

The Depiction of the Social and Economic Contidions in “Hard Times” by Charles Dickens

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ABSTRACT: In this article, the role of English literature in world literature and its different aspects from other literatures, i.e. its several periods and trends, are scientifically and theoretically analyzed. The creative path of Charles Dickens and his most famous work "Hard Times", which is considered a bright manifestation of this literature, as well as the history, period and main theme of the work, as well as the fate of the heroes, will be fully explained.

KEYWORD: direction, period, Victorian era, Charles Dickens, "Hard Times", society, characters, working people, difficulties.

INTRODUCTION

English literature is considered one of the oldest and richest literatures, and it includes rare works created in almost all genres. The unusual style and traditions of English literature, in turn, significantly contributed to the development of world literature. Unlike other literature, the representatives of English literature, which is divided into several eras and trends, have fully shown the events taking place in the society of that time. It is known that there are eight eras in English literature, and the Victorian era is the seventh era. It is fundamentally different from other eras with its manifestations, works created and the main idea put forward in those works. In 1837, Victoria became the Queen of Great Britain and ruled the country until 1901. Thus, this period is called the Victorian era in history (Baqoyeva, 2006). During this period, great positive changes were observed in the country militarily and economically, England became the first industrialized nation. But the internal situation of the country was not good, that is, the level of injustice and poverty in the society was high. The working people faced many difficulties and fought for their rights (Baqoyeva, 2006). Their demands were outlined by the People's Charter movement in 1833. Members of this movement created their own literature and created works in almost all genres. These artists were called Chartist writers. For example Ernest Jones describes the hardships of workers in his "The Song of the Lower Classes". The ideas of the members of this movement attracted the attention of many intellectuals of that time. Then writers began to see the injustices happening around them and described it in their works (Baqoyeva, 2006).

LITERATURE REVIEW

Charles Dickens, the first exponent of Critical Realism, was born in the south of England in 1812. As his father was a simple laborer, he and his family belonged to the lower middle class. He started to attend school in Rochester. For certain reasons, he had to continue his studies in London. Because his father was imprisoned, he started working and left school at the age of 12. After some time, his father sends him to lawyers school. Although, Dickens did not want to study there, he acquired knowledge of law and wrote works about it. He begins his creative career with the stories he saw in London. Later, he noticed his talent in writing novels and devoted his life to this field. Dickens was not only the author of many rare works of English literature, but he created a new type of novel, the social novel. As a human being, he sees only the good side of human nature. But as life experience increased, he changed his attitude towards the world and humanity. Later, in his works, he began to show not only beauty, but also bitter truths of life. Dickens' creative path is divided into 4 periods.

DISCUSSION

In the third period of his work, he wrote "Bleak House", "Hard Times", "Little Dorrit" and other works. Among them, the most famous novel is "Hard Times", which contains strong social criticism. Through this work, he revealed the life and difficulties of the English people.

The theme of the work can be known from its name, hard times means great difficulties, especially economic and material difficulties. In my opinion, the two main themes of the play are the importance of imagination and industrialization. The heroes of the work belong to different social positions, and their family and romantic relationships, as well as their relationship to work, are reflected. This popular novel tells the story of a group of people who lived in an industrialized town called Coketown during the 19th century. Throughout the novel, it is said that a person's decisions in life affect his fate, and neither good nor bad remain unanswered. The main character, Thomas Gradgrind, is portrayed as a hard man who always believes in facts. He never allows his children to make their own decisions and that is the biggest mistake he made as a father. His children, Louisa and Tom, are interested in circus arts, but their father does not approve of it at all.

It follows that the biggest social problem of the society of that time is the inability of a person to make an independent decision. Gradgrind raises his children according to his wishes. The writer condemns the education system through this. While reading the work, we learn to appreciate our favorite work and personal ideas and rules. That is, the education system tells all students that it is the same, that the social status of the parents should not affect the child's education or career choice.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it can be said that hard times do not last forever, as everything has a beginning and an end. It is a mistake to think that everything is over when the pages of life's difficulties come, but happiness is on the next page.

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