



**LOWER CLASS' SOCIAL PROBLEMS AS THE IMPACT OF
INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN CHARLES DICKENS' *OLIVER
TWIST***

a final project

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra*
in English**

**by
Meilan Prawesti
2250407065**

**PERPUSTAKAAN
UNNES**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS
SEMARANG STATE UNIVERSITY**

2012

ABSTRACT

PRAWESTI, MEILAN. 2012. **Lower Class` Social Problems as the Impact of Industrial Revolution in Charles Dickens` *Oliver Twist***. Final Project. English Department. Faculty of Languages and Arts, Semarang State University. First Advisor: Rini Susanti Wulandari, S.S., M.Hum. Second Advisor: Dwi Anggara Asianti, S.S., M.Pd

This objective study was purposed to analyze the lower class` social problems during Industrial Revolution era as found in the Charles Dickens` novel *Oliver Twist*. To gain those purpose, I used qualitative analysis based on sociological approach to literature to analyze contemporary society`s condition of England in the eighteen century, and I also used sociological approach to social problems to analyze the history and all about the social phenomenon included the social problems happened at Industrial Revolution era as pictured in the novel.

I employed the novel *Oliver Twist* as the object of the study. This final project had two problems to be explored, those are: (1) what forms of lower class` social problems can be found in Charles Dickens` novel *Oliver Twist*? (2) what causes of social problems are in Charles Dickens` novel *Oliver Twist*? This study was a qualitative study with sociological approach as the theories. I used qualitative method as the method of investigation since the data of the study were in the forms of monologue and dialogue. The data gathered by reading, identifying, inventorizing, classifying, and selecting techniques. The data were also analyzed by using the techniques of exposing, explaining, interpreting, and inferring.

The investigation findings are. First, lower class` social problems were pictured in Charles Dickens` novel *Oliver Twist*. There were injustice treatment to the poor in the workhouse, poverty, starvation in the workhouse, crime, child abuse, and social stratification. Second, after further investigation it turned out that there were some causes of social problems happened during Industrial Revolution era reflected in the novel, namely urbanization, economic inequality between the rich and the poor, and liberalization. Urbanization led into overpopulation in big cities in England. Many unskilled people moved to big cities to look for a fortune or a better life. Unfortunately, overpopulation of new urban settlement created high rates of poverty. The next impact, economic inequality between the rich and the poor causes some chained of problems such as starvation, and crime. In addition, many people were sent to the workhouse due to poverty but unfortunately in the workhouse they were treated badly. Liberalism created social stratification, child abuse, and injustice treatment to the poor in the workhouse.

For the next researcher, I suggest to analyze about the effects of capitalism and industrialization reflected in the novel *Oliver Twist*.