

Pope, Swift and Johnson as Major Satirists of Eighteenth-century England

Eltahir Abdalla Gamar Ibrahim¹, Yousif Omer Babiker²

^{1,2} Sudan University of Science and Technology -College of Languages

ABSTRACT :

This research paper aims at casting a new light on the role of some of the satirical works of the major satirists of the Eighteenth-century England, notably Alexander Pope, Jonathan Swift, and Dr. Samuel Johnson. The social impacts together with the environmental factors that affected people's life are duly brought out.

As satire prevailed in Eighteenth-century England, the paper tackles reasons stand behind this. The efforts done by the men of letters, especially the statisticians in enhancing judiciary establishments and diffusing justice and equality among people lead to a social progress.

The Eighteenth-century satirists, including novelists, essayists, journalists and poets exerted considerable efforts to carry out their messages towards their society. Satire is an effective tool for achieving this goal. The social changes and reform that occurred came as a result of the efforts of those men of letters.

The paper sheds light on the role of the major satirists of the age in progress of enlightenment and guidance of the people through their literary works. They stressed the importance of education, explaining that ignorance was the cause of all evils and problems. They called for good conduct and manners and attacked sham social practices.

Key words: *Satire, Social System, Judiciary, Satirists, Society, Pope, Swift, Johnson*

المستخلص :

سلطت هذه الورقة البحثية الحالية الضوء على شعراء الهجاء الاجتماعي الرئيسيين الذين ظهوروا في إنجلترا في القرن الثامن عشر الميلادي مثل الإسكندر بوب وجوناثان سويفت وصامويل جونسون نسبة للدور العظيم الذي لعبوه في تعليم وتوعية وتنوير الناس. ولقد تناولت الورقة الأثر الاجتماعي والعوامل البيئية التي كان لها أثرا في حياة الناس. ولوما كان الهجاء مزدهرا في القرن الثامن عشر، تناولت الورقة البحثية الحالية الأسباب التي كانت تقف وراء هذا الازدهار. ولقد قاد الجهد الذي بذله الأدباء، خاصة الهجائيين في تحسين المؤسسات العدلية ونشر العدالة والمساواة بين الناس إلى التقدم الاجتماعي.

بذل هؤلاء الأدباء بمختلف مشاربهم الأدبية من هجائيين وروائيين وكتاب مقالات وصحفيين وشعراء جهودا مقدرة في حمل رسالتهم تجاه مجتمعهم. ولقد كان الهجاء هو الأداة الفعالة التي استخدمت للعب هذا الدور. لقد أتت التغييرات والإصلاحات الاجتماعية التي حدثت كنتيجة لهذه الجهود التي بذلها الأدباء.

سلطت الورقة البحثية الحالية الضوء على الدور الذي لعبه شعراء الهجاء الرئيسيين في القرن الثامن عشر في تنوير وتوجيه الناس من خلال أعمالهم الأدبية. لقد ركز هؤلاء الأدباء على أهمية التعليم، مدركين بأن الجهل هو سبب جميع المصائب والشور. لذلك حثوا الناس على حسن التصرف والأخلاق وصبوا جام غضبهم على الممارسات الاجتماعية المشينة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الهجاء، النظام الاجتماعي، القضاء، الهجائيين، المجتمع، بوب، سويفت، جونسون

1. INTRODUCTION:***1.1 The Social Class System of Eighteenth-century England***

In the Eighteenth-century, the land was the source of wealth, power and social influence. Ownership of land meant having power over the others and controlling and ruling them. Most of the powerful people were the owners of land, which was also a means for winning the membership of the parliament and authority. Generally, the social system was based on feudalism or semi-feudalism. It can rightly be said that the rule of England was based on a class system.

Before the industrial revolution, most English people lived in the countryside and the main source of their livelihood was farming. Most of the politicians were landowners. There was class division in Eighteenth-century England as (Zundel 2000; 24) opines:

Dependency was an accepted fact of life in England during seventeenth and eighteenth centuries: Each person has a "place and station" linked by increments of subordination to those above and below them in the social hierarchy. But the many social ranks were also divisible into two boarder categories "gentlemen," composed of the gentry on up through the gradation of nobility, and "commoners" from yeoman farmers down to the servants and slaves at the bottom rungs. These two categories were widely regarded by those on the upper rung as defining different types of beings, possessing different mental, emotional and physical nature.

The high class included the nobility, politicians and merchants. Most of them were landowners. Then came the middle class represented by the tradesmen, professionals and high rank

governmental officers. The majority of the people belonged to the middleclass, including craftsmen and workers.

Many people were ruined due to new pars and excessive alcohol drinking. The population grew very quickly. This was accompanied by the bad consequences of environmental contamination that led to the spread of diseases and crimes over the country.

Agriculture witnessed great development, especially after the invention of new agricultural machines, including seed drills. This of course resulted in increasing of seeds production and the vast extensions of agricultural land.

The styles of houses were greatly developed. Beautiful country houses were built by rich people, scattering in many areas of the country. There were great architects and gardeners such as Robert Adam (1728-1792) and Lancelot Brown (1715-1783). Thus writes (Monod: 2009; 247) to describe the great development:

"The appearance of great country houses changed as well, due to the neoclassical style popularized by the Scottish architect Robert Adam. Adam had visited Italy, where he saw the early excavations of the buried ancient town of Pompei. On his return, he began designing houses for the wealthy in Scotland and England, including Lord Mansfield's mansion on Hampstead Heath near London. By careful reproducing Roman proportions, and by copying elaborate Roman interior decorations, Adam gave his clients the impression that they were living like the splendid aristocrats that they read about in classical literature."

However; the poor suffered from living in bad and unhealthy lodges, which were overcrowded. They became liable to diseases and early death and exploitation of the higher classes.

In the field of education, charity schools were established in many towns. The sons of rich were admitted to Grammar Schools and were transported by turnpikes. Horses were used to carry goods.

The main threat in the Eighteenth-century was smallpox. Increasing numbers of people fell victims to this horrible disease. Later in 1796 a vaccine for the disease was discovered by Eduard Jenner as stated by (Ljsewijn 1996; 520) "*Dr. Edward Jenner discovered a vaccine; and in 1980 the World Health Organization declared that the illness had been eradicated.*"

1.2Judiciary and Administration of Justice

It may be appropriate at this juncture to move on to a survey of the judiciary and the administration of justice in Eighteenth-century England.

Henry Fielding, the well-known novelist, and his brother Sir John Fielding managed to collect ample information about famous criminals and offenders in their newspaper which they called "The Hue and the Cry". They made great efforts to enhance police services. (Palmiotto and Unnithan 2010; 166) say, "*Contributors in the eighteenth century to British policing were Henry Fielding and John Fielding. In fact, Henry Fielding could be credited with initiating modern policing. The policing system advocated by Henry Fielding and John Fielding and the progressives that followed them were strong believers in the police and community partnership.*"

Magistrates behaved as public prosecutors. The accused prisoners were not allowed to see the evidence against them before the trial. They were given no suitable chances to defend themselves. Prisoners were cruelly treated if they refrained from answering the judge. Those who were not found guilty had to pay the expenses of the period they spent in prison, which was called "jailor's fees". If they failed to make the payment, they would be imprisoned once more. Like debtors, they would be punished harshly, by whipping or even burning. The convicted murderers were kept only with bread and water in secluded cells and their bodies hung to be seen by the people.

Later, the idea of transporting criminals far away to British Colonies was put into practice. In 1718, an act was passed by the Parliament to allow for the transportation of criminals. (Schmalleger and Armstrong 1997; 236) have mentioned that "*Transportation to the American colonies continued in an informal manner until the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries when acts of Parliament began making it an official aspect of England's punishment system. Especially important was the Transportation Act of 1718, which had as its stated purpose to deter criminals and supply the colonies with labor.*"

Culture and commercial life was located in London. Samuel Johnsons says "*when a man is tired of London, he is tired of life, for there is in London all that life can afford.*" (Boswell 1791; 18)

Swift's (1751; 40) "A Description of the Morning" gives a vivid description of London's Society at that time:

*Now hardly here and there an Hackney
Coach,
Appearing show'd the ruddy Morn's
Approach;
Now Betty from her Master's Bed had
flown,
And softly stole to discompose her own.
The Slipshod 'Prentice from his Master's
Door,
Had par'd the Dirt, and sprinkled round
the Floor.*

This may have provided a suitable background for the flourishing of satire

*In Poets as true Genius is but rare,
True Taste as seldom is the Critic's
share;
Both must alike from Heav'n derive their
light,
These born to judge, as well as those to
write.
Let such teach others who themselves
excel,
And censure freely who have written
well;
Authors are partial to their wit, 't is
true,
But are not Critics to their judgment
too?
Yet if we look more closely, we shall find
Most have the seeds of judgment in their
mind:
Nature affords at least a glimm'ring
light;*

Pope's "An Essay on Criticism (Lines 11-21)

in this age. The miserable conditions under which people lived, the lack of justice, unhealthy environment, the spread of crimes, the bad sanitary system, the class struggle which was accompanied by deterioration of manners are the main causes that urged

the social reformers try hard to seek for solutions for these problems.

2. The Major Satirists of the Age

2.1 Alexander Pope

Alexander Pope (1688-1744) was born in Lombard Street, London, on 21 May 1688. Pope was a major Eighteenth-century poet, and he was known for his satirical verse and his translating Homer, the famous Greek poet.

Pope's father was a linen merchant of Plough Court, Lombard Street, London. His mother, Edith, was the daughter of William Turner of York. Both his parents were Roman Catholics. Pope's education was hindered by the Test Acts, which prevented Catholics from teaching, attending universities, voting or holding public offices, as mentioned by (Pruitt and Durham 2000; 283, 284): "*Scores of pamphlets poured out against toleration of Roman Catholics, and Parliament, when it convened in February and March 1673, swiftly passed the Test Act, which enforced penal laws against Roman Catholics and threw out their priests, and also prohibited non-Anglicans from holding public offices.*"

Pope studied many languages, including English, French, Italian, Latin and Greek. A few years later he came to know the prominent literary figures of London Society such as William Wycherley, William Congreve, Samuel Garth, William Trumbull and William Walsh. Sir William Trumbull, a retired secretary of state, was a man of general accomplishments. He became a friend of Pope, and offered him many services. In the same manner, he was greatly helped by Mr. Walsh of Apperley, a man of good taste and sense, who introduced him to many prominent literary figures in London. Pope also met Teresa and

Martha Blount, his lifelong friends, and became acquainted with them through Pope also introduced himself to the famous journalists Addison and Warburton. Later on, he became acquainted with Lady Mary Wortley Montague, the most brilliant woman of the age, an accomplished, energetic and full of spirit woman. He fell in love with her, but she did not exchange love with him. Among his famous acquaintances was Sir Henry Cromwell, a distant relative of the great Oliver, a gentleman of fortune, gallantry and literary taste.

At the age of twelve, Pope suffered from many health problems such as bones tuberculosis, resulted in deforming his body and delaying his growth, in addition to respiratory difficulties, high fevers, inflamed eyes and abdominal pains. Pope never got married and remained a bachelor.

In 1709, Pope published his "Pastorals", which brought him fame. It was followed by his famous poem "An Essay on Criticism", which was published in 1711.

In "An Essay on Criticism" he attempted genuinely to enact practical rules for judging literature. He explains that the qualifications of a critic's mind are important, and stresses the importance of taste in literature:

"An Essay on Criticism" was an answer to the question whether poetry should be natural or written according to the widespread artificial rules that were inherited from the classical past.

In about 1711, Pope became acquainted with John Gay, Jonathan Swift, Thomas Parnell and John Arbuthnot. All of them were members of the satirical Scriblerus Club. The main objectives of this Club were to satirize ignorance and pedantry in a manner similar to that of fictional

their brother Michael Blount of Maple in 1707.

scholar Martinus Scriblerus, as mentioned by (Delon 2013; 1182): *"The greatest writers of the period even founded the delightful Scriblerus Club, the purpose of which was to poke collective fun of their pompous, pedantic, ignorant and eponymous hero, whose comic biography appeared in 1741 as Memoirs of the Extraordinary Life and Discoveries of Martinus Scriblerus."*

In "Windsor Forest" (1713), Pope describes the forest near which he dwelled. It is one of his early poems, which one feels can be labeled a romantic. It is regard as the source of inspiration to Pope, for whom the forest has become the symbol of tranquility and peace. The description of the river and the landscape is its most appealing feature.

In genial spring, beneath the quiv'ring shade,

Where cooling vapours breathe along the mead,

The patient fisher takes his silent stand, Intent, his angle trembling in his hand; With looks unmov'd, he hopes the scaly breed,

And eyes the dancing cork, and bending reed.

Our plenteous streams a various race supply,

Pope's Winsor Forest (Lines 135-141)

By 1720 Pope had finished translating and publishing "Iliad".The "Iliad" was written by the ancient Greek poet Homer in 760-710 BC. In it Homer describes events of weeks of fight (or Trojan War) between the King Agamemnon and the Warier Achilles. Homer also wrote the "Odyssey" which Pope translated. The "Iliad" comprises 15,693 lines, and it is

Pope's greatest achievement. Here are a few lines from it:

Achilles' wrath, to Greece the direful spring

Of woes unnumber'd, heavenly goddess, sing!

That wrath which hurl'd to Pluto's gloomy reign

The souls of mighty chiefs untimely slain;

Whose limbs unburied on the naked shore,

Devouring dogs and hungry vultures tore.⁴¹

*Since great Achilles and Atrides strove,
Such was the sovereign doom, and such
the will of Jove!*

Pope's Iliad (lines 36-42) William Blackwood et al (London: 1831; 160).

Pope's famous poem "The Rape of the Lock" was published in 1712 and its revised version was published in 1714. It is a mock-epic poem, satirizing a quarrel between Mrs. Arabella Fermor (Belinda in the poem) and Lord Petre, who took a lock of hair off Mrs. Arabella.

Pope's masterpiece "Dunciad", first published in Dublin, was an attack on Theobald and a number of "dunces". It is a satirical poem full of information and classical illusions.

What is worth mentioning here is that the "Dunciad" stirred up all the "dunces" of Grub Street, headed by Dennis and Colley Cibber, who headed the critics against Pope.

The philosophical poem "An Essay on Man" was published between 1732 and 1734. Pope intended it as a system conveyed through a poetic form. Indeed, Pope attempted to "vindicate the ways of God to Man" as observed by (Rawson 2011; 244): *"Pope Conspicuously alludes to Milton's epic attempt to 'justify' the ways of God to men; but in*

place of Milton's intense psychological narrative of fall and redemption, we have a satiric diagram of universal truths." Pope believed that man had fallen and must find ways for his own salvation. His ideas about the universe are stated.

Pope's "Elegy on the Memory of Unfortunate Lady" is one of his distinguished poems. The lady mentioned in the title of the poem is still unknown and so her story. It is said that her name is Wainsbury who was attached to a love above her station, who might be the Duke of Berry, whom she met in her early youth in France. Despairing to achieve her goal, she committed suicide by hanging herself. The lady was deformed like Pope. This was mentioned by (Lisle et al 1806; 358):

"The true cause of the excellence of the Elegy is, that the occasion of it was real; so true is maxim, that nature is more powerful than fancy; and ...that we can always feel more than we can imagine; and that the most artful fiction must give way to truth, for this Lady was beloved by Pope. After many and wide enquiries, I have been informed that her name was Wainsbury; and that (which is a singular circumstance) she was ill-shaped and deformed as our author. Her death was not by a sword, but what would less bear to be told poetically, she hanged herself."

Pope passionately treats the case of this unfortunate lady by mentioning the cruelties of her relations, how she deserted her family and her isolation and tragic death far away from her home country:

*What can alone (oh ever –injur'd shade!)
Thy fate unpitied, and thy rites unpaid?*

*No friends complaint, no kind domestic
tear*

*Pleas'd thy pale ghost, or grac'd thy
mournful bier.*

*By foreign hands thy dying eyes were
clos'd,*

*By foreign hands thy decent limbs
compos'd,*

*By foreign hands thy humble grave
adorn'd,*

Pope's Elegy to the Memory of an
Unfortunate Lady (lines 47-53).

Pope died on May 29, 1744, and was
buried in the Church of St. Mary Virgin
in Twickenham, after immortalizing
himself in the history of English
literature by his distinguished works,
especially in the field of poetry, essay
writing and criticism.

2.2 Jonathan Swift

The Dean of St. Patrick Cathedral and
English Literature Jonathan Swift was
born in Dublin on November 30, 1667,
an Irish author, clergyman, a satirist, a
novelist and a poet. His father, the
attorney, died before he was born, so he
grew up as an orphan child. He was
taken care of by his uncle Godwin Swift,
a member of the respected professional
attorney and judge group "Gray's Inn."
His uncle Godwin took care of his
education, and registered him in
Kilkenny Grammar School. Swift
obtained a bachelor degree from Trinity
College. He worked as a statesman's
assistant, and then became the dean of
St. Patrick Cathedral in Dublin. Swift's
contribution to English Literature was
distinguished, though at the beginning of
his literary career his writings were
pseudonymous. "Gulliver's Travels" is
his most famous fictional work.

During his early educational stages,
Swift met his friend William Congreve,
the poet and playwright. At the age of

fourteen, he continued his postgraduate
studies for Master Degree. During this
time, a great event took place, the King
of Ireland, England and Scotland was
overthrown in 1688, and Swift was
forced to move to England. His mother
Abigail Erick, found a job for him under
the responsibility of Sir William Temple,
where Swift worked for ten years as an
assistant to him in Moor Park in London.
Swift's task was to help Mr. Temple in
his official works of researching and
publishing his essays and memoirs.

In Moor Park, Swift met Esther Johnson,
the daughter of Temple's housekeeper, a
young child of eight years, with whom
he fell in love later for the rest of his life.
Swift acted as her tutor and mentor. In
1699, Sir Temple died, but Swift
continued publishing his memoirs.
However, because of conflicts with Sir
Temple's relatives, Swift accepted the
lower job of secretary and chaplain of
Berkeley; soon he was discharged from
this job because of his long absence on a
journey to Earl Estate. He resumed
writing about political issues. His first
political pamphlet was "A Discourse on
the Contest and Dissentions in Athens
and Rome."

In 1704, Swift produced his famous
satire "A Tale of a Tub" followed by
"The Battle of the Book" which though
popular was rejected by the Church of
England because it criticized religion.
Then he was asked by the Tories when
they came to power in 1710 to become
the editor of their official newspaper the
"Examiner". He engaged into politics
and began writing his political
pamphlets such as "The Conducts of the
Allies", in which he attacked the Wigs.
The Tories fell off power, and Swift
returned to Ireland in 1713, taking the
post of Dean of St. Patrick Cathedral in

Dublin in 1726. There he produced his best writing "Travel into Several Remote Nations of the World", which was known as "Gulliver's Travel" in four parts in pseudonym. He travelled to London to publish it and achieved great success.

Not long after the publication "Gulliver's Travels", his lifelong love "Esther Johnson" whom he called "Stella" became ill and died in 1728. Soon after her death Swift wrote "The Death of Mrs. Johnson". Her death was followed by the death of his best friends John Gay and John Arbuthnot. Swift was greatly grieved by the successive deaths of his intimate friends.

In 1742, Swift suffered from a stroke, losing the ability to speak. He died in 1745, and was buried in Dublin's St. Patrick's Cathedral beside his beloved Esther Johnson.

"Gulliver's Travel" is about Gulliver's experiences among dwarfs and giants. Gulliver is wrecked in an island where people are six inches tall. His second journey is to a place called Brobdingnag, where he meets giants, who are practical but do not understand abstraction. On his third journey he meets contemporary scientists. Gulliver travels to a flying island called Laputa, and the nearby continent and capital of Lagado. There he meets mad scientists. In the fourth part Gulliver travels to the land of Houyhnhnms in which animals are more intelligent than human beings.

"Gulliver's Travel" was an actual social satire, in Swift's intention was to explain the results of humanity's refusal to accept responsibility. On his return home Gulliver prefers to live with horses to living with his family.

Swift's "A Tale of a Tub" (1704) was a religious satire. Many people think that

it was his best satire. It is an allegory of religion history presented through the lives of three brothers, Peter, Martin, and Jack, who represent the Catholic Church, the Church of England, and Non-Conformism. The story insinuates the defected history of Christianity.

About satire, Swift himself says as mentioned by (Roscoe 1870; 125) in his "A Modest Proposal and Other Satires":
"Satire is a sort of glass wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face, but their own; which is the chief reason for that kind reception it meets with the world, and that so very few are offended with it. But, if it should happen otherwise, the danger is not great, and I have learned from long experience never to apprehend mischief from those understandings I have been able to provoke: for anger and fury, though they add strength to the sinews of the body, yet are found to relax those of the mind, and to render all its efforts feeble and impotent."

Like his prose satiric works, Swift's poetry was also satirical. His "Lady's Dressing Room" and "A Beautiful Young Nymph Going to Bed" are typically social satirical poems, and they are worth studying by researchers.

Swift's "Stella Birthday" poems were written for his beloved Esther Johnson, in the period from (1719) to (1727), a year before her death. These poems are meant by Swift to commemorate Stella's thirteenth birthday. She was the source of inspiration for Swift.

Swift regularly celebrates Stella's birthday with optimism and joy. Consider the following lines of commemoration and commendation of her beauty and wit:

Stella this day is thirty-four,

*(We shan't dispute a year or more:)
However, Stella, be not troubled,
Although thy size and years are doubled
Since first I saw thee at sixteen,
The brightest virgin on the green;
So little is thy form declined;
Made up so largely in thy mind.*

*O, would it please the gods to split
Thy beauty, size, and years, and wit!*
Swift's Stella's Birthday March 13,
1718-19 (Lines I- 10)

"Death of Dr. Swift" (1739) is a wonderful conveyance of the thoughts and imaginations of the poet after his death. The eternal reality is that nobody can escape his death. Swift tries to imagine the state of his friends and companions after his death. He wisely admits that no one is perfect and everyone has his own shortcomings. He describes the reactions of his acquaintances after his death, imagining that in a year's time he will be totally forgotten, and he rarely be remembered by them. Then, he moves on to speak about his works in a satiric manner. Consider the irony and sarcasm that are contained in the following lines:

*The time is not remote, when I
Must be the course of nature die;
When I foresee my special friends
Will try to find their private ends:
Tho' it is hardly understood
Which way my death can do them good,
Yet thus, methinks, I hear 'em speak:
"See how the Dean begins to break!
Poor gentleman, he drops apace."
You plainly find it in his face.*

Swift's the Death of Dr. Swift (lines 73-82).

2.3 Dr. Samuel Johnson

No other writer of Eighteenth-century England had a greater impact on English literature as Samuel Johnson. In view of his contribution to satire, criticism,

lexicography, history and essay writings, Johnson's works were incomparable.

He was usually known as Dr. Johnson. His contributions to English Literature were extended to its various genres. He was poet, essayist, moralist, literary critic, biographer, editor and lexicographer. He was an Anglican in religion and a Tory's politician.

Johnson was born on 18 September 1709 in Linchfield, Staffordshire. He displayed great intelligence during his childhood; his mother started teaching him at the age of three. Then she sent him to Linchfield Grammar School at the age of seven, where he studied Latin. At the age of nine, he was promoted to the upper school in view of his intelligence and outstanding performance. He spent six months with his cousins at Pedmore. The headmaster of Linchfield Grammar School prevented him from joining the school because of his long absence. Therefore, he joined the King Eduard VI Grammar School.

At the age of 19, he entered Pembroke College, Oxford, and then departing it after only one year, because of financial problems.

At the beginning of his career, he worked as a teacher, and then moved to London, searching for work and better opportunities. His earliest works included "The Life of Richard Savage", his poem "London" and "The Vanity of Human Wishes", which is one of the major satirical poems of the century. In 1728, he translated Pope's "Messiah".

Oxford University awarded him a Master of Arts Degree just before the publication of his "English Language Dictionary". He was also awarded an honorary doctorate in 1765 by Trinity College in Dublin. Soon after his father's

death in 1731, he got a job at a school in Market Bosworth, which he left shortly after. During that period he wrote "A Voyage to Abyssinia", which earned him enough money to cover the expenses of the funeral of his mother. When his friend Harry Porter died in 1734, he married his widow Elizabeth Porter, who had three children.

In 1735, he opened his "Edial Hall School", which only three students joined, among them actor David Garrick. The school was a failure, and Johnson resorted to writing again. He wrote "Irene" (1726) which was performed by his friend David Garrick in 1749. It is a neoclassical tragedy, which was Johnson's only play, and it achieved considerable success, providing Johnson with a big amount of money.

However, in 1737, he got a job with Cave as a writer for the Gentleman Magazine. His poem "London" was published (1738), which is based on Juvenal's satire III. It portrays the life of a man, who leaves for Wales to escape the problems of London, the home of crime, corruption and poverty. Johnson describes the problems of living in London, and underlines the condition of the poor. Here how he describes the crimes of murder and the atmosphere of insecurity in the city:

*In vain, these Dangers past, your Doors
you close,
And hope the balmy Blessings of Repose:
Cruel with Guilt, and daring with
Despair,
The midnight Murd'rer bursts the
faithless Bar;
Invades the sacred Hour of silent Rest,
And plants, unseen, a Dagger in your
Breast.*

Johnson's "London", Lines (235-40)

Feeling guilty for living on Tetty's money, Johnson left her and lived with his friend Richard Savage. They both suffered much because of their poverty. Savage's death in 1743 was a great chock to his friend Johnson. A year later Johnson wrote "Life of Richard Savage" (1744) in which Johnson uncovers the details of his life, and how he was born as an illegitimate child who was abandoned by his noble family.

In 1746, a group of publishers asked Johnson to establish an authoritative dictionary of the English Language. Although he promised them to complete the Dictionary in three years' time, the task took him nine years.

The publication of the dictionary in "1755" is considered as one of the greatest single achievement of scholarship. As (DeMaria 1986; 4) remarks, "*As a book, Johnson's Dictionary is generically related not only to dictionaries but also to a host of encyclopedic histories, poems, commentaries, educational works, commonplace books, and, of course, encyclopedias themselves.*"

The Dictionary brought Johnson a great fame, and it was followed by Johnson's editing of William Shakespeare's plays and the "Rasselas" (1759), an apologue which is intended to teach a moral lesson about happiness. In "A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland (1775), Johnson describes his journey with his friend James Boswell, the poet, to Scotland. It is a travel narrative of eighty-three journeys through Scotland. Johnson's distinguished poem "Vanity of Human Wishes" was an imitation of Juvenal's Satire X. This poem is one of the major satiric poems of Eighteenth century.

Johnson began writing "The Idler" in 1758 and published his "Rasselas" in 1759. "Rasselas" is a story that describes Prince Rasselas's and his sister Nekayah's lives while they were kept in a place called the Happy Valley in the Land of Abyssinia. There are no problems in this valley at all and any wish is quickly fulfilled. These pleasures do not lead to happiness and satisfaction. Rasselas escapes this world by the help of a philosopher, who believes that all aspects of society and life in the outside world are fulfilled with suffering. *"The constant pleasure does not, however, lead to satisfaction; and, with the help of a philosopher named Imlac, Rasselas escapes and explores the world to witness how all aspects of society and life in the outside world are filled with suffering. They return to Abyssinia, but do not wish to return to the state of constantly fulfilled pleasures found in the Happy Valley."* (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Johnson.)

In 1762, Johnson was offered an annual pension by King George III of £300 as a reward for him for his compilation of the Dictionary. In 1763 Johnson met the young James Boswell, the writer of "The Life of Johnson" at the bookshop of Johnson's friend Tom Davies and they became close friends. In 1763, Johnson established "The Club", which was a social group including, in addition to him, his friends Reynolds, Burke, Garrick, Goldsmith, and later Adam Smith, the well-known economical and moralist thinker, and Eduard Gibbon, an English historian and member of a Parliament and the writer of "The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," which is considered as

the most important book in the history of England.

Johnson's entirely famous book the "Lives of the English Poets" was written at the demands of Tom Davies, William Strahan and Thomas Cadell. It is a collection of critical and biographical notes on each poet. This book (1781) was in six volumes. Johnson's considerable successes were annoyed by the death of his intimate friend Levet (1782) with whom Johnson stayed for a long time at his London home. Levet's death was followed by the deaths of his two friends Thomas Lawrence and his housekeeper Williams, which caused him deep sorrows. Johnson died on 13 December 1784, and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

No doubt, Johnson was a person of very strong will. The Lack of money and financial difficulties did not hinder his ambition to make such great achievements. Disputed by the need of money for living and for running his literary writings activities and the strong will to accomplish these historical and great works, Johnson was not frustrated, and he endeavored to fulfill his ambitions through hard struggle and great determination.

3. Conclusion

The present research paper discusses the role played by the leading satirists of Eighteenth-century England in paving the way towards the progress of their society and country. Pope, Swift and Johnson call for good manners and fighting social ills through their literary works.

The social system with its all components such as judiciary, justness, habits, traditions, freedom and land ownership are elucidated in this study in

order to shed light on their importance to the social progress and development.

Uprightness and administration of justice are considered important elements in diffusing equity and eradicating grievance. The leading satirists of Eighteenth-century England carried on their shoulders mending their society and clear it from all filths. This is clearly shown in the samples of poems and works of these satirists.

The sample poems of the mentioned satirists that are discussed in this research paper give important indications of Eighteenth-century England in terms of social issues.

Work cited

1-Zundel, Alan F. (2000). *Declaration of Dependency. The Civic Republican Tradition in U. S. Poverty Policy*. New York: State University of New York Press, Albany.

2-Monod, Paul Kleber (2009). *Imperial Island. A History of Britain and Its Empire*. London: Blackwell Publishing.

3- Ljsewijn, Jozef. (1996). *Journal of Neo-Latin Studies: Humanistical Lovaniensia*. Leuven: Leuven University Press.

4-Palmiotto, Michael J. and Unnithan, Prabha. (2010). *Policing and Society: A Global Approach*. New York: Cengage Learning.

5-Schmallegger, Frank and Armstrong, Gordon M. (1997). (Eds.) *Crime and the Justice System in America: An Encyclopedia*. Westport: Greenwood Publishing Group.

6- Boswell, James (1791). *Life of Johnson* Bigelow, Brown and Company.

7-Swift, Jonathan (1751). *The Works of Jonathan Swift*. V.7. London: Printed for C. Bathurst, in Fleet- Street.

8- Pruitt, Kristin A. and Durham, Charles W. (2000) (Eds.) *Living Texts: Interpreting Milton*. Associated University Press.

9-Delon, Michel. (Ed.) (2013). *Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment*. New York: Routledge.

10-Blackwood, William, Edinburgh, and Candel, T. (1831), Strand, London. *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, January, 1831, Vol. XXIX, Edinburgh*: Printed by Ballantyne and Co. Edinburg.

11- Rawson, Claude. (211). (Ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to English Poets*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

12-Bowles, William Lisle et al (1806). *The Works of Alexander Pope, Esq. Vol. 1*. London: Straban and Preston.

13-Jan, Kaleem M., Shabnam Firdaus (2003). *A Guide to English Literature*. New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers, and Distributors.

14- Roscoe, William. (1870). *The Works of Jonathan Swift*. London: Bell and Dady.

15- DeMaria, Robert.(1986). *Johnson's Dictionary and the Language of Learning* North Carolina: The University of North Carolina Press.

16- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Johnson.

17- Armens, Sven (1966) M. *John Gay, Social Critic*. (New York: Noble Offset Printers, Inc.

18- Lewis, Jayne Elizabeth (1996). *English Fable: Aesop and Literary Culture, 1651-1740*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.