

Degree 2 (Sub)

Novel

A Tale of Two Cities as a Historical Novel

The present novel focuses on the historical French revolution which was realistically pictured in Charles Dickens's novel *A Tale of Two Cities*. The novel has taken all the major events of this revolution. Basically, the novel's story moves around London and Paris. Dickens has drawn the real picture with the help of fictional story and characters. The story moves with the characters and their lives which gives the information of French revolution. French revolution had made drastic changes in France and London was connected with it. Here, researcher has tried to scrutinize the novel and try to present the historical concepts which are by Dickens.

The most prominent writer of Victorian era Charles Dickens was born at Hampshire in England on 7 February 1812. Under the name of "Boz" he had written some work. He had mastery over the fictional writing. He had posturized the unforgettable characters of Victorian era. He had left the school in early age though he edited weekly journal for twenty years, wrote 15 novels. His literary success begun with his first novel *The Pickwick Papers* in 1836. Apart this he had written other notable works like *Oliver Twist*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *A Christmas Carol*, *David Copperfield*, *Bleak House*, *Little Dorrit*, *A Tale of Two Cities* and

Great Expectations. A Tale of Two Cities was written in 1859 on historical background. It's a fictional work based on French revolution. In this paper researcher has tried to critically analyse this novel on historical point of view.

In English literature most of the works are based on fiction. Fiction means totally based on imagination. Writer uses his own imagination and develops the story. Historical fiction is something different. "Historical fiction is defined as movies and novels in which a story is made up but is set in the past and sometimes borrows true characteristics of the time period in which it is set" (Your Dictionary). The story which is based on history in which sometime the characters are historical. Many times, historical themes are taken by the writers for their fictional novel. Charles Dickens had taken the historical event which was based on French revolution. Many times, historical fiction is criticized by the critiques. It is very difficult to fulfil the readers' requirement related to real facts in historical fiction.

A Tale of Two Cities is one of the best novels of Charles Dickens written in 1859. This historical fictional novel throw light on French revolution with a fictional story. It is a story between the two cities London and Paris. It shows how political and economic unrest in Paris during this era.

The main characters in this novel are Doctor Alexandre Manette, Charles Darnay and Sydney Carton. The story starts in 1775 when Doctor Alexandre Manette released from the jail after eighteen years. His young seventeen years young

daughter Lucie Manette and her husband Jarvis Lorry received him. They went to wine shop during Dr. Alexandre was thinking about that man. He was recalling but he could not remember. After five years the writer focuses on Charles Darnay a French emigrant whose aristocratic life in England. Dr. Manette came out from his memory loss. Darnay did not know that his father and uncle were responsible for Dr. Manette's imprisonment. In between French revolution started and Darnay decided to save his uncle's long-time servant Monsieur Gabelle.

After that revolution terror happened mass massacre happened. People were striving and crimes were happened. "Daring burglaries by armed men and highway robberies, took place in the capital itself every night" (Dickens 36). Darnay was imprisoned for his wealth. After sometime he was released with the help of Rd. Manette's help but again imprisoned and sentenced to death.

There is no use of history in present but for the knowledge and understanding history should be present. In this novel French revolution has given with the nice story by Dickens. History shows that what we should do or what we should not do. With the help of fiction Dickens has tried to present the scenario of real picture of French revolution. Revolution doesn't mean just change the things very drastically but it takes many changes in human life. It is not necessary everyone takes benefit of revolution many families were vanished on that revolution. Revolution happened when the voice of the people is crushed by authorities and there is no any way to come out from it.

Dickens was not just a novel writer he was also a social critic who knew how to present the reality in front of the people with imagination. A Tale of Two Cities is one of the best novels in historical context. Dickens has masterly presented the story of French revolution with the fiction. He has given the real picture of Paris and London during French revolution. He has shown the problems and decisions of the people during revolution. Dickens was in favour of social justice that is why he has posturized the character who were struggling for justice. Novel gives the all over idea of historical event.

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