
| RESEARCH ARTICLE

Magwitch in Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations*: A Man-Made Monster and His Way of Salvation

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| ABSTRACT

This paper intends to investigate the reality of the 19th-century Victorian society regarding crime, punishment as well as how society can make a person a monster. Investigating the reasons for being a monster is a major concern of this research. Moreover, this paper seeks to identify the way of achieving salvation and the causes for choosing a particular path of salvation. Since this research is theoretical in nature, relevant data has been collected from already published works. In *Great Expectations*, Abel Magwitch is a key character who can be considered a man-made monster because society and its people never treat him as a human being. Rather, he has always been treated as an outcast due to his low birth and criminal past. Besides, he has never got a proper education. As a result, no one has offered him a white-collar job. So, merely for survival, he has indulged in crimes, and he had to commit crimes repeatedly because society already tagged him as a monster who bears no goodness. At the same time, people in society consider him as an outcast, but it is the society and its legal system that made him a monster by doing several injustices against him because of the prejudices toward the lower-class that view them as inherently evil. Besides, Compayson, his partner in crime, scapegoats him for all crimes. Finally, this research focuses on how he finds a way of salvation, a metaphorical one, to save his guilt-stricken soul. He wants to be a creator of a gentleman. So, he chooses Pip to make him a gentleman, and this is to be his way of salvation. Due to the influence of classism and false consciousness, he decides to make Pip a gentleman, only to be accepted by society not as a monster but as a human being. By the end of the novel, he definitely gets salvation and is transformed into a human being from a man-made monster.

| KEYWORDS

Classicism, false consciousness, gentleman, monster, outcast, salvation, Victorian society

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1. Introduction

Charles Dickens' *Great Expectations* was published in the mid-Victorian period and recounted his critical approach towards some social issues of the early Victorian period. He picturized the realities of 19th-century life for many people where the society was hierarchical and class-oriented. This was a time when Britain witnessed tremendous economic and industrial growth due to the Industrial Revolution. The novel is set several decades back from the time of its publication. In the opening chapters, Dickens takes his readers back to the 1810s, when convicts were kept in the 'hulks' – prison ships roamed in the Thames and some other rivers. These convicts are treated as alien and detached from civil society. The effect that the industrial revolution brought to Victorian society was vividly portrayed in *Great Expectations*; the gap prevails between the upper class and lower class, the domination of bourgeois over the proletariat, and the unjustified legal system in some cases, as it happened with Magwitch. Dehumanization by society is very common in contemporary society based on socioeconomic status, which has a profound impact, especially on the people who live on the periphery. In this hierarchal Victorian society, one's social status was above everything. Because respectability in society was dependent on one's class. For this reason, being a respectable member of the upper class was a purpose to be achieved, especially for the lower class. Charles Dickens is the one who has the consciousness that those who are kept under imprisonment for a certain period in life must face a lifelong banishment from society. It seems like they are metaphorically imprisoned for a lifetime as a society always treats them as guilty. Dickens also points out that if the convict belongs

to the lower class, then it becomes much worse, as if it is a lifelong curse for him. Moreover, Victorians have a misconception about the lower class; as Hughes claims, "people who didn't rise in the world were assumed to be at fault. They were seen to be lazy, extravagant, or proud and therefore responsible for their own poverty" (2014). Victorians' prospect of criminals and the lower class is greatly stereotypical as they are considered to lack morality as well as mental capacity as the upper-class people. This novel reflects this social issue and offers a critical attitude toward the condition of the lower-class individual like Pip and Magwitch, who had to go through a constant conflict with society in order to achieve higher social status. It actually depicts the transformation of Victorian society towards a bourgeois industrial society in which class distinction is acute. Through the characters like Magwitch, this novel presents the existence of social oppression in early nineteenth-century England, where all kinds of opportunities were only offered to the people who had noble birth or aristocratic inheritance, like a good place to live in, nice clothes, and reasonable job, etc. This novel clearly illustrates the gaps between the upper class and lower-class society. It represents Magwitch, an orphan who is poor and does not have proper education. He cannot support himself being an orphan, which is the reason for committing crimes. He is neither an innocent nor a cult criminal. Obviously, he has committed several crimes but only for survival. In his early childhood, he has done some trivial offenses, such as stealing bread from a shop. As an orphan, he has no one to look after him. So, merely for survival, he starts his criminal life. As a result, imprisoned several times as well as tagged as a criminal. In addition, his life gets worse after he meets a Victorian 'gentleman,' Compeyson. Since Compeyson has always intended to scapegoat Magwitch. He makes him do all his "evil deeds" and blames Magwitch. As a result, he has a heavier sentence than Compeyson; it is because the legal system and society considered him a gentleman who was not believed to indulge in crimes. So, he is basically compelled to do wrong things for his livelihood. This is society's responsibility to ensure proper care and education for an orphan. But society fails to fulfill its duty. The true picture of the legal system is vividly portrayed as it is told in the novel that almost two hundred offenses have been treated to execution. They have been declared as guilty and even sentenced to death because of trivial violations, for example, stealing little money or suiting clothes and etc. They transported poor society or criminals to New South Wales to get off the criminal who was considered a threat to society. Magwitch, who is considered a crumb, receives a sentence to prison ship (Hulk) and is forced to leave England forever. All his life, he has faced a lot of injustice for not being a gentleman or for not having a proper education. So, he desperately desired to make a gentleman so that he could achieve acceptance from society. All his money earned by hard work in his exiled life in Australia has been spent on Pip so that he could become a 'gentleman.' Even Magwitch takes a grave risk of having a death sentence only to see his creation, Pip, a gentleman, his only way of salvation. Magwitch justifies his name Abel by showing fatherly affection towards an orphan who had shown him kindness in his childhood. He never forgets Pip's generosity to him. At the same time, he realizes that an innocent orphan can be entrapped by society's injustice just like his. He did not want him to have a life of a criminal. So, he decides to make him a gentleman. At the end of this story, his unsuccessful escape from the law gives him execution because of his violated expulsion from England. Magwitch is basically a representative of marginalized people who becomes a monster due to the ill-treatment by society and the legal system, which is totally unjust.

2. Depiction of Monster

Dickens never uses the term monster for Magwitch, but he depicts the character in such a way that means he is not human. The life of Abel Magwitch was determined by his social class, lack of education, and good manners. He is not called a 'victim of society,' but he definitely is one. Though Dickens restrained himself from identifying monsters in *Great Expectations*, he nonetheless portrays some characters who are closer to being monstrous than they are to being realistically human such as Magwitch. A monster, according to the Cambridge English Dictionary, is defined as "any imaginary, frightening creature, especially one that is large and strange, or a person who does very cruel and evil acts; a cruel person." Magwitch's character in this novel represents an image of a cruel person who has done several evil deeds in his early life. At the beginning of the novel, escaped convict Abel Magwitch is depicted as one such monster. When for the first time Pip first sees Magwitch, he describes him as "a fearful man, all in coarse grey, with a great iron on his leg...who limped, and shivered, and glared, and growled" (Dickens, 1861, p.3). The iron on Magwitch's foot makes him look like a threatening figure who must have some kind of relation with criminality. He is also described as having broken shoes, "soaked in water, and smothered in mud, and lamed by stones, and cut by flints, and stung by nettles, and torn by briars" (Dickens, 1861, p.3). His physical appearance suggests his class as well as his criminality. According to Hagan (1954), "though less prominent as an image than the marshes, that of the grave presents much more explicitly the idea of a death-in-life state to which Magwitch and others in his predicament are condemned" (p.176). Here Dickens evidently introduces the character of Magwitch as something scary who does not seem like a human as Hagan considered him 'dead man walking.' This introductory image somehow indicates that he is not perceived as a normal human being but as a monster by Pip. It is abundantly clear from his respective behavior also. Threatening a weak, little kid who is an orphan mourning in the graveyard where his family lies, the ominous Magwitch starts "up from among the graves" (Dickens, 1861, p.7) and malignantly grabs young Pip by the throat.

2.1 Connotation of Name

Dickens chooses a biblical name for Magwitch so that it can be understood from the allusion that he is not supposed to be blamed for his evil deeds since he is merely the victim of circumstances, just like "Abel (in the Old Testament) was the brother and guiltless victim of the aggressive Cain" (Martin 52-53). Abel Magwitch is a name rich in connotation. Here "Abel" perhaps in contrast to

Compeyson's "Cain"— thus, it can be perceived that his redemption will eventually come but at great expense. The name "Abel" is a direct reference to the Bible story of the brothers Cain and Abel, wherein Abel was a shepherd who was murdered by his envious brother for giving a more pleasing sacrifice to God (Genesis 4: 1-16). By analyzing his name, it can be found that his first name, 'Abel', is indicative of his innocence or purity of soul. At the same time, he is the victim of his jealous brother 'Cain'. Here 'Cain' can be associated with Compeyson as his nature is basically evil. As Magwitch depicted Compeyson as cold, heartless, and as evil as the devil, who is a mortal enemy to him. At the same time, he is vengeful too. It seems like he has been waiting for Magwitch to return to London so that he can take his revenge; Because he was captured by police from the marshes only because of Magwitch. By the end of the novel, he ensures Magwitch's captivity, although he loses his life in this process. It seems like Compeyson is the 'Cain' of 'Abel', whereas Magwitch is the innocent victim of his own 'Cain'. However, the association of "Abel" to innocence or purity is contrasted by the surname "Magwitch". "Magwitch" can be broken down into "mag", a slang word for magpie in Dickens' time ("mag, n4"), a thieving bird that makes references to Magwitch's crimes, and "witch", a woman who has evil magic powers. So, magpies and witches are related to lawlessness, which makes a contradiction with the forename "Abel". Dickens uses the name 'Abel' several times to probably indicate his innocence as well as his goodness of heart that he eventually shows by patronizing Pip. Magwitch's name is very much suggestive of his tragic life as it refers to him as a kind-hearted person who has indulged in criminal activity although not willingly but out of necessity. Dickens also gives Magwitch a redeeming quality because "mag" is the root word of "mage" and "magi", signifying the wise men that came with gifts to the infant Jesus (Matthew 2: 1-12). Magwitch shows his wisdom by becoming a secret benefactor of Pip, just like a magician. He understands that if he openly offered him money, he could have been rejected due to his involvement in criminality. So, he decides to remain invisible for a certain time so that he can reveal his true identity at the right time. Pip showed his generosity and hospitality to him as a kid. Magwitch never forgets his kindness to him. So, he decides to reveal himself as a fatherly figure to him which suggests his purity of heart as well as his wisdom. The name 'Able Magwitch' is contradictory, but it has been put together intentionally by Dickens to show how he becomes a victim of his circumstances and loses his innocence, and becomes a monster who eventually gains his redemption by creating his own 'gentleman' and establishing him as a wise person.

3. Reasons for Being a Monster

No one is a born criminal, as criminality is not something that people have in their inheritance. People who are born in poverty are always misunderstood by upper-class people. In *Great Expectations*, it can be found that Victorian society had a wrong perception regarding marginalized people as they are considered inherently evil. For this reason, mistreatment of the lower class was very common in the nineteenth century. At the same time, the Victorian criminal justice system was based mainly on punishment rather than rehabilitation. Due to this, if someone commits any crime, he will face the consequence of it as he will be tagged as a villain by society. This idea is to be found in the conversation by the adults in marsh country as they prepare to capture the escaped convicts:

"And now, when they were all in lively anticipation of 'the two villains' being taken, and when the bellows seemed to roar for the fugitives, the fire to flare for them, the smoke to hurry away in pursuit of them, Joe to hammer and clink for them, and all the murky shadows on the wall to shake at them in menace as the blaze rose and sank, and the red-hot sparks dropped and died, the pale afternoon outside almost seemed in my pitying young fancy to have turned pale on their account, poor wretches." (Dickens, 1861, p.45)

Convicts are perceived as devilish and dangerous, which can be found in the announcement of escape. Moreover, the ceasing of those escape convicts is viewed as a show to be watched and enjoyed as they are not considered human but monsters.

3.1 Magwitch: A Monster Created by Society

Abel Magwitch, a monster, has been created by society. Magwitch is an orphan, so he has no one to take care of him. He says, "I first became aware of myself, down in Essex, a thieving turnip for my living" (Dickens, 1861, p. 487). He has no means to survive except to commit some trivial crimes such as stealing food from a shop. Merely for survival, he indulges in crime at an early age. He only gets basic education like reading and writing from strangers and works sometimes. Society did not take charge of him as an orphan. Surely, he discovers himself in the world of crime only to fulfill his basic necessity as a human being. Victorian society did not take responsibility for the marginalized people, but they blamed them for their misdeeds. This is exactly what happened to Magwitch, who was considered an outcast and did not belong to the civil society. Eventually, he is known as a 'hardened' criminal who did not even get a mere opportunity of changing his fate. As he says, "I got the name of being hardened 'This terrible hardened one,' they say to prison visitors, picking out me...They always went on agin me about the devil. But what the devil was I to do? I must put something in my stomach, mustn't I?" (Dickens, 1861, p.488). From childhood, Magwitch was only able to survive by "tramping, begging, thieving, sometimes working when [he] could" (Dickens, 1861, p.488). This indicates the cruel circumstances he has been through. People are pretty sure about his future as they say that he, "may be said to live in jails, this boy" (Dickens, 1861, p.488). No one tried to save him from the cruelty of society in which belonging to the lower class is not less than a curse. Magwitch has indulged in criminal activity merely for his survival. But Victorians conceived that criminality is basically inherent only

to the lower class. As Makati (2008) points out that "Magwitch's character is Dickens' revelation that from childhood, all that the poor are exposed to is a crime. Therefore, members of the lower class are stereotyped as criminals from an early age" (p. 15). Magwitch was born in poverty and became a criminal to survive; from a young age, he was neglected by the society that sustained this cycle of being poor and engaging in crime. He was never treated as a human being who has feelings and emotions. Society always treated him as a monster who seemed untouchable. Even Pip responds to Magwitch differently when Magwitch, for the first time, arrives in London. Magwitch was greatly excited and proud to meet with his gentleman as he claims, "you acted nobly, my boy...Noble Pip! And I have never forgot it" (Dickens, 1861, p.448), recalling Pip's kindness to him. But Pip replied coldly, "Stay!...Keep off! If you are grateful to me for what I did when I was a little child, I hope you have shown your gratitude by mending your life...I will not repulse you, but surely you must understand-I-" (Dickens, 1861, p.488). He was irritated to see him again because of the influence of Victorian perception of criminals as inborn evil and can be harmful to anyone. He could not be able to accept him as a person instead of a criminal. Magwitch's association with crime permanently tagged him as a monster. As this is the very perception of Victorian society regarding those, who have ever engaged in any kind of criminal activity. When Magwitch reveals his true identity as Pip's secret benefactor, Pip dives into deep frustration as he understands that all his accomplishments are directly related to a convict who is an outcast. Victorian society is prejudiced toward the lower class as inherently evil, whereas upper-class people are considered to be good in spirit. So, when Magwitch arrived at court for his trial along with Compayson, he received different treatment because of his social status. As Magwitch states, "I noticed first of all what a gentleman Compeyson looked, wi' his curly hair and his black clothes and his white pocket-handkercher, and what a common sort of a wretch I looked" (Dickens, 1861, p.493). Compayson is well dressed and looks like a gentleman, whereas Magwitch is in his rags which is indicative of his class. Since Victorian people considered appearance and class as a marker of morality, Compayson is considered an educated gentleman. So, he gets a benefit for his appearance and is never considered a culprit like Magwitch. As the case continues, Magwitch realizes that he will be blamed for all their evil deeds, although Compeyson was the mastermind, "And when it comes to character, warn't it Compeyson as had been to school, and warn't it his school-fellows as was in this position and in that, and warn't it him as had been know'd by witnesses in such clubs and societies, and nowt to his disadvantage? And warn't it me as had been tried afore, and as had been know'd up hill and down dale in Bridewells and Lock-ups?...And when the verdict come, warn't it Compeyson as was recommended to mercy on account of good character and bad company, and giving up all the information he could agen me, and warn't it me as got never a word but guilty...And when we're sentences, ain't it him as gets seven-year, and me fourteen, and ain't it him as the judge is sorry for, because he might do so well, and ain't it me as the judge perceives to be an old offender of violent passion, likely to come to worse?" (Dickens, 1861, p.494). Although both of them are guilty, Compayson is able to get away with his crimes due to his gentlemanly image. Whereas Magwitch gets severe punishment as he is considered responsible for Compayson's indulgence in the criminal world. Abel Magwitch's tragic life is not only related to his own choices but also has been forced upon him. Magwitch tells Pip, "I've been carted here and carted there, and put out of this town and put out of that town, and stuck in the stocks, and whipped and worried and drove. I've no more notion where I was born ... I first became aware of myself ... a thieving turnip for my living" (Dickens, 1861, p. 487). So, it can be said that he is a monster who is constructed by society. At the same time, he is considered a monster by society.

3.2 Magwitch: A Monster Created by Compeyson:

Magwitch engaged in criminal activity from a young age because he was born poor and became a criminal only to survive. But, Compayson was a sophisticated gentleman who was basically evil in nature. After meeting Compayson, Magwitch's criminal career soars up high as he is entrapped by several crimes planned by him. Magwitch has been used as a tool for doing all unscrupulous jobs such as swindling, forging of signatures, passing of stolen bank-notes, etc., by Compayson as Magwitch says that he is only "a poor tool [...] in his hands" (Dickens, 1861, p.490). He is the mastermind of all evil deeds that have been executed by Magwitch. But when it comes to taking responsibility for deeds, he just pretends to be a victim of bad company. All the blames are put on Magwitch. Then, they both are accused of felonies and are supposed to face the trial together. They have separate defence counsels, which means in order to afford a defence, Magwitch has to sell everything. It is clear that Compayson is a very shrewd person as he understands the value of his gentlemanly image and deliberately uses it against Magwitch in court. By his appearance, the jury considers him a gentleman who has proper education. So, he gets benefits from his image. Magwitch says, "When the prosecution opened, and the evidence was put short, aforehand, I noticed how heavy it all bore on me, and how light on him [Compeyson]" (Dickens, 1861, p.493). Magwitch gets a severe sentence of fourteen years, as he is uncouth, speaks a simple language, the language of the illiterate, and is "a [sic] old offender of violent [sic] passion" (Dickens, 1861, p.495). Compayson and Magwitch was basically partner in crimes, but Compayson betrayed Magwitch in several ways. In fact, he is the one who made sure that Magwitch should not leave England again and have his imprisonment. The portrayal of Magwitch suggests that criminal behaviour has nothing to do with heredity. Rather it is much more related to corrupted social treatment, which sometimes compels people to indulge in crimes. Encounters with corrupt people or interactions with criminal partners are also responsible for making someone criminal. This is exactly what happened to Magwitch. So, he is evidently a victim of Compayson and becomes a monster in the eyes of society.

3.3 Magwitch: A Monster Created by the Legal System

The Victorian judicial system was highly biased towards upper-class people as it was dominated by capitalism. But the lower-class people got totally different treatment in which they had to go through a rigid law code. Magwitch becomes a monster because of the unjust legal system as it punishes him on the basis of his past criminal involvement. Though Magwitch commits some crimes, he is not an inborn criminal. On the other hand, Compeyson is maleficent who has wickedness in his nature, and involves in crime willingly. He is also privileged as a gentleman in society as his gentlemanly image helps him to conceal his real identity as a criminal, and his "business was the swindling, handwriting forging, stolen bank-note passing, and such-like" (Dickens, 1861, p.490). Besides, he gets sympathy from the court and gets lighter punishment for his crimes as he was conceived as a victim of the evil company of Magwitch. Here, Compeyson and the law play the role of the oppressor against Magwitch in punishing him because of being a lower class. As Magwitch says, "When the verdict come, warn't it Compeyson as was recommended to mercy on account of good character and bad company ... And when we 're sentenced, ain't it him as gets seven years, and me fourteen, and ain't it him as the Judge is sorry for, because he might have a done so well, and ain't it me as the Judge perceives to be an old offender of violent passion, likely to come to worse." (Dickens, 1861, p.495) For belonging to the lower class, he gets harsh punishment of fourteen years of imprisonment, whereas Compeyson gets lighter punishment of seven years in jail even for the same crime. It shows the true picture of the Victorian legal system, which was totally unjust to the people of the lower class and biased towards people with good family lineage. Furthermore, it counts upper-class people as superior to the lower class as upper-class people are believed to have inherent morality and virtue, whereas lower-class people are believed to be inherently evil. Victorian prejudice towards the lower class is expressed in this novel. Magwitch's description of his past to Pip reveals that he is a criminal created by society. Instead of being taken care of by society as an orphan, he is compelled to steal food as well as termed a criminal and punished for it. So, Van Horn (1973) states that "prejudice toward Magwitch was not only condoned by society—it was also institutionalized by the judicial system" (p. 32). So, basically, Magwitch is a victim of the legal system as Hagan (1954) says that "an important element at the root of Magwitch's career is great social evil: the evil of poverty, and the evil of a corrupt judicial system. Though not entirely so, Magwitch is certainly, in part, a victim" (pp. 170-171). Van Horn (1973) says that Magwitch "understands that justice will not be executed in his case. He, who had to work for Compeyson in order to eat, was being considered the real criminal, while Compeyson was being treated as a victim" (p. 39). In this novel, Dickens presents two criminals who represent different classes. How they were treated differently due to their social class is also depicted in this novel. By the end of the novel, Magwitch encountered Compeyson for the last time when he was involved in a fight with him, and Compeyson died accidentally. In this way, he gets the poetic justice that society failed to offer him. As Squires (1938) says, "Compeyson plays the Devil to the bitter end, and meets death in keeping with dramatic justice ... Magwitch did not, according to all the evidence, intend to kill Compeyson... But once under the water, locked in deadly struggle, there can be no doubt that Magwitch did what anyone would have done under the circumstances: kill his mortal enemy." (p. 181) In the Nineteenth Century, there was a severe law of death sentence for the convicts who fled prison's 'huck'. Since Magwitch returns to London to meet with his creation, gentleman Pip, he was recaptured and sentenced to death. Dickens shows how "the judge condemns society's victims and by his conviction that they should be held responsible for their crimes" (Horn, 1973, p. 50) But by this time, Magwitch transforms into a new man who has mended his ways of living. He has already rectified himself, but the law does not consider that. They still hold his previous picture of being a criminal who deserves to be punished. The legal system has considered him a monster before as well as considers him a monster now. Although he rectifies himself in the meantime of his stay in Australia. But the law is not ready to accept this fact. Thus, through the portrayal of a convict, Magwitch, who is not an inborn criminal but a creation of an unjust, flawed and vicious society- a society which is divided between gentlemen and convict, poor and rich, the oppressed and the oppressor, and the victimized and the persecutor.

4. Way of Salvation:

Magwitch wants to make pip a 'gentleman'; Because this is his only way to salvation. Through the process of making him a gentleman, Magwitch reveals himself as a human being, not as a monster as society perceived him. His transformation from a deported convict to a fatherly figure who has genuine feelings for Pip indicates that he has gotten his salvation. Eventually, he demonstrates his fatherly affection for Pip as well as his gratefulness towards him by secretly patronizing him to be a gentleman as he showed an act of kindness to him a long time ago. Magwitch is conscious that society perceived him as a monster for his criminal activity in the past despite his being a victim of poverty, abuse, and repression by society and its cruel circumstances. So, in order to transform himself into a human from a monster, he desires to have his salvation. At that point, he finds out a way to have his salvation. That is to make Pip a gentleman so that he could have his share of respect in society as the creator of a gentleman. Magwitch always wants to belong to society, but he has never counted as a normal human being rather has faced the snobbishness of upper-class society for being a criminal and marginal one. He wants to achieve recognition and acceptance from society as a human being. At the same time, he realizes that he cannot become a gentleman due to his low birth. So, he decided to make Pip what he could never become. When he meets Pip in the marshes, he gets to know that he is an orphan whose upbringing is totally dependent on his sister and her husband. He identifies a similarity between his early life to Pip's and believes that this child could have a life like his'. At the same time, Pip is the one who shows hospitality to an escaped convict by saying, "I am glad you enjoy it" (Dickens, 1861, p.24). Magwitch got no one to show affection for him apart from his wife and a daughter who had lost. He feels a profound affection for Pip and decides to send his wealth to him in order to make him a gentleman. He

becomes a fatherly figure for Pip as he says, "Look'ee here, Pip. I'm your second father. You're my son – more to me nor any son." (Dickens, 1861, p.453) In this way, he finds out his way to salvation. Because when Magwitch shows his feeling toward Pip as a father, his transformation from a monster to a human being becomes much clear. Besides, his desire to make Pip a gentleman becomes his way of achieving salvation. Magwitch is aware of the unjust system of law, so he becomes protective of Pip and hopes to make him a gentleman so that he can avoid all kinds of ill-treatment from society for his social class. He even risked his life only to see his gentleman for once. After the death of Compeyson, Magwitch is recaptured and taken to face trial for all crimes he has committed throughout his life. He tells Pip, "It's best as a gentleman should be known to belong to me now. Only come to see me as if you come by chance...I don't ask no more" (Dickens, 1861, p.631). He was happy to have him beside him. It is Pip who learns about Magwitch's desire to belong to the upper-class society and realizes his purpose of making him a gentleman. He tried to show his gentlemanly side by giving him constant company. Pip decides to say, "Dear Magwitch, I must tell you, now at last. You understand what I say?' Gentle pressure on my hand. 'You had a child once, whom you loved and lost.' A stronger pressure on my hand. 'She lived and found powerful friends. She is living now. She is a lady and very beautiful. And I love her!' (Dickens, 1861, pp.650-651). Pip gives him this information only to comfort him on his deathbed. He treats Magwitch as a human being who deserves sympathy. By the end of the novel, it becomes clear that Magwitch truly gets his salvation as he was successful in the creation of a true gentleman.

4.1 Reasons for Choosing Pip as His Way of Salvation

4.1.1 Classism

Classism is very true in Victorian society. While Magwitch realizes his social inferiority for his low birth, he grows a false consciousness that is the product of the Bourgeois. He wants to redeem his sin-stricken soul by creating a gentleman so that he would uplift his social position in society. He finds out that this is his only way to salvation because of his sense of classism and false consciousness. According to Marxism, capitalist society creates this false consciousness of meeting certain characteristics to belong to a certain class and makes it look like a normal phenomenon. It is obvious in *Great Expectations* that Victorian society was divided into two opposing camps, the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Dickens portrays subtle differences between these two classes in their difference in clothing, accent, and behaviour by which their class identities can be shown; for example, Magwitch's attire, his dialect, and his behavior suggest his class very much. For this reason, Pip bought clothes for him when he arrived at pip's residence in London. When Magwitch finds him in London, Pip panics since his social position would be diminished if he were to be connected to an ex-convict. He did not want to be noticed by anyone as a lower class. Magwitch is such a character who is at the margin, rather than the centre, of social classes: standing to the edges of gentility or respectability who suddenly rises in the uncertain world of the Victorian economy. The cruelty, degradation, suffering, and exploitation that go with a class-divided society are depicted in the portrayal of Magwitch's character. When Magwitch understands the significance of having money which determines one's social position in the bourgeois society, he applies the same method to fight back against the oppression he has gone through. As Hagan (1954) argues, "though deprived from the childhood of the opportunity to become a 'gentleman' himself, [Magwitch] does not vow destruction to the 'gentleman' class. Having seen in Compeyson the power of that class, the deference it received from society, he fashions a gentleman of his own to take his place in it. He is satisfied to live vicariously through Pip, to show society that he can come up to its standards, and, by raising his pawn into the inner circle, to prove that it is no longer impregnable" (p. 171). It suddenly seems that Magwitch understands the pulse of the bourgeoisie and acts like them to achieve his long-awaited acceptance and respect from society. He wants to fulfil his purpose by providing financial support to Pip to become a gentleman. By constructing a new identity for Pip, Magwitch aims to respond to the bourgeois society as he is the one who has helped him financially to become a respected gentleman of that society. As he explains his intentions by saying, "Yes, Pip, dear boy, I've made a gentleman on you! It's me wot has done it! I swore that time, sure as ever I earned a guinea, that guinea should go to you. I swore afterward, sure as ever I speculated and got rich, you should get rich. I lived roughly that you should live smooth; I worked hard, that you should be above work. What odds, dear boy? Do I tell it, fur you to feel an obligation? Not a bit. I tell it, fur you to know as that there hunted dunghill dog wot you kep life in, got his head so high that he could make a gentleman-and, Pip, you're him! (Dickens, 1861, p.452). Magwitch never forgets Pip's compassionate and charitable behavior when he was a little kid. For this reason, he has planned to make him a gentleman so that he can do everything like a gentleman that he cannot do as a convict and lower-class. He tolerates all the hardships in his exile only to help an orphan from marshes to become a gentleman because he thinks that Pip will be a reverend gentleman of bourgeois Victorian society that suppressed him for his social class.

4.1.2 False Consciousness

Evidently, the bourgeois social order sets some norms to follow by individuals for becoming a member of a higher social class. So the individuals indulged them in necessary social expectations to be more successful. The bourgeois society creates an illusion or false consciousness that to belong to a particular class, one needs to fulfill certain conditions. To suit a certain class, individuals continue their struggle without even realizing it and consider others as their rivals. In *Great Expectations*, something like this has happened to Pip. He supposes that he competes with others to gain respect and status in society. Whereas those who learn from Mr. Pocket are basically trained the same way as Pip, and they have no difference. For false consciousness, Magwitch wants to

create Pip as a gentleman. He thinks that money can make a gentleman. That is why he offers Pip a lot of money to have a lavish life. Those who lead a luxurious life is considered gentleman in Victorian society. So, he basically runs after the concept of the so-called gentleman, which is based upon birth, wealth, social status, and appearance, just like Compayson. Because this is the only way to belong to the upper class, he has no concern for the moral and mental growth in a person, such as having kindness, humility, and generosity for being called a true gentleman. So, he sends money to make Pip a Victorian gentleman, which is far away from the idea of a true gentleman. At first, as a kid, Pip has a kind heart and has been generous even to a stranger like Magwitch. But after he shifts to London, his gentlemanly quality seems to demean him; as a result, he becomes a Victorian gentleman who is snobbish even of his own class. In this way, false consciousness provokes Magwitch and Pip to believe that to uplift their social position, one needs to follow certain manners. In this process of being matched with a certain class, they may have lost their individual virtue.

5. Conclusion

Dickens crafts a monster, Magwitch, in *Great Expectations* who transformed into a human being as he himself designs his own salvation. Dickens' monster was born as a human being but in poverty who did not even have an education. In Victorian England, how a lower-class faces oppression from society as well as the legal system is depicted by the character Magwitch. Besides, he confronts several injustices due to his social status as the lower-class people are perceived as inherently evil. Whereas Magwitch is a human not only with flesh and blood who has a human shape but also has feelings and emotions. Due to some of his misdeeds, he is treated like a monster from his early childhood to his death who never counted as a member of society. Although he is the victim of his circumstances, he has always blamed himself for his fate of being a criminal and treats likewise without any sympathy for him. But he got his salvation through Pip. He rectifies himself by working very hard in Australia. At the same time, he mends his life by becoming a benefactor to Pip, who becomes a true gentleman later. Magwitch achieves his redemption as he successfully created his own 'gentleman' to be accepted by society, at least as the creator of a gentleman. For his false consciousness and understanding of classicism, he chooses Pip to make him a gentleman and considers this creation as the only way to his salvation. As the bourgeois society made him think that to achieve acceptance by a particular society, one must have certain characteristics; for example, he wants to make Pip a 'gentleman' who must have certain qualities like leading a lavish life, having proper education, dressed up like a gentleman, etc. By the end of the novel, his mission of making Pip a gentleman becomes fulfilled, and he gets his long-cherished salvation. As Pip says, "For now my repugnance to him had all melted away, and in the hunted wounded shackled creature who held my hand in his, I only saw a man who had meant to be my benefactor, and who had felt affectionately, gratefully, and generously towards me with great constancy through a series of years." (Dickens, 1861, p.630). Pip treats him not as a monster but as a human being who deserves better treatment and respect from society. This paper will guide the future researcher who will conduct research on characters like Magwitch. It will be a source of inspiration for those who want to conduct research on a major character from a novel. Due to the lack of time and resources, there might be some gaps in the research findings. Besides, there was no financial aid for conducting this research. Due to these limitations, it could not be conducted on a large scale.

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