fresh and original humor. He displays his characters in such a laughter provoking manner that we would be justified to call him a great humorist.

Great expectations pose and astonishing variety of Humor. It provides us ample examples of verbal humor, comedy of character and the comedy of situation.

As regards verbal humor, we may say that humor lurks through every word that Dickens writes. His writings seem to be teemed with verbal humor. He describes a simple incidents in a highly amusing manner. For example on an occasion, Mrs. Gargery is to got Pip prepare to send him to Miss Havisham. It is highly amusing when Dickens tells the details of this simple preparation.

Through Pip:

“With that, she pounced upon me, like an eagle on a lamb, I was soaped, and kneaded, and towed, and thumped, and harrowed, and rasped, until I was quite beside myself.”

Dickens also produces humor with the description of the external appearance of characters. Thus, we can observe for so many times and from so many characters. For example, in “Great Expectation” Mrs. Joe is there whose skin is so red that Pip wonders whether she washes herself with a grater instead of soap.

There is Joe, who is his holidays, clothes, looks “Moore like a scare-crow in good circumstances.”

Uncle pumblecook is described as:

“A large hard-breathing middle aged, showman, with a mouth like a fish, dull storing eyes and sandy hair standing on his head.”

Then, we observe several occasions from where we can easily find the comedy of situation. At a dinner at Joy’s place, we come across many situation. Firstly, Pip was again and again teased by the guests. He was asked to be grateful to his sister, and it was mean of him that he created troubles for his sisters when he fell ill or injured himself. On the occasion, Joe could do nothing but give some more gravy to console him.

Similarly, another comic situation arises when uncle pumblecook asked for brandy. Pip was awfully frightened as he had mixed some water with brandy while taking away some of it for convict Mrs. Joe poured out brandy and the poor fellow drank it off with all pleasure. But the next moment he created a scene by coughing and dancing and rushing about the room. And when he exclaimed that there was tar in it, Pip realized with great dismay that he had

mixed tar with the wise instead of water.

Another situation turns highly amusing when Joe visits Pip in London. Joe takes off his hat with both hands like birds nest with eggs in it and places it on chimney-piece, from where it continually falls. Hahahahaha.....

## Characterization

A study of *Great Expectations* shows a great variety of characters. Although Dickens is called to be more interested in external details yet a thorough study of his novels shows that it is not a case with all the characters. Some of his characters may be observed to be analyzed psychologically. Nevertheless, James Dilphant states:

“The prime defect of Dickens was the lack of insight into characters.”

We may divide the characters in *Great Expectations* into three categories.

Firstly, there are simple characters like Joe and Biddy. They do not need psychological analysis. Secondly, there are complex characters who are not psychologically analyzed while an analysis is needed to understand them. Thirdly, there are complex characters like Magwitch and Pip. They are thoroughly analyzed. We are able to have a glimpse of their mental state.

Miss Havisham and Estella are complex characters. We do not know anything about their past but through Herbert. Miss Havisham is quite a mysterious character. Pip himself tends to think of various incidents in terms of boyhood fables:

“She looked at Sarah Pocket with triumph in her weird eyes, and so I left my fairy Godmother, with both her hands on her crutch stick, standing in the midst of dimly lighted room beside the rotten bride-cake that was hidden in cobwebs.”

Likewise, in the case of Estella, we do not perceive any stages in Estella's emotional and mental growth. She treats Pip maliciously, prefers to marry for money i.e. rich and unpleasant Drummle.

The same is the case with Dickens treatment of Jaggers who is fully business minded fellow. Convicts are afraid of him, and he keeps the doors of his house opened as a challenge to thieves and robbers. He washes his hand after handling each of his client. Thus, he is a complex character who is not easily perceived.

As regard Magwitch and Pip, they are complex characters, but Dickens has given us an insight of their inner-soul. Magwitch is not simply a criminal. He tells Pip that he could not forget him, and loved him as his own son. Magwitch is deprived of his wife and daughter i.e. both of them are not in his access so he tries to live for Pip.

In the case of Pip, we are given a detailed psychological analysis of his mind. In the opening chapter, Pip is depicted to us in a wonderful manner. Referring to the time, he met a convict in the graveyard, Pip says:

“If ever anyboy's hair stood on end with terror, mine must

have done so then”

He wants to be uncommon because Estella called him coarse and uncommon. She repeatedly warns him not to proceed ahead in expecting a favorable response from her, but Pip goes ahead. An insight to his mental absurdity is given that he loved:

“Against promise, against peace, against hope, against all discouragement.”

Thus, Dickens may be said master in art of characterization. His characterization is not uni-dimensional but multi.