



# **CHARLES DICKENS' INNOVATIVE NARRATIVE TECHNIQUES IN THE EXAMPLE OF "GREAT EXPECTATIONS" AND "OLIVER TWIST"**

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**Abstract.** This article considers the innovative narrative techniques of Charles Dickens. The author of the article presented brief information about Charles Dickens' "Great Expectations" and "Oliver Twist". Reviews written by some writers on these works were also cited.

**Keywords.** Novel, plot, character, setting, point of view, theme, satire, Cockney English, fantasy, realism.

# **ИННОВАЦИОННЫЕ ПОВЕСТВЕННЫЕ ТЕХНИКИ ЧАРЛЬЗА ДИККЕНСА НА ПРИМЕРЕ "GREAT EXPECTATIONS" И "OLIVER TWIST"**

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**Аннотация.** В данной статье рассматриваются новаторские повествовательные приемы Чарльза Диккенса. Автор статьи представил краткую информацию о «Great Expectations» и «Oliver Twist» Чарльза Диккенса. Приводятся также рецензии некоторых авторов на эти произведения.

**Ключевые слова:** Роман, сюжет, персонаж, сеттинг, точка зрения, тема, сатира, английский кокни, фэнтези, реализм.

# **CHARLZ DIKENSNING INNOVATSION HIKOYA USULLARI "GREAT EXPECTATIONS" VA "OLIVER TWIST" MISOLIDA**

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**Annotatsiya.** Ushbu maqolada Charlz Dikkensning innovatsion hikoya usullari ko'rib chiqiladi. Maqola muallifi Charlz Dikkensning "Great Expectations" va "Oliver Twist"



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*asarlari haqida qisqacha ma'lumot berdi. Ayrim yozuvchilarning ushbu asarlar haqida yozgan sharhlari ham keltirib o'tildi.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *Roman, syujet, xarakter, manzara, fikr, mavzu, satira, Kokney inglizcha, fantaziya, realism.*

The novel is a long work of narrative prose fiction. In England the form developed during the eighteenth century with such early contributions as Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, Samuel Richardson's *Pamela*, and Henry Fielding's *Tom Jones*. The nineteenth century, however, saw the novel come of age as a literary genre and as a form of entertainment for the new middle class, and the works of Charles Dickens exemplify that success. Dickens edited a weekly journal for 20 years; wrote 15 novels, five novellas, hundreds of short stories and nonfiction articles; lectured and performed readings extensively; was an indefatigable letter writer; and campaigned vigorously for children's rights, education, and other social reforms.

Charles Dickens was the most popular British author of the Victorian Age, and more than a hundred years after his death, his work is still popular both in print and in dramatic and musical versions. The magic that millions still find in Dickens' novels can be traced, at least in part, to the eccentric, colorful array of characters that he created: the gullible Picwick of *The Pickwick Papers*, the villainous Fagin of *Oliver Twist*, the pathetic Little Nell of *The Old Curiosity Shop*, the miserly Scrooge of *a Christmas Carol*, the honorable Sydney Carton of *A Tale of Two Cities*, the bitter Miss Havisham of *Great Expectations*.

While Dickens has entertained millions with his novels, he also intended them as a means of social reform. Human welfare could not keep pace with the technological advances of his time, and Dickens did much to expose evil byproducts of industrialization: child labor, debtors' prisons, ruinous financial speculation, inhuman legal procedures, and mismanagement of schools, orphanages, prisons, and hospitals (George Kearns. 1987).

Dickens's writing style is marked by a profuse linguistic creativity. Satire, flourishing in his gift for caricature, is his forte. An early reviewer compared him to Hogarth for his keen practical sense of the ludicrous side of life, though his acclaimed mastery of varieties of class idiom may in fact mirror the conventions of contemporary popular theatre. Motifs are repeating images, words, or thoughts that take on a metaphorical or symbolic significance throughout the text. Motifs are used to bind readers into the plot and assist them comprehend some of the key themes in a work (M. D. Qodirova. 2024). Dickens worked intensively on developing arresting names for his characters that would reverberate with associations for his readers and assist the development of motifs in the storyline, giving what one critic calls an "allegorical impetus" to the novels' meanings. To cite one of numerous examples, the name Mr. Murdstone in *David Copperfield* conjures up twin allusions to murder and stony coldness. His literary style is also a mixture of fantasy and realism. His satires of British aristocratic snobbery – he calls one character the "Noble Refrigerator" – are often popular. Comparing orphans to stocks and shares, people to tug boats or dinner-party guests to furniture are just some of Dickens's acclaimed flights of fancy. On his ability to elicit a response from his works, English screenwriter Sarah Phelps writes, "He knew how to work an audience and how to get them laughing their heads off one minute or on the edge of their seats and holding their breath the next. The other thing about Dickens is that he loved telling stories and he loved his characters, even those horrible, mean-spirited ones.



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Dickens' many novels add up to a vast panorama of human nature and specifically of Victorian life. One excerpt from one novel is a very small sample indeed. The following selection from *Oliver Twist*, however, can be read as a serial installment. An excerpt from the second chapter, the selection introduces Oliver, an orphan who must depend on the mercies of public support. When he turns nine, Oliver becomes too old for the orphanage. He is brought by Mr. Bumble, a parish official, to a workhouse, a kind of prison where the poor must work for a meager upkeep. When he met him, Oliver has been given a slice of bread so that he will not look hungry when he appears before the parish board of directors to be introduced formally to his new home. One critic explained Dickens' style of characterization as an ability to view all people as children see adults. To children adults are

odd, arbitrary, incomprehensible, sometimes absurdly comic, sometimes  
terrifying, sometimes both at once. Scarcely ever are they ordinary.

(W. Allen. 1973.)

Dickens employs Cockney English in many of his works, denoting working-class Londoners. Cockney grammar appears in terms such as ain't, and consonants in words are frequently omitted, as in 'ere (here) and wot (what). An example of this usage is in *Oliver Twist*. The Artful Dodger uses cockney slang which is juxtaposed with Oliver's 'proper' English, when the Dodger repeats Oliver saying "seven" with "sivin"

Charles Dickens may be the best-remembered novelist who ever lived, and many people believe that *Great Expectations* is the best of all his works. Dickens wrote *Great Expectations* toward the end of his long career, at a point when he could look back on the poverty of his boyhood while enjoying the fame and riches that his writing had brought him. The novel itself is about a blacksmith's apprentice, an orphan boy, who grows up to taste riches and to learn their value. As you read *Great Expectations*, therefore, you may want to remember certain facts about Dickens' early life.

*Great Expectations* remains one of Dickens' most popular works. The title refers to the hopes for the future of Pip, the main character, who is not satisfied with his position as a blacksmith's apprentice. The background for the novel is the social structure of nineteenth-century England where a poor youth had little hope of getting education and escaping a life of strenuous, poorly paid labor. *Great Expectations* illustrates vividly the reasons for Dickens' continued popularity. The novel contains some of his most colorful and sympathetic characters. It is warmed by some of his most cheerful humor, his most deeply felt sympathies, and his most startling surprise (George Kearns. 1987).

## Key Ideas in *Great Expectations*

As you read *Great Expectations*, look for references to each of the following topics. If you keep track of what the novel says about each topic, you will begin to understand the major themes of *Great Expectations*.

1. Appearances and real happiness
2. Loyalty to friends and family
3. Sympathy toward the poor and victims of injustice
4. Criticism of educational and legal institutions
5. The power of love
6. The role of chance in life
7. Revenge



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Charles Dickens earned his reputation as a great novelist in part because of his ability to create intricate, twisting plots with many vivid characters and a variety of settings, colorful and realistic. These elements, along with point of view, help him to illustrate his themes, many of them important social concerns that he held throughout his life. Dickens' works, therefore, demonstrate the fact that the elements of fiction-plot, character, setting, point of view, and theme-interact and create a total effect, an impact on the reader (George Kearns. 1987).

*Great Expectations* belongs to a popular type of novel in which a young person grows to maturity. Two critics have called Pip's adventures

a series of lesson learned the hard way. He finds in Joe Gargery that simplicity may conceal the highest understanding and wisdom...

In Estella, he finds that beauty is a shell when love does not inhabit it. In the great expectations that bring him [Pip] riches, he finds disillusion.

(Michael & Mollie Hardwick. 1969, March 1).

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