

## **Dedication**

I dedicate this research to my father and mother, brothers and sisters, wife and son, relatives and friends, and the soul of my deceased aunt Saffiya Almugammer.

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## Abstract

This research aimed at analyzing the portrayal of children's issues in Charles Dickens' literary works. Three novels were selected as samples; *David Copperfield*, *Oliver Twist*, and *Great Expectations*. The researcher has adopted the descriptive analytical method to analyze the three novels. Also the Marxist literary theory was followed as a criterion in analyzing the novels in terms of social and economic approaches. Accordingly, the researcher has come up with a number of findings among them are; Dickens' works are effective means for criticizing social, economic, and moral issues in nineteenth century and to some extent the present time. The compassion and empathy portrayed in Dickens' works had developed the readers' social awareness to sympathize with any defenseless person. Also the orphan children suffered more oppression and negligence; they neither enjoyed good health, nor acquired better education. In addition Child's labor existed, because children are ideal factory and chimneys workers, they are obedient, submissive, likely to respond to punishment and unlikely to form unions. The researcher has also found that Dickens is the pioneer in struggling for children's rights by depicting their issues and making them visible to every reader. Furthermore the researcher has recommended a number of recommendations among them are; literary works should be taught to all students so that they can develop both linguistic abilities, and social culture. Finally the researcher has suggested some topics for further studies such as analyzing words of wisdom in Charles Dickens' writing style.

## المستخلص

هدفت هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل قضايا الأطفال كما أبرزتها الأعمال الأدبية للكاتب الإنجليزي تشارلس دكنز. إختار الباحث ثلاث روايات وهي ( ديفيد كوبرفيلد و اوليفر تويست و الآمال الكبرى) كعينه للدراسة. اعتمد الباحث المنهج الوصفي التحليلي في تحليله للكتب الثلاث إضافة الي النظرية الماركسية للأدب من حيث المقاربات الاجتماعية و الاقتصادية. ومن ثم توصل الباحث إلى مجموعه من النتائج اهمها: أن الأعمال الأدبية لتشارلس دكنز هي وسائل ناجعة و فعالة في نقد القضايا الاجتماعية و الاقتصادية و الأخلاقية في القرن التاسع عشر و إلى حد ما في الوقت الراهن. فالرحمة و التعاطف الذي ابدته أعمال دكنز الأدبية قد ساهم في تعزيز الوعي المجتمعي لدي القراء. وجعلهم يتعاطفون مع الشرائح الضعيفة في المجتمع. كذلك عانى الأطفال الأيتام من القهر و الإهمال, ولم ينالوا خدمات صحيه و تعليميه جيدة. وانتشرت ظاهرة تشغيل الأطفال في المداخن والمصانع لميلهم الفطري للطاعة و الإذعان و الخوف من العقاب و عدم ميلهم الي تكوين نقابات تدافع عن حقوقهم. كما اكتشف الباحث ان دكنز من الرواد الأوائل في الدفاع عن حقوق الطفل بتسليطه الضوء علي قضاياهم وجعلها ماثله للعيان لكل قارئ لكتبه. وفي ختام البحث قدم الباحث العديد من التوصيات اهمها: ان تُدرس الأعمال الأدبية لدكنز لكل الطلاب لتطوير قدراتهم اللغوية و ترسيخ الثقافة المجتمعية لديهم. كما اقترح الباحث ان يبادر الباحثون الآخرون بتسليط الضوء علي الحكم والأمثال التي تضمنتها كتابات دكنز الأدبية.

## Abbreviations

O T: *Oliver Twist*

D C: *David Copperfield*

G E: *Great Expectations*

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