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FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

A TALE OF TWO CITIES
A NOVEL BY CHARLES DICKENS
“CRITICAL ANALAYSIS”

B.A THESIS

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Olcan Maden
1988

PREFEACE

This graduation thesis has been written for B.A. degree in Eng. Lang and Literature department in Near East University.

I decided to write about charles Dickens's novel "A TACE OF TWO CITIES". The two cities were two countries ; France and England. The story passes through during the French revolution. The novel was writter about fifty or sixty years after the revolution by charles Dicknes. I tried to examine the story from the historical point of view and Literature points of view.

Thanks to our department director to Ass. Prof. Dr. Gül Celkan, being a guidance in our graduation thesis.

Okan Maden
1988

TAVISTOCK HOUSE

November 1859

CHARLES DICKENS

Note: Carlyle's wonderful book: French Revolution

INTRODUCTION

When I was acting, with my children and friends, in Mr. Wilkie Collins' drama of the Frozen Deep, I first conceived the main idea of this story. A strong desire was upon me then, to embody it in my own person; and I traced out in my fancy, the state of mind of which it would necessitate the particular care and interest. As the idea became familiar to me, it gradually shaped itself into its present form. Throughout its execution, it has had complete possession of me; I have so far verified what is done and suffered in these pages, as that I have certainly done and suffered it all myself.

Whenever any reference (however slight) is made here to the condition of the French people before or during the Revolution, it is truly made, on the faith of the most trustworthy witnesses. It has been one of my hopes to add something to the popular and picturesque means of understanding that terrible time, through no one can hope to add anything to the philosophy of Mr. Carlyle's wonderful book.

TAVISTOCK HOUSE

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LIFE OF CHARLES DICKENS

Charles Dickens born at Portsmouth on 7 February 1812, the second of eight children. His father John was a naval pay clerk. When the boy was two years old, John pickens was moved to London and soon afterwards to Chatham Dockyard. These rapid changes were typical of the author's unsettled childhood. His years at Chatham, from the age of four to nine, were the happiest period of his youth. His father recalled to London, John Dickens was a kindly man but he was imprisoned for debt. Dickens was sent to work at the age of twelve. The memories of this period were to haunt him until his death.

He became a clerk in a Lawyer's office, little more than an office boy, in fact ; but all the time reading to equip himself for a better career. He had made up his mind to become a parliamentary reporter. He drew on his experience of London slums and poverty, so his knowledge of lawyers and legislators, acquired during these years at the age of nineteen, he recognised himself as the leading reporter of his day. Morning Chronicle took him the length and breadth of

England by stage - coach and post - chaise to report speeches by leading politicians. December 1833, he had his first entitled "A dinner at poplar Walk" was published in the monthly magazine and nine others followed. The first monthly number of the posthumous papers of the pickwick club, edited by Boz come out in 31st march, 1836 ; two days before Dickens's marriage to Catharine Hogarth. Sales leapt with the publication of the August number . By fifteenth number, circulation had reached 40.000 copies, and Dickens had achieved the immense popularity that was never to desert him. The novels immediately following ; Pickwick, the adventures of oliver Twist (1837-38), Nicholas Nickleby (1838-39). The old curiosity shop and Barnaby Rudge (1840-41).

In 1842 he visited America, partly out of a natural desire to see that country, where his books were widely read, partly, where his books were widely read, partly to gather material for American Notes (1842). Martin Chuzzlewit(1843) was much influenced by Dickens's American tour but its sales were, for various reasons, disappointing. However, A christmas Carol (1843) . The Crimes(1844) and Dombey

and son (1848). Further publication followed rapidly, despite visits to Italy, Switzerland and France and between 1848 and 1856 he wrote *David Copperfield*, *Bleak House*, *Hard Times* and *Little Dorrit*. In 1858, Dickens and his wife culminated in a formal separation, it may be that the comparative lack of humour in *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859) owes something to the sad loneliness of this time as well as to the stern events with which the book deals.

Great Expectations (1860-61) and *Our Mutual Friend* (1864-65) preceded his second visit to America in 1867, when he gave with great success a series of public readings from his novels, similar to those that he had been performing in England from 1858 onwards.

On this return from America, he returned to Gradshill, where he died on 9th June, 1870, leaving his last novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* unfinished.

VICTORIAN PERIOD 1832 - 1900

A scene of the period

Queen Victoria reigned from 1837 until 1901 but the Victorian Age is sometimes said to begin with the defeat of Napoleon in 1815. In Literature the period starts with the death of Sir Walter Scott in 1832, and sometimes goes up to 1914.

During Victoria's reign the population grew from two million to six and a half million and the cities grew bigger. Britain became the richest manufacturing country in the world.

Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, died in 1861, and the queen was a widow for forty years. There were many protests against the monarchy, and a strong republican movement grew in the 1870s.

This was the age of extremes; the working classes were poor, and lived and worked in terrible circumstances; the middle classes grew rich and comfortable. There were double standards in this society many writers used their works to show that although on the surface there were many problems.

Victorian Novels

In the Victorian period, the novel became the most popular and important form; in Britain and all over the world.

This was partly because of the success of the novels of Sir Walter Scott. His great series of Waverley Novels, published between 1814 and 1832, became the best sellers all over the world.

Charles Dickens wrote thirteen novels; *Sketches by Boz* (1836), *The Pickwick Papers* (1837), *Oliver Twist* (1838), and *Nicholas Nickleby* (1839). Dickens wrote about the social problems of young boys and the problems of the society. Dickens's novels often tell the stories of victims, and he made his readers aware of many of the problems of Victorian society. *David Copperfield* (1849) is his most positive novel about growing up. In *Great Expectations* (1860). There is a feeling of disappointment that the ending will not be so happy. The irony marks a change of tone in all Dickens's writing during the 1850s. *Hard Times* (1854) shows the worst sides of the new industrial society of the Midlands of England. *Little Dorrit* (1855-7), *Our Mutual Friend* (1864), *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859) about French

revolution. Christmas stories like "A Christmas Carol", these stories give the traditional picture of Victorian family values.

The writings of Friedrich Engels and Karl Marx were also very important. Engels studied the life of the workers in Manchester; "The condition of the working class in England". Marx "Das Kapital" criticizing the whole capitalist system.

Elizabeth Gaskell, her novels are closest to the reality of the times : Mary Barton(1848) and North and South(1855).

Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre(1847) is one of the most famous novels about a woman.

Emily Brontë, Wuthering Heights(1847) is a novel of passion, an early psychological novel. There were other novelists like William Makepeace Thackeray, Anthony Trollope, Wilkie Collins, Thomas Hardy, who reflect the problems of the last years of nineteenth century. The tone of Hardy's novels are more tragic.

HISTORY SIDE OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

At those times, Britain had hardly lost the thirteen colonies in America before a profound social and political convulsion at the very heart of Grand Monarchy was to remind Europe still more vividly of the essentially temporary nature of the political arrangements of the world.

We have said that the French monarchy was the most successful of the personal monarchies in Europe. It was the envy and model of a multitude of competing and minor courts. But it flourished on a basis of injustice that led to its dramatic collapse. It was brilliant and aggressive, but it was wasteful of the life and substance of its common people. The clergy and nobility were protected from taxation by a system of exemption that threw the whole burden of the state upon the middle and lower classes. The peasant were ground down by taxation; the middle classes were dominated and humiliated by the nobility. In 1787 this French monarchy found itself bankrupt and obliged to call representatives of the different classes of the realm into consultation upon the perplexities of defective income and excessive expenditure.

In 1791 the experiment of constitutional monarchy in France was brought to an abrupt end by the action of the King and Queen, working in concert with their aristocratic and monarchist friends abroad. One night in June the king and Queen and their children slipped away from the Tuileries and fled to Join the foreigners and aristocratic exiles. They were caught at varennes and brought back to Paris and all France flamed up into a passion of patriotic republicanism. A republic was proclaimed, open war with Austria and Prussia ensured, and the King was tried and executed (1793) on the model already set up by England, for treason to his people.

The revolution was now under the sway of a fanatical leader, Robespierre. This man is difficult to Judge ; he was a man of poor physique, naturally timid, and a prig. But the he had that most necessary gift for power, faith. He set himself to save the Republic as he conceived it, and he imagined it could be saved by no other man than he so that to keep in power was to save the republic . The living sprit of the Republic, it seemed, had sprung from a slaughter of Royalists and the executions of the King. There were insurections ;

one in the west in the district of La Vendee, where the people rose against the conscription and against the dispossession of the orthodox clergy, and were led by nobleman and priests ; one in the south, where Lyons and Marseilles had risen and the Royalist of Toulon had admitted an English and Spanish garrison.

The revolutionary Tribunal went to work, and a steady Slaughtering began. The invention of the guillotine was opportune to his mood. The King Louis XVI and the Queen was guillotined, most of Robespierre's antagonists were guillotined, atheists who argued that there was no Supreme Being were guillotined ; day by day, week by week, this infernal new machine chopped off heads and more heads and more.

SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL

Story starts with the voyage of a man whose name is Jarvis Lorry. He is a worker in tellson bank and the reason of his voyage is to reach a lady to who he has sent a message with the guards. Her name was Lady Manette .

When they met each other at royal George Hotel, Mr. Lorry has told her the secret of her life. She was expecting him to be a voyage helper about the financial cases of her own family but he has explained him dead father or the father whom she has thought of being already that infact was a life. She has suprired too of course, for 18 years she belive that the father was dead but indeed he was kept in a present a now he was living or at least trying to go on living in the house of a wine shop keeper, Mr. Deforge. He was a bull necked man . He was thirty years old. Madame Deforge was his wife she looked as if she cares of nothing Mr. Marette, the doctor was living in the house of his old servand, Mr. Deforge.

Lady Murette was so much afraid of his father because for 18 years, she hasn't seen him. With the encouragements of Mr. Deforge and Mr. Lory, she entered inside the room the man was sitting on a chair, making shoe. He was so weak, he was so thin. A little strength was left in his soul and body. He after long conversations recognised Mr. Lory and his daughter. She quarrelled with the father and convinced him about going back to England. After long years, the father and the daughter was together like a good old family.

He wasn't so much glad of being recalled to life. He wasn't really aware of what he has lost or what he had gained. The only word, he repeats was "I can't say".

After five years, story went on at the house of Mr. Cruncher. A man who looks quite ugly and dirty with a son named Jerry who looks quite same as him and a poor woman to whom they, especially Mr. Cruncher gets angry a lot with just because of Mrs. Cruncher's praying.

Mr. Cruncher was working in the bank. In the morning of that day he was sent to old Baily, the court. He was astonished but he had

to go. When he has gone, there was the trial of Mr. Charles Darnay. He was accused of being guilty. His punishment was to be drawn on a hurdle to be half hanged and then be taken down and sliced before his own face and then his inside will be taken out and burned while he looks on and then the head will be chopped off and cut into quarters. This was the terrible sentence.

But the criminal with the help of Mr. Stryver, the lawyer, Just released, congratulating him on his escape from death with the doctor Marett, Luchie Marett, Mr Lorry, the solicitor for the defence.

Actually the man we have known as Charles Darnay was nephew of Monseigneur. The Marquis was a strong man of religious who went on living in wealth. He was so rich and so bad intentioned. When he hits some one on the road or killed, he dares to pay his life to the other man.

Mr. Charles Darnay's uncle, the Marquis during the visit of his nephew was killed at the night of the visit.

When he become a literaturer, he still went on loving Miss Luchie Manette. With all his courage he has told Dr. Marette about the love he kept at heart.

Doctor's reaction was very friendly. Even he didn't let Charles Darnay to give doctor the secret of his life till the night of wedding cremony. Charles Darnay wasn't the only man who have fallen in love with Luchie Marette, the golden haired dol but Mr. Stryver and so Mr. Corton tool. When Mr. Stryver was about to open his feelings to the lady, he just wanted to consult to the man of bank, Mr Lorry. Mr Lorry convinced him that it wouldn't be right now. Not for Manette's low of Carton to Lucie was more realistic than stryver's. Lucie listened to Corton at that day, together, both of them have promised to forget about what has been talked about . Corton knows that the fire burning at his heart, wasn't someting full of light neither for him nor for her .

By the way as we have so many samples of these kind of honest tradesman in our society, the novel tells us in the middle of the book that Mr. Cruncher was a thief. A resurrection man . That was the reason of the iron rust of his hands or the mud of the shoes.

Mr. Charles Darnay and Miss Lucie Manette marries and just a bit of regret for compulsory decreasing of the love of doctor Marett made a light shadow to lucie's heart. The rest of the scene was the scene of happiness. Mr Lorry's kindness of fighting with the truth of Marett's illness inorder not to be learned by. Lucie was really deserves appreciation in the story.

At one side the colorful marriage was told detailly, at the other side the struggle of Deforge's which recalls our admiradion.

As it is told in the entrance of the novel, it was the best and the Worst of times. It was the age of foolishness of and wisdom. It was the epoch of incredulity. It was the season of both light and darkness. It was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair. In short, the peiod was so far like the present period that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only. There were a kind of large Jaw and a queen a fair face. In both countries, it was clearer then crystal to the lords of the state preserves of loaves and fishes, that things in general were settled for ever.

Actually what I am trying to tell is both in England and in France the situation was very bad. Rich and powerful people like Marquis were so much cruel. The citizens were hungry and poor. They were buying breads with no taste. They were in order to survive mixing with water like Deforges just to earn a bit more. The taxes were too much high. The tax wasn't paid only one association or institution but many. Nothing was left to them live. They were shouting at the king and the queen as, long live king and long live the queen. Queen came in their golden coach, the manner of roads bathen for the king but in fact what they felt inside is important. There inside was full of anger and hatred. To whom, to Mr. Foulon who told the starving people, they might eat grass. Foulon who told their old father that he might eat grass.

When they have no bread to give him. Foulon was declared as dead but it was alive. When they learned it. They got so much angry. The Jacques, nickname for revolutionists with the help of Mr. Deforge Who organizes the rebellions, also Mrs. Deforge who knits the names on the

shirts in order not to be caught or captured by the guards with their lists. They were fighting and struggling for revolution

So the big disaster, fire of the house of Marquis was followed with the invention of La Guillotine for the nobels and rich .

Years have passed. Little Lucie was born and become even seven years old little Lady, Darnay was so much faithful to his ever loving Lady Murette and Carton was so close to the children, the family of murettes surprisingly in a straining way Mr Lorry has given a letter sent by Mr. Gabelle who is the husband of the daughter of Marquis that the letter ended with "your afflicted" Gabelle. From the prison of the Abbaye, Paris, his mind was so much mixed. He loved Lucie but the problem was, he surname, his royal family was blamed as darkest as possible it can be. He, by being a member of the family should clarify that big, black, bad spot but Murettes were the other reflection of his responsibilities . He had decided to go back to Paris, to save Gabelle whom was accused of being the killer of Marquis .

He had written letters to Lucie and his daughter, also the doctor but the events he lived were just the opposite of what he had foreseen .

He was captured by the villagers. He was royal, rich just like the other wealthy dictators. He was someone who lies hundreds of reasons to them even just by a single look of him to be killed, to be got rid of. The novel tells us detailly the sadness of the wife, the father in love and the doctor in a perfect way.

For one year and three months he was kept in present. The trial at the and (the third witness) Dr. Manette and the complexity of the case let him free. The happiness didn't go on much because with the workings of Mrs. Deforge and the other revolutionists kept in prison once again.

In short he was released. He saved himself but Mrs. Pross, the faithful maid waitress of Manettes killed Mrs. Deforge who really hates the strong and the noble in France. She was sure that each and every minutes she keeps Mrs. Deforge somewhere away from the house and Manettes would help them to escape. Sydney Carton's sacrifice, presenting to republic and Charles Darnay his life was the great point of this high, huge story. It affects reader so much that it even mixes the mind whether great expectations or the tale of two cities is the

greatest novel of Charles Dickens by whom he reflects us here In the story, the poverty, disappointment and the own soul of himself with Charles Darnay, Sydney Carton and Lucie Manette. We have read the rebellions, the french revolution mostly from historical datas, books or films but in the novel it hasn't been given as deeply as it is given to the readers.

In this novel, Dickens is not only a willing admission of his own self but also a vivid portrait of the French Revolution. He is a master by means of a vivid sketch of which, some striking physical features is emphasized. Jerry Cruncher's heavy-lidded, milky face, close-set eyes and enormous muffer. Miss Pross's upright straight and hair and wonderful bonnet; Lucie's blue eyes, golden hair and expressive forehead. Charles Darnay's well-built face, handsome, with sunburnt cheeks and dark eyes so at our first meeting with them, the chief characteristics of these people are suggested by their appearance, and they change little as the story unfolds.

Sydney Carton, Ernest DeLorge, and Doctor Manette are more complex characters than the rest. Carton is the most complicated of the

A NOTE ON THE CHARACTERIZATION

As I have seen already, Dickens concentrated more on event than on character development when he was writing the novel. In consequence, few of the characters have any depth. For the most part they are adequate figures in this exciting story, asking only and generally obtaining from us a willing suspension of our disbelief. Dicken's usual method is to present each character by means of a vivid sketch in which some striking physical feature is emphasised. Jerry Cruncher's hoarse voice, spiky hair, close-set eyes and enormous muffler ; Miss Pross's great strenght, red hair and wonderful bonnet; lucie's blue eyes, golden hair and expressive forehead; Charles Darnay's well-built body, handsome face, sunburnt cheeks and dark eyes so at our first meeting with them, the chief characteristics of these people are suggested by their appearance, and they change little as the story unfolds.

Sydney Carton, Ernest Defarge, and Doctor Manotte are more complex characters than the rest Carton is the most complicated of the

three. He develops remarkably as the tale unfolds ; from the cynical wastied hining out is talerts for drink money to the resolute, reliable hero who goes bravely to his death to save others. This change is not entirely unexpected, however, for there have been through out hints of better things in Carton. It is he who notices Lucie's distress at the end of Darnay's trial at the old Bailey, and in his neglected logings we see his remorse for his wasted life. "He was so unlike what he had ever shown himself to be " reflects Lucie after Charton without any expectation of reward has declared his love and promised his life to her should her circumstances ever require it. It is this contrast between the sydney Carton that the world sees and the troubled, sensitive being whoreveals himself to achosen few, that gives the character depth and psychological interest.

Ernest Defarge , Dickens gives a careful picture of him when he is introduced the story, and he is far from unpleasing in appearance. His revolutionary activities are inspired by a generous indignation anoused by the injustice of the old regime For more than his wife, he would wish to use force as a means to an end, rather than as an end

itself. Several times he shows some pity for the manettes and clearly thinks that a halt should be called to vengeance once Darnay has been executed.

Doctor Manette's character is, of course, moulded by his long imprisonment. The broken and prematurely aged man who we first see is encouraged by Lucie's devotion to being. The long climb out of his living grave we trace his recovery and relapses with an anxious eye, admiring both his courage and the fine traits that are revealed as the prison frost melts. Like Carton, he reaches his noblest height in Paris, but cracks under the strain when finally he discovers that he is powerless to help those he loves. It is a mark of the interest he arouses that we are relieved to find in Carton's dying vision, assurance of his ultimate restoration. Like the other two characters with whom he is grouped here, he derives his vitality and interest from the many-sidedness of his personality.

NOTES ON THE CHARACTERS

Sydney Carton : An able but idle barrister, Jacked to Mr.Stryver ; in love with Lucie Manette , Finally delivering her husband from death.

Koger Cly : An old Bailey spy : of some importance in the plot, but lacking any individuality. His “funeral” makes an exciting scene in the novel.

Jerry Cruncher : Odd-Job man at Tellson’s Bank by day ; resurrection-man at night One of the principal comic characters and important in coercing Barsad Keperks of his body snatching when in Paris during the Terror, and promises to turn sextan and to permit Mrs. Cruncher to “flop”.

Monsievr Ernest Defarge : Keeper of a wine shop, and once servant to Doctor Marette kingleader of the revolutionary movement in Saint Antonie and prominert at the taking of the Bastille It is to his home that Doctor Maratte goes when released, and it is he who finds the mysterious paper in cell one hundred and Five, Morth Tower.

Monsieur Theophile Gabelle : Post master and tax official under the Marquis St. Evremonde It is his piteous letter from the Abbaye in an attempt to defend him.

Jacques One, two, three : Revolutionaries who look to Defarge for leadership.

Joe- : The guard of the Dover mail.

Mrs Jarvis Lorry : Confidential clerk at Tellson's Has a good leg, a tidy little brown wig with which he fusses, and has been "a man of business since he was a boy". Devoted servant of the Bank and also a loyal friend of the marettes. Not an adventurous man he confesses to his fear of high-waymen when giving evidence at the old Bailey but resolute in pursuit of duty or in defence of friends.

Doctor Alexander Maretti : Sometime of Beauvais and later of Paris. In solitary confinement in the Bastille for nearly eighteen years.

Solomon Pross : Also known as John Barsad Brother of Miss. Pross. Government spy in England old Bailey later makes a very poor attempt at spying on the Defarges Later still becomes a prison spy for the Revolutionary tribunals. Very important in Carton's scheme for

releasing Darnay. Our distaste for this despicable figure is very slightly lessened when he tries to grieve the "patriot" who is bawling at Carton as he goes to his death. But perhaps this gesture was prompted by his relief at seeing the full tally of victims in the tumbrils.

Marguis St. Evrémonde (1) : The symbol of all that was bad in the ancien régime uncle of Charles Darnay and slain at his chateau by Gaspard. A melodramatic figure when consorting with Charles, but by no means an unconvincing figure to represent "the time going out", to use Dickens's own words about him.

Marguis St. Evrémonde (2) : Twin brother of the above and father of Charles Darnay see book 3, chapter x.

Charles Darnay : A name which he adopts when, to mark his desire to make amends for the sins of his family, he relinquishes his estates in France and comes to England to seek a useful occupation. Husband of Lucie Manette. Not by any means a complicated character, but a brave, amply likeable man, well fitted to be the hero of this stirring tale.

Mr. Stryver : A barrister whose "ticket name" hits off the personality of his bumptious, pushing, selfish fellow.



Tom : The coachman of the Dover mail.

Mrs. Cruncher : Jerry's wife. The poor, downtrodden "Aggerawayter" has no other purpose in the book than to arouse Jerry's anger by her "flopping".

Madame Therese Defarge : Wife of Ernest Defarge and chief inspirer of the revolutionaries of Saint Antonie sister of the peasant women and boy so fearfully wronged by the Euremondes Perhaps at times melodramatic with her "grain of caught" and her tooth pick, but very effective in her finest scenes. During the storming of the Bastille, she is a fury rather than a woman, symbol of retribution for age-old wrongs, and at one with a roaring wind and the fire.

Lucie Marette : Daughter of the Doctor of Beauvais and his English wife like her husband Charles Darnay, she lacks any subtlety of characterisation. Typical of the heroine of popular fiction, but more than a "golden-haired doll". She has some life and spirit and except in the painfully artificial dialogue between herself and Charles when they discuss Carton, answers well enough to the demands made upon her by the story.

Miss Pross : Shares with Mr. Cruncher the leading comic role. Characterised largely by appearance and catch phrase Lion hearted in defence of her "Lady bird" and indispensable to the smooth running of the manette household.

Lucie : Daughter of Charles and Lucie .

Marguise St. Euremande : Wife of Marguis St. Euremande (2) and mother of Charles.

The Vengeance : Madame Defarge's lieutenant among the women revolutionaries of Saint Antonie.

CONCLUSION

We are the children of reublic, all of us are the generation of peace. Mone of us have seen war or any threat of peace. When I read this novel, I have seen horror. I felt ashamed My emotions were mixed because they were making jokes about gvillotine as the best cure for headache. This is really disgusting I understood what hunger forces a person to charge so much and many picees of food had thrown to the wastebasket at each meal.

Shortly ; each and every person of my age need to read this novel. It gives a lot to our soul and brain we need to face with the realities of life.love and mony doesn't mean everyting in life.

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