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BEING A GENTLEMAN IN DICKENS'S *GREAT EXPECTATIONS*

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Anotace

Cílem této práce je analýza konceptu gentlemanství v Dickensově románu *Great Expectations*. Práce je rozdělena na dvě části. V první části popisujeme obraz společnosti ve viktoriánské Anglii a životní podmínky a vyhlídky lidí, kteří náležejí do jiných společenských tříd. Poté je popsán status gentlemana v dané době spolu s klíčovými součástmi jeho života. V druhé části práce se věnujeme analýze díla *Great Expectations*, které je nejprve porovnáno se třemi dalšími Dickensovými romány. Následně pozorujeme vývoj hlavního hrdiny Pipa, chudého sirotka, který se stane gentlemanem. Práce se dále zabývá faktory, které zapříčinily proměnu jeho charakteru, do kterých se řadí jeho životní zkušenosti, ale také postavy z románu, které ovlivnily jeho pojetí světa a lidských hodnot. Nakonec se autorka věnuje přeměně pohledu hlavního hrdiny na koncept gentlemanství, společnost, důležitost společenského postavení a životní priority.

Klíčová slova: koncept gentlemanství, Charles Dickens, viktoriánský román, viktoriánská společnost, viktoriánská literatura, *Great Expectations*

Abstract

The goal of this work is to analyse the concept of gentlemanliness in Dickens's novel *Great Expectations*. The thesis is divided into two parts. In the first part, we will describe the image of the society of Victorian England and the life conditions and prospects of people belonging to different social classes. After that, the status of a gentleman alongside with crucial parts of his life is depicted. In the second part, the thesis seeks to examine the work *Great Expectations* which is firstly compared with three other Dickens's novels. Afterwards, we follow the development of the main hero Pip, a poor orphan, who becomes a gentleman. The work then presents factors which caused the transformation of his character consisting of experience together with the novel's characters who affected his attitude towards life and human values. Finally, the author deals with the transformation of the main hero's view of the concept of gentlemanliness, the society, the importance of social position and life priorities.

Key words: concept of gentlemanliness, Charles Dickens, Victorian novel, Victorian society, Victorian literature, *Great Expectations*

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Introduction

Charles Dickens is one of the most famous English writers of all time. His work is monumental, both in terms of quality and quantity. In his work, he depicted 19th century England in a very realistic way. He concentrated mainly on the lower social class from which most of his main characters come. In this work I would like to focus on his novel *Great Expectations* which tells a remarkable story of the rise and fall of a poor boy named Pip. The social position and every possible aspect connected to it is very important in this novel. The main hero is obsessed with the status of a gentleman which he wants to reach so eagerly. Successively, as his life story evolves, he changes his mind regarding the concept of the true gentlemanliness which is the main phenomenon I would like to analyse. This work is divided into two parts. The first part presents the social situation in the Victorian era. Gentlemen led a life which was the most desired and admired at that time and that is the topic treated afterwards. A man of this position was seen as an ideal prototype as he was educated, wealthy, noble and respected. That is exactly what Pip wanted to become and that will be examined in the second part. As Dickens wrote numerous books, one may notice several similarities included in them. I chose three other novels, *David Copperfield*, *Little Dorrit* and *Oliver Twist* which will be compared to the analysed novel and similar and dissimilar features will be presented. Thereafter, we will concentrate on the crucial transformation of Pip's social position and character. The situations one goes through and people one meets may be very influential and shape the way one sees the world. The main hero not only changes his social status radically, twice actually, but he transforms his character and values which leads to his completely different view of people, relationships, society and life in general. The notion of nobility and gentility differs with the people's attitude to life and their priorities. And Pip's qualities and values evolve throughout the novel in a significant way.

1. PART ONE

1.1. The overall situation in England in the 19th century

The Victorian era was a period of miscellaneous changes. Queen Victoria, after whom this period of time is named changed the way of ruling the country and adopted the representative political attitude. The government was given control of ruling and the royal family assumed a symbolical representative position in the country. They started to represent the history of England and the main values, greatness and unity, which is still their function. “The monarch is important: as the symbolic head of society she is intelligible to the many and removes that post from political ambition; she is a focus for religion and a mirror for morality. But she no longer rules, although she may advise the real rulers.” (Gilmour 164) The other change is connected to new findings in science. Darwin’s theory of evolution of species was a turning point for various reasons. One of them was, of course, its new biological view of the human species who is able to develop and improve. The other was quite precarious and was concerned with the religious state of the country. For religious people, but for the Church too, this was hardly an acceptable theory. And the important change for the wealth of the country was connected to the industrial revolution. The country was going through “the transformation of local and agrarian economies and ways of life into the modern world of steam and iron.” (Tucker 227) The agricultural England became oriented towards the industry which meant an increase in the country’s wealth. Also, the landscape transformed heavily. There were newly developed machines which made people’s lives easier and the crucial process was chiefly the construction of railways. The train greatly accelerated travelling and the communication. The process and its effect on the society but also on the literary themes that started to follow up the great change is described in Philip Davis’s *The Victorians*, chapter *Rural to Urban*.

1.2. The concept of a gentleman in the Victorian society

What makes a gentleman in the Victorian point of view, are mainly his manners, education, aristocratic ancestors and of course his financial situation. In the following passages, I will present the main features which are the education and finances. These two are the most important because in the Victorian era, the ancestors were not as important as the finances. The gentleman “carried the prestige of its historic landed origins. However, partly because it could never be defined satisfactorily, it was not the possession of a caste, like the French *gentilhomme*.” (Gilmour 20) Since the middle

class improved their status they had more financial resources and could afford to send their children to good schools. “The Victorian redefinition of the gentleman was an extremely successful enterprise, since it harnessed the traditional elements of honour and disinterestedness to the Victorian values of work, self-discipline, energy, and perseverance.” (Gilmour 167) Members of the middle-class, properly educated, could then become gentlemen even though they did not have any noble ancestors. “The important thing is that it was an agreed cultural goal which facilitated the incorporation of a new élite within the old structure, giving social dignity and self-respect to the new generation of professional men.” (Gilmour 167) The education offered to future gentlemen comprised both the acquisition of gentlemanly manners and morals as well as the knowledge of a number of subjects which was crucial for young boys to reach the status of a gentleman.

1.2.1. Education

In the Victorian era, British society was divided into classes according to financial situation of the people. It is connected with different conditions of life and a considerable division by gender. The differences in lives but also in access and quality of education of all these categories were significant. (cf. Tucker 194-210)

1.2.1.1. The upper-class education

Education was regarded as a luxury for wealthy people. The upper class had the means to provide good education for their children which covered various subjects and disciplines. For children, it was usual that they were educated by an erudite educator who would teach them successively every designated subject. Some of the children were also sent away to be educated by a specialist outside of the family’s place of residence or even out of the country where they lived. The prestige of boarding schools was very high and even though they were called “public schools” they were not accessible for everybody, by no means. “The public schools had been founded in the sixteenth century to train young men for the Church and public service, and by the nineteenth century were not “public” in any real sense at all, save that they were not owned by any one individual and not conducted mainly for private profit.” (Tucker 199) Thanks to the rise of the middle class, their children could receive training in those institutions too. The content of the courses concerned chiefly religion, good manners and morals, literary knowledge, sports and by mastering all that, the little boys evolved into gentlemen. “But in the second half of the century “manliness” came to connote

loyalty, physical courage, endurance, and discipline, as well as Christian morality.” (Tucker 201) The school atmosphere was by no means welcoming. Boys had to behave properly because the required discipline was very strict. The approach of teachers towards students was fairly formal. Teachers demanded respect and corporal punishments during classes were a daily occurrence. Also, the younger boys were constantly bullied by the older ones. “Uncontrolled bullying of the younger boys by the older was universal, as was the practice of “fagging”, whereby senior boys demanded personal service from the juniors.” (Tucker 200) Schools like Eton, Harrow, Rugby and others were an outset for a good future as the graduates constituted the majority of Oxford and Cambridge students. In the public school but mainly at the university, they gained valuable contacts and powerful friends. So when they graduated, they almost always obtained a good job in the higher spheres of the Church or the state. The situation was different for girls and women. It was believed that women and men differed not only physically but also intellectually. Women were not admitted to universities, nor to the prestigious and famous public schools. “As for education, a woman ought to have only so much as to allow her to encourage her children and enter sympathetically into her husband’s pursuits.” (Gilmour 190) But eventually, female private boarding schools and colleges were founded and they could attend various courses. Thanks to the creation of these schools, women teachers could also develop their careers. Even though they were not regarded as professional as the male professors, successively, their position became better.

1.2.1.2. The middle-class education

As the middle-class children were able to go to public schools and new schools were created, this phenomenon incited the social movement. Thanks to the education they were given, they were able to get to higher positions than their parents did. When they worked hard and tried to improve themselves, they could reach the level of a gentleman without being born in a really wealthy family. Not long ago, advocates, merchants and people of similar profession were not able to afford such a quality education for their children. They started to earn more money and their condition of life improved tremendously. “Not being the preserve of a single cast, it was open to negotiation and therefore to appropriation from below: the new professional classes – doctors, civil servants – could claim it, wealthy manufacturers could buy it for their

sons in the public school,” (Gilmour 167) and by that, parents could ensure a good future for their children, just by giving them access to knowledge.

1.2.1.3. The working-class education

As regards education, working-class children were not as lucky. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, Sunday schools represented the most important element in their schooling. Children received basic education there, so, they were able to read, write and count. One of the main goals of Sunday schools was the ability to read the Bible. So children reached the basic literacy and, subsequently, they were able to continue to learn how to lead a Christian life according to the Bible. The quality of these schools was not always very high, also, because the teachers were volunteers or were not adequately paid. Many Education Acts at that time installed compulsory education and raised the hours of daily schooling. Not an uncommon phenomenon within the working-class families was that the children were taken away from their parents, who had bad influence on them. They were then placed into reformatory schools or children’s homes. The government created these institutions to help children to escape the environment which was little by little ruining their moral awareness and their personality in general. The children could come from a family who did not take care of them or the parents were even abusive. So, for them, this was a much better and safer environment to live in. It could also be a case of orphans who were condemned to a tough life on the streets or children, who had parents, but still, they were found on the streets filling their free time with wrongdoings. So, these institutions either helped children in need or tried to reform the rascals and endeavoured to give them the basic education. There were also private schools for working-class children, which were fairly cheap and affordable. They were usually run by tradesmen who wanted to augment their income. We can find this type of school in the novel *Great Expectations* where Pip is given very basic education. These schools were usually not of a very high-quality since the people who worked there as teachers were often unqualified. Thanks to the British and Foreign School Society and the National Society, many new schools were built which tried to offer education to the working class. “Moreover, all levels of Victorian educational institutions became secularized – that is, they shifted from the orbit of the Christian churches to that of secular authorities.” (Tucker 194) Also, because teachers were insufficiently paid, the so-called “monitorial system” came into existence. Children about 12 years old, who were not qualified to

teach and often were not even educated themselves, supervised younger children while the teacher was giving lectures to the older ones. That allowed the teacher to have more students in the and earn more money. The problem was that monitors underwent only a brief training for the job and their teaching consisted of drilling and memorization of information they might not have even understood. This phenomenon then evolved into the pupil-teacher system where children aged between 13 to 18 could take courses in teaching and, at the same time, lead a class. So they had a status of apprentices. Having finished that they could continue studying in a teacher-training college and become qualified teachers. Nevertheless, some children stayed with their poor families and, in their early childhood, had to take on responsibilities and contribute to the family budget. They had to work in various places but it usually was not a comfortable job. They mostly worked in factories or were apprentices to a certain workman. Even Dickens himself had to undergo a traumatic experience of working as a young boy in a Warren's blacking factory which marked him gravely. It also constituted a topic of some of his novels. Since his father was put in prison, little Charles had to work to earn some money for the family. "Upon this particular dark spot he kept a sort of deadly silence for twenty years. An accident revealed part of the truth to the dearest of all his friends." (Chesterton 33) This saddening period of his life was unknown to the public and even to his close friends until he confided this secret to his good friend John Forster. He then published Dickens's biography and let the world know about his childhood difficulties. "Years later, in the fullness of his fame, he heard from Forster that a man had spoken of knowing him. On hearing the name, he somewhat curtly acknowledged it, and spoke of having seen the man once. Forster, in his innocence, answered that the man said he had seen Dickens many times in a factory by Hunger-ford Market. Dickens was suddenly struck with a long and extraordinary silence. Then he invited Forster, as his best friend, to a particular interview, and, with every appearance of difficulty and distress, told him the whole story for the first and the last time." (Chesterton 33) Dickens was, nonetheless, lucky since the financial situation of his family improved and he was then able to go to school and study. Thanks to his diligence, he became a reporter while studying the law, just like the main character of *David Copperfield* who partly represents his alter ego. Chesterton describes Dickens's persistence: "He set to work, without any advice or help, to learn to be a reporter. He worked all day at law, and then all night at shorthand. It is an art which can be only effected by time, and he had to effect it by overtime. But learning the thing under every disadvantage, without

a teacher, without the possibility of concentration or complete mental force, without ordinary human sleep, he made himself one of the most rapid reporters then alive.” (58) (cf. Wilson)

Regarding the girls’ situation, they could be employed in a factory or in middle-class families where they would take care of the household. Overall, the Victorian society started to focus on the situation of the poor and mainly of the poor children. They tried to improve the chances of the working class to lead a quality life and, also, to educate them so as the workers could cultivate their abilities and knowledge more easily. The English élite became aware of the fact “that education of the working class had become essential for the nation’s political and economic strength.” (Tucker 210) But the change was not sudden and it took a while until the things really started moving.

1.2.2. The financial situation

Money is power which is valid in the present but also in the past and the 19th century experienced a great shift concerning the financial situation of people but also of the country as a whole. During that time, England was in the process of industrialization, urbanization and capitalization. So the society which was before directed towards the agriculture changed its orientation and the importance of industry surpassed the agriculture by far. Numerous technological innovations came into existence and incited industrial boom. The population started to inhabit larger cities which were the urban and industrial centres of opportunities. Britain also entered into commercial interdependencies with numerous countries which again improved its financial situation and allowed it to be a part of the international market. Since there were many projects run at that time, it was necessary for the financial system to develop. With the growing financial flow, the importance of banks and bankers augmented. Just as the status of bankers, people of other professions, for example merchants or advocates, which evolved thanks to the changed climate, also improved their living conditions. “The higher level was the bar, which combined a gentlemanly ideal of service with a bourgeois philosophy of individualism.” (Tucker 162) At this time, they earned more money and could afford things their parents have never even dreamt of. Apart from the material luxury, they had the opportunity to educate themselves and their children too. As it is already mentioned above, this was the time when the middle class gained the access to a better life and also improved their social status. They could become gentlemen and ladies without having noble ancestors and it

was only owing to their increased income. What is interesting is that it was the sphere of finance and commerce that brought more money to the country than the industry. And bankers and merchants had to make less effort to improve their social status or enter the political sphere than the workers from the industrial sector. Because of this crucial change, British society became even more divided and they were basically separated into two groups. People belonging to the first group had money and the others did not. That is quite a peculiar phenomenon. The abstract value of service or goods is given by something which, by itself, is only a piece of paper or metal. Who has money has power and people who get well paid may do dishonest deeds if the person who is paying wishes it. That is why in the Victorian novels, money is often presented as corrupting and corrupted means. People whose professions are connected with money are often the novel's villains or they lack the basic moral values. In *Great Expectations*, a pertinent example is Mr. Jaggers. He is a lawyer and defends criminals even though he knows they are not innocent. He is highly respected and well paid. But he does not enjoy the money properly because his conscience is closing on him, although he does not admit it. He knows that his job and actions are neither legal nor moral. He tries to wash the guilt down which is the reason why he washes his hands so often. Dickens also presents money as dangerous, which is apparent in *Great Expectations* in the case of the main hero Pip who experiences horrible situations because of it. But the brighter side of money that brings people possibilities is present in fiction too just as its negative side. "The love of money starts, sustains, and resolves plots, establishes character, and makes a whole rhetoric of value available to Victorian writers who represent money as the condition of possibility for all good things even as they excoriate money-getting as a sign of moral decline." (Tucker 226) Broadly speaking, money is the basic ground which one needs to improve his social status and become a gentleman. After that they can obtain other noble values and do the gentlemanly things but money is always the cornerstone.

1.2.3. Culture

The life of gentlemen and ladies did not consist only of education and proper conduct. They entertained themselves in various ways. The options were numerous. They could read books, prose or poetry, which was one of the ways how to educate oneself. The saloons were still very fashionable. There, it was possible to lead

an interesting conversation with people of the same interests, experience concerts, dance or see diverse plays.

1.2.3.1. Theatre

People could of course see the plays in theatres, too. In the Early Victorian age, only two theatres were open in London due to the restrictions of the Licensing Act. It was the plays of Shakespeare which were mostly played there. There were also theatres which managed to present their program in a way that they could avoid the restrictions. Their plays were not only dramatic but consisted of musical scenes, too. Because of that, they escaped strict rules and installed performances as burlesque and melodrama. Those two types of plays, mainly the melodrama, were very popular at that time which is why they were then played in the patent theatres too. As many people came to cities to work, there was a greater demand for theatre than before. That is the reason of the fall of the Licensing Act and the patent and consequently, theatres could be found all over London. The melodrama gained its popularity in the late 18th century and it stretched till the beginning of the 20th century. This type of play is enriched with musical scenes, their plots are very resembling and usually convey a moral message. It was also very popular to transform favourite novels into a melodramatic form. A big emphasis was starting to be placed on the precise historical context, detailed costumes and the elaborated stage set. Among the most popular dramatists it is important to mention Oscar Wilde, the theatrical partners Arthur Sullivan and Sir William Schwenck Gilbert or George Bernard Shaw.

1.2.3.2. Music

Attending concerts was also a popular hobby in the Victorian era. At the beginning of the 19th century, concerts were usually organized in saloons. In the middle of the century, new music halls were being built to ensure a proper place for musicians where they could perform. The interest was rather high as there were many people who had recently left their homes and moved into bigger cities. For them, music was a connecting element and also, a nicely spent free time. The most popular musicians of that time in the realm of classical music were Ludwig van Beethoven, Fryderyk Chopin, Gustav Mahler or Ferenc Liszt. Besides this kind of music, folk songs were gaining in popularity, too. In the previous years, it was forbidden for women to

play a musical instrument publicly. That was abolished and they were finally able to become proper musicians and perform.

1.2.3.3. Literature

A common and favoured entertainment and, at the same time, a means to extend one's knowledge was literature. The number of people who could read, were educated and wanted to read increased immensely in the Victorian era. They were also motivated to buy books thanks to the printing innovations which made the production cheaper. (cf. David 17-34) Some books were even printed in coloured edition and contained illustrations. They were rather cheap in comparison with the previous years' literary output, thanks to the new publishing techniques. That was attractive for children, which was its goal, who desired to read them and, by that, they augmented their literary cognizance. Literature designated for children was abundant and the main goal of it was to entertain them, which was quite a novelty. The magazines were popular for their wide range of subjects. Specialized works written by professionals of various specialities could be found there. Frequent were also literary magazines where serialized novels were being published. Dickens ran one of these magazines called *All the Year Round* and published there even the novel *Great Expectations*. The serialized form of novels was very popular and common at that time. The other frequent form was the publication of a novel in three volumes and in binding. Concerning the readership, as England was divided into the class system, there were novels designated for each class. For the working class, there were the "Newgate" novels talking about the life of the lower class and criminals. "Domestic" novels were aimed at the middle class where the plot showed stories of people who worked in factories and led their life in industrialized cities. The "silver fork" novels were written for the high society and depicted the life of gentlemen and ladies. Writers also produced biographies or autobiographies which were usually written about a certain significant individual. Some of the writers also managed to encode biographical or autobiographical elements into their otherwise fictional work. Dickens belonged to this sort of authors. The most of the autobiographical traces can be found in his famous novel *David Copperfield*. It is a bildungsroman where readers see the development of the main character David from the day he was born till his late adulthood. Dickens hid the experiences and deep emotions from his childhood into his fictional alter ego David which brought him huge success. Charles Dickens was

certainly not the only author who comprised autobiographical hints into his work and proper autobiographies were not written only by powerful noblemen or publicly known figures but also by members of the working class. They worked very hard to be able to succeed in the society. Even though such stories were mostly exceptional, authors like James Dawson Burn or William Lovett provided motivation and hope for improvement to other people belonging to the working class. “The independent, night-school-attending, self-helping artisan was one of the models which middle-class writers held up to the working class.” (Gilmour 21) Literature could be an individual and personal matter when people read it in their homes but one could also experience it in a different and collective way by attending public readings. Those events were entertaining for the spectators and, at the same time, advantageous for the author who was able to gain more money than he would just by publishing his books. Dickens, too, organized public readings of his work and earned quite a large amount of money by this way. “In 1858, Dickens had begun a series of immensely popular and remunerative public readings from his work which together with editing his new paper absorbed much of his creative energies in the 1860s.” (Sutherland 184) Next to the Victorian novel, poetry certainly did not lose on popularity and authors like Tennyson, Rossetti and many others were and are recognized as significant poets of the Victorian era. Overall, the social status was very important in this period and people who had a high social position had also better connections and prospects to lead a good and pleasant life.

2. PART TWO

Dickens's novel *Great Expectations* presents the reader with a realistic vision of the Victorian society. Different classes and their dissimilar lives are shown through the characters displayed in the book. Pip, who is the main character of the novel, goes through an immense life change. From the position of a smith apprentice, he turns to the gentlemanly aristocratic life and finally, ends up being an honest and happy working man. He experiences diverse living conditions and values which differ with the environment and people he is surrounded by. These people have a great influence on him and shape his vision of the world and his behaviour. The story is told by the main character, but the narrator tells it as a mature and adult self, so he presents us his autobiography in a retrospective way. The phenomenon of foreshadowing is very significant. So, when Dickens deals with a matter longer and more thoroughly, we know that it will be important for the development of the following story. The name of the book refers to Pip's desire to become a gentleman. Even though it finally results in irony, little Pip has really high hopes to change his destiny and conduct a gentlemanly life.

2.1. The novel *Great Expectations* in the canon of Dickens's work

Dickens wrote numerous works belonging to different literary genres. His books became inseparably associated with the notion of English literature as a whole. "The novels are popular, but they have become something more and other – they are now classics." (Rodensky) If we concentrate on his novels and compare them, it is possible to trace not a small amount of similarities, concerning the story line. Dickens's work was inspired by his own life experience and numerous autobiographical features can be found there. He lived through periods of life when his family did not have much money. They were rather surviving than living and that was going on in miserable conditions. His father even spent some time in prison and he, still a small child, had to go to work. The theme of poverty which is based on his own experience is almost omnipresent in his books. The environment of his works is, in most cases, similar. The story is usually set into an impoverished environment where the main characters have to deal with destitution and difficult life situations. His focus on the poor neighbourhoods is well contrasted with the luxurious and unworried life of members of the high society. By this sharp comparison, the two completely different antipoles of the Victorian society are presented and the severe contrast and injustice are evident.

The obsession with social status and money opposed to moral values is highly emphasised in his novels. The fact, that these were the often discussed and troubling topics at that time is evident due to his popularity and the fact that his novels were being bought and read by a great number of English people. “His extraordinary success and popularity gave a new dignity to the profession; he revived both the serialised and the illustrated forms of fiction; he invested the novel with a social mission to reform society.” (Sutherland 184) The good and the bad sides of the society existing in the upper but the working class too were displayed in his works. In the following passage, we will observe the way that the novel *Great Expectations* fits into the ensemble of Dickens’s work. Also, similar and different phenomena in his novels *Great Expectations*, *David Copperfield*, *Oliver Twist* and *Little Dorrit* will be observed.

2.1.1. The setting

During the Victorian era, in bigger cities, there were very poor neighbourhoods where criminality was on a daily basis and the living conditions were rather miserable. Dickens was particularly interested in the life and difficulties of the poor which is contrasted with the easy life of the wealthy people. He was especially allured to the topic of indigent children who had to go through very tough life situations. In all the four novels, the main characters are poor children who belong to the working class. Regarding the environment, a prison always holds a great importance and there are numerous criminals connected with it. The prison has a big role in all of the four novels. In *Little Dorrit* and *David Copperfield*, the characters who are important for the plot even live there. The opposition of London, presented as a city of crime, and the pure countryside is rather significant. The life led in the rural areas is presented as simpler, and more genuine than in the urban cities which are filled with dirt and criminality. Of course, the division of villages and cities and their good or bad qualities is not strict. We can find good characters living in the city of London, just like Mr. Brownlow from *Oliver Twist* who was a respected gentleman and helped Oliver to get rid of the boss of a group of thieves Fagin and became his adoptive parent at the end of the novel. Contrarily, villains just like Orlick from the *Great Expectations* live in the countryside too.

2.1.2. The child heroes

Concerning the main characters, they are all played by poor children. The four children from chosen novels are orphans except for Amy Dorrit whose father is still living. But it is Amy who is taking care of her father who lives in prison, so, the father-child relationship is reversed. Dickens used these innocent characters, since no one is more innocent than children, to contrast them with the cruelty of the world alongside with the selfishness, malice and pretence of the adult world. Pip, however, does not fit into the pattern entirely. He had his selfish goal to become a gentleman which he was determined to complete no matter whose feelings he may hurt. "Dickens' earlier work idealized childhood. But in Pip, childish 'innocence' is corrupted by egoism, leading him to despise Joe and lose the hand of Biddy." (James, "The Victorian novel" 171)

We observe the development of the four main characters during a certain period of time, and in all of them except for *Oliver Twist*, we witness their transformation from childhood into adulthood. The reader may follow the evolution of their thinking and values and, generally speaking, the way of life. The fates of Pip, David and Amy are, nonetheless, highly dissimilar concerning the social status. But, regardless their position in society, they are satisfied with the way their lives evolved and appreciate the genuine human values. The most important are the human goodness, diligence, honesty and selflessness. The selfless deeds bring Dickens's characters contentment and well-deserved happiness. Pip secretly invested money into his friend's business, without him knowing about it, which brought him a well suited occupation where he was able to use his skills. Amy waited for a long time, during which she helped and loyally served her loved ones, until Arthur realized that they mutually love each other. David was very lucky, that Agnes Wickfield, who has loved him all her life, was so patient. She helped and advised him well, and not only David, and was even ready to sacrifice her love when he married Dora. Her selfless behaviour was finally rewarded by a happy ending by David's side. The emphasis on good human values and qualities is evident in Dickens's work. The human goodness and morality are the most important values and the characters who behave according to the moral principles are at the end often rewarded by a lucky and happy life.

2.1.3. Social mobility

Dickens also shows the reader that it is possible to work one's way up by being persistent, dutiful and hardworking. The Victorian era was a period of the rise of

the middle class who had finally the opportunity to climb the social ladder and gain higher social positions. “He was the voice in England of this humane intoxication and expansion, this encouraging of anybody to be anything.” (Chesterton 14) But there were also members of the working class who were able to rise if they were talented and tenacious enough. The main characters from Dickens’s novels coming from the poor environment have a tendency to progress in life and change their social position. But only some of them are able to stay on the improved level. The best example is David Copperfield. Thanks to his aunt, he received good education and then, still sponsored by his aunt, continued in studies to become a proctor. Because of the lack of money, he started, from his own initiative, learning the shorthand method. This newly acquired skill enabled him to get a job as a reporter and, moreover, he also started to work for Dr. Strong, his former teacher. David describes his writing beginnings: “I have tamed that savage stenographic mystery, I make a respectable income by it. I am a high repute for my accomplishment in all pertaining to the art, and am joined with eleven others in reporting the debates in Parliament for a Morning Newspaper.” (Dickens, “David Copperfield” 692) Alongside his demanding occupation, he was still studying to become a proctor. Successively, he started to write articles for magazines whose number got gradually larger and larger. “I wrote a little something, in secret, and sent it to a magazine, and it was published in the magazine. Since then, I have taken heart to write a good many trifling pieces. Now, I am regularly paid for them,” (Dickens, “David Copperfield” 692) he depicts his headway. At the end, he progressed in his writing so much that it evolved into writing his own novels which brought him great success and financial security. Thanks to his own diligence only, he was able to earn living and become a well-known writer. Anyhow, not all of the characters succeed in the upward mobility at such an advanced level. Pip, who was given money to become a gentleman, did not maintain the social position which he basically gained for free. The ideal of the way of life that Pip found satisfying and suitable evolved over years and owing to his experience. At the end, he was working in an enterprise where he had to make great efforts so as he and the firm would succeed. He started at the position of a clerk and gradually worked his way up to become a partner in the enterprise. This industriousness he acquired led to prosperity and, finally, to a happy and good life. The journey of those two characters is set in the form of a bildungsroman. It may concern a character formation, a spiritual or moral evolution, an educational and

occupational development or for example a social progress. All of these types are to be found in the both novels, *Great Expectations* and *David Copperfield*.

2.1.4. Villainous characters

In his work, we can find numerous villains who belong to different social classes. They are all connected to money or property in various ways. Fagin, the criminal who accommodated Oliver for a while in London, is obsessed with money and his secret treasure. He is ready to sacrifice the lives of others, even though they are his friends, only to save his own life alongside with his hidden jewels. James's displayed the difference between Oliver and Fagin, viewing them as the two complete opposites, in a simple comparison. "Opposing his innocence, Fagin becomes demonic." (James, "The Victorian novel" 156) As Fagin behaved badly and immorally, he ended up in prison being sentenced to death. The other very cruel criminal, Sikes, who tried to hurt Oliver, is a purely evil character and so, he cannot end up living a happy life in Dickens's novel. He died in a harsh way, by accidentally hanging himself. Similarly, Compeyson, the former criminal companion of Magwitch whom he betrayed several times, does not have the chance of a contended life. All his life, he deceived and mistreated people which resulted in his violent murder by aggrieved Magwitch. All of the villains are, nevertheless, not punished by such a tragic fate. For example, Jane and Edward Murdstone, who tormented David and his mother, continued living a satisfactory life even though the way they treated David, who was very little then, was heartless and cruel. The division of good and bad characters is not done according to the social class they belong to or the environment they live in. There are good and genuine characters, who are members of the high society but also members of the working class. The same principle applies to the villainous figures. It is not their social status or the amount of wealth people own that determine the good nature of a character. What is important are the good human qualities thanks to which the distinction might be made.

2.1.5. Patron-like characters

Next to the typical main child character, we can often spot a prototype of a sponsor-like character who helps and supports the poor child. In Pip's case, it is Magwitch who sends him money anonymously in order to improve his social status. Joe is rather a father-like character, but he supports him emotionally and, at the end,

financially too, as he paid all Pip's debts. So, among other things, we can consider him to be his patron too. In David's case, this role is played by his aunt Betsey Trotwood who took him into her own family and became his adoptive mother. She offered him a home, affection and a good education which she all paid for. If it was not for her, David would be still working in the factory which was a horrifying experience for him. Amy is a different case because she did not really have a benefactor. She worked very hard and earned her own living to be able to take care of her family. It mainly concerned her father but she looked after her two siblings, too. In spite of the fact that she was the youngest child, her siblings did not help her and neither did her father who was supposed to take care of her. Then, they were so lucky to inherit a large sum of money but it was rather rapidly spent. And at the end, she lived modestly again with her husband Arthur. But in those humble conditions, she was happier than when she was a lady, living in a luxurious house. On the contrary, for Oliver, it is possible to find two sponsors though one is a bit controversial. Mr. Brownlow, who was an elderly gentleman and a good man, defended Oliver and at the end adopted him and continued in taking care of him. By this act, he offered him a future which he would not be able to reach otherwise. However, one could also consider Fagin to constitute a character of his patron. He took him in when he was very weak from the long journey and took care of him. The difference between him and Mr. Brownlow is that he did not do it for free. He always expected something in return and wanted Oliver to pickpocket for him. Nevertheless, he provided him with a shelter, although he did not hesitate to sacrifice him when he was not efficient and became a dangerous burden. For his shameful and immoral deeds, he was punished by the death penalty.

2.1.6. The theme of money and property

The theme which is stressed in all the four novels is the value of money. Dickens himself was in a way obsessed with money because of his horrible childhood experience when his family did not have any finances and were overloaded by debts. So, as an adult, he felt an incessant fear of debts and lack of money which was also caused by his needy family who demanded financial aid from him quite often. Money is shown in a bad light in Pip's case, who, after receiving it, thinks he is superior to his former friends from the countryside. Thereafter, he does not treat them with respect or dignity. When he lost all of his money, he started to recognize the importance of their friendship and felt bad about his behaviour. It was the money he made in Herbert's business, while

working very hard, that brought him satisfaction, not that which he was given for free since he did nothing to deserve it. Likewise, Fagin, the boss of the group of little pickpockets, is very much obsessed with money. He praised the boys when they stole something valuable to motivate them to steal more. He had his own, well hidden, box of jewels which he absolutely adored. When he supposed that Oliver was watching him going through his treasure, he questions him ferociously. Then he described his precious box full of gems: “They – they’re mine, Oliver; my little property. All I have to live upon, in my old age.” (Dickens, “Oliver Twist” 108) He appreciated it more than his young companions in crime and was ready to defend his treasure ferociously. Another character who is almost all his life accompanied by a shadow of money and troubles connected to it is Wilkins Micawber. He and his hysterical wife have financial difficulties and owe an immense sum of money to numerous people. They even had to spend some time in prison due to their colossal debts. Micawber tried to succeed in various sectors but he does not know how to manage a successful business. His wife adores him but also idealizes him in a great way. She assigns him many a skill he does not have and sees him always at the winners' podium no matter what he is currently doing or if he is experienced in the given domain. He thinks rather highly about himself too which seems almost ironical because he had never truly succeeded in anything. He is constantly indebted but they still believe that he will reach a high social position any time soon. At the end, he discloses Heep's frauds, which he did not do primarily to gain more money or respect for himself. Thanks to that, he is finally rewarded by financial help coming from his friends and a happy ending. He moves abroad with his family where he reaches a respected position in the juridical system and a rather high social status. Dickens created this character on the resemblances with his father. He was imprisoned because of his debts too and behaved very imprudent and irresponsible concerning the household management. “John Dickens's salary of £350 a year (after 1820) should have been adequate but, like Mr Micawber, he lived beyond his means.” (Sutherland 182) Regarding the social status, William Dorrit is highly obsessed with it too. It does not matter to him that the society he belongs to in the Marshalsea is lower, all he wants is to be on its top and to be admired. He purposely overlooks that his kind youngest child Amy is suffering for him to feel good and sophisticated. She works very much and all she gains or gets, she willingly submits to her dad. She even does not eat so much only for him to have a nice feast. When William Dorrit becomes wealthy, which happened fairly suddenly, he still wants to preserve the privileged status he had

all those years in the prison which was not as easy as he thought. His reputation and character were affected by the long period he spent in Marshalsea and the damage was irrevocable. He tried to hide his previous residence which the Dorrit family never talked about again. He even refused to say the word “prison” while he was reprimanding Amy for her alleged inappropriate behaviour: “You Amy – hum – you alone and only you – constantly revive the topic, though not in words.” (Dickens, “Little Dorrit” 478) When he was dying, during delirium, he thought he was in the prison again and felt happy about it. But when he had the financial means, he was rigorous and strict towards his family regarding the proper behaviour to fit in the high society and gain a respected social position again. Sometimes he was even reproaching them for an insufficiently noble conduct. “Now, madam,” he discussed the situation with Mrs. General, “I am troubled by noticing that Amy is not, so to speak, one of ourselves. She does not care to go about with us; she is lost in the society we have here; our tastes are evidently not her tastes.” (Dickens, “Little Dorrit” 474) Amy did not feel well in the superficial society from which her father derived that there was “something wrong” with her. He felt disappointed and betrayed by her insufficiently high-class sociable behaviour and the fact that she did not feel at ease in the new noble environment. He found his social position and image more important than his daughter’s dissatisfaction and sorrow which she tried to overcome only to please her father.

2.1.7. Dickens’s foreshadowing

The phenomenon of foreshadowing is typical for Dickens’s work. He includes into the story only the data that will be important for the following plot. He sometimes even gives the reader clues and hints on the base of which one could derive what might happen later on. He does not want to confuse the reader by dealing with unimportant information or manipulate him into false conclusions. Whenever he stresses certain facts, it is certain that it will have a great importance in the future passages of the plot and when a certain character appears often in the story, he or she will probably have a significant role for a given phenomenon. For example, when David’s aunt comments, indirectly on his and Agnes’s friendly relationship calling him “blind, blind, blind” which is then evoked several times, the reader could deduce that one day, they will be together. Similarly, when one knows Dickens’s concept of foreshadowing, it is inferable that “the pale young gentleman” who once fought Pip in the garden of Satis house and then was not mentioned for a long time, will reappear. This boy became Pip’s best

friend who helped him become a gentleman in London but finally, also, a gentle man as he preferred genteel and moral values over money.

2.2. The main heroes

In this part, I would like to focus on the novel itself and chiefly on the main hero Pip. Every aspect and person that somehow shaped his vision of life and the image of a gentleman in his eyes will be discussed in the following passages. It is always difficult to determine the main heroes of a work because it depends on the phenomenon we concentrate on and find important. In this case, Pip's evolution is the discussed topic and this character was quite sensitive to the influence of others and to the situations he went through. So, the people who affected his transformation are crucial to the full understanding of the change of his life conditions and personality.

2.2.1. Pip

The main hero of this novel is Pip who presents the reader with his autobiography. The adult Pip, nevertheless, tells us the story in a way that the little Pip would. He shows us the world through his young self's eyes, how he felt and perceived the things around him. Pip's whole name is Phillip Pirrip but he calls himself Pip and everybody does that too. He is an orphan and lives with his sister Mrs. Joe Gargery and her husband Joe Gargery to whom he is a smith apprentice. He is very sensitive and people who are close to him affect him greatly. His character and life journey will be examined in detail in the following part, but now, the personae who had a great impact on him are to be mentioned.

2.2.2. Joe

As Pip's parents died, his sister and her husband Joe take care of him. Joe is a smith, he is a big and good man. He is fond of Pip and their relationship is friendly, they are equal friends rather than on a parent-child relationship level. Joe is not educated, he is basically illiterate and simple but he always behaves in a polite way towards other people no matter the attitude they adopt towards him. His level of schooling is shown even on the basic level which is his language. While communicating, Joe does not use correct grammar, he makes mistakes and mispronounces and mingles words. His speech and its pronunciation is transcribed just the way he would utter it, so, it is easy for us to imagine it. Almost every Joe's utterance begins very politely with the expression "which I meantsay" which is a mingled term

that would mean “what I meant to say” or we can see his incorrect pronunciation for example in the transcription of the word “individual” which he also uses quite frequently. Sönmez sees similarities in Joe’s and Magwitch’s authentic, non-standard speech alongside the attitude they hold towards Pip. “Both men in very different ways of seeing themselves as surrogate fathers to Pip (Magwitch openly claims this relationship, while meek Joe never goes further than to assert that they are “ever the best of friends”), and both men supporting him financially; both men learn to read and write late in life, and, of course, they both love Pip.” (Sönmez) His character is pure and insidiousness or malice do not have a place in his heart. He takes care of Pip and always tries to protect him from Mrs. Joe who is overly strict and violent towards both of them. At the beginning, Pip and Joe are looking forward to working together very much when Pip is older and both of them are content with their planned, non-complicated future. They have their safe spot by the fire where they sit together and feel secure. Pip is an “old chap” for Joe who calls him that in an affectionate way. But one day, Pip pays a visit to Miss Havisham and sees the possibilities of living of wealthy people. He also feels they are judging him for his manners and appearance. Suddenly, what was his beloved world with Joe in the centre completely changes. He sees himself and Joe differently and judgmentally as well and Pip’s former idol suddenly loses his main role. After the visit to the luxurious house where he met Estella he was so disappointed by his life and he summed it up: “I took the opportunity of being alone in the courtyard, to look at my coarse hands and my common boots. My opinion of these accessories was not favourable. They had never troubled me before, but they troubled me now, as vulgar appendages. I determined to ask Joe why he had ever taught me to call those picture-cards, Jacks, which ought to be called knaves. I wished Joe had been rather more genteelly brought up, and then I should have been so too.” (Dickens, “Great Expectations” 56) These Pip’s thoughts originated after Estella made fun of him and she was rather cruel while doing so. Pip who was not aware of his potential imperfection was struck by these comments very deeply and felt hurt: hurt by the cruel girl but also betrayed by his best friend Joe who taught him poorly and made him into a common boy. According to Chesterton, Dickens shows the reader an example of how an easily influenced individual may be seduced to treason of his loved ones in order to lead a better life: “It contains a good suggestion of that weak romance which is the root of all snobbishness: that the mystery which belongs to patrician life excites us more than the open, even the indecent virtues of the humble. Pip is keener about

Miss Havisham, who may mean well by him, than about Joe Gargery, who evidently does.” (Chesterton 237) Even when Pip does not live with them anymore and is ashamed of his former home, Joe maintains his cordial feelings for him. Yet, he knows that he is not good enough for the “London Pip” and feels awkward around him. When he pays him a visit in London, Pip does not think about it “with pleasure” but rather with “disturbance” or even with “mortification” in fear that Joe would embarrass him and the London gentlemen would make fun of him afterwards. Joe wears clothes that do not suit him and so, cannot behave naturally since he is bound by his irregular clothing and nervousness from the different environment and company. Joe feels so not at ease that he sometimes calls Pip “Sir”. Even though they still like each other very heartily, it is obvious that their relationship changed alongside with Pip’s status. And it changed on both sides, Joe does not know how to behave next to Pip in his London apartment and his feelings are confused. He oscillates between one extremely friendly attitude and the other pole which is a wholly formal approach, polite and a little bit humbled. But Joe’s love is unconditional and he never took against Pip even though he did not treat him as well as he should. It is just near the end that Pip recognizes that he mistreated Joe, and Biddy as well, horribly, regrets it gravely and would do anything to take his shameful behaviour back.

2.2.3. Magwitch

The main person who really changed Pip’s life is Magwitch. Their first meeting was traumatizing for Pip since it happened in the graveyard and Magwitch, the escaped convict, threatened him with death if he does not steal some food for him. Little Pip, terrified, does as asked but from his own will, he steals even more things for him. This dishonest deed marks Pip for the rest of his life. He feels guilty, just like a convict. He even accepts the link with Magwitch. He calls him “my convict” just as Magwitch will call him “my gentleman” one day. Magwitch, though a convict, behaves then very loyally towards Pip when he is recaptured again. Since Pip stole quite a good amount of food, his sister was getting suspicious and he would probably get into considerable trouble. Magwitch, while being arrested, sees Pip with Joe and a sergeant, and tries to save Pip by his false confession. He explains to Joe: “So you’re the blacksmith, are you? Then I’m sorry to say, I’ve eat your pie.” (36) By this gesture, we can presume from the beginning of the novel that Magwitch is not a purely villainous character and even though he is a criminal, he is not entirely evil. Joe’s answer to his guilty

confession is even stranger and really shows his good character. “God knows you’re welcome to it – so far as it was ever mine.” (37) And, moreover, he adds: “We don’t want know what you have done, but we wouldn’t have you starved to death for it, poor miserable fellow-creatur. –Would us, Pip?” (37) He includes Pip into his kind words and links him again to the criminal. In Magwitch’s speech, we can detect incorrect grammar and non-standard expressions just as in Joe’s. But Sönmez does not see the authenticity as a sign of a low intellect or manners. “Authenticity was part of a network of ideas related to truth, origins, stability, and hierarchy, and it could be associated with the moral qualities of truth and integrity.” (Sönmez) However, Magwitch was taken away again but a little seed of guilt stayed with Pip though successively deeply hidden. Magwitch made a decision, which is apparent fairly late in the book that changed the life of the main hero Pip. He provided him with money to become a gentleman without revealing the identity of the benefactor which then creates the crucial plot twist. Neither Pip or the reader knows who rendered Pip the money and the disclosure causes a huge shock on both sides. Their following relationship is crucial for the topic of the image of a gentleman in Pip’s eyes. Firstly, because it was a convicted criminal on whose account Pip lied to his friend Joe, he was terrified of him and felt very guilty. He had felt that way since he stole from his sister and Joe but also because he had to lie to him “from fear of losing Joe’s confidence” and also, that he would judge him. Furthermore, he thought that it was lady Havisham, a noble lady, who wished for him to be with Estella and so provided him with money to be on the same level. Secondly, when Pip overcomes the horrible shock and somehow starts to accept the idea that his expectations will not be brought to reality, he begins to see Magwitch in a different light. He discovers that the division and perception of people is not always done on the true and right basis and that one should not judge a book by its cover because the line between a gentleman and a convict may be very fine.

2.2.4. Estella

The great expectations of Pip originated after one visit at Miss Havisham’s where he met someone who completely changed his life and it was his beloved Estella. After meeting her, he was very self-critical and conscious of the differences between them and their ways of life. She was very cruel and cold but that was only because of the up-bringing she received from the embittered Miss Havisham. She also seemed very proud and did not call Pip by his name but only “boy” which expresses

the superiority she was led to feel. She was approximately as old as Pip but her behaviour was much more mature. “She seemed much older than I, of course, being a girl, and beautiful and self-possessed; and she was as scornful of me as if she had been one-and-twenty, and a queen.” (51) That is Pip’s impression from their first meeting, he is constantly allured to her and even compares her to the status of a queen even though he knows she despises him. He also describes her like a star. When he calls her to come play with him, “her light came along the long dark passage like a star.” (54) He presents her as someone unattainable and prideful. Pip is hurt by her cruel words because, besides other things, “she denounced me for a stupid, clumsy labouring-boy,” (55) and he “was humiliated, hurt, spurned, offended, angry, sorry.” (57) Even though he felt so horrible after spending some time with Estella, he was stunned by that unique noblesse and pride he has not come across yet. His feelings did not change though they got older. He still felt miserably while being with her but even more so when he was without her. And all the time he worked on improving himself, he only thought of her and them two being together. Since Pip assumed that Miss Havisham is his benefactor, he had a rather strong hope that she finances his up-rising to ensure him a better life of a gentleman who would be suitable to marry her protégé. Estella takes a very yielding stand towards her future and while talking to Pip, she makes it obvious that she does not have any control over her life and Miss Havisham is the planner of it. As she was brought up in a very startling way by a broken woman, she is not capable of any emotions and behaves rather mechanically. “We have no choice, you and I, but to obey our instructions. We are not free to follow our own devices, you and I.” (242) Her childhood was not easy and she was made into a hard woman who has “no heart” as she states herself. When she married a complete opposite of a gentleman, rude, violent and not very intelligent Drummle, whom Pip despised, he considered it a betrayal. However, Pip knew from the beginning that she was not good for him. She attracts him uncontrollably and though he does not feel comfortable or agreeable in her company, he cannot stop loving and desiring her. “And still I stood looking at the house, thinking how happy I should be if I lived there with her, and knowing that I never was happy with her, but always miserable.” (247) And he emphasises this idea further by saying: “I never had one hour’s happiness in her society, and yet my mind all round the four-and-twenty hours was harping on the happiness of having her with me unto death.” (274) Although he feels that way, he still works on his social status only to be worthy of her company. When Pip finds out who her parents are, it does not change his feelings

towards her. Though at first, he is disgusted by Magwitch being his benefactor, on finding that he is her father, it makes no difference to him. So his heart and love are pure and real, not just a part of the image of the gentleman he is trying to become. And though Pip's values and the idea of a happy and good life changed at the end, his love for Estella did not. At the very end of the novel, they see each other again after a long time and they meet by chance at the place where they met for the first time, in the garden of Satis house. Estella, just as Pip, greatly changed, admits that she has feelings for him too and the story ends fairly positively, with a slight hint of a vision of a not impossible happy end.

2.2.5. Miss Havisham

If it was not for Miss Havisham, the main hero would never have even thought of a change of his present humble life. Miss Havisham, an old, strange and quite scary woman, was once betrayed by her lover alongside with her only brother and became bitter towards all manhood. She raised an alleged orphan Estella to torture men and to break their hearts as hers was broken too. She does not trust her family whom she suspects to want only her property. When she sees that Pip is unhappy because of Estella's words and behaviour, it brings her an incredible joy and sometimes it is really odd. Pip comes to her house to keep her company and distract her gloomy thoughts. Also, to be somehow tortured by love for Estella who crushes his feelings and that makes Miss Havisham feel good. When Pip grows older and is becoming a man, she finds him too old and as she hates all men, she cancels his visits and pays him for the previous ones. Pip once saw Mr. Jaggers in Satis house and when he brings him the news of his newly gained property, he is sure that the benefactor is Miss Havisham. She knows that he thinks that but she leads him on to hurt him. Since she did not tell him the truth, she also gave him hope that she had destined Estella and him to become husband and wife. When he finds out the true identity of his benefactor, he goes to Miss Havisham's to clarify the situation and to confess his love to Estella who accepts it horribly coldly and cruelly. At this moment, Miss Havisham sees what she's done and changes her attitude towards him. During that tense visit Pip remarks that: "while Estella looked at me merely with incredulous wonder, the spectral figure of Miss Havisham, her hand still covering her heart seemed all resolved into a ghastly stare of pity and remorse." (334) Pip made her change the way she thought about men and the necessary fate of their hearts to be broken. But, moreover, she changed the way she

looked at her family members. Then, Pip had one wish he demanded from Miss Havisham which was the financial support of his friend Herbert who was a relative of hers and she agreed. Mainly, because she wanted to do something nice for Pip so as he would forgive her but in the end she left some inheritance to them so she regarded her family differently than before. Pip, though he lost his vision of a genteel life, managed to change the way she had been seeing the world for a very long time. She reassessed her life values and actually felt bad about her mean actions. Pip did not hate her, because: “There was an air of utter loneliness upon her, that would have moved me to pity though she had wilfully done me a deeper injury than I could charge her with.” (361) She felt so desperately sorry for what she has done that she acted almost frenetically. She wanted to compensate all the bad things to him. “Can I only serve you, Pip, by serving your friend? Regarding that as done, is there nothing I can do for yourself?” (363) She then had an unfortunate accident and her dress caught on fire but even after that, gravely injured, Pip and his forgiveness still stayed on her mind.

2.2.6. Herbert

Herbert, Pip’s only and best friend of the same age, also helped Pip to become a gentleman concerning the education, the appropriate behaviour but mainly the life priorities and values. From their first encounter, which was rather bizarre, as they met in the garden of Satis house and fought each other, Pip calls him “the pale young gentleman”. Even in this name he gives him without knowing him, the word “gentleman” is present. They understand one another very well and have a very tight and real friendship. When they start to live together Herbert advises Pip concerning the dining and teaches him the right manners. He even gives him a “familiar name” Handel which makes their relationship unique. Herbert’s father, Mr. Matthew Pocket, who is a relative of Miss Havisham, becomes Pip’s tutor and educates him. Alongside with the habitation, they share everything together. They know each other’s secrets, hopes and worries. Herbert has a different vision of a gentleman than Pip does. He does not care about money or property, he needs it only to be able to get married but it is not his priority. This is also due to his mother’s obsession by people’s noble ancestors. He says, ironically, about his secret fiancée Clara that “she is rather below my mother’s nonsensical family notions.” (230) When Pip questions him about the financial situation of her family, Herbert does not see it as important and his answers do not concern the finances at all. Pip is obsessed with money but Herbert takes a completely different

stand regarding this subject. Another example of different values is obvious during the situation when they discuss Pip's feelings for Estella and Pip wants to hear him say that he is a gentleman. Instead of that Herbert says that he is "a good fellow, with impetuosity and hesitation, boldness and diffidence, action and dreaming, curiously mixed in him." (227) For him, the human qualities are more important than the property, social status or money. He tries to protect Pip from his feeling to Estella by saying: "Think of her bringing-up, and think of Miss Havisham. Think of what she is herself (now I am repulsive and you abominate me). This may lead to miserable things." (229) Nonetheless, when Pip conveys that his feelings cannot and will not change he goes back to his supporting manner and never talks about it again. They also talk about the Magwitch situation together and Herbert is the only consolation for Pip. They see things in the same way and help each other as much as they can. They plan Magwitch's escape together and realize it too. Herbert takes care of Pip when he was injured and burnt his hands while trying to help Miss Havisham whose dress caught on fire. He even saves Pip's life when he is captured by Orlick who wanted to kill him. However, the support and help is mutual. Pip, who sees the suffering of his friend who cannot find a suitable job and so, cannot marry his beloved fiancée, invests a considerable sum of money into ensuring Herbert a partnership in a sphere of commerce. And he also persuades Miss Havisham, who wanted to do something nice for him, to pay the rest of the money he needed to ensure the partnership for Herbert. Pip sees it as "the only good thing I had done, and the only completed thing I had done, since I was first apprised of my great expectations." (380) Little did he know then, that thanks to this selfless act of his, he will be able to work abroad, repay his debts and successively become the third partner of Herbert's business. We can see it as a reward for an unselfish deed which Pip brought into existence only to help his friend without thinking of the profit for himself. He underestimated Herbert's business capacities which he corrects at the end by saying: "I often wondered how I had conceived that old idea of his inaptitude, until I was one day enlightened by the reflection, that perhaps the inaptitude had never been in him at all, but had been in me." (439) If it was not for Herbert, Pip's life and his values and character would have turned out very differently. Also, his future, meaning his occupation, would not exist but mainly, the part of his personality formed by the love streaming from their friendship would be missing. His life would lack the sympathy, the unconditional support and the human consolation which were all assured by Herbert.

2.2.7. Biddy

There are not many good and moral women present and mainly described in detail in the novel. Biddy is an exception. She is the moral ideal of a simpler, diligent and a good woman. Pip and Biddy have many things in common. They are both poor orphans and want to improve themselves. She influences Pip from the beginning as she was his first teacher who offered him the basic knowledge. She is wise and calm, works on herself and her schooling till she becomes a mistress in their village. Pip compares her with Estella and speaks about her with Biddy too. He even mentions it to her face that he would want to love her but he does not. He perceives her like this: “She was not beautiful – she was common, and could not be like Estella – but she was pleasant and wholesome and sweet-tempered.” (114) Even though he finds her less alluring, he speculates: “whether I was not more naturally and wholesomely situated, after all, in these circumstances, than playing bagger my neighbour by candlelight in the room with the stopped clocks, and being despised by Estella,” and adds: “I asked myself the question whether I did not surely know that if Estella were beside me at that moment instead of Biddy, she would make me miserable?” (118) Those words foreshadow the end when the hopes for marriage with Estella fall through and he thinks he would marry the good and nice Biddy who has just married Joe. He also sees her as “the wisest of girls” and knows that she always advised him well. She is very hard-working, smart and sweet and when Pip’s sister was attacked, she took over the whole Gargery household. However, when Pip left and was mean towards Joe she criticized him openly which Pip did not handle very well. He calls her “envious” and “grudging” and repeats several times that she has a “bad side of human nature”. After he got wiser, he understood that he treated her unjustly and hoped she would forgive him the mistreatment. He feels horribly guilty while saying that: “my own worthless conduct to them was greater than every consideration. No wisdom on earth could have given me the comfort that I should have derived from their simplicity and fidelity; but I could never, never, never undo what I had done.” (295) As he repeats the word “never” it is obvious that it has marked him greatly, it is on his mind and he is full of remorse. Nearly at the end when he comes back home to Joe, Pip decided that he would apologise to Biddy and propose her. He talks about it humbly and sees her in a completely different light and is prepared to do anything to deserve her. In his mind only he contemplates: “I hope I am a little worthier of you than I was – not much, but

a little. And, Biddy, it shall rest with you to say whether I shall work at the forge with Joe, or whether I shall try for any different occupation...” (431) He would do anything for her because he finally found out that she is a great, pure and good woman. But neither these expectations work out because she is married to Joe. Nevertheless, Pip is very happy for them and Biddy, just as Joe, forgives him all his mean deeds towards them since she has never stopped loving and supporting him in his dreams even though they did not turn out as planned.

Many other people, for example Pip’s sister, Wammick or Mr. Jaggers, influenced Pip and his vision of life, but the preceding described characters were the most important figures in the novel. The main hero is a sensitive and very easily influenced young man and his perception of the world alters with the people he is in contact with at a given moment. Some of them had bigger roles and were more frequently present in the novel than others. Yet, all of them were crucial for Pip’s decisions, his idea of genteel values, the notion of nobility, the life priorities and necessities to lead a happy and contented life throughout different stages of his life journey.

2.3. The social ideal of the Victorian society and the social situation of the novel’s characters

In the novel, the author presents the reader with various types of characters, who come from very diverse places and live on different social levels. The life they lead varies greatly just as the environment they inhabit alongside the financial means they spend on a daily basis. Their situation displays the differences in the standard of living of given social classes in Victorian England.

2.3.1. The ideal life in the Victorian society

The status that everybody desired to reach was the gentleman or the lady belonging to the high society. Those people were well educated in various areas of subjects and had a pleasant life, free from hard work and financial difficulties. They were wealthy and so, could afford luxurious houses, home equipment, dresses but also books, expensive schools and travelling, which widened their knowledge. The educational aspect applies to the cultural entertainment in general, since concerts, books and theatre plays, which they often attended, enabled them to discover new authors, topics and problematics that could be discussed afterwards. If we look at the ideal life of the people who lived during the Victorian era from a different point of

view, it is also possible to say that people wished to start a family and not only for its financial benefits. At that time, “prior personal affection, physical attraction, and romantic affinity had come to be considered legitimate grounds for marriage.” (Tucker 89) It was rather a new view of the role of marriage which comprised “the principle that husband and wife were equals”, there were “higher expectations of emotional compatibility in marriage,” and “the newly emergent conception of companionate marriage was widely shared across all of the classes.” (Tucker 89) Therefore, a happy family was a part of the image of the perfect life, which those who did not have it, too desired.

2.3.2. The social situation of the novel’s characters

2.3.2.1. Characters coming from a poor environment

As it was said before, the novel shows us diverse lives of people belonging to a different social class and environment. The story begins with the insight into the poor life of Pip and his then friends, family and their acquaintances. Joe, Pip and his sister live together in a very modest way and they save money where they can. Joe is the provider of the family whereas Mrs. Joe manages everything, including the household but her husband and brother too. Joe, while talking to Pip about education, admits her superiority by saying that she is “given to government” and specifies it: “Which I meantersay the government of you and myself.” (Dickens, “Great Expectations” 44) Bidley is also a member of the working class and her situation is as difficult as Pip’s, since she is an orphan too, and has to go to work in spite of the fact that she is a young girl. The main character Magwitch also lived in poverty before he was arrested. Then, being deported, he led an austere life abroad filled with hard labour. He worked very diligently, having only one vision in front of his eyes, which was Pip becoming a gentleman thanks to the money he earns. So he abstained from spending the money and saved it all for Pip. All these characters led a poor and simple life but for some of them, Joe for example, it was enough and they were happy being where they were and how the things went. On the other hand, there are those who want to have a better life, though still modest, and do something for it. That is the case of Bidley who wants to improve herself and she works on it till she becomes a mistress in the local school. In the novel, diverse approaches to poverty are shown through the characters’ point of view which differs in a great way.

2.3.2.2. Characters coming from a rich environment

People belonging to the higher sphere of the society do not have to work their way up as long as they are financially secure. Their life consists of never ending free time and they just do what they fancy at the moment, except for the education which is crucial and obligatory for children who come from wealthy families. Miss Havisham is very rich and she spends her time pitying herself and bringing Estella up to revenge her broken heart. That is all she does. She has got plenty of money so she can afford doing nothing. But she is so bored by her life that she ends up inviting little children that she does not even know to play in her house to distract her. Her life is full of sorrow even though she is a well-known and rich lady. Similarly Estella, Miss Havisham's protégé, lives in luxury, wears beautiful jewellery and receives a brilliant education but still, is not free to behave as she would like to. She is tied up by conventions of her status but mainly by expectations of Miss Havisham. She is expected to do what she is told and not to act naturally. To sum up, the wealthy characters in the novel who should be happy because they have no existential troubles and are comfortably well-off are surprisingly unhappier than those who have only the minimum means to survive.

2.3.2.3. Pip, the social class penetrator

The main character Pip is a special case. He is the only one who was able to get through the notional wall between those two dissimilar worlds. He experienced both ways of living – firstly, he was a poor smith apprentice belonging to the working class, then he became a wealthy gentleman living in the city of London. At the end, he ended up being something in the middle – a working man in the sphere of commerce. He experienced the life of all the social classes – the working, the high and the middle class. He did not feel comfortable in either of the first two environments, so, he acceded to a compromise, even though not truly deliberately, which suited him the best.

It is not possible to generalise the perfect idyllic life for everybody since each of the characters has a different approach to life. They are contented with dissimilar living conditions concerning finances, relationships, values and the way of life in general. But still, talking about the Victorian society as a whole, gentlemen and ladies were the most admired figures of that time and people who were not as affluent desired to have a life at least slightly similar to theirs.

2.4. Pip and his gentlemanly transformation

The main hero Pip whose life we follow throughout the novel is the only character who experienced diverse ways of life of different social classes. Those differences in his everyday life were based on the amount of money he was currently having. As he lived through very unlike stages of life, at the end he is able to evaluate and appreciate the situation which suits him the most and what is important in life. In this passage, the evolution of Pip's social position but mainly the development of human values he finds crucial will be described alongside with people who gave rise to the change of his character.

2.4.1. The initial poor environment

Firstly, Pip, being an orphan, led a very modest and poor life in the countryside with his sister and her husband Joe. He was satisfied with the situation and as long as his friend Joe was around, he felt safe. "Home had never been a very pleasant place to me, because of my sister's temper. But, Joe had sanctified it, and I had believed in it." (97) For the young Pip, home is represented by Joe and nothing else. He was happy working in the forge until he saw the luxurious life of Miss Havisham and heard Estella's cruel comments about him not being on the same social and intellectual level. He started to feel ashamed of his origins and the life he was living. Suddenly, he was not comfortable with the environment he inhabited nor with the level of intelligence he was surrounded by or the one he owned. From that moment, Pip started to work on his improvement to become more educated. But even though he was fairly happy with his progress, he could not be content with Joe's lack of any schooling and still felt very ashamed of him. He tried to teach him everything he learnt because he "wanted to make Joe less ignorant and common, that he might be worthier of my society and less open to Estella's reproach." (99) Though he tried hard, Joe still was not progressing enough according to Pip's expectations. The shame Pip felt is very noticeable during the visit that Joe paid to Miss Havisham when she was about to dismiss Pip's visits. Joe behaved in a very awkward way and did not know how to conduct properly. "I am afraid I was ashamed of the dear good fellow – I *know* I was ashamed of him – when I saw that Estella stood at the back of Miss Havisham's chair, and that her eyes laughed mischievously." (92) Anyhow, Pip did not find his current situation satisfactory and felt miserable since he had to work in the forge with Joe and the visits which brought him the joy of seeing the girl he adored were cancelled. At that time, Pip was truly unhappy

and dreamt only about a brighter future with Estella by his side. But it was just a fantasy that was not likely to come into existence.

2.4.2. The period of financial independence

When Pip's financial situation changed and Mr. Jaggers presented him that "he will come into a handsome property," and that he will be "immediately removed from his present sphere of life and from this place, and be brought up as a gentleman – in a word, as a young fellow of great expectations," (125) Pip felt happy and very grateful. He did not have any doubts that his sponsor could be anybody else than his "fairy godmother" Miss Havisham. Pip's thoughts after being told the news were: "My dream was out; my wild fancy was surpassed by sober reality; Miss Havisham was going to make my fortune on a grand scale." (125) Thanks to the money Pip received, he was able to move from his destitute home to the city of London and to change the company he was surrounded by. When he was leaving, even though it was a big step for him and a loss of a great friend for Joe, the fear of being publically ashamed still gained over Pip's sentimental values. "I had told Joe that I wished to walk away all alone. I am afraid – sore afraid – that this purpose originated in my sense of the contrast there would be between me and Joe, if we went to the coach together." (144) However, during his departure, his feelings for Joe emerged on the surface and he pondered: "whether I would not get down when we changed horses, and walk back, and have another evening at home, and a better parting," (145) but he did not succumb to his emotions. It is remarkable, considering the long period that Pip and Joe spent together, how easily he left his friend and almost forgot about him.

The first impression that his new residence made on him was surprisingly not very positive. Pip expected his new home to be a dreamy place filled with nobility, new knowledge and opportunities. Instead of that he saw it as a "shameful place, being all asmeared with filth and fat and blood and foam." (151) He went to Mr. Jaggers and so, during his first day in the city, he came across the bad side of London, since he saw the prison and then Jaggers's clients who were all criminals. Also, Wemmick have not revealed his pleasant side to him yet. Therefore, the welcoming attitude he expected to encounter when he moved away from his village did not really turn out as planned. Pip perceived Wammick rather as a robot than a human being. The clerk, and Jaggers's subordinate, also did not help Pip's worry about the new home by his not at all cheering words he described London. "You may get cheated, robbed, and murdered in London."

(157) The establishment, the Barnard's Inn, which became Pip's new home did not improve the city's picture either. Pip disappointedly describes it as "the dingiest collection of shabby buildings ever squeezed together in a rank corner as a club for Tom-cats." (158) Basically, London is presented as a very negative place. It is dirty, it is connected to criminality and, generally, people there are not open or friendly. The relations Pip has with Joe or Biddy, who live in the countryside, are incomparably better. The London attitude is the most apparent in the figure of Wemmick. He behaves differently according to the place he is currently in. The Little Britain, where he works with Mr. Jaggers, makes him behave rather strictly, cruelly, officially and mechanically. He is overly attached to property and money and lacks compassion for others. On the other hand, in Walworth, where Wemmick lives with his father, he is a completely different man. He is caring, friendly and open, and does not put the property first but it is the human values that are important there. So the city could be seen as a corrupting and destructive place. The first positive thing about London is Pip's flatmate Herbert, whom he encountered once before in the garden of Satis house where they fought one another. They recognize each other right away but the moment of their second meeting in their newly shared residence is presented to the reader in a very tense way and the author prolongs the description of the situation to create suspense. But after the disclosure of Herbert's identity, they immediately become friends and naturally understand each other. This coincidental reunion is emphasised by the fact that Herbert was supposed to be the boy who should have come to visit and distract Miss Havisham instead of Pip and so, in Pip's point of view, he could have received the money and a promising future in Pip's stead. That, of course, is not possible since Miss Havisham is not Pip's benefactor. They support one another and lead a nice life without really paying attention to the amount of money they spend. That is also due to the fact, that at the beginning of his independence, Pip was not really educated concerning the financial domain. Until then, he had never lived on his own and had not been responsible for the household he lived in. So, keeping house was all new for him. Successively, he started to be aware of the ups and downs and the responsibilities of the autonomous life. Pip does not economize but it is important to say that he does not spend money really thoughtlessly. He invests in knowledge, since Mr. Pocket is teaching him, and buys a lot of books, as he wishes to be erudite enough to be equal to Estella. For all the time he spent on improving himself and socially progressing, the only goal he had in mind was the idea of being worthy of becoming Estella's husband. According to Meckier,

the expectations and the love that is the main hero filled with are closely connected. “In Pip’s case, these are inextricably intertwined. His love for Estella is inseparable from his snobbish desire to rise in the world regardless of merit.” (Meckier) This idea was deeply rooted in his mind and, in his eyes the happy ending was not at all impossible owing to his wrong assumption concerning the identity of his sponsor. After some time, Pip began to feel natural and at ease in London. That was also due to the fact that he found reliable friends that he could count on, being mainly Herbert and the Walworth Wemmick. After some time, Joe came to London to see Pip and to deliver him a message from Miss Havisham. By this time, Pip felt quite settled in his new home and his education had fairly progressed. That is the reason why he was so uneasy and nervous since he thought that his enhanced position could be endangered or even ruined by Joe’s awkwardness unacceptable for the higher society of gentlemen and ladies. Joe can sense it too and sums it up while saying: “You and me is not two figures to be together in London.” (205) He emphasizes the difference between them: “you shall never see me no more in these clothes. I’m wrong in these clothes. I’m wrong out of the forge, the kitchen, or off th’ meshes.” (205) Joe knows that he is not smart but in his forge, he feels good and his work is appreciated and respected. Essentially, he tells Pip that if he wants to see him, he has to come to him, to Pip’s former home, because he does not belong among the gentlemen living in London. Pip, despite still liking Joe very much, sees the world quite superficially at the moment and fears the possibility of being ashamed by him. “I was heartily glad when Herbert left us for the City. I had neither the good sense nor the good feeling to know that this was all my fault, and that if I had been easier with Joe, Joe would have been easier with me. I felt impatient of him and out of temper with him.” (203) At this point, the public opinion of the upper class is more precious to him than the real important human values and qualities. Moreover, he lets the shallowness win over their long-lasting intimate friendship. Regarding Pip’s money management, as his tutor, Mr. Pocket, “was a most delightful lecturer on domestic economy” although his family was not particularly wealthy, his abilities, not belonging only to the financial sphere, successively augmented. But he still did not live as modestly as he should have and Herbert, who followed Pip’s high expense way of life, as well as Pip got into debt. Pip, seeing his bad influence on Herbert, started to ponder and think over his life transformation. He came to the conclusion that: “it was not beneficial to anybody, and, above all, that it was not beneficial to Herbert. My lavish habits led his easy nature into expenses that he could not afford, corrupted

the simplicity of his life, and disturbed his peace with anxieties and regrets.” (249) Pip described this period of time they lived together as the time when they “spent as much money as we could, and got as little for it as people could make up their minds to give us.” Furthermore, he adds: “There was a gay fiction among us that we were constantly enjoying ourselves, and a skeleton truth that we never did.” (250) So, they spent money rather impetuously to live and enjoy the gentlemanly life but the things they bought did not bring them joy. As they continued in this irresponsible spending process for a while, they ran into considerable debt. Then, they had a special ritual, which they weirdly enjoyed, during which they counted all their debts. They felt that if they knew how much they owe, the situation would become clearer. Pip played the role of the main accountant and a courage supplier to Herbert to make him stick to the precise numbers. Herbert found Pip’s “business powers” astonishing. And he had a fairly high opinion about his financial abilities himself, too. Pip said: “I established with myself on these occasions, the reputation of a first-rate man of business – prompt, decisive, energetic, clear, cool-headed.” (252) They continued on “leaving a Margin” and their debts were not about to disappear though Pip felt so confident about his skills. After some time, Pip’s sister died and he came to the funeral. There, he had a disagreement with Biddy who talked to him openly and was afraid of Joe being left alone in the forge. Pip, not used to this kind of criticism did not behave like a gentleman should and perceives her realistic reproach as an “unkindness”, “injury” and “injustice”. Pip’s debts were getting higher and higher, but by the time he came of age, he received more money from his sponsor, who was still unknown. Pip was told that he would receive the same amount of money annually. That meant that it was necessary for him to act wisely concerning his expenses and think his investments through. While he was discussing it with Mr. Jaggers, Pip was still convinced that Miss Havisham was the one that had been providing him with money and that she did not want to be exposed. “From this last speech I derived the notion that Miss Havisham, for some reason or no reason, had not taken him into her confidence as to her designing me for Estella.” (264) He built up on the false idea and imagined and invented completely wrong assumptions. When Pip was given the money, he made one selfless decision which consisted of his wish to help Herbert to be able to start a career in the sphere of commerce. Herbert was deeply indebted but he was a persistent and hardworking man. Nevertheless, he still could not find employment. Pip felt a little bit guilty for Herbert’s indebtedness and thought that “he might have done better without me and my expectations.” (269) But that was not

the only reason he was “very desirous to serve a friend”. They were truly fond of each other and always tried to be mutually helpful and encouraging. Pip came to Walworth to get a piece of “advice from Wemmick’s experience and knowledge of men and affairs” to find the best way how “to help Herbert to some present income” and “gradually to buy him on to some small partnership.” (270) Owing to Wemmick’s connections, Pip spent half of the money he received from his patron and ensured Herbert a promising start of his career. Hence, Pip became a secret benefactor of his friend just as Magwitch once decided to become his. Pip was finally happy with the outcome of his gained property and also proud of his unselfish action. The reason of his sense of satisfaction was that he helped his friend who had no idea about someone else’s contribution to his success. “I had the greatest difficulty in restraining my tears of triumph when I saw him so happy,” (273) said Pip the day Herbert told him that he finally managed to find employment.

2.4.3. The revelation of Pip’s sponsor’s identity and its impact

About two years after Herbert finally found employment, he successfully continued in his career and was even going on business trips abroad. During one of them, Pip was left alone and his life was about to change forever since the real identity of his sponsor ought to be finally disclosed. Miss Havisham continued on leading him on and did not disprove his obvious assumption, that she is Pip’s benefactor, which she could not fail to notice. Magwitch came to London to see “his gentleman” that he made using his money. Pip had not even recognized him for the first sight but when he did he felt absolutely petrified even though he did not see the connection with him being his sponsor yet. Magwitch was filled with emotion and pride. Pip was behaving in a very polite way towards him, he asked: “Will you drink something before you go?” (289) That is, because he thought that Magwitch looked him up to thank him for the food he stole for him many years ago. When Pip saw tears in Magwitch’s eyes, he became even more polite and apologized that he spoke “harshly” to him and then said that he was sorry and wished him “well and happy”. This politeness Pip demonstrated towards a man he found horrifying and whom he despised was a manifestation of the good manners he acquired but also a human decency with which he treated a distressed man. As he treated a criminal who had been unsettling him since he was a little boy, it is presumable that he would help any other human being which is a gentleman-worthy noble value. Magwitch then presented himself as Pip’s patron and did it in a very tense

way which paralyzed Pip completely, he even felt physically ill. “I seemed to be suffocating – I stood so, looking wildly at him, until I grasped at the chair, when the room began to surge and turn.” (291) Magwitch then displayed him all he had done for him: “I lived rough, that you should live smooth; I worked hard, that you should be above work.” (291) But he did not want to force him to repay the money or to make him feel bad. “Do I tell it, fur you to feel a obligation? Not a bit.” (291) Pip once helped him and now, the roles turned around which resulted in Magwitch’s ability to “make a gentleman”. Pip did not take the news well as his whole life just tore apart. While talking about emotions towards Magwitch he used very strong negative words such as “the dread”, “the abhorrence” or “the repugnance”. Magwitch, on the other hand, behaved quite heartily towards him. He often shook and held his hands and even kissed them just as if they were very close friends. The despair Pip felt got deeper and deeper with all the things linked together. He realized that the future with Estella was just a fairy tale he fantasized about and Miss Havisham deceived him by not disproving his wrong assumptions. “I only suffered in Satis House as a convenience, a sting for the greedy relations, a model with a mechanical heart to practise on when no other practice was at hand.” (295) Grass described Satis House as “a site of exchange” (Grass) where the relationships were fairly formal and not based on affection, except for Pip’s love for Estella which was genuine. Miss Havisham treated them rather as easily manipulable objects she owned than real human beings. Pip saw finally through the long-lasting pretence. He deeply regretted the unjust way he treated his friend Joe, and Biddy too, with no satisfying result which could compensate his actions. Pip perceived it as if he “had deserted Joe” and felt the “sharpest and deepest pain of all” for his misbehaviour. And, finally, he repented of the whole change of his character and residence which came along with his “expectations”. “O, that he had never come! That he had left me at the forge – far from contended, yet, by comparison, happy!” (293) Pip would prefer to be left relatively miserable in his former home being a simple smith apprentice than having his gentlemanly progress financed by the convict. This feeling is even emphasized by Magwitch’s possessive comments that he “was making a gentleman” and that he is “the owner of such” even though he, his possessor, is not educated or noble. “The wretched man, after loading wretched me with his gold and silver chains for years, had risked his life to come to me, and I held it there in my keeping!” (294) This fact complicated the situation even more because the man, who helped his dreams come true without being asked to do so, risked his life only to see

the outcome of his hard work. Pip accommodated him in Herbert's room despite the fact that he did not intend to do it and it made him feel very nervous. He was disgusted by the idea that his progress was made possible enabled to him by a dishonest, ignoble convicted criminal. Therefore, his improvement was blemished and he was ashamed of its realization. But, he also felt very frightened because his last memory of Magwitch consisted of threatening of death and Magwitch's attempt to kill another convict. He is actually afraid for his life. "I had seen him with my childish eyes to be a desperately violent man; that I had heard that other convict reiterate that he had tried to murder him; that I had seen him down in the ditch tearing and fighting like a wild beast." (295) Hence, Pip was afraid because of the past events he had lived through where Magwitch constituted a horrifying and dangerous individual but, also, of the future because he did not know what Magwitch could want him to do. Pip became restless, hopeless, betrayed and alone. He had nobody he could consult it with since his supportive flatmate Herbert was currently on his business trip. Pip was very much on his own and had to deal with a criminal who claimed to own him. Pip invented a story that Magwitch is his uncle who visited him, so as it was not too conspicuous, that a strange man began to live in his place so unexpectedly. Pip was starting to get used to the situation and the idea that all his expectations no matter how great there were are crushed. "As to forming any plan for the future, I could as soon have formed an elephant" (301) Pip presented it retrospectively in an amusing way but at the time of its happening, he felt "dejected" and "distressed". The emotions he held towards Magwitch were repugnance, aversion and fear. He hated all the aspects of his identity from the way he ate to the way he behaved and this individual was Pip "chained" to. Magwitch had a very high anticipation of the gentleman "he made" concerning the high-class way of life. He wanted to continue in paying him money so as he could afford all the visible material luxury which would manifest his social status. Magwitch said to Pip: "All I've got ain't mine; it's yourn." And added: "I've come to the old country fur to see my gentleman spend his money *like* a gentleman. That'll be *my* pleasure." (303) He wanted Pip to show off and exhibit his property but Pip, though being offered a lot of money for free, could not get over the source of it and did not want to be connected to him anymore. Magwitch was fairly careful about sharing information about him and "reserved his consent to Herbert's participation until he should have seen him and formed a favourable judgement of his physiognomy." (305) Magwitch always carried a little edition of the Bible on him but it was not a display of his religious devotion or

manifestation of a good Christian man hidden under the mask of a convict. He carried it only to force people to swear on it, so, it was rather the means of coercion, which blemished his character even more. Pip thought that “from head to foot there was Convict in the very grain of the man.” (309) To understand Pip’s fear of his patron completely, it is important to realize that he wanted to give back the money he received from Magwitch who came to see him against the threat of a death penalty to witness the masterpiece he has been working on for so long. But if all his efforts and hard work should go unrewarded, he might be really dangerous to his ungrateful protégé. Herbert came home from his trip and was immediately forced to swear on Magwitch’s “black book”. His arrival meant a big relief for Pip since he could finally share his despair with somebody. “Herbert received me with open arms, and I had never felt before, so blessedly, what it is to have a friend.” (312) They felt the same way about Pip’s sponsor and Herbert understood his great suffering without the necessity of talking about the unfortunate situation. Pip thought of the money, he had received until that day, as a debt he had towards Magwitch and firstly acknowledged that he had “now no expectations”. For him, the situation was more difficult because of the fact that he had been “bred to no calling” and is “fit for nothing”. Herbert worked on his career which he gained thanks to Pip but the fortunes Pip thought of were his friend’s and not his own so he had no plans or prospects for the future. He considered becoming a soldier which is quite a big step from being a gentleman but he quickly withdrew from that idea. After considering the state of affairs, they decided that it was crucial for Magwitch to leave the country. They agreed on such a decision because Pip rejected the acceptance of any money from him and wanted to break the link between them. But, also, because it would assure that Magwitch is safe, since, by staying in England, he risked his life. He was very kind and generous to Pip since he sent all his money to him and wanted to enable him the life of a true gentleman. Herbert and Pip saw the good intention behind it, so, they wanted to save his life even though they still despised him. Magwitch then told them his story which connected him to the Pip’s fake benefactor, Miss Havisham. All the things around Pip were somehow interconnected and thanks to Magwitch’s narrative he was able to understand better the past situations that happened to him. Also, he was presented with an example of a man named Compeyson who, outwardly, behaved like a gentleman and had looks of such, but any gentlemanly values or qualities were missing in his character. The fact that he looked like a gentleman did not mean he really was one. Magwitch hated this man with all his heart because he betrayed him

several times. As Magwitch had a Christian name Abel, James views those two as perfect opposites. “His Biblical name identifies him as Abel to the Cain of Compeyson.” (James, “Where is Compeyson?”) Compeyson was following Pip and so, he and Herbert convinced Magwitch that he should move to ensure that his safety would not be endangered. The new place was located near a port and was well hidden. Magwitch, or Provis as they called him, behaved very calmly and trusted Pip and Herbert with his life. Also, Pip’s attitude towards Magwitch was starting to change a little. He did not call him the “convict” or Magwitch but he used the name Provis to address him, not to give away his true identity. They even invented their own way of communication consisting of signals without the necessity of Pip going in the house, which could reveal his location. “Looking back at him, I thought of the first night of his return when our positions were reversed, and when I little supposed my heart could ever be as heavy and anxious at parting from him as it was now,” (347) thought Pip while leaving Magwitch’s new residence. Together with Wemmick and Herbert, they came up with a plan to get Magwitch abroad. They planned it in detail so as he could leave the country safe. By the time, as Pip refused Magwitch’s money, he “began to know the want of money” and though his financial state was not a happy one, the state of his mind was even worse. He felt “constant restlessness and suspense” and “anxiety”. Pip’s but also Herbert’s approach towards Magwitch changed just as did Pip’s patron who was now communicative and “softened”. The escape plan became more complicated because of Pip’s injuries from the fire at Miss Havisham’s and the attempted murder that Orlick almost completed. He went to meet him only because he was afraid for Magwitch. He said: “In case any harm should befall him through my not going, how could I ever forgive myself!” (383) That again demonstrates a gradual change of Pip’s attitude towards his benefactor. Consequently, they had to involve their friend Startop into the plan too, since Pip was not physically competent to manage rowing the boat. Magwitch obeyed them, was reasonable, trusted their judgement and behaved correspondingly. He was very calm and rather enthusiastic regarding his escape. During the escape, the police with the help of Compeyson, who was informing on Magwitch, seized them. Magwitch, after seeing his former associate, became furious, killed Compeyson and was, himself, badly injured. He “received some very severe injury in the chest and a deep cut in the head” and was taken to the prison. Pip immediately started to take care of him – he bought him new clothes so as he would not have to wear the wet ones and he accompanied him to the prison.

2.4.4. Transformation of the relationship between Pip and his patron

All the time that Magwitch spent in prison, Pip was by his side as often as he could. At that time, he saw him in a very different light. He recognized the good qualities in him which he could not see before since he saw only the surface of the convict. "For now, my repugnance to him had all melted away," (408) Noble values are not prescribed to the high class only and Pip became aware of the fact that though being a convicted criminal, Magwitch is and was a good person. He saw him as a man "who had felt affectionately, gratefully, and generously, towards me with great constancy through a series of years." (408) Magwitch did not blame anyone and was conciliated with his life and its end. He did not want Pip to be seen by his side, as "a gentleman should not be knowed to belong to me now." He still thought more of Pip's future than his. "I will never stir from your side," (409) responded Pip who had developed a considerably strong affection to Magwitch and wanted to spare him all the bad news about his financial situation and the lost future in the high society. When Pip talked about the situation with Wemmick, the latter was only concerned about the property of Magwitch. On the contrary, Pip did not care about it at all and what mattered to him was "the poor owner of the property". Pip lost interest in money and the high-class life and started to appreciate the sphere beyond the surface which consists of the valuable human qualities. Pip got very committed to Magwitch and came to see him every moment he could. "It became the first duty of my life to say to him, and to read to him, what I knew he ought to hear." (416) He visited him often but Magwitch was getting weaker and weaker. Then he stopped talking almost completely as it was too exhausting for him. They had their special communication consisting of facial expressions and the type and intensity of the hand touch and press when they were holding hands. Only Pip was able to understand him. Pip was so devoted to him that he even started to write numerous petitions to help him which was, in the end, useless anyway. He was truly exhausted since he did not think of himself at all, on his mind was only the sake of his ill patron. They established a relationship full of affection and mutual understanding. The last day of Magwitch's life, he told Pip: "And what's the best of all, you've been more comfortable alonger me." (420) Only the fact, that the boy he was sponsoring felt good in his presence was a sufficient fulfilment of his life. When Pip found that he was going to die soon he wanted to enable him to pass away in peace. That is why he stayed with him and told him about Estella, that his lost

child was alive, became a lovely lady and that he adored her. And so, thanks to Pip, Magwitch could die a happy man. If we compare the initial attitude Pip held towards his benefactor, it is entirely opposite to the outcome of their relationship. When he found the real identity of his patron, all Pip felt was a strong hatred, fear and disdain. Nevertheless, Pip turned away from the money-obsessed way of life and was able to see through the rough surface and found a good and pure heart of a hardworking man who he could respect and honour.

2.4.5. Joe, the situation and life saver

After Magwitch's death, Pip was finally forced to face his problems – financial and health-related. He was alone, since Herbert left for Cairo to lead a business there. He was so indebted that he was arrested but being so weak and sick, he was not able to walk with the men that came to escort him to the prison. He was seriously ill and was not able to take care of himself. Joe, who never doubted their friendship, came to London to help him from his own initiative. Joe was looking after him just like he did when Pip was a little boy. Pip felt a horrible guilt owing to the way he treated Joe. "O Joe, you break my heart! Look angry at me, Joe. Strike me, Joe. Tell me of my ingratitude. Don't be so good to me!" (423) But Joe did not reproach him for anything. All he wanted was his friend to be healthy again and he claimed that he did not see any harm that Pip could have done to him. They treated one another very cordially, just as when they lived together, shared everything and Joe was Pip's hero who took care of him. "I was to submit myself to all his orders," (424) said Pip who saw that Joe's devotion and loyalty were endless. The change of Pip's priorities in life was being finished and finally looking clearer. Joe paid all Pip's debts and spent the time he needed to mend with him, caring for him. He knew that Pip did not behave very nicely towards him and Biddy, but he did not want to hear a word about it, because he could never hold anything against his friend. Pip was immensely grateful and, being so weak, very emotional. "Evidently, Biddy taught Joe to write. As I lay in bed, looking at him, it made me, in my weak state, cry again with pleasure to see the pride with which he set about his letter." (424) So, Joe even progressed in his schooling since he learnt how to read and write. Even though their time was filled up with "the old simplicity", Pip did not mind and was not ashamed of it anymore. All he felt was happiness, gratitude and safety. "I feel thankful that I have been ill, Joe," (439) said Pip sincerely. The illness and his weakness reconnected them. But when Pip got better, the atmosphere began to

change again. Joe, not feeling that self-confident anymore, started to call Pip “sir” again and, reassured that Pip felt good, soon left him unexpectedly. Pip found out that Joe paid his debts and planned to follow him home, “to the dear old forge”, where he wanted to thank him again. But also, he decided to propose Bidley, which, already mentioned before, did not work out for him since Joe and Bidley got married. To sum up, Joe, though he swore not to come to London ever again, broke his word to help a friend in need despite not feeling at ease in that place. He did not hesitate to share his money just as the moral support with Pip. He showed, once again, his good heart, love, generosity and caring nature regardless of the disgraceful way he was treated by Pip before.

2.4.6. The reappraisal of priorities and values

The change of Pip’s values was not sudden, it happened rather progressively. It started with the different attitude Pip gained towards his patron Magwitch when he realized what he really did for him and the sacrifice he made. He recognized the good heart and sense of honour and loyalty despite the fact that he initially saw him only as a dirty and repugnant criminal. Suddenly, he did not see the money, property and luxurious life as the idle way to live. That is just a superficial brilliance with no real values. It looks good but it has no moral value comprised within. When Pip came back to his village he imagined the life he could have there without his “great expectations”. “Many pleasant pictures of the life I would lead there, and of the change for the better that would come over my character when I had a guiding spirit at my side whose simple faith and clear home-wisdom I had proved,” (436) fantasized Pip over the things he used to be ashamed of. He admired Joe and Bidley by thinking: “Long-suffering and loving, Joe, *you* never complain. Nor you, sweet-tempered Bidley!” (384) He did not see the simplicity and authenticity as a defect anymore. On the contrary, he rewarded those genuine qualities by the words of praise and called his friends “the best husband” and “the best wife in the whole world”. And he conveyed to Bidley his feelings for Joe: “You couldn’t love him better than I do.” (437) In him he finally saw the nobility, genuineness and gentility. They were “both so good and true” and Pip saw Joe as a “gentle Christian man”. Pip found the gentility in the man he found embarrassing and unsophisticated at the beginning. Before, he blamed him for his commonness and insufficient education but, in the end, Pip knew that what matters is a good heart and that the simple, modest and Christian way of life is truly noble. Pip did not stay

with Biddy and Joe but he decided to go working for Herbert's enterprise in Cairo as a clerk. "We were not in a grand way of business, but we had a good name, and worked for our profits, and did really well." (439) By this summarization of Pip's work abroad, his changed attitude to life is manifested. He did not become a smith or a gentleman who does not work at all. He chose the middle course in which he found a different type of gentility. "I work pretty hard for a sufficient living, and therefore – Yes, I do well," (442) described Pip his life to Estella. The persistence, hard work and diligence became a symbol of a good, simple and noble life. The change is also evident in Pip's evaluation of his work. He did not need to be the best, the richest or the most noble of all anymore. Contrarily, his obsession with money has disappeared, and the good functioning of their business was enough for him to be satisfied and happy.

Conclusion

The goal of this thesis was to analyse the concept of gentleman in *Great Expectations*. The first part presented the social situation in the Victorian era, the social division and the dissimilar possibilities of different classes. Therefore, the notion of gentleman was set and ready to be observed in the novel.

Many similar features concerning the setting, main characters and the literary device of foreshadowing in the four compared novels were established. The prototype of a poor maltreated child character is typical for his work just as the importance of money, social status and morals. Even though the plot is always unlike, certain attributes may be found in all of them. Dickens's style and topics are rather distinguishable however his manuscript is unique.

To conclude Pip's profound transformation, finally, he started to pay attention to the inside qualities rather than to the surface of things. At the beginning, the superficiality of luxurious life was sufficient for Pip because all he wanted was to improve his social position without considering the means. There were numerous situations and people connected to the main hero which shaped his character and influenced its evolution. Firstly, it was Estella, for whom he wanted to progress socially and mentally. He was falsely encouraged by Miss Havisham which motivated him to do his best to improve. His friend Herbert had a great influence on him. He affected him in a profound way since he woke up Pip's conscience. Pip started to realize that the social position by its own will not ensure him a happy life which was the first step in his transformation. Nevertheless, it was his true patron Magwitch who made him see through the surface and changed his former shallowness. Thanks to this discovery, Pip found the noble values not in London gentlemen but in his loyal and true friend Joe and his wife Biddy. Despite the fact they were not wealthy or highly educated, the simple Christian life they led was an apt image of the genuine nobleness. Pip finally recognized that the gentility is not manifested by one's exterior, the amount of money one has or the society people are associated with. What is important are the values people hold to, and the way they behave when no one is watching. The decisions made on the basis of one's moral priorities are emphasised as a contrary to people who behave only according to the impression their actions would give. They are superficial and care only about their wealth and image. As the novel showed, a simple man with no money or education may be a gentleman if he behaves like one. On the contrary, all the wealthy

and noble-looking members of the high society may not have a pure and noble heart despite being called gentlemen. Money does not make a man's character gentle. It is the human nature and values that determine whether one is noble or not. Pip realized this idea after he experienced the attitudes and behaviour of people of the both sorts and, in the end, came to appreciate the true and pure human qualities. He does not see the status of a gentleman as a high social position any more. In his eyes, it is rather an inner state of mind which leads people's actions, since by these the gentility and nobility are exhibited.

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