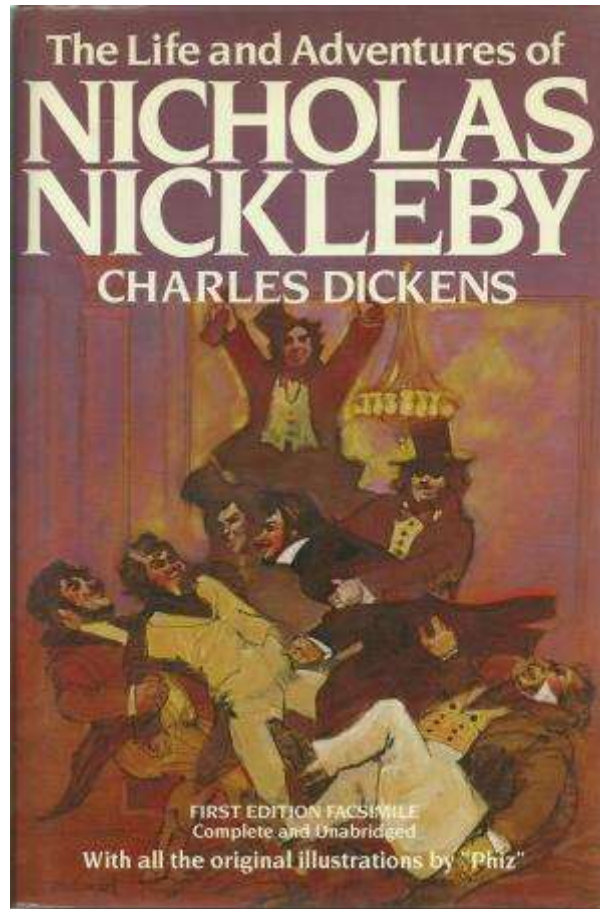


Human Relationships in Charles Dickens's *Nicholas Nickleby*

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Abstract

Charles Dickens, the top novelist of the Victorian Age created human relationships and took keen interest in portraying the life of London city and also its pleasure in his novels. Various kinds of relationships i.e. the relationship between lovers, relationship between Master and servant, the relationship between caretaker and boarders, relationship between friends, etc. are dealt with in the novel. He himself had the experiences of life of the London streets for which he was regarded as the first genuine story teller of London life. He not only came up precisely at the right time in the history of English novel on the literary side but also on the other social issues. In his novels he brought about all classes of people living in different social strata which London city had during the reign of Queen Victoria and relationships between individuals. The novelist tactfully sketched all sections of society including women and children who struggled for existence and survival for fittest in the London

society. And he never tries to modify the facts to go well with the existing standards of society. The paper talks about Dickens' human relationships and see how he keeps the relationships among the characters which might have existed in the Victorian society.

Keywords: Charles Dickens, *Nicholas Nickleby*, Victorian Age, London streets, portrayal, human relationship, struggle, survival for fittest.

Introduction

Charles Dickens was born on 7 February 1812. His mother taught him privately. The novels which he obtained from his father includes: *Roderick Random*, *Humphry Clinker*, *Tom Jones*, *The Vicar of Wakefield*, *Don Quixote*, *Robinson Crusoe*, etc. When the family faced with financial crunch, a friend of John Dickens offered his son, Charles Dickens work in a blacking business at Hungerford Stairs where Charles started work at the age of twelve, labeling bottles for six shillings a week. There he suffered unbearable mental torture for the unskilled work of washing and labeling blacking bottles. When John Dickens was taken to the Marshalsea Debtor's Prison for debt, Charles Dickens spent his Sundays with his father in the prison and on other days at the warehouse as usual. After three months of imprisonment, his Charles's father was released on receipt of a bequest from his mother, who died leaving an amount of four hundred and fifty pounds for him. Some weeks later, John Dickens withdrew Charles from his work and sent him to school. Again at age fifteen, Charles Dickens began to work in the office of a firm of Gray's Inn attorneys. These painful experiences of life form background for the creation of his many children characters. Meanwhile he taught himself shorthand and started working as a freelance reporter in the court of Doctors' Commons.

Charles Dickens Writing

Charles Dickens began his writing career with *Sketches by Boz*. He started publishing his works in various periodicals which he subsequently republished as *Sketches of Boz*, *Illustrative of Every Day Life* and *Every-Day People* (1836-37). *The Pickwick Papers* were published in 1836-37. He married Catharine in April 1836. Then, Charles Dickens published *Oliver Twist* (1837-38) followed by *Nicholas Nickleby*, (1841). Dickens and his wife visited America in 1842. His 'American Notes' (1842) and *Martin Chuzzlewit* (1843-44) caused much uproar in America. With the publication of the series of Christmas books brought him immense popularity. *A Christmas Carol*, appeared for the first time in 1843. *Dombey and Son* (1844-46) and *David Copperfield* (1849-50) were serious in theme and more carefully planned than his other early works. He published *Bleak House* in 1853 followed by *Hard Times* (1854), *Little Dorrit* (1857), *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859), *Great Expectations* (1860-61), and *Our Mutual Friend* (1864-65). In 1858, he was separated from his wife, Catharine. Charles Dickens died on 9 June 1870 before completing his last novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

Nicholas Nickleby

Charles Dickens's second novel *Nicholas Nickleby* was published in 1839. It is the story of Nicholas who tried hard to get a job to look after his mother and younger sister in the absence of his father who died leaving small children and a young wife. G.K. Chesterton opines in his introduction to Charles Dickens's *Nicholas Nickleby*:

“*Nicholas Nickleby* is Dickens's first romantic novel because it is his first novel with a proper and dignified romantic hero; which means, of course, a very chivalrous young donkey. The hero of *Oliver Twist* is a child. But *Nicholas Nickleby* is a proper, formal and ceremonial hero.” (Chesterton: ix)

The novel revolves round the hard life of Nicholas and his family. Nicholas is the protagonist of the novel. “He is Dickens’ most masculine hero. He is careless and violent tempered – he beats Squeers and enjoys flirting with actresses and millers’ daughters.” (Mei Chin: 63)

There are various kinds of relationship in the novel, i.e. the relationship between mother and son, between mother and daughter, the relationship between friends, the relationship between young lovers, etc.

“In *Nicholas Nickleby*, Dickens seeks to avoid the fragmentation of his instinctive atomism by recourse of type characters, conventional plots, and to moral or pseudo religious judgments which are thick with sentimental clichés. No other novel of Dickens is closer, in plot, characterization, and constantly asserted moral, to the conventions of the decadent drama and the popular novel of Dickens’ day. Those characters in *Nicholas Nickleby*, who are not true Dickensian grotesques, fresh from the mint of the inimitable Boz, tend to be the merest pasteboard copies of melodramatic type characters: Ralph Nickleby, Sir Mulberry Hawk, Gride, Madeline Bray, Nicholas himself.” (Miller: 92)

Mr. Ralph Nickleby

In the story, Mr. Ralph Nickleby who is the younger brother of Nicholas’s father was acknowledged that his brother died and left his two children of nineteen years old son and a 16 years old daughter with his beloved young wife Mrs. Nickleby. Actually Mr. Ralph Nickleby was mint minded man and disliked all the children of his own brother for they might seek his help. So, he wanted to stay aloof from his relatives. Though he had such bad feelings, nevertheless he had to look after them and find their whereabouts because all came to London for their livelihood. As his brother left nothing for his family when he died, it became his moral responsibility to look after them in time of distress, at the same time being the only relative to rely in their time of need. Mr. Ralph Nickleby came to meet them in their rented house in London one day. Before meeting them, he (Mr. Ralph) eventually met the land Lady, Miss La Creavey and learned from her of their (his sister in law and her children) miserable conditions thereby he wanted them free from him, thus, he paid house rent in advance for a week time only. Seeing their miserable condition, he could learn everything of their sorrows and sufferings, but still he hated his nephew Nicholas. Therefore he planned something that Nicholas be separated from his mother and sister. But Nicholas’s mother had a firm belief in her brother – in - law with the hope of which Mr., Ralph would help them. Thereafter Mr. Ralph tried to seek a job for Nicholas so that he could be separated from his mother and sister both. Mr. Ralph was more interested in his sister-in-law and his niece to be kept under his supervision. Now to meet his plan, Mr. Ralph persuaded his nephew, Nicholas to take up a job by producing a newspaper for advertisement from his pocket. The advertisement was for an assistant in a boarding school. The novelist narrates:

“Mr. Ralph Nickleby suggested that if they lost time, more fortunate candidate might deprive Nicholas of the stepping-stone to fortune which the advertisement pointed out and so undermine all their air-built castles.Nicholas firmly persuading treat in justice in disliking him at first sight; and Mrs. Nickleby being at some pains to inform her daughter that she was sure he was a much more kindly disposed person than he seemed; which Miss Nickleby dutifully remarked, he might very easily be.” (Nicholas Nickleby: 34)

Ralph and Nicholas Nickleby

Then the two that is, Mr. Ralph and Nicholas Nickleby went to the Squeer's Dotheboys Hall for seeking the job. After some conversation about Nicholas, Mr. Squeers considered Nicholas's appointment in the school as master. Then his uncle sent back him home for preparing to join his job in Yorkshire in the following day. Nicholas thanked his uncle warmly and said that he would never forget the kindness of his uncle, Mr. Ralph Nickleby. Nicholas's relationship with his uncle is cordial because it is the time when Nicholas is in great need for getting any job to support himself and family members. His uncle was also compelled to have seen the miserable condition of his brother's family and to give way of a sustainable life at least in the strange town. Thereafter, Nicholas set out the place for Yorkshire with his employer Mr. Squeers and five other pupils together by a coach. Mr. Squeers had a confident over Nicholas as Mr. Ralph himself introduced and Nicholas to the gentleman. He (Mr. Ralph) said that Nicholas was a good scholar, mathematical, classical, and commercial. Then the gentleman says:

"Yes I am, sir" replied the worthy pedagogue; 'Mr. Wackford Squeers is my name, and I'm very far from being ashamed of it. These are some of my boys, sir; that's one of my assistants, sir – Mr. Nickleby, a gentleman's son, and a good scholar, mathematical, classical, and commercial.'Upon my word,' said the gentleman, glancing at Nicholas with half – smile, and a more than half expression of surprise, 'these are advantages indeed.'" (ibid: 54)

Mr. Squeers

Nicholas arrived after a long journey from home to Yorkshire during which, while he was sleeping (a long nap) inside the couch, narrated two stories of Five Sisters, and the lady of Grogzwig by gentlemen, and discussed about the stories by passengers including Mr. Squeers, the story telling was a kind of time pass game among the passengers. They were received by Mrs. Squeers and spent the night at the first house of Mr. Squeers. Thereafter, the next day, Nicholas learned that Mr. Squeers was a cruel man who habitually tortured the pupils in the boarding school by beating with cane until his arm was tired out. Seeing this cruelty of Mr. Squeers he felt so depressed and self degraded:

"There was small stove at that corner of the room which was nearest to the master's desk, andbehavior of Squeers even in his best moods, the filthy place, the sights and sounds about him, all contributed to the state of feeling;" (ibid: 96)

Seeing the present situation, he was very unhappy which might prevent his raising his head again. He then remembered his mother and sister to write letter for his journey, a safe and a little about Dotheboys Hall, and he added that he had patient as cheerfully as he could by doing good thing. He now realized how his uncle had deceived him.

"He was willing to believe that Ralph Nickleby had conceived a personal dislike to himself." (ibid: 97)

Smike

After these thoughts, he encountered a pupil, Smike by name, who was on his knees before the stove where Nicholas sat upon. Nicholas found that the the boy very cold as the boy was picking up some stray cinders from the hearth, planting to the fire. He (Nicholas) then asked if he was cold but the boy replied that he was not cold. Nicholas says:

"You need not fear me," said Nicholas kindly Are you cold? "N-n-o" "You are shivering." "I am not cold," replied Smike quickly. I am used to it." There was such

an obvious fear of giving offence in his manner, and he was such timid, broken-spirited creature, that Nicholas could not help exclaiming, "Poor Fellow!" (ibid: 97)

Nicholas learned the sufferings of the child and other children in the boarding school from Smike who had been brought up there and tortured ever since with pain and fear. But Nicholas found that the relationship between husband and wife, i.e. Mr. and Mrs. Squeers, when they just arrived there, Mrs. Squeers was found awaiting her husband who was away from her, thus she kissed him holding his throat as she was taller than her husband. But they did not have even any pity on the boarders like Nicholas had been sent for his livelihood in a boarding school.

Ralph's Niece

Mr. Ralph Nickleby had an idea of his niece and sister-in-law to earn their livelihood without any dependency upon him. Thus Mr. Ralph came to meet his sister-in-law, Mrs. Nickleby and his niece at their rent house of Miss La Creevey. As he went up the stairs, he found Miss La Creevey painting a portrait of his niece Miss Kate Nickleby sitting on a chair posed herself to Miss La Creevey.

“... the plot might easily have dispensed with them and still have reached its preposterous conclusion, Squeers ending as a thief, and his victim, the wretched Smike, turning out to be the son of Ralph Nickleby.” (Baker: 259)

Then after Mr. Ralph called up his niece at their room and talking about some works of his niece in the town where a workplace of dressmaking owned by Mrs. Mantalini, was situated. They proceeded there and met them there in the shop. After a long conversation between them, settled that Miss Nickleby would work there from morning to evening nine and the two returned and departed on the mid-way. That was something that one has to do something for his family to live upon themselves to make life a sustainable one.

Their relationship is more or less family relationship that parents have to look after his or her children that always need parental care for making fortune of life. Even if Mr. Nickleby has a strong feeling of hatred for his brother's family members, he thinks he has to do something for them for he wants to be free from any stumble at his business. This kind of helping hands with his sister-in-law's family is more or less having an important family relationship among themselves. The degree of their relationship may be less according to the measurement or show of Mr. Ralph Nickleby's behavior but he at least tries his family members to settle with their daily earnings and live independently. Mr. Ralph was talking to Mrs. Nickleby about the lady who was dressmaker and a milliner in London where Kate could get her job there. Then Mrs. Nickleby says to her daughter:

“*What your uncle say, is very true, Kate, my dear,*’ said Mrs. Nickleby.”(Nicholas Nickleby: 119)

Mr. Ralph continued by mentioning the name of the lady as:

‘The lady's name; Ralph, hastily striking in, ‘is Mantalini - Madam Mantalini. I know her. She lives near Cavendish Square. If your daughter is disposed to try after the situation, I'll take her there directly’. (ibid: 119)

Among the personal relationships in the novel, the relationship between friends is the most important one. The relationship between Nicholas and Smike is the most important relationship in this novel. Dickens also tries to show that this kind of friend relationship will reveal the originality of one's blood of which he is belonged to.

Quarrel with the School Master

In the story, Smike who was a real son of Mr. Ralph Nickleby known later in the last part of the novel when Smike was dying was brought up in the boarding in the boarding house since his childhood by Mr. Squeers, the schoolmaster. One day after Mr. Nicholas Nickleby settled in the Dotheboys Hall, quarreled with his master that he flung his master and left the place for the master excessively tortured Smike, a servant for he had run away from the Dotheboys. Mr. Squeers accused Nickolas for making Smike run away from there. On this very charge of cheating and hiding Smike, the schoolmaster strongly condemned and scolded Nicholas who later intolerably fought with his master.

As a result of this quarrel, Nicholas had to leave the boarding house going on foot for he had only four shillings and a few pence. But during his stay at the boarding school he liked Smike who too would try to stay with Nicholas and wanted to serve Nicholas at any cost. They had become a good friend and trust each other. Nicholas could not bear to see the ill-treatment of Smike by Mr. Squeers. And when Nicholas left the place; he (Smike) also followed Nicholas very far visibly. This came to know to Nicholas later arriving Broughbridge where some cheap cottages available in which beds were let at a cheap rate to the more humble class travelers. After passing the town, he found an empty barn at the road, he stretched there and fell asleep very soon and he dreamt of something that happened at the Dotheboys Hall the day previous day. Then he was awakened with that a strange person had approached for him who turned but to be Smike. He kneeled to Nicholas and begged that he wanted to go with Nicholas wherever he would go. They talk:

“I am a friend who can do little for you.” Said Nicholas, kindly, “How came you here?”
..... ‘May I – may I go with you?’ asked Smike, timidly. ‘I will be your faithful hard-
working servant, I will, indeed. I want no choice,’ added the poor creature, drawing
his rags together, ‘these will do very well. I only want to be near you.’ ‘And you shall,’
cried Nicholas. ‘And the world shall deal by you as it does by me, till one or both of us
shall quit it for a better. Come!’ (ibid: 154-155)

Newman Noggs

After they passed out of the old barn together, reached at London, and Nicholas found Mr. Newman Noggs, who is a clerk in Mr. Ralph’s Office, helped him in seeking a new job for he (Nicholas) was urgently in need of a job before his uncle Mr. Ralph got him just after leaving Yorkshire’s boarding school. They have been true friends. Mr. Newman Noggs is always ready to help his friend in good faith. Their relationship is also one of the most important relationships in the novel.

Nicholas and Smike spent the night at the residence of Newman Noggs where there was a bed, but adjusted by Newman Noggs, sleeping on the stairs with pleasure, so that his friend was accommodated. They were good friends at all, thus, Newman Noggs tried to get him a job by informing him that there was an advertisement for a secretary’s post at Mr. Gregsbury, who was member at the Parliament House but unfortunately, Nicholas could not get the job. When he became unsuccessful in getting the job, he was to a job as private tutor with the help of Newman Noggs for Mrs. Kenwiggs’ children to teach French language for five Shillings a week. Being accepted the offer; he started working there just on the same day in front of other family members. This is a vivid example of the relationship between friends who sacrifice and help each other at any cost. That was the thing Mr. Newman Noggs seriously wanted to offer Nicholas a small job for he could live in the town without any difficulty and could make his fortune, after he came back homewards with great distressed of failing to get a job. Newman Noggs says:

“Come back?” asked Newman. “Yes” replied Nicholas, “tired to death; and what is worse, might have remained at home for all the good I have done.” “Couldn’t expect to do much in one morning,” said Newman..... “I don’t know,” said Newman; “small things offer- they would pay the rent, and more- but you wouldn’t not like them, no you could hardly be expected to undergo it – no, no.” (ibid: 191)

That was Newman Noggs’s genuine warm and benevolent aspects towards Nicholas. It was only Noggs who helped getting a job as private tutor to the Kenwiggs’ family when Nicholas came back to London after his adventures to Yorkshire alienated him from his uncle Ralph Nickleby. We find the relationship of kind-hearted people who would try to help one another in time of great need in the character of Newman Noggs and Nicholas. Nicholas was always accompanied by Smike who ran away from Yorkshire’s boarding school, and he was the only reason Nicholas fought and smashed Mr. Squeers. As Nicholas worked as Master, Smike always respected him and treated him as his master. Even after Nicholas joined a theatrical work, Nicholas tried to instruct Smike in the art of acting getting by heart the lines (dialogues) so that they could easily live happily without any financial crunch. Nicholas says:

“I don’t know what’s to be done, Smike,” said Nicholas, laying down the book. ‘I am afraid you can’t learn it, my poor fellow.’ ‘I am afraid not,’ said Smike, shaking his head. ‘I think if you – but that would give you so trouble.’ ‘What?’ inquired Nicholas. ‘Never mind me.’ ‘I think,’ said Smike, ‘if you were to keep saying it to me in little bits, over and over again, I should be able to recollect it from hearing you.’ ‘Do you think so?’ exclaimed Nicholas. “Who calls so loud?” cried Smike.” (ibid: 310)

Master and Student Relationship

The novelist portrayed the master and student relationship who in turn becomes close friends in the character of Nicholas and Smike and Smike had long desired in his heart of meeting his master-friend, Nicholas’s mother and sister. His joy was speltbound when he learned that Nicholas had come to take him to his home. He says:

“But come; my errand here is to take you home! ‘Home!’ faltered Smike, drawing timidly back. Ay, rejoined Nicholas, taking his arm. ‘Why not?’ ‘I had such hopes once,’ said Smike; ‘I could not part from you to go to any home on earth,’ replied Smike.” (ibid: 415)

Their relationship is an unbreakable one, as Smike always thought that he should not forget his master friend and never wish to leave him forever till his last breathe. He was very happy to learn that he would be meeting his master’s mother and sister who always lived in miseries. Smike was happy as he was to have a home:

“When I talk of home,’ pursued Nicholas, ‘I talk of mine – which is yours of course. If it were defined by any particular four walls and a roof, God knows I should be..... And now, for what is my present home, which, however alarming your expectations may be, will neither terrify you by its extent nor its magnificence”. (ibid: 415-416)

Upon entering the room with Nicholas, he was introduced to Kate who was sitting alone and added that Smike was a faithful friend and affectionate fellow-traveler who Kate should receive well. At this instantly impacted Smike so kindly and she said in a sweet voice, how anxiously she had been

to see him after her brother had told her, and how much she had to thank him for comforting her brother so greatly. The family rejoined again from a long separation.

Hero-Heroin Relationship

The novelist is not lost sight of his favourite theme of love-marriage or the hero-heroin relationships in Mr. Nicholas Nickleby found in a different tone. The relationship between Employer and Employee is also found in the investigation in the novel *Nicholas Nickleby* i.e. between the Cheeribles (Charles and Ned Cheeribles) and Nicholas. Mr. Cheeribles saw profound esteem of human vaule in the person of Nicholas. They employed Nicholas in their company and they have confident on Nicholas's decision for the development of the company. Their relationship is also most important one in the novel. Mei Chin remarks:

“Another figment of stage romance is the good young lady, Madeline Bray, whose hand is to remunerate Nicholas, after she affected her escape from a selfish father and the machinations of another aged usurer who moves heaven and hell to marry her.” (Baker: 259)

They helped to rescue Madeline whom Nicholas loves very much, even from the marriage which was to be solemnized very soon from the hand of Mr. Arthur Gride who was older than the bride (Madeline). The marriage was especially arranged by Madeline's father, Mr. Bray who borrowed some sums of money from Mr. Gride and Ralph Nickleby and he became a debtor. In place of this debt Mr. Ralph Nickleby intentionally took interest for helping Mr. Gride marrying Madeline. In these very shock situation, Mr. Cheeribles's brothers wanted to help Nicholas to get Miss Madeline as his wife. She was very beautiful but a destitute young lady, proud and dutiful to her dying father to whom she ws willing to throw life away if it meant ensuring her father's comfort.

“Nicholas Nickleby, at least, marries the girl with whom he fell in love with at first sight, as befits his exuberent temperament, but most of Dickens' unions are well advised, and for this reason they are disappointing.” (Mei Chin: 71)

In fact Nicholas fell in love with her from the first sight in Mr. Cheeibles's chamber. Later, she was saved by Nicholas with the help of some persons including his sister, Kate from the hand of his uncle Mr. Ralph Nickleby and Mr. Gride on the wedding morning during which Miss Madeline's father died of grief when he realized what he had done. It was before the marriage which was supposed to be solemnized soon, went through freeing his daughter, Madeline from her obligations.

The two Cheeribles brother also knew that Nicholas was in love with Miss Madeline, when Madeline once came to their place one morning. On the very day, Nicholas accidentally saw the young lady and fell in love with her at first sight, though he did not know who the lady was dearly. This is also one of the important relationships we may note between lovers in the novel. Later, the Cheeribles brothers narrated the whole sad story of Miss Madeline to Nicholas and asked his help in saving her from the cruel men, Mr. Ralph and Mr. Arthur Gride. The lady was introduced to Nicholas when Mr. Cheeribles was about to employ Nicholas for a delicate mission with the object of the mission was of young lady. Mr. Cheeribles says:

*“I am about to employ you, my dear sir, on a confidential and delicate mission.”
.....You will give me credit for thinking so, when I tell you that the object of this mission is young lady. ‘A very beautiful young lady,’ saidPerhaps you have*

forgotten _____?’ ‘Oh no,’ replied Nicholas, hurriedly. ‘I-I- remember it very well indeed’.” (Nicholas Nickleby: 557)

In the last moment of receiving Madeline, Nicholas had a fight with his uncle Ralph and Arthur Gride, he even swung Mr. Arthur Gride away (whether intentionally or from confusion), as to cause to spin round the room. Then he rushed out with the lady Madeline without any interference to stop from the mob if people as easily as if she (Madeline) were infant.

In short, we may say that the novelist discusses various kinds of human relationships among say family relationship, individual-society relationship; cruel teacher-meek student relationship and love-hate relationship of teacher-students abound in the novel, *Nicholas Nickleby*.

Conclusion

To bring a conclusion to our critical assessment of the famous English novelist Charles Dickens will never be an easy task. He is not only a social reformer but also a humanitarian novelist. He constructed his plots found among the English people of London city and their relationships which ultimately became universally significance. His novels provide a fine and vivid scene of London life which evolved after rapid industrial revolution of England. Arthur Compton-Rickett has rightly observed thus:

“The novel provides such a facile and attractive means of popular appeal, and is so adaptable to literary fashions, that its continued vitality will surprise no one.”
(Compton-Rickett, 2012:661-662)

Charles Dickens along with his contemporary W.M. Thackeray is able to provide a new genre of fiction, for, the fiction covers all over the world. Though Charles Dickens portrayed the London life of his age, his fame was not confined to England. It was of universal significance.

As his age was an age of industrial revolution, life in London was very hard with the rapid changes taking place in England. He knew the hard facts of life of the country which made him depict these pictures so as to reform it to make a sustainable environment by waking up the authority’s eyes. His novels have many characters starting from childhood to manhood since a society is comprised of children, men and women and other old people. All these characters are seen in his novels. Therefore, in such a situation, the human relationships have been fabricated throughout the novels. We know that one generation is replaced by another generation, and to see a generation, society starts from a child growing to manhood and womanhood which is seen in most of his novels. He experienced the hard life of children and this is his main theme of novels. Many children are portrayed in his novels as a society consists of children and men and women together. Here to quote W.R Goodman’s remark:

“In the crowd of human beings that throng these books there are many boys and girls. Often, indeed, a novel is the story of a child growing into manhood and womanhood; and no preceding novelist had written so much of the experiences of childhood.”
(Goodman, 2010: 373)

He has produced about fifteen novels altogether including his last unfinished novel, *Edwin Drood*, with readers from different parts of the world from America to Russia. He was received warmly in America in streets by big crowds and welcomed by many, including politicians, judges and bishops. His child image is tactfully portrayed with miserable life of child as an orphan.

In *Nicholas Nickleby*, one may see the relationship between cousins that is between Smike and Nicholas, and love relationship between Miss Madeline and Nicholas and brother – sister relationship as well. In *David Copperfield*, the theme of child love is found between David and little Emily when they were small but later he has affairs with Dora. The novel has never excluded the relationship between friends, between brother and sister relationship, that is between Pegotty and David though they belong to different families and Pegotty as the sole attendant of David since his childhood. The relationship seen between David and Dora in the novel is fine and pure. Apart from this, one can see the relationship between girls who are true friends and sacrifice for each other. In this novel, one can witness that Agnes and Dora being true friends sacrifice for each other in which Agnes was compelled to replace Dora when Dora is dead after her married to David. Thus Agnes becomes wife of David on the request of Dora during her last breathe. This is very interesting and thrilling that Agnes' wedding with David is the wish of Dora who wishes Agnes to occupy the upcoming vacant place after she died.

Through such novels, Charles Dickens has achieved high ranks of reputation which his contemporary novelists can never achieve. He was popular with all classes in English society thereby creates for him a special place among the novelists. Analyzing the human relationships found in the novels of Dickens help us to acquaint ourselves with the types of people living in the age of Dickens and of their nature, and aspirations and also help us to deepen our understanding and appreciation of Dickens' novels.

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