

**PHILANTHROPISM IN CHARLES DICKENS'S *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*:  
A GENETIC STRUCTURALISM ANALYSIS**  
( *Pilantropisme dalam Karya Charles Dickens yang berjudul A Christmas Carol: Sebuah  
Analisis Strukturalisme Genetik* )

**Fachriza Amalia Rakhman, Eko Suwargono, Meilia Adiana**  
English Department, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Jember  
Jln. Kalimantan 37, Jember 68121  
e-mail: [kirengging@yahoo.co.id](mailto:kirengging@yahoo.co.id)

**ABSTRAK**

*Artikel ini menganalisis tentang pandangan dunia Charles Dickens yang terdapat dalam karyanya yang berjudul A Christmas Carol. Tujuan artikel ini adalah untuk menjelaskan pandangan dunia yang dimiliki oleh Charles Dickens serta tujuan Charles Dickens memasukkan pandangan dunianya tersebut ke dalam karyanya. Selain itu, tujuan dari penelitian ini yaitu untuk menjelaskan faktor-faktor apa yang menyebabkan Charles Dickens memiliki pandangan dunia tersebut. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori Lucien Goldmann tentang Strukturalisme Genetik. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif. Dalam melakukan penelitian ini, dilakukan beberapa tahapan. Tahapan pertama yaitu mengumpulkan data yang berkaitan dengan topik bahasan. Tahapan yang ke dua adalah mengklasifikasi data yang telah dikumpulkan sesuai dengan topik bahasan dan teori strukturalisme genetik. Tahapan yang ketiga yaitu menganalisis data yang telah terklasifikasi tersebut dengan menggunakan teori strukturalisme genetik. Dari analisis tersebut dihasilkan kesimpulan yang menunjukkan bahwa Charles Dickens memiliki pandangan dunia pilantropisme. Pandangan dunia yang terdapat dalam karyanya tersebut muncul karena masa kecil Charles Dickens yang menyedihkan, keadaan orang-orang miskin di Inggris yang sangat memprihatinkan serta agama yang dianutnya. Tujuannya menciptakan novela ini adalah untuk mengembalikan keseimbangan antara dirinya dengan lingkungannya. Tujuan dimasukkannya pandangan dunia ini dalam karyanya adalah untuk menyadarkan para kaum atas akan pentingnya berbagi dan cinta sesama sehingga tidak ada jarak antara mereka dan orang-orang miskin. Selain itu, Dickens ingin mengembalikan moral manusia yang mengalami kemunduran akibat kapitalisme.*

*Kata kunci: Pilantropisme, Strukturalisme Genetik, Pandangan Dunia*

**ABSTRACT**

This article analyzes the world view of Charles Dickens in one of his works entitled A Christmas Carol. The aims of this article are to describe the world view of Charles Dickens and his goals for inserting his world view in his novella. Moreover, this article explains several factors that made Dickens possessed that kind of world view. This research uses Lucien Goldmann's theory of Genetic Structuralism. This research is a qualitative research. In doing this research, there are several steps to do. The first step is collecting the data deal with the topic of discussion from the main source and from the secondary sources. The second step is classifying the data which have been collected. The third step is analyzing the classified data by using Genetic Structuralism theory. From the analysis, it can be concluded that Charles Dickens had a world view of philanthropism inserted in his novella. The world view which is found in his literary work emerged because of his humiliating childhood, the suffering condition of the lower class in England and his religion. His aim by creating this novella is to bring back the balance between him and his environment. While his aim by inserting this kind of world view was to urge the upper class about the importance of being benevolent, celebrating Christmas and loving others. By doing those efforts, the gap between the upper and the lower could be reduced. Besides, Dickens wanted to bring back the morals of people which started to decay because of Capitalism.

**Key words:** Philanthropism, Genetic Structuralism, world view

## Introduction

*A Christmas Carol* was a Christmas story published on December 19<sup>th</sup> 1843. This novella is mainly inspired by Charles Dickens's humiliating childhood, the condition of the poor and their children who cannot enjoy the Christmas. *A Christmas Carol* is a very popular novella which had been adapted many times to film, stage, opera and other media. It is also inspired many people to become generous and loving people ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_Dickens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Dickens)). The story of *A Christmas Carol* is a kind of invitation for the readers especially for the upper class to be benevolent and to love each other. The society in Victorian Era needs to be regenerated. Dickens who professes Christian, thinks that the condition of Victorian society was exploitative and the people started to lose their human feeling. So, in the moment of Christmas, he made a story that teaches the readers about Christian value to love each other and to be generous.

A literary work, according to Genetic Structuralism, is a significant structure which is motivated from the intention of the author in order to make an equilibrium between him and his environment. So, regarding the content of the story, *A Christmas Carol* can be categorized as a kind of social criticism Dickens made to criticize people of England at that time in the form of illustration through the main character. It is a story which tells us that philanthropism is needed to regenerate human mind as well as human heart that almost loses its warmth and kindness.

It is assumed that there is a discourse about philanthropism. The idea of philanthropism in *A Christmas Carol*, gives new impression in the Age where Capitalism spreaded over the country as well as the world as the result of Industrial Revolution. Charles Dickens did not oppose the idea of Capitalism because he knew that it was something that could not be avoided. He just gave one idea that could fix the human soul. The idea that could bring back the morals of people. So, this research will use the theory of Genetic Structuralism by Lucien Goldman in order to reveal the world view of Charles Dickens in his novella *A Christmas Carol*.

## **Methodology**

The type of this research is qualitative. Qualitative research is an exploratory research that is used to dig up our understanding about the problem we discuss. It helps to develop our ideas. The data which are used in qualitative research deal with non-numerical data. Qualitative research concerns with the collection and analysis of information in as many forms, chiefly non-numeric as possible (Blaxter et al, 1981:60).

In doing this research, there are several steps to do. The first step is collecting the data deals with the topic of discussion from the main source and from the secondary sources. The primary data is taken from the dialogues in the novella entitled *A Christmas Carol*. The secondary data are taken from articles, journals, internet sources, and previous researches. The second step is classifying the data which have been collected. The third step is analyzing the classified data by using Genetic Structuralism theory. The last step is all of the data and information are analyzed by using the theory of Genetic Structuralism of Lucien Goldmann. The theory is used as a tool for looking for the author's world view through his literary work, *A Christmas Carol*.

### **Result and Discussion**

The discussion is divided into three subjects. The first subject discusses the significant structure of the novella, the second subject discusses the social structure in England as the contextual background, and the third subject discusses the world view of the author.

“Why, it's impossible to carry that to Camden Town,” said Scrooge.

“You must have a cab.” (Dickens, 2006:79)

The illustration says that the setting of place of the story takes place in London is showed by this quotation above. The name of London is said in this quotation to be the place where Scrooge lives. Scrooge lives in London and it has the similarities with the place where the author lived. Charles Dickens had settled in Chatham when his family moves to Camden Town, London. Rejoin them later but his education is discontinued (Fairhurst, 2006: xxxvii). Literary work seen as a structure, must be related to historical subjects not to some sphere outside history (Goldmann,1980:11). It means that literary works and historical background is strongly related. There is a relation between human and the environment. In other words, the process of creating literary work cannot be separated from the social and historical condition. Thus, there is similarity between the significant structure and the society where the author lived.

In the beginning of the story, Scrooge is illustrated as a man who has bad characteristic. No one likes him because of his bad character.

“Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained and solitary as an oyster.” (Dickens, 2006:10)

Scrooge is a very bad person so no one wants to get closer with him or even greets him. He only thinks about himself and his business. Dickens, through his work, illustrated how money can change people drastically just like what happened to Scrooge.

The reversed condition is showed through Bob and his family. They live in simplicity from 15 shillings per week that Scrooge had given to him. He is a good clerk, loyal and kind. He never protests to his boss although Scrooge does not really care of his condition. He never asks for more coal in very cold weather and accepts anything he gets.

...Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk's fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal. But he couldn't replenish it, for Scrooge kept the coal box in his own room; and so surely as the clerk came in with shovel, the master predicted that it would be necessary for the to part. Wherefore, the clerk put on his white comforter, and tried to warm himself at the candle... (Dickens, 2006:11)

Dickens created the character of the poor that deserved to be helped by emphasizing his good nature, his suffering life and his poor family. The quotation above shows how loyal Scrooge's Clerk is. He has no other choice except receives the condition he faces. He has to bear all of the uncomfortable condition without complaining or mocking his master behind his back.

Those quotations show the way Dickens drew the nature of the lower class and the upper class. The quotation which illustrates the condition of Bob and his family is the proof that the lower class, in the middle of his suffering condition, must be helped. We have nothing to regret for by helping them to survive because they are good people. By helping them, we are doing good and God loves it. It cannot give any bad impact to us.

To see the world view of the author, finding the binary opposition of one character to other characters is important.

"You wish to be anonymous?"  
 "I wish to be left alone," said Scrooge...  
 "Many can't go there; and many would rather die."  
 "If they would rather die, said Scrooge, "they had better do it, and decrease the surplus population. Besides—excuse me—I don't know that."  
 "But you might know it," observed the gentleman.  
 "It is not my business," Scrooge returned. "it's enough for a man to understand his own business, and not to interfere with other people's. Mine occupies me constantly. Good afternoon, gentlemen!" (Dickens, 2006:14)

The binary opposition between Scrooge and the two Gentlemen who ask for a little amount of money above shows that the have does not really care of the condition of the poor. Scrooge prefers the poor to die because they can decrease the surplus population than helps them to survive by sharing his money. It can be known from the binary opposition above that Dickens as a loyal

Christian, through his work entitled *A Christmas Carol*, urged the people, especially the upper class or upper-middle class who profess Christian to keep celebrating Christmas and to care each other by sharing what they have for example: money, goods, etc to the poor.

Literary work seen as a structure, must be related to historical subjects not to some sphere outside history (Goldmann,1980:11). It means that there is a strong relation between a literary work and the social condition when the work was written. The creation of *A Christmas Carol* were derived from Dickens miserable childhood, the condition of the lower class in England during Industrial Revolution and his religion. Dickens had a miserable condition when he was still young. He had to work in blacking factory when he was twelve years old. That condition made Dickens had a high social consciousness when he grew as an adult. He saw many suffering conditions of the lower class because of capitalism and made his novella as an effort to make a balance between him and his environment. His religion also gave a great contribution to make his story and to build his world view.

World view is the ideology of the author that comes as the result of his life experience. By looking at the story and its value, the world view which is found in *A Christmas Carol* is a philanthropism. Philanthropism discourse is the author's ideology which was inserted in his novella. As an effort to express his world view, author creates imaginary characters, objects and relations (Goldmann cited in Faruk, 2012:71). Thus, as his effort to express his world view, Dickens created the characters, the setting and the problem imaginatively based on the real condition of England at that time.

## **Conclusion**

*A Christmas Carol* is a story that teaches us to be benevolent and to care of others. The significant structure of the novella has similarities with the social condition when the author lived. The setting of place of the novella was the same with the place where the author lived. The characters of the story were adapted from the social condition at that time where social class stratification was being the fact that added the miserable life of London.

Philanthropism is a kind of world view which was resulted from his life experiences, his religion, and the problems happened surround him. It was an idea that Dickens thought could be used as a tool to regenerate people's souls and bring back the warmth of their heart from the effect

of Capitalism. Thus, Philanthropism is a must as showed by the main character as the middle class people and his change attitude in the end of the story toward the poor.

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