

THE ANTAGONIST CHARACTER'S CRIMINAL THOUGHT IN CHARLES DICKENS' *OLIVER TWIST*

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ABSTRACT

This thesis entitled *The Antagonist Character's Criminal Thought in Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist: A Psychological Approach*. There are two objectives in this research. Those are: to describe the antagonist character's criminal thought in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* and to explain the factors that influence the antagonist character's criminal thought presented in the novel. In this thesis, the researcher takes a library research. The subject of the research is *Oliver Twist*, a fiction novel by Charles Dickens. The novel is used as the primary source, while books, journals, and articles are taken as the secondary source. The data were collected by visiting libraries, reading, taking notes, and categorizing data. Then, the researcher applied a psychological approach to analyze the data. The collected data were analyzed qualitatively in the form of statements and sentences. After conducting the research, the researcher comes to the conclusion that first, from the eight aspects of criminal thought, Fagin has five aspects which are classified in the high category, Fagin is intended as the criminal masterpiece in *Oliver Twist* novel. Second, the factors that influence the antagonist character's criminal thought in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* are societal & economic factors, neighbor-hood and local institutions, and drugs.

Keywords: *Criminal thought, psychological approach, Fagin, Oliver Twist*

I. INTRODUCTION

Criminal is a crime in the form of thoughts or ideas without using physical violence. In a problem, an idea is the most important thing because without an idea, a thing cannot happen or be carried out. Idea is the place of the first creation, while reality is the place of the second creation. So, there is no reality that occurs in this life without previously created an idea. Usually the ideas obtained appear from existing problems.

Criminal thought starts from the mind and then becomes a wrong understanding that is obtained from the environment. A wrong understanding will be practiced in the form of criminal acts. Crime is one problem that always appear from the time to time.

According to Walters (1996), there are eight cognitive patterns to describe the criminal thinking process. The eight thinking styles include mollification, cutoff, entitlement, power orientation, sentimentality, superoptimism, cognitive indolence, and discontinuity.

In addition to the criminal thought process, the factors cause criminal thought. According to Ellis (1999), there are eight factors that causing crime, they are: societal & economic factors, neighborhood & local institutions, family factors, mass media, individual differences, biological factors, drugs/ drug use, criminal justice system.

In the novel *Oliver Twist* especially Fagin's character according to (Walters:2014) has a high-scale thinking style. This can be seen from Fagin having poor emotional control so he gets angry easily. Fagin believes in other people,

desires to control the situation and other people, confidently can avoid the consequences of the crime, uses shortcuts to achieve a goal, difficulty completing what he has started. (Walters: 2014).

In this study, the researcher will analyze the criminal thought of Fagin. Fagin is the leader of a gang of boy thieves. He is very greedy and cruel. He gathered children who had no family, and trained them to pick a pocket. Criminal thought of Fagin are first, he told the children to pickpocket, he did this dirty thing not with his hands but he sent the children he had cared for. Second, he influences someone to kill his friend. Third, he holds Oliver for a while before making him go out to try and rob a house. In the end, Fagin is arrested and tried for his crime. The jury finds him guilty, and he is sentenced to death.

The reasons of the researcher chooses the novel to study are, first, *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens is one of the best selling books that has been published. Second, *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens has been filmed. That makes someone more interested in the novel because *Oliver Twist* is not only available in printed books but also in audio-visual like a film. Third, in *Oliver Twist's* story there are many moral values that can be taken. Fourth, there has never been criminal thought research in *Oliver Twist*. Fifth, story in the novel, especially criminal thought are related to viral news such as klitih and the person is still teenager.

II. METHOD

The type of the study the researcher used is library research. *Oliver Twist* written by Charles Dickens is as primary data and books, journals, articles, and other sources

is as secondary data. The study subject is the novel entitlement *Oliver Twist* written by Charles Dickens. The study object is the antagonist characters' criminal thought.

The Researcher used a psychological approach for analyzing. Psychology can be used to help a literary critic or a literary researcher to explain, interpret and evaluate literary works. According to Wellek and Warren (1949:75) Relate between psychology and literature, claimed that psychology has meanings in literary works, such as: First, Psychological Approach to the Author as a type and as individual. Psychological literature is psychology of the author, so the spiritual of the author very affect the result of the literary works. Second, Psychological Approach to Creative Process of Literary Work. Literary works is a creative activity that makes a tool for deliver messages and feeling someone to other or the author to readers. Third, Psychological Approach to the Psychological types and laws present within works of literature. For analizing the characters in literary work, an reviewer must based on the theory and law of psychological that explain behavior and character of human. Fourth, Literary Approach to the Influence of Literary Works Through the Readers. Literary work will certainly have an influence on the reader, if the effect can leave an impression, it will have an impact on the reader.

The four steps of data collecting methods are: (1) Visiting some libraries, (2) Reading books, (3) Making notes, and (4) Categorizing Data. The collected data were analyzed qualitatively. The data were analyzed in the form of statement and sentences. To achieve the study of understanding, the researcher shall take the following steps: (1) Collecting data based on the title of thesis, (2) Categorizing the data dealing with the formulation of the study, (3) Analyzing the data that explain the

antagonist character's criminal thought on the novel, and (4) Making conclusions after the data have been analyzed.

III. FINDINGS

The aims of this paper is to describe the antagonist character's criminal thought and to explain factors that influence the antagonist character's criminal thought.

In this novel there is the most famous villain he is the Fagin. Fagin is intended as the criminal masterpiece in Oliver Twist novel. He gathered children who had no family, and trained them to pickpocket. Then the result of the pickpocketing he saves to his old age because he wants to have a lot of money without having to work hard.

A. The Antagonist Character's Criminal Thought

Walters (1990) has proposed that eight thinking styles serves as the foundation for criminal thought process in support of a criminal lifestyle. Walters asserted that these eight thinking patterns, though interrelated, are sufficiently distinct cognitive aspects of the criminal lifestyle. The Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles (PICTS) is an assessment instrument, developed to assess those eight thinking styles. The eight thinking styles include:

1. Mollification

Someone who has high mollification is he/she who looks to the environment for explanations of his/her behavior, blames own antisocial actions on external circumstances (Walters, 2014: 108) Fagin's PICTS can be classified into high. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“As John Dawkins objected to their entering London before nightfall, it was nearly eleven o’clock when they reached the turnpike at Islington. They crossed from the Angel into St. John’s Road; struck down the small street which terminates at Sadler’s Wells Theatre; through Exmouth Street and Coppice Row; down the little court by the side of the workhouse; across the classic ground which once bore the name of Hockley-in-the-Hole; thence into Little Saffron Hill; and so into Saffron Hill the Great: along which the Dodger scudded at a rapid pace, directing Oliver to follow close at his heels.” (Dickens,2017:93)

“Although Oliver had enough to occupy his attention in keeping sight of his leader, he could not help bestowing a few hasty glances on either side of the way, as he passed along. A dirtier or more wretched place he had never seen. The street was very narrow and muddy, and the air was impregnated with filthy odours.” (Dickens,2017:94)

The quotations above describes that Dawkins invites Oliver to Fagin's home where Fagin's home environment is a slum environment. Usually one of the slum environment is caused by population density. If in a region has a very large population this will have an impact on unemployment, because there is an imbalance of the population with available jobs. This is what allows a person to commit a criminal act such as pickpocketing in order to maintain living.

2. Cutoff

Someone who has high cutoff is he/she who has poor emotional control and a tendency to “fly off the handle” with minimal provocation; easily frustrated and angers quickly (Walters, 2014: 108) . Fagin is someone who is angry easily and has poor emotional control. Fagin’s PICTS can be classified into high. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“What’s that?” said the Jew. ‘What do you watch me for? Why are you awake? What have do you seen? Speak out, boy! Quick-quick! For your life.” (Dickens,2017:101)

The quotations above describes that Fagin was angry when he discovered Oliver accidentally saw Fagin open a box containing his stolen goods.

‘What’s become of the boy?’ said the Jew, seizing the Dodger tightly by the collar, and threatening him with horrid imprecations. ‘Speak out, or I’ll throttle you!’ (Dickens,2017:141)

The quotations above describes that Fagin was angry when he found out Oliver was caught while following Bates and the Dodger pickpockets.

“So you wanted to get away, my dear, did you?” said the Jew, taking up a jagged and knotted club which lay in a corner of the fireplace. The Jew inflicted a smart blow on Oliver’s shoulders with the club.” (Dickens,2017:188)

The quotations above describes that Fagin was angry when he found out Oliver tried to escape from him, after being arrested again by Fagin.

3. Entitlement

Someone who has high entitlement is he/she who believes others, including society, owe him/her; often misidentifies wants as needs; views self as unique, privileged, and special (Walters, 2014: 108) Fagin’s PICTS can be classified into high. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“Ah!’said the Jew, turning rather pale. ‘They- they’re mine, Oliver; my little property. All I have to live upon, in my old age. The folks call me a miser, my dear. Only a miser; that’s all.’ (Dickens,2017:101)

The quotations above describes that Fagin misidentifies wants as needs. He put aside the needs for the sake of achieving desires without thinking about the problems that will occur. Needs related to everything that must

be met, while desires related to one's desires. He wants to enjoy his old age without having to work hard with the treasure he has collected, which is stolen. In fact, someone lives in need of help from others, therefore it is better to establish communication with others so that it is useful for others and himself.

Fagin is a person who easily believes in people. People who are easy to believe in others usually he does not think critically and not many ask, to find out the truth of the information obtained. Like the character Fagin in this novel, he suspects Nancy. Nancy is a young woman and prostitute raised into that profession by Fagin. Then, he sends Noah Claypole to follow Nancy. Noah Claypole is a charity boy with a fierce look who works for The Undertaker. He is one of the members Fagin's gang. Noah tells Fagin what Nancy has done. Without much thought it Fagin believed in what Noah said about Nancy. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“So the only proofs of the boy’s identity lie at the bottom of the river, and the old hag that received them from the mother is rotting in her coffin.” (Dickens,2017:483)

“In short, Fagin,”he says,”Jew as you are, you never laid such snares as I’ll contrive for my young brother, Oliver.” (Dickens,2017:484)

The quotations above describes that Fagin believed what monks say about Oliver's identity and Oliver was monk's brother.

Fagin is a person who easily believes in people. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“Tell me that again-once again, just for him to hear,’said the Jew, pointing to Sikes as he spoke. “Tell yer what?”asked the sleepy Noah, shaking himself pettishly. “Tell about-*Nancy*,’said Fagin, cluthing Sikes by the wrist, as if to prevent his leaving the house before he had heard enough. ‘You followed her?’’Yes.’’Where she met two people.’’So she did.’ “A gentleman and a lady that she had gone to of her own accord before, who asked her to give up all her pals, and Monks first, which she did-and to describe him, which she did- and to tell her what house it was that we meet at,and go to,which she did- and where it could be best watched from, which she did- and what time the people went there, which she did. She did all this. She told it all every word without a threat, without a murmur- she did- did she not?’cried Fagin, half mad with fury.” (Dickens,2017:571)

The quotations above describes that Fagin believed in the information conveyed by Noah Claypole that Nancy met Mr. Brownlow and Rose and she gave them all the information they could need to find Monks there, without arousing anyone's suspicions.

4. Power Orientation

Someone who has high power orientation has desire to be in control of situations and other people, drive for power can lead to conflict with others, argumentative and always wants things his/her way (Walters, 2014: 108). Fagin was someone who tends to control and control others, with his guile. Fagin was a cunning man, he gathered the children then trained to be a pickpocket. The way he teaches is so smooth that it makes children unaware that they are being trained how to pickpocketing. Here, he trains Oliver with a strange game. Fagin, Bates and Dodger then play a game. Bates is a sprightly young friend of the Dodger's and another of Fagin's members. Dodger is Fagin's best pickpocket and it is he who finds Oliver

and leads him to London and to Fagin's place. Fagin's PICTS can be classified into high. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“.....we'll teach Oliver how to do it. Shall us Oliver, eh? Ha! ha! ha!” (Dickens,2017:103)

“When the breakfast was cleared away; the merry old gentlman and the boys played at a very curious and uncommon game, which was performed in this way. Fagin pretends to be an old man walking along, and Bates and the Dodger pickpocket him. Fagin tells Oliver if he works like Dodger and does as he says, he will end up a great gentleman.” (Dickens,2017:104)

The quotations above describes that Fagin tried to influence Oliver's mind.

Fagin influenced innocent children like Oliver to be trained as pickpockets.

He did not realize that Fagin was showing a strange game with Bates and Dodger that was actually how to pickpocket.

“ I'm afraid that, if the game was up with us, it might be up with a good many more, and that it would come out rather worse for you than it would for me, my dear.” (Dickens,2017:145)

The quotations above describes that Fagin tried to influence Sikes's mind

by saying that if Oliver didn't return to them, that would endanger Sikes.

Fagin said this so that Sikes would recapture Oliver. Actually Fagin was afraid and worried if Oliver didn't return to them.

5. Sentimentality

Someone who has low sentimentality has little evidence that the individual uses concern for others to justify his/her criminal actions, in some cases, scores in this range indicate a callous disregard for the feelings of others (Walters, 2014: 108). Fagin are greedy people and do not care about the feelings of others. After the children he worked on, then the

result was handed over to the Fagin for his old age without sharing to anyone even the children who worked. He also influenced Nancy by saying that he is worried about her, as Sikes is so brutal to her. Sikes is thief who often works with Fagin. He said that he had a friend in him. Fagin's PICTS can be classified into high. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“Ah!’said the Jew, turning rather pale. ‘They- they’re mine, Oliver; my little property. All I have to live upon, in my old age. The folks call me a miser, my dear. Only a miser; that’s all.’ (Dickens,2017:101)

The quotations above describes that Fagin's stolen goods are stored for old age. He kept it to himself. Although the stolen goods were the result of small children deliberately trained by him, he did not share the results with them.

‘No matter just now. We’ll talk of this again. You have a friend in me, Nance; a staunch friend. I have the means at hand, quiet and close. If you want revenge on those that treat you like a dog-like a dog! worse than his dog, for he humours him sometimes-come to me. I say, come to me. He is the mere hound of a day, but you know me of old, Nance.’ (Dickens,2017:543)

The quotations above describes that Fagin trying to manipulate Nancy so that she will kill Sikes, so that Fagin won't have to worry about Sikes, who knows too much for Fagin's liking, anymore. Fagin, here, is purely motivated by self-interest and greed.

6. Superoptimism

Someone who has low superoptimism has cognizant of the negative consequences of crime and is not overconfident in his/her appraisal of the

chances of getting away with crime (Walters, 2014: 108). Even though Fagin was a cruel, cunning and often controlling person, Fagin also had a fear of what he had done. He was afraid when Oliver was caught when Oliver, Bates and Dodger will pick someone at a book stall. Bates and Dodger managed to escape after being caught picking pocketing. But when Oliver ran he was caught by the people around there. Fagin were afraid that Oliver would say out of about him. Fagin's PICTS can be classified into low. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“I’m afraid,that he may say something which will get us into trouble.”(Dickens,2017:145)

The quotations above describes that Fagin was frightened to find that Oliver did not return with Bates and the Dodger after pickpocketing, Fagin was worried that Oliver would tell the police about his criminal crimes that could make Fagin go to prison.

7. Cognitive Indolence

Someone who has high cognitive indolence is Lacks critical reasoning skills, often takes shortcuts in order to achieve goals and objectives, viewed by others as impulsive and “flighty” (Walters, 2014: 108). Fagin is someone who wants to get something but he has no effort and takes a shortcut to get something he wants. To fulfill his desire of having lots of money without working hard, Fagin gathered children who had no family, and trained them to pickpocket and he planned to rob a

house in Chertsey. Fagin's PICTS can be classified into high. It can be seen in the quotation below:

‘Well,’ said the Jew, glancing slyly at Oliver, and addressing himself to the Dodger, ‘I hope you’ve been at work this morning, my dears?’ ‘Hard,’ replied the Dodger. ‘As nails,’ added Charley Bates. ‘Good boys, good boys!’ said the Jew. ‘What have you got, Dodger?’ ‘A couple of pocket-books,’ replied that young gentleman. (Dickens, 2017: 102-103)

The quotations above describes that Fagin took care of boys to work with him and made them pickpockets. Which results from the pickpocket earlier submitted to Fagin.

“There, there,” said the Jew, coaxingly. ‘It was only my caution, nothing more. Now, my dear, about that crib at Chertsey; when is it to be done? Bill, eh? When is it to be done? Such plate, my dear, such plate!’ said the Jew: rubbing his hands, and elevating his eyebrows in a rapture of anticipation.” (Dickens, 2017: 223)

The quotations above describes that Fagin and Sikes planned to rob at Chertsey. To get money without working hard, they choose to use shortcuts even in the wrong way.

8. Discontinuity

Someone who has low discontinuity is focused, goal-directed, and consistent in thought and behavior; not easily side tracked and able to follow through on initially good intentions (Walters, 2014: 108). Fagin, from the beginning to the end does not change, Fagin remains a bad person. Fagin's PICTS can be classified into low. It can be seen in the quotation below:

‘Outside, outside,’ replied Fagin, pushing the boy before him towards the door, and looking vacantly over his head. ‘Say I’ve gone to sleep- they’ll believe you. You can get me out, if you take me so. Now, then, now then!’ (Dickens, 2017:652)

The quotations above describes that when the date of his death approached, he did not ask forgiveness from Oliver when given the opportunity, and he was never truly converted. Fagin instead asked Oliver to help him escape.

B. Factors That Influence The Antagonist Character’s Criminal Thought

According to Lee Ellis there are eight factors that causing crime and delinquency. In Oliver Twist’s Charles Dickens, the researcher found three factors that causes crime and delinquency. They are:

1. Societal & economic factors

Possible causes for someone to commit crime are economic system that frustrates efforts by some to participate, power biases in the passage and enforcement of laws, and labeling factors. Economic level greatly influences crime. The higher the economic level, the lower the crime. Conversely the lower the economic level, the higher the crime. As in Oliver Twist's novel, the house environment of the Fagin is a slum and densely populated one. This can be seen when Oliver is taken by Dodger to Fagin's house. Oliver passed through a narrow and very dirty alley. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“As John Dawkins objected to their entering London before nightfall, it was nearly eleven o’clock when they reached the turnpike at Islington. They crossed from the Angel into St. John’s Road; struck down the small street which terminates at Sadler’s

Wells Theatre; through Exmouth Street and Coppice Row; down the little court by the side of the workhouse; across the classic ground which once bore the name of Hockley-in-the-Hole; thence into Little Saffron Hill; and so into Saffron Hill the Great: along which the Dodger scudded at a rapid pace, directing Oliver to follow close at his heels.” (Dickens,2017:93)

“Although Oliver had enough to occupy his attention in keeping sight of his leader, he could not help bestowing a few hasty glances on either side of the way, as he passed along. A dirtier or more wretched place he had never seen. The street was very narrow and muddy, and the air was impregnated with filthy odours.” (Dickens,2017:94)

The quotations above describes that Dawkins invites Oliver to Fagin's house where Fagin's home environment is a slum environment. Usually one of the slum environment is caused by population density. If in a region has a very large population this will have an impact on unemployment, because there is an imbalance of the population with available jobs. This is what allows a person to commit a criminal act such as pickpocketing in order to maintain living.

2. Neighbor-hood & local institutions

Possible causes for someone to commit a crime are lack of educational opportunities, lack of religious/moral training, peer influences and bad example by business and community leaders. criminal acts come not only from the intentions or motives of the persons but also because of the influence of environmental conditions. in Oliver Twist's novel, the environment where Fagin is not only slums and densely populated but also his people have bad habits such as gambling, drinking. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“There were a good many small shops; but the only stock in trade appeared to be heaps of children, who, even at that time of night, were crawling in and out at the doors, or screaming from the inside. The sole places that seemed to prosper amid the general blight of the place, were the public-houses; and in them, the lowest orders of Irish were wrangling with might and main. Covered ways and yards, which here and there diverged from the main street, disclosed little knots of houses, where drunken men and women were positively wallowing in filth; and from several of the doorways, great ill-looking fellows were cautiously emerging, bound, to all appearance, on no very well-disposed or harmless errands.” (Dickens,2017:94)

The quotations above describes that Fagin lives in an unfavorable environment where the people have a habit of drinking alcohol, so Fagin follows or imitates the habits of the surrounding community. The environment has an important role for someone. Diverse environments always stimulate someone to follow and try to imitate and indentify them.

3. Drugs/ drug use

Possible causes for someone to commit a crime are alcohol, soft drugs and hard drugs. Consuming alcohol can change the behavior of people who drink it. Because when drunk, the person is not able to control themselves so do things that are contrary to the law such as pickpockets. In the novel *Oliver Twist*, Fagin is an alcoholic in his daily life he always drinks alcohol. It can be seen in the quotation below:

“..... There was a deal table before the fire; upon which were a candle, stuck in a gingerbeer bottle, two or three pewter pots, a loaf and butter, and a plate. In a frying pan, which was on the fire, and which was secured to the mantelshelf by a string, some sausages were cooking; and standing over them, with a toasting-fork in his hand, was a very old shrivelled Jew, whose villainous-looking and repulsive face was obscured by a quantity of matted red hair. Seated round the table were four or five boys, none older than the

Dodger, smoking long clay pipes, and drinking spirits with the air of middle-aged men.....” (Dickens,2017:95)

The quotations above describes that Fagin likes to drink alcohol which causes his consciousness to decrease. It also causes his emotions to become unstable which tends to commit criminal act. It is possible that the criminal act committed by Fagin is caused drugs.

IV. CONCLUSION

The researcher presents the conclusion and suggestion based on the research findings. There are three conclusions, (1) After analyzing eight aspects of criminal thought (Walters, 2014: 108), it can be inferred that Fagin has high criminal thought. Fagin has high mollification, high cutoff, high entitlement, high power orientation, low sentimentality, low superoptimism, high cognitive indolence and low discontinuity, (2) The factors that influence the antagonist character’s criminal thought in Charles Dickens *Oliver Twist* are societal & economic factors, neighborhood and local institutions, and drugs

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