



**Thematic Progression and Tone Shift in Charles Dickens'
Great Expectations and Its 1998 Film Adaptation,
A Comparative Study**

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ABSTRACT

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Transformation from novel to film is one of the common literary works in the society. The writer and the readers of the novel, however, will find many differences in the film as the result of transformation process. For example in the novel *Great Expectations* and the film version. There are differences between the two works especially in the thematic progression and tone shift.

Three problem formulations which are discussed in this final project are 1) what is the thematic progression of Charles Dickens' novel, *Great Expectations*, and its 1998 film adaptation, 2) what is the tone of Charles Dickens' novel, *Great Expectations*, and its 1998 film version, 3) what are the impacts of the thematic progression and tone shift in the two media.

In collecting the sources, the writer used library and internet research. In doing the analysis, the writer utilized structuralism approach and compare/contrast method. Theories applied are concerned with theme and tone in novel and film, as well as the similarities and the differences of novel and film as different media.

The results of the study are 1) The theme of the novel *Great Expectations* and its film adaptation are that one should not be blinded by the things that are oriented in worldliness and superficial such as fortune and status to achieve true bliss, because the fortune and the status basically cannot guarantee one's happiness. 2) The novel author and the film director *Great Expectations* bring the story by using serious tone. 3) In the novel the story opened by introducing the main character, Pip, who is at his parents grave, but the film opened by the emergence of a fugitive. The impact of the thematic progression shift is the opening of the novel shows weak life and surrender of life, but the film shows the difficulties of life and ultimately using everything to reach the goal. The two works use same tone that is serious tone, but in bringing the story occurs difference between them, namely, there is satire tone when Joe considers his wife as a kind woman. However, the film version there is serious tone about Joe's opinion towards his wife. The impact of the tone shift is the role of Mrs Joe Gargery looks decreased. If in the novel, the readers will know the rough characteristics of her completely, so there will be suspenses when the main character, Pip, associates with her. In addition, the readers will feel curious and want to know in detail the story of the novel when they read it because there is a metaphor in it. In the film version; however, the nature of rough Maggie is not so visible. Thus, there is not significant tensions when the spectators watch the film version. And the spectators will not feel curious for the story and understand the language easily because the language that is used in the film version is direct so that the spectators can easily understand it.