

الاختلافات الاجتماعية في رواية بامبلا لـ : صموئيل ريتشاردسون؛
أو الفضيلة المكافأة عليها والآمال العظيمة لـ : تشارلز ديكنز

Social differences in Samuel Richardson's novel Pamela; or Virtue
Rewarded and Charles Dickens' novel Great Expectations

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الملخص:

توجد طبقات اجتماعية مختلفة؛ لأن لكل فرد واجباته واستحقاقاته في حياته الاجتماعية. وهذا يعني أن الأغنياء القادرين على أداء العديد من الحقوق والواجبات يُصنّفون ضمن الطبقة العليا، بينما يُصنّف من يفتقرون إلى أيٍّ من هذه الصفات أو لا يمتلكونها على الإطلاق ضمن الطبقات الدنيا.

لذلك، تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تفسير ظاهرة تنوع الطبقات الاجتماعية في روايتي "بامبلا" و"آمال عظيمة"، بالإضافة إلى الظروف الاجتماعية والاقتصادية لإنجلترا في القرنين الثامن عشر والتاسع عشر.

وتدرس الدراسة المعلومات الواردة في العملين الأدبيين المتعلقين بموضوع البحث. ووفقاً لنتائج هذه الدراسة، أصبح التحيز الاجتماعي في المجتمع مصدر قلق كبير خلال العصر الفيكتوري في إنجلترا، ففي هذه الحضارة أصبحت المكانة الاجتماعية للفرد العامل الحاسم في تفاعله مع الآخرين، ولظروف ميلاد الفرد تأثير كبير على فرص نجاحه ونيله الاحترام

Social differences in Samuel Richardson's novel Pamela; or Virtue
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And Charles Dickens's Great Expectations

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Abstract

Different social classes exist because different individuals have varying obligations and entitlements in their social lives. It means that rich people who can complete many rights and obligations will be classified as upper-

class citizens. Those who possess few or none of these traits will be classified as belonging to the lower classes. Therefore, this study aims to explain the phenomenon of diverse social classes in *Pamela* and *Great Expectations*, as well as the socioeconomic conditions of 18th- and 19th-century England. The study examines the information in the two literary works associated with the research issue. According to this study's findings, during the Victorian era in England, social bias in the community became a big concern. In this civilization, a person's social position has become the defining factor for interacting with others. The circumstances of a person's birth have an outsized effect on his or her prospects of achieving success and obtaining respect.

Keywords: *Victorian society, Lower class, Class differences, Morality, Upper class, Middle class*

The Social Differences in Samuel Richardson's *Pamela*; or, *Virtue Rewarded*

And Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*

1. Introduction

The events in England in the 18th and 19th centuries are remarkably similar to those depicted in the story of *Pamela* and *Great Expectations*. Although they do not directly refer to reality, they would nonetheless reflect reality. Both narrations portray the social phenomena occurring in England at the time. Despite living under such oppression, Richardson and Dickens' stories consistently depict the struggles of the lower class. The two novels' settings reflect 18th and 19th -centuries England's social strata. Both authors have established connections between their books and the time's social, political, and ideological climate. There is no denying that the social reality of life can serve as a source of inspiration for the author. Although the literary work is a product of the author's imagination, it is also based on real events. In England during the 18th and 19th centuries, a person's success and prestige were evaluated concerning his or her social status. It is no one's goal to fall to the lowest possible position in the social hierarchy.

In the novel, *Pamela*, the character of Mr. B demonstrates his efforts to influence Pamela's feelings by leveraging his higher social standing. In summary, he has the urge to use Pamela as a means to show off his wealth. Even though he has already established himself as a prosperous squire, he

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believes wealth and power are not enough to ensure his continued success. In order to validate his position in the social hierarchy, he must have Pamela. He articulates his emotions to his mom very precisely in their conversation. There is a widespread belief that a wealthy persons cannot become corrupt because they already have so much money. The story's main corrupting influences are avarice and social inequality.

On the other hand, *Great Expectations* narrates the story of an orphan named pip. The character Pip was raised by his sister and her Joe Gargery, a husband of noble character, who worked as a blacksmith in the village. The protagonist, "Pip," was brought up in poor conditions but eventually becomes wealthy, at which point they cast off their family and friends. As a result of his misfortune, he is compelled to acknowledge his previous behavior and lack of thanks. In *Great Expectations*, Dickens expresses his dismal views of Victorian society, including its innate class structure, flawed legal system, the disparity between rural and urban England, and the depravity of the high class. The author describes how riches influence great expectations, how class awareness is formed due to these factors, and all of the monstrosities and vanities that have been a source of calamity throughout history.

Analyses of the novels *Pamela or Virtue Rewarded* by Samuel Richardson and *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens are being conducted in this research to provide knowledge on the society that existed in the 18th century compared to that of the 19th century. This study provides a full description of the social class differences as it highlights the impact that socioeconomic inequality has on the hearts and lives of individuals. Analyzing both of the novels helps better understand to the society during that historical period.

1.1 English society between the 18th and 19th centuries

The English social order of the 18th and 19th centuries was primarily determined by social class. During this period, there were three distinct social classes: the upper class, the middle class, and the lower class. Those who were fortunate enough to belong to the upper class did not have to engage in labor that required physical exertion. On the other hand, they owned land and either employed lower-class people or invested the money they made to increase their wealth. There were three tiers within the upper class: the Royal, who

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were members of the royal family. The Middle-Upper, who were high-ranking officials and lords, and the Lower Upper, who were successful businessmen and affluent citizens. The fast development of cities and the economy during this period was primarily responsible for the rise of the middle class. It was sometimes referred to as the Bourgeoisie, and its members had skilled employment that allowed them to support their families and themselves. As domestic and international trade increased, more people were needed to work because of the scope of the new industries, which included railroads, banks, and the government.

The mentioned facilitations were necessary to ensure that the cities could run correctly. Besides that, in this period, one's social standing was directly proportional to their perceived social worth. For instance, if you were a man in this society, your status was determined by the circumstances of your birth and the property you owned. Women's social status would be based on the status of the man who provided for them. Once married, a woman's social standing would be determined by her husband's, whereas before marriage, a daughter's social standing would be determined by her father's. When deciding to wed, it was generally considered more appropriate to remain within one's social class or, at the very least, not stray too far from it. When a woman marries a man from a higher social status, she is automatically raised to that man's status. However, they will only be welcomed with pushback from the rest of the class. It was challenging to jump from one class to the next. Even though a woman would be considered a member of the class that her husband attends, the other people in the group did not necessarily consider her to be one of their own. Her new status would require them to be polite and respectful in public, but behind her back, they would likely continue to treat her with contempt and as though she was beneath them. When a man married a woman from a higher social class, the rules for their marriage were different. The woman's status could never be passed on to her husband because he was outside her social standing. Due to this social stigma, the woman who married lower on the social ladder was doomed to a lower social status. The husband's social standing always determines the family's affiliation. Truly moving up to a higher social group was more challenging, as was the case in *Great*

Expectations, and it was rarely accomplished if it was not for a happy marriage as *Pamela or virtue rewarded*.

2. Literature Review

A set of rules, norms and values always organizes society's behavior patterns. Some people in society, however, cannot live up to their obligations because they need to adapt the rules and norms. Classes exist because members of different strata of society have different responsibilities and privileges within a society. Karim defines *social classes* as "individuals and groups of individuals conceived of as constituting higher and lower differentiated strata, in terms of some specific or generalized characteristic or set characteristic." This stratification means that those with more means, rights and responsibilities will make up the upper classes, while those with fewer or no rights and responsibilities will make up the lower classes. In addition, Karim layered and categorized the different social classes within the larger group. The first is economic status, which classifies people according to their possession of material goods such as money, land, and homes. The second criterion is authoritative power, which may be the most important because those in positions of authority can exert considerable influence over those in positions of wealth. Thus, even at the highest social levels, someone in a position of authority will be placed at the top of the list. Moreover, finally, respect in society comes from acquiring knowledge; those around you will hold you in higher esteem if you have more information than they do.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Tajfel and his scholar John Turner developed the social identity theory. Their viewpoint is that an individual's social identification is a portion of their self-concept that emerges from their knowledge of their participation in a social group coupled with the worth and emotional significance linked to that membership. It is about the social value internalized through one's engagement with the social world and cognition, as well as the expected inter-group behaviors that result from the stability and cohesion received from certain groups of individuals. Tajfel and Turner postulated that three mental processes are involved in distinguishing one's group from other groups and that individuals may experience three stages: social categorization, social comparison, and social distinctiveness. Social categorization is classifying social objects or events that are comparable

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concerning an individual's actions, intentions, attitudes, and belief systems. In other words, if an individual is psychologically accepted as a member of particular classifications, he or she must hold a certain standard in mind in order to distinguish between the in-group and the out-group. McLeod (2019) claims that because of the way humans classify each other into in- and out-groups, social comparisons are inevitable. As a result, they prefer to keep to themselves and exaggerate the degree to which they differ from those they consider to be members of an out-group.

Pamela was confident in who she was as people. She clearly understood her place in society as a humble worker, and she took great pride in the achievements of the less fortunate. When there was a value conflict between the protagonist and her upper-class master, she was acutely aware of the disparity in her beliefs and practices. However, Pip needs help classifying himself and the people around him. That was because of the societal shifts in England during the nineteenth century. Instead, he finds that dictating his fate is the best way to figure out who he is and where he belongs in society. As a final step, Qi-Meng and Chen Zhixia (2016) argued that "social distinctiveness" refers to "the process through which individuals employ their group identity and group affiliation as the basis of their self-esteem" (p. 26). That is, individuals often meet self-esteem needs by highlighting their advantages. Based on Tajfel's social identity theory, Pamela becomes a modern moral exemplar who exemplifies the value of self-improvement as she transitions from maid to lady. On the other hand, Pip gave up his identity and attempted to belong to an out-group to benefit from certain advantages. Because of his interactions with the various other characters, Pip's self-awareness and critical judgment of the roles that people play in society gradually rise throughout the novel.

Li, Zhang (2015) argued that, at the time, the bourgeoisie's first step in dismantling the aristocracy's ideological barriers and bloodlines was to establish a new gentlemanly ideal that prioritized upbringing, manners, and character over birth. This movement of the society led to the creation of the idealized figure of Pamela, who embodied the best qualities of both the bourgeois and the aristocratic classes: the propriety, self-discipline, and initiative of the middle class and the grace and gentleness of the old order of

nobility. Jiang Defu & Li Lian (2017) argued that the rise of industrialization in the 18th and 19th centuries was criticized for corrupting manners because it brought with it immorality and vices among the upper class. The immoral themes were evident in a series of disagreements between Pamela and Mr. B, which revolved around their attitudes toward the invalid mistress-keeping relationship. The same goes for any malicious intent the *Great Expectations* cast members may have toward one another or any third parties. Some historians believe that the decline of moral puritanism and the subsequent secularization of British high society in the 1660s contributed to the country's lax attitude toward mores at the time. For example, in the case of Pamela, Keeping a mistress instead of a legitimate spouse was considered the height of fashion at the time, making it the most pressing ethical issue among the upper classes, especially in London.

Crossick asserts that at the turn of the eighteenth century, the middle-class division had grown far too nebulous to help identify individuals. When discussing this period, changing class terminology and definitions introduces ambiguity. Many ideas related to Crossick's work regarding the definitions of the period are reflected in Charles Dickens' nineteenth-century novel *Great Expectations*. The work shows contrasting class conceptions of the time through Pip's experiences with the solidity of different social groups and the fluidity he moves between them. In other words, If Pip stays with his family, he will live like his sister and brother-in-law, based on early nineteenth-century class structure. He was raised by his sister and brother-in-law, Joe. He is becoming Joe Gargery's blacksmith apprentice because he lives there. The early structural conception of inheritance is that once a family is designated by a position or job title through their familial roots, they will keep that.

Christopher Flint (1989) highlights that, with her newfound identity, Pamela began contributing to disadvantaged organizations, signaling her awakening to independent responsibilities and advocacy. For example, she requested her parents for a list of the honest and deserving poor so that she might assist them with her money, and she expressed great sympathy and a strong desire to raise Mr. child B in the same way that her previous lady had done for little Pamela. She wishes to foster kindness and offer individuals

with a noble mind. Her acts allow us to catch traces of reality. According to some researchers, people joined the middle class through apprenticeships, which acted as a bridge between different classes before forming a standard talent selection system in British society. People from poorer socioeconomic backgrounds became increasingly essential contributors to society as they completed apprenticeships and rose to positions of wealth and respectability. In this movement, the upper class creates its own values and beliefs in preparation for a radical social transformation.

3. Discussion

3.1 Pamela

Richardson tries to illustrate the significance of social stratification through the story's characters. He aims to expose social discrimination and injustice by using Pamela as a form of expression. He decides to use this book as a weapon to overthrow the corrupt system in England because he is on a mission to convey political viewpoints through the book's characters and plot. The characters' differing levels of socioeconomic status emerge as the primary obstacle in their relationships with one another throughout this novel. Mr. B and Mr. William's friendship is the most striking example of the novel's depiction of the class divide between the upper and middle classes. They compete with each other for Pamela's affection. However, because of their significant social gap, Mr. B portrays the situation as a love game instead of a rivalry.

Mr. William served as Mr. B.'s preacher during their time together. At one point, Mr. B. gave him three hundred and fifty pounds in cash. He believed that Mr. B would reward him with the money after working for him for three years, but it turned out that Mr. B planned to put him in jail. Mr. B made a similar request, demanding that the money be returned. He even threatened Mr. William with imprisonment if he did not return the money. Squire B.'s immense influence stems from the fact that he is both a landlord and a justice of the peace, a position that granted him the power to regulate certain areas and even preside over minor legal proceedings. As a result, he has the right to arbitrarily imprison anyone lower in social status than he is, including Mr. William, who is middle class. Besides that, Dickens also attempts to bring attention to the morality of the working class and the

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immorality of the upper class throughout the story, for example, with the introduction of the child of Mr. B. The events expose the reader to the shortcomings of the gentleman while also demonstrating Pamela's generosity and affection for the illegitimate kid of her spouse, "M.B. "Pamela wishes to raise the child as if it was her own.

In addition, Pamela Andrews and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, provide a clear portrait of the novel's depiction of relationships between members of different social classes. Their relationship is one of the most fundamental examples of lower-class society in the 18th century. Most people at the time still relied on farming for their livelihood. They reside in small towns and villages. Most of them cultivate crops to provide nourishment for themselves and their landlords, and some to sell at the local market. The vast majority of agricultural cultures emphasize adopting a mentality of resignation toward poverty and prioritizing living in harmony with nature. An excellent example of this statement is provided in the following quote: "Spare Madam, I beseech you, my parents. They are honest, they are good. It is no crime to be poor. They were once in a very creditable way" (Richardson, 2001) probably the most frequent relationship in this book is that between upper-class and lower-class characters.

Because of the extreme social inequality, lower-class people are treated utterly unfairly. People from lower socioeconomic status are used not only as objects of scorn by those from higher socioeconomic status but also as sexual objects of pleasure. During the 18th century in England, a severe issue disproportionately affected women of lower socioeconomic status. Landlords frequently engaged in sexual assaults against female employees in the 18th century. Landlords' absolute power permits them to do anything they want. Pamela and Mr. B's relationship is laid bare in this case. Pamela and Mr. B. are in the position of having the relationship of master and servant. The master of a household servant (Mr. B.) thinks it is his right to exploit Pamela. When she resists, he domineers, imprisons her, and attempts to rape her. This circumstance is not dissimilar to the relationship between landowners and workers; however, in this case, the landlords hold the upper hand because they stand to gain a great deal from the outcomes brought about by the workers' efforts. In that case, the workers would be required to put in

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much effort while also receiving appropriate treatment. Pamela revealed the above information in the quote, "and yet I work very hard with my hassle, upon his linen, and the fine linen of my family, besides about flowering him a waistcoat. But my heart is almost broken, for who am I likely to have for my rewards, but shame and disgrace, or ill words and hard treatment" (Richardson, 2001)

Moreover, Pamela's social classification and evaluation are grounded in her consideration of her family's socioeconomic background. Pamela came from a low-income family and served in Mr. B's household since she was twelve. During their first argument, Pamela refused Mr. B after he kissed her because she is confident that the income divide, difference in family status, and master/servant dynamic created an artificial distance between them. Therefore, when her master seduced her, she felt intense dread, and at the same time, she had a strong sense of aversion against the rich as an out-group.

Additionally, she acted according to the standards of her in-group. For example, she swapped out her silk nightgown and petticoats for an old silk gown and a linsey-woolsey petticoat when she decided to return home. Even though she had been absent from her previous social group for quite some time, Pamela still aspired to be accepted by and recognized by her neighbors through her dress. Pamela's social individuality is later revealed in her letters. Pamela's tendency to seek self-esteem by disparaging the upper class emerged once she learned of Mr. B's nefarious intentions and despicable actions. One way she did this was by praying and praising her puritan ideals, which gave her a feeling of community and helped her feel like she belonged. For another, she started thinking about and judging the people of the upper class in a more detached manner. Based on that, it is possible to conclude that Pamela went through different stages, which is evidence of her stable social identity. To be more specific, this is also why Pamela found it difficult to accept Mr. B's advances toward her.

In English culture, there has always been a clear delineation between social strata, and everyone knows their place. It was possible to switch classes, but in practice, this rarely occurred. The social differences between Pamela and Mr. B will never disappear, even if they get married to each other. Pamela is a poor young woman until she marries Mr. B and inherits his social

status. "My greatest Concern will be for the rude Jest you will have to encounter with yourself, for thus stooping beneath yourself," (Richardson, 2001). Even after marriage, Pamela refers to her husband, Mr. B, as "master" and continues using this term throughout Richardson's novel. She insists on continuing to refer to her husband by this title even though she is now married. By selecting this word, Pamela is alluding to her past relationship with Mr. B. Pamela is very aware of her social standing. She is, in fact, socially inferior to her respective male partners, a disadvantage that will be difficult to overcome. The social difference between Pamela and Mr. B will be eliminated at such time as they get married. Until she marries Mr. B, Pamela will always be a low-class young lady. After their wedding, she will gradually take on some of Mr. B's affluence. Pamela demonstrates this point multiple times, such as in the part of her speech where she addresses Mr. B and says, "... if you were not rich and great, and I poor and little" (Richardson, 2001). The quote exemplifies how she feels about the socioeconomic divide. However, another indication of her self-awareness is that, after getting married, Pamela refuses to accept Lady Davers's treatment of her as inferior. She has achieved a higher station in life, one that, in her opinion, does not permit Lady Davers to continue to mistreat her in the same manner.

Furthermore, Pamela's acknowledgment of the fact that she came from a modest background and had a fortune that could not compare to Mr. B's was the most significant factor, but it was also the factor that made it challenging for her to fully incorporate herself into the new group after her engagement. Moreover, Lady Davers, Mr. B's haughty sister, contributed to the escalation of this conflict. If Pamela was fortunate enough to avoid, the snide remarks of Mr. B's equals, she was still subject to the scorn and wrath of Lady Davers, a noblewoman with all the stereotypical flaws: arrogance, self-conceit, and capriciousness. Lady Davers thought poorly of Pamela, labeling her an "audacious maid," and became irrationally enraged at her after discovering the ring on her finger. According to the letters sent by the protagonist, Lady Davers was constantly belittling Pamela with her words and subjecting her to a variety of oppressive serving instructions. Pamela was powerless to stop the situation, but she knew that as Mr. B's "wife," she was expected to act a certain way. For this reason, despite her low self-esteem in

the presence of Lady Davers, she made an effort to maintain her pride. When Lady Davers demanded Pamela to bring her a drink, Pamela responded, "If it were necessary of me to serve your ladyship at the table, or even to bow at your feet, I would cheerfully do it, were I the person you believe me to be; but, if it were to triumph over one who has acquired honors, which she believes compel her to act another part, not to be wholly unworthy of them, I am unable to do so." (ibid:249) Pamela's reluctance demonstrated that she was adopting her new persona and behaving appropriately. Fortunately, Lady Davers was eventually moved by Pamela's narrative and accepted her into their family, which marked an important moment in Pamela's transition into a new social category. Pamela's gradual adaptation to the in-group culture is seen in how she began to dress and act differently. She was content to carry out a litany of Mr. B's instructions, made trips to the neighborhood, rode in a luxurious carriage, and started wearing the priciest clothing. She knew Mr. B's wealth and prestige called for extraordinary.

3.2 Great Expectations

In the novel *Great Expectations*, many characters are dealt with differently based on their social class. The significance of one's social position can be better appreciated by comparing different levels of service provided to those of different socioeconomic backgrounds. The reason that led Dickens to use a wide range of characters is to explore the social stratification of Victorian England, from the lowest of the low Magwitch to the lowest of the low Joe and Biddy to the middle-class Pumblechook to the very rich Mr. and Mrs. Havisham (Miss Havisham). It is not only that there were several classes but also that there was a distinction between classes or a sense of class consciousness. People from higher social classes rarely interacted with those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. An example is Pip's apprehension upon learning that Joe has arrived in London, and throughout this section, Pip acts in a superior and distant manner. Through the novel's plot, it is evident that the ultimate moral theme revolves around Pip's descent into poverty and his subsequent awakening to the reality that love, loyalty, and intrinsic value are far more valuable than material possessions. As much as Pip admires Estella, he sees that social standing has nothing to do with a person's essential goodness, which is a profound epiphany. Comparatively speaking, Drummle

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is an upper-class snob, whereas Magwitch is a persecuted convict with a profound sense of inner worth.

When discussing how *Great Expectations* deals with issues of social class, one of the most significant points to keep in mind is that the class system the novel depicts is based on the model of Victorian England that existed after the Industrial Revolution. In general, Dickens does not pay much attention to the nobility, preferring to focus on characters whose wealth was acquired through business. In this manner, he connects the overarching theme of social class and the concepts of labor and personal advancement. Joe is the source of all of Pip's inspiration. Through his sister's husband, he acquires the skills necessary to communicate and engage with the outside world. Pip is concentrating on what he does not have rather than appreciating what he does have. He learns about "society" for the first time and immediately notices how empty it is. At the beginning of the narration, Pip longs to be part of Miss Havisham's community, but he needs the credentials to do so. Pip believes that chivalrous behavior can spread from person to person. He is entirely superficial and cares only about how things look. Even though he rarely engages in deep conversation with Estella, Pip places a higher value on the information he receives from Miss Havisham and Estella than from Joe. His relationship with Estella is entirely predicated on external factors.

Ultimately, in the novel *Great Expectations*, an individual's level of education is directly related to their social class. To comprehend the significance of social class, one must first gain an awareness of the connection between educational attainment and social standing. Someone like Joe, who worked as a common blacksmith, still needs formal education. In the early years of his life, when he was of a lower social class, Pip attended a small school where he received a subpar education. The school could have been better, but it was all the working class had. Pip had learnt so much from Biddy than from the teacher, who spent more time resting than instructing. Even though he had some education when he was a member of a lower social class, the education Pip received from Mr. Pocket when he was a gentleman was significantly more extensive. Hence, the disparity in the levels of education held by the two convicts is yet another illustration of how social class influences one's educational opportunities. Magwitch came from a lower

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socioeconomic background and had no formal education, while Compeyson was born into privilege and had completed college. A person's level of education is one indicator that demonstrates how significantly their social class determines the course of their lives.

Pip does not see any similarities between himself and Joe because he believes Joe is uneducated and lacks gentlemanly manners. Dicken's pointed criticism of Pip's behavior as a fake Victorian gentleman, who becomes embarrassed by the presence of Joe, his childhood friend, at his lodging in London. After Biddy writes a letter to tell Pip that Joe is on his way to London, Pip cannot maintain his joy and instead begins to feel a growing sense of unease. On the inside, he harbors little hope that Joe will come to meet him in London, where Pip lives in a sophisticated society. For social reasons, Pip borrows money to better his financial situation. However, Joe was the one who ultimately repaid the loan. Now that he had time to reflect, he realized that he had been separated from his loved ones.

Furthermore, it is evident that class differences also appear in the justice system, and that is because of the shocking inequality that resulted in people from higher social classes or gentlemen receiving a different level of treatment from the legal system. They received severe punishment for their actions. While the poor were punished more severely than the middle class. Unfortunately for Magwitch, he was a victim of the unjust actions of those entrusted with upholding the law. Magwitch received a more severe sentence of fourteen years of punishment than the original criminal, Compeyson, who received seven years of imprisonment. The primary reason is that Magwitch had a history of criminal behavior, whereas Compeyson appeared to be a gentleman with a good and upper social lineage.

Moreover, the English countryside and city life were very different. Joe's family paints a realistic portrait of life in rural England when people still led relatively uncomplicated lives. In contrast to the people of a city like London, who started simple and kind, they developed layers of complexity over time. Pip, for instance, has recently arrived in the megalopolis and has begun exploring his new surroundings. The neighborhood where Mr. Jaggers maintains his office does not leave him with a favorable impression. He thinks

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that the area known as "Little Britain" is disgusting due to its amount of filth. The office of Mr. Jaggers is itself a very depressing place.

Along with changing places, people's souls have also changed. The author portrays the members of the upper class as an immoral individuals. An insatiable desire for wealth drives a good number of the characters in the book. When Pip visits Miss Havisham's house for the second time, he meets several of her relatives. Havisham's relatives there, including Sarah Pocket and Camilla, an aging, chatty relative who does not care much for Miss Havisham and only wants her money. Cousin Raymond, who is married to Camilla, is another of Miss Havisham's relatives who is also interested in her money.

Although socioeconomic status was a significant factor in many other aspects of life, it never revealed who one was. Understanding this can help show that one's socioeconomic status affects one's life prospects in many, if not all, situations. Joe, Biddy, Magwitch, and Orlick were all members of the lowest social strata. Joe and Biddy were impoverished but had kind hearts. Joe was always available to Pip, and Biddy had moved in to assist Mrs. Joe. Magwitch started as a filthy, low-class criminal, but he eventually grew into a kind and generous human being. Orlick was of low social status, and it turned out that he was also a murderer. The fact that there are kind and heartless persons living in poverty demonstrates that social status has no bearing on a person's essential character. The wealthy constitute yet another illustration. The navel members included in this group are Miss Havisham, Estella, Herbert, Jaggers, and Wemmick. Estella and Ms. Havisham possessed a lot of money but were heartless and wanted to make everyone's lives a nightmare. In contrast to Herbert, who was the exact opposite, Pip could always count on Herbert to be a buddy. While Pip grew up as a gentleman, he enjoyed the backing of upper-class people like Jaggers and Wemmick. Realizing that only some people from a privileged background are good is evidence that socioeconomic status is not a reliable predictor of morality. While social status usually had a role, this was one case where it did not.

Later on and throughout the story, Pip picks up many valuable life lessons from his childhood through his adolescence. He realized that a man's

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happiness does not depend solely on material possessions. If a man wants to improve his life and his prospects for the future, he must take responsibility for his actions. Pip was responsible for a lot of both good and bad deeds. It is not his fault that he was born into poverty. In the novel, we witness Pip's struggles as he attempts to alter his fate and achieve the same level of wealth as his upper-class peers, such as when Mr. Jagger announces that he is prepared to make Pip a gentleman and has high expectations for Pip's financial success. He presents him with a substantial financial gift, the source of which remains mysterious. Pip should have made more effort to discover the identity of his patron and did so while simultaneously hoarding financial resources. This action, on Pip's part, demonstrates very clearly that he does not have faith in his character. Instead of trusting in his ability to earn such sums and accomplish something, he blindly relies on the generosity of others.

Conclusion

This research aims to explain the presence of various socioeconomic classes in the novels of *Pamela* and *Great Expectations*, in addition to the social conditions of life in England during the 18th and 19th centuries. The research was carried out by describing the data that was contained in both of the literary works that were connected to the subject of the study. The findings of this study's analysis suggest that social discrimination in the society in Britain during the 18th and 19th centuries developed into a substantial concern then. In this civilization, a person's social standing has developed into the primary aspect that is the basis for deciding how they interact with others. A person's prospects of succeeding and becoming respected are disproportionately affected by their birth situation. In any given circumstance, an individual's or group's behavior will be judged according to society's norms, customs, and standards.

On the other hand, certain members of society are unable to fulfill their responsibilities because they cannot conform to society's norms and expectations. Different persons are accorded various rights and obligations in their social life, which is the fundamental reason for distinct social classes within a society. It suggests that those who are wealthy and able to fulfill a substantial number of rights and obligations will be categorized as belonging

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to the upper classes, while others who have a small number or even none of these traits will be categorized as belonging to the lower classes.

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