

IJACT 23-12-17

Study on the Cultural Influence and Ethical Lessons in Korean Society with a Focus on the Novel “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens

Wooyoung Kim

¹Prof., Dept. of English, Hansei University, Korea
E-mail nabawe@hansei.ac.kr

Abstract

In the global context, particularly in Christian nations, Christmas is considered a culturally and ethically significant time. In this study, we examine Charles Dickens' novel, “A Christmas Carol,” and the celebration of Christmas in Korea. We explore the values of Christmas in Korea derived from the significance and importance of this novel. These values include repentance, empathy, compassion, and the importance of humanity. Korean Christmas is regarded as a time for practicing these values, bearing a message akin to the transformation of characters like Scrooge. Furthermore, “A Christmas Carol” conveys a message of improvement and change over time, emphasizing change and growth in Korean Christmas. People reflect on their past, correct their mistakes, nurture hope for the future, and experience personal growth and transformation. Additionally, the novel raises awareness of social injustice and inequality, offering alternatives. In Korean society, Christmas encourages the willingness to care for and help others, facilitating discussions and understanding of societal issues. For these reasons, “A Christmas Carol” is considered a culturally and ethically significant time in Korean Christmas, and the two are intertwined in various aspects. This study explores the interaction between cultural change and ethical teachings by 'A Christmas Carol' and investigates the impact of this work on Christmas culture and social change. It serves as the basis for emphasizing moral principles and humanity during the Christmas season, and this research provides suggestions for future research directions, aiming to deepen the understanding of Dickens' work and the importance of “A Christmas Carol.” Through these efforts, it is expected that valuable insights into the connection between Christmas culture and moral messages will be gained. In this study, we will delve into the enduring appeal and cultural significance of “A Christmas Carol,” discussing how this novel has evolved into a beloved holiday tradition and a true symbol of Christmas. We will also examine the adaptation of this novel into various media and its influence on holiday season celebrations. Insights into the impact of this novel on Korean society and its continued significance in modern times will be provided, suggesting a direction for a healthier and more desirable path for Korean society.

Keywords: Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol, Cultural Impact, Ethical Teachings, Moral Lessons, Family

1. INTRODUCTION

The person with the full name Charles John Huffam Dickens (the seventh of February, eighteen twelve– the ninth of June, eighteen seventy) was an English novelist and social critic renowned for crafting some of the most iconic fictional characters in the world. He is considered the preeminent novelist of the Victorian era. His

Manuscript received: October 7, 2023 / revised: October 25, 2023 / accepted: November 5, 2023

Corresponding Author: nabawe@hansei.ac.kr

Tel: +82-31-450-5323, Fax: +82-31-450-5030

Professor, Dept. of English, Hansei Univ., Korea

literary creations enjoyed unparalleled popularity in his lifetime, and as the twentieth century dawned, he had earned recognition as a literary genius by critics and scholars alike. Books and brief tales by him persist to be broadly read and cherished today. Charles Dickens' novel "A Christmas Carol" is a timeless literary masterpiece that has left an indelible mark on both culture and ethics. Published in 1843, this novella has become synonymous with the holiday season and has had a significant influence on the path we celebrate Christmas. Beyond its cultural significance, "A Christmas Carol" carries a profound ethical message that continues to resonate with readers and audiences worldwide [1-3].

Cultural influences intersect with various aspects of diversity, including race, educational background, socioeconomic status, and gender, to impact the vulnerability to elder abuse. In their study from 2000, cultural norms are explored across diverse ethnic groups residing in an urban setting, revealing variations in the acceptance or tolerance of potential elder abuse [4]. This research embarks on a journey to delve into the cultural influence and ethical teachings embedded within Dickens' iconic work. Our aim is to explore how this classic tale, through its narrative and characters, has shaped the way we perceive Christmas and how it imparts valuable lessons on compassion, generosity, and redemption. The story follows the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly and selfish character who, through encounters with the Christmas Past, Present, and Yet to Come spirits, undergoes a moral awakening. His evolution from a heartless curmudgeon to a benevolent and kind-hearted figure exemplifies the core moral values of the story. Virtue is the contrast of aims, resolutions, and activities between those that are notable as suitable(right) and those that are improper (wrong). Morality may encompass a set of norms or principles originating from a code of behavior associated with a specific religion, philosophy, or culture. Alternatively, it may come from an individual's belief in a standard deemed universally applicable.

The expression might also specifically align with terms like "goodness" or "rightness." In every society, there exists a term denoting positive qualities, indicating "having the desirable or right quality," as well as a words for negative qualities, telling the "undesirable." The presence of a moral judgment and the difference of "right and wrong," or "good and bad" are those of cultural concepts [5-7]. "A Christmas Carol" places a significant emphasis on the importance of love, kindness, and charity in our lives, which are particularly relevant during the holiday season. Furthermore, this study aims to draw comparisons between "A Christmas Carol" and other works by Dickens, shedding light on its unique ethical features.

While Dickens' oeuvre (or complete works) has been known for its exploration of societal issues and ethical teachings, "A Christmas Carol" stands out as a concise yet powerful tale with a distinct focus on the spirit of Christmas and the redemption of the human soul. In this paper, we will analyze the moral themes and messages present in "A Christmas Carol," explore the ethical growth and transformation of characters like Ebenezer Scrooge and investigate how this novella stands apart in Dickens' body of work. Through this examination, we hope to provide insights into the enduring cultural significance and ethical lessons of "A Christmas Carol," which have enriched the holiday season and continue to inspire acts of kindness and charity. The Christmas season is called the holiday season or simply the holiday in some countries and is recognized as an annual recurring period in the West and many other countries. This period generally runs from late November to early January and includes Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and often other festivals and holidays A festival represents a remarkable occasion observed by a community, with its focus on specific elements of the community, its religious beliefs, or its cultures. These celebrations are frequently recognized as local or national holidays, gatherings, or religious observances. Festivals exemplify instances of glocalization and highlight the dynamic relationship between high and low culture [8]. Enriching the holiday season and maintaining the spirit of kindness and charity can be achieved through thoughtful gift-giving, volunteering with local communities or charitable organizations, contributing food and toys to those in need, expressing gratitude through handwritten cards and letters, supporting your favorite social causes or local businesses, and collaborating with peers to assist those who require help. The methods cannot only make the holiday season more meaningful but also inspire ongoing acts of goodwill and generosity [9].

2. BACKGROUND OF THE WORK "A CHRISTMAS CAROL"

Christmas carols, whether rooted in tradition or not necessarily tied to religious themes, are commonly known as such. Each of these songs boasts a rich history, some with origins dating back many centuries. Sheet music for Christmas music has been in publication for centuries. Among the earliest collections of printed Christmas music is "Piae Cantiones," a Finnish songbook initially printed in fifteen eighty-two. This historic compilation featured several songs that have endured the test of time and have become well-known Christmas carols. In the nineteenth century, the publication of Christmas music books, such as "Christmas Carols, New and Old" by Bramley and Stainer in eighteen seventy-one, played a pivotal role in expanding the widespread appeal of carols, contributing to their popularity [10]. The historical background of "A Christmas Carol," one of Charles Dickens' most renowned literary works, is steeped in cultural significance and a deep-rooted connection to the Christmas season, making it a beloved classic for new readers each year. This study aims to elucidate the impact of this work on Christmas music and culture while delving into its provision of ethical teachings. Christmas music encompasses a diverse range of musical genres that are commonly played or enjoyed during the Christmas season. It can be purely instrumental, or, in the case of carols, feature lyrics related to the nativity of Jesus Christ, customs like gift-giving and celebrations, iconic figures such as Santa Claus, or various other themes. Some songs are associated with the winter season in general, while others have become part of the Christmas music tradition for various reasons [11].

An in-depth examination of the historical context of "A Christmas Carol" reveals its association with significant societal changes related to Christmas culture in 19th-century Britain. Charles Dickens, recognized as one of the key authors of the Victorian era in the United Kingdom, was instrumental in addressing societal issues and imparting moral lessons through his literary works. This research underscores Dickens' literary importance and his influence on society, shedding light on the position "A Christmas Carol" holds within his body of work. In its most precise interpretation, the Victorian era corresponds to the period when Queen Victoria ruled the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. This era began on June twenty, eighteen thirty-seven after the demise of uncle, King William the Fourth, and continued until her own passing on January 22 nineteen hundred and one. Following her demise, her eldest son, Edward VII, assumed the throne. Queen Victoria's reign extended for an impressive sixty-three years and seven months, surpassing the duration of any of her predecessors. The term 'Victorian' was employed during that time to characterize the era [12].

The goal of this study is to look at the influence of "A Christmas Carol" on Christmas culture and music while exploring the ways in which it conveys moral lessons to readers. By scrutinizing how the Dickensian literature transcends its time and culture, we endeavor to deepen our understanding of his works and the enduring significance of "A Christmas Carol" in literature and culture, both in Dickens' era and in contemporary society. Charles Dickens lived during the Victorian era, which is generally considered to have spanned the reign of Queen Victoria from eighteen thirty-seven to nineteen hundred and one. Dickens' literary works, including his famous novel "A Christmas Carol," were influenced by and reflected the social and economic conditions of this era. The Victorian era, during Charles Dickens' time (from eighteen thirty-seven to nineteen hundred and one), was characterized by profound social and economic conditions. It was an era of rapid industrialization and urbanization, which led to crowded and unsanitary living conditions for the working class. Social inequality was stark, with a significant gap between the wealthy and the impoverished, who faced harsh labor conditions and limited rights. Child labor was prevalent, and access to education was restricted, particularly for children from poorer families. Although there were limited social welfare measures like workhouses, efforts for social reform, women's rights, and education were emerging. Philanthropy and charity work played a crucial role in addressing some of these social challenges. Dickens' writings, including "Oliver Twist" and "A Christmas Carol," shed light on the era's social injustices and inequality, contributing to awareness and advocacy for reform.

3. CULTURAL IMPACT OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Overview of the Content and Key Messages of "A Christmas Carol" Analysis of Charles Dickens' Influence on Christmas Culture Examples of the Influence of "A Christmas Carol" in Various Art Forms, including Music, Film, Literature, and More "A Christmas Carol" is regarded as a crucial part of Christmas music and

culture. This work conveys messages of Christmas spirit, generosity, love, and harmony, making it beloved during the holiday season. Research on this topic may encompass the following aspects: Examining the influence of "A Christmas Carol" on Christmas culture and how this influence has evolved over time. Analyzing how Charles Dickens' works have shaped and evolved Christmas music. Illustrating the impact of "A Christmas Carol" in various art forms, such as music, film, theater, and literature. "A Christmas Carol" has been the source material for numerous films and television adaptations, leading to a variety of cinematic and TV renditions. Among these, the 1984 movie "A Christmas Carol," featuring George C. Scott as Scrooge, stands out as one of the most renowned. Furthermore, there exist numerous other film adaptations of "A Christmas Carol," and this literary work has sparked the development of new interpretations in diverse time periods and settings. 1984 British-American television movie, "A Christmas Carol," is an adaptation of Charles Dickens' well-known Eighteen Forty-Three novella bearing the same title. Clive Donner directed the film, having previously worked as an editor on the Nineteen Fifty-One film "Scrooge." The movie features George C. Scott in the role of Ebenezer Scrooge and was shot in the historic medieval county town of Shrewsbury in Shropshire [13].

"A Christmas Carol" plays an integral role in shaping the atmosphere of Christmas. This work emphasizes the meaning and values of Christmas, encouraging traditional activities like Christmas shopping, parties, and decorating. The story of "A Christmas Carol" underlines the importance of compassion, charity, love, and acts of kindness through the moral transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge. This resonates with the Christmas culture, which emphasizes Christmas as a time for love and generosity. The major carols from "A Christmas Carol" are considered classics of Christmas music, cherished for their unique Christmas sentiment and joy. This has established Christmas music as a significant part of Christmas culture. The story and messages of "A Christmas Carol" have been used in various Christmas-themed movies, television shows, and theater productions. Carols from the work are integrated into the storyline or used as thematic music, enhancing the Christmas atmosphere and allowing audiences to experience the sentiments and messages through these adaptations. "A Christmas Carol" stands as a significant influence on Christmas culture, making the Christmas season more meaningful and emphasizing the essence of Christmas, human values, and moral messages. This influence continues to be prominent in modern Christmas culture, reminding us of the joy and values of Christmas. In the realm of the arts, "A Christmas Carol" has left a significant imprint. The carols from the work have been reinterpreted by various artists in different musical genres, contributing new interpretations and emotions to Christmas music. In the world of film, the story and messages of "A Christmas Carol" have inspired a multitude of Christmas-themed movies, using the carols to highlight the Christmas spirit. This allows audiences to deeply experience the messages and emotions conveyed by "A Christmas Carol." In the world of theater and musicals, "A Christmas Carol" has become a popular theme. Productions based on the work express the Christmas story and Dickens' moral messages on stage, vividly conveying the meaning and values of Christmas to the audience. In conclusion, "A Christmas Carol" enriches Christmas culture and music in various art forms. Its influence continues to spread the joy and messages of Christmas worldwide. This impact serves to reinterpret the meaning of Christmas and ensures that the message of "A Christmas Carol" is passed on to future generations. "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens has had a profound cultural impact over the years, particularly during the Christmas season. The novella, first published in 1843, contributed significantly to shaping the way Christmas is celebrated and understood, not only in the United Kingdom, where it was written, but also around the world. Its influence can be observed in several aspects of culture:

Christmas Traditions: One of the most direct impacts of the novella is on Christmas traditions. Phrases like "Merry Christmas" and customs like Christmas trees and festive gatherings have been popularized or even introduced by the story. Dickens played a crucial role in promoting the idea of a warm, family-centered, and charitable Christmas celebration.

Emphasis on Generosity: "A Christmas Carol" emphasized the importance of generosity and helping those in need, particularly during the holiday season. This message has become an integral part of the cultural understanding of Christmas. Charitable activities and donations are more prevalent during this time, with many people and organizations taking inspiration from Scrooge's transformation.

Spread of Christmas Spirit: The story promotes the idea of spreading Christmas cheer and goodwill. The notion that people should be kinder, more compassionate, and forgiving during the holiday season has had a

lasting cultural impact. Many individuals and communities strive to embody the Christmas spirit of love, compassion, and togetherness.

Moral Lessons and Redemption: The theme of personal transformation and redemption is central to the story. The concept that one can transform at any time for the better and make amends for one's past actions is a powerful cultural motif that resonates not only during Christmas but throughout the year. It has become a recurring theme in literature, films, and other media.

Literary and Adaptation Legacy: "A Christmas Carol" has been adapted into numerous forms, including theater, film, radio, and television. These adaptations have contributed to the story's cultural impact, ensuring that the message reaches new generations. Iconic characters like Ebenezer Scrooge and the three Christmas spirits have become deeply ingrained in popular culture.

In summary, "A Christmas Carol" has left an indelible mark on cultural celebrations and the understanding of Christmas. Its themes of generosity, transformation, and redemption continue to resonate with people, making it a timeless and culturally significant work.

4. ETHICAL TEACHINGS AND CHRISTMAS CAROL

"A Christmas Carol" is a work that contains moral themes and messages, emphasizing human values and moral lessons, especially during the Christmas season. One of the primary messages underscores the importance of compassion and love, conveyed through the moral transformation of the protagonist, Ebenezer Scrooge. Ebenezer Scrooge, depicted as a cruel and selfish wealthy man at the beginning of the story, undergoes moral growth and transformation as the story progresses. This transformation is brought about by his encounters with the Christmas spirits of the past, present, and future. His newfound understanding of the values of mercy, compassion, and love represents his moral awakening and symbolizes the true meaning of Christmas. Furthermore, by comparing "A Christmas Carol" to Charles Dickens' other works, one can explore its unique ethical features. Dickens' works have received attention for their exploration of social issues and moral lessons. The study of "A Christmas Carol" in comparison to Dickens' other works highlights its distinctive ethical aspects, particularly how it emphasizes the unique ethical dimensions of Christmas. "A Christmas Carol" serves as a work that reminds readers and audiences of their humanity and moral principles. It encourages a deeper understanding of the values of compassion and love through the lens of Christmas and serves as a conduit for delivering ethical lessons to the readers. This emphasis on moral teachings is particularly significant during the Christmas season, where it reaches a broad audience and reinforces the importance of ethical values. "A Christmas Carol" plays a significant role in delivering ethical teachings. This work emphasizes various ethical principles and values and conveys these teachings through the transformation of key characters and the progression of the story. Here are some key aspects of how "A Christmas Carol" conveys important ethical teachings [14].

Compassion and Empathy: The story underscores the importance of compassion and empathy. The protagonist, Ebenezer Scrooge, is initially introduced as a selfish and cold-hearted character but later transforms into someone who shows care for the less fortunate and helps others. This transformation highlights the significance of compassion and empathy as integral parts of human nature.

Inequality and Social Injustice: The narrative addresses the inequality between the rich and the poor. Scrooge's selfish attitude and awareness of social injustice drive the story and lead to ethical reflections on real-world inequality issues.

Redemption and Growth: The main character's efforts to realize his past mistakes and seek redemption deliver a message of personal growth and ethical improvement. It illustrates the ethical principle that everyone can reflect on their actions and strive for improvement.

Family and Connection: The process through which Scrooge reconnects with his family and learns to communicate emphasizes the importance of family relationships. This translates into ethical teachings about family.

Environmental Conservation and Reflection on Consumption: Scrooge's transformation prompts reflection

on excessive desire for consumption and possession and encourages a shift toward protecting the natural environment. This links to ethical teachings on environmental ethics and sustainable consumption.

Through these ethical teachings, "A Christmas Carol" offers readers or viewers opportunities to contemplate various ethical issues and a willingness to bring about positive change. Furthermore, it demonstrates that these teachings can lead to discussions and actions on social issues during the Christmas season.

5. THE INTERACTION BETWEEN CULTURAL IMPACT AND ETHICAL TEACHING

The interaction between cultural impact and ethical teaching is a significant aspect of various literary works, including "A Christmas Carol." Here, we explore how cultural impact and ethical teaching mutually influence each other within the context of this beloved story: Cultural Impact on Ethical Teaching: "A Christmas Carol" has had a substantial cultural impact over the years. It has contributed to shaping and reinforcing the cultural significance of Christmas as a season of giving, compassion, and reflection. This cultural influence has, in turn, strengthened the ethical teachings presented in the story. Ethical Teaching Shaping Cultural Values: The ethical teachings in the narrative have played a role in shaping cultural values and traditions associated with Christmas. The emphasis on compassion, generosity, and the importance of family during the holiday season reflects the enduring cultural values and traditions tied to Christmas. Cultural Adaptations of Ethical Messages [15].

The story has been adapted into various forms of media and continues to be celebrated during the holiday season. These adaptations often highlight and reinforce the ethical messages of the original work, thereby extending the impact of these teachings on broader cultural narratives. Discussion of Social Issues: "A Christmas Carol" has sparked discussions and awareness regarding social issues such as poverty, inequality, and social injustice. This has led to cultural conversations about the role of individuals and society in addressing these issues during the holiday season. Promotion of Ethical Values: The story promotes ethical values and virtues, such as empathy, kindness, and redemption. These values are not only central to the story's plot but have also become essential aspects of the cultural celebration of Christmas. The interaction between cultural impact and ethical teaching in "A Christmas Carol" demonstrates how literature can influence and be influenced by cultural values and ethical principles. It showcases the enduring power of storytelling to shape societal norms and encourage positive ethical behaviors during the holiday season and beyond. "A Christmas Carol" is a work that demonstrates a remarkable interaction between culture change and ethical teaching.

Culture change, or cultural transformation, pertains to the domain of public policy and centers on the influence of cultural capital on the behaviors of both individuals and communities. It is sometimes labeled as cultural reconfiguration, indicating a comprehensive restructuring of a society's cultural foundation [16]. Cultural stereotypes typically exhibit strong resistance to change and to the redefinition of their own characteristics. Culture often seems unchanging to an observer at any given moment because cultural shifts take place gradually. Cultural transformation is a lengthy, ongoing process. Policymakers must exert significant effort to enhance fundamental aspects of a society's cultural characteristics [17]. This work plays a significant role in shaping Christmas culture and music, while also leading social change by emphasizing humanity and moral principles. The humanistic interpretation of Kant's Categorical Imperative underscores the importance of treating humanity as the highest goal. This idea is in harmony with the current dominant values concerning human rights and dignity, which gives it a convincing appeal to today's readers, even if other aspects of Kant's moral philosophy don't strike a chord with them [18]. "A Christmas Carol" is considered an essential part of Christmas music every holiday season, and its carols contribute to creating the Christmas

atmosphere and infusing the spirit of celebration. This interaction between the work and Christmas culture influences the Christmas season to be seen as a time for moral lessons such as love, compassion, sharing, and charitable actions. Furthermore, "A Christmas Carol" serves as an important case study in how ethical messages drive cultural change. Ebenezer Scrooge's ethical transformation and redemption have a positive impact on Christmas culture and post-Christmas social change, serving as an example of how ethical messages can promote cultural change. "A Christmas Carol" demonstrates a unique interaction between cultural influence and ethical teaching, making it an important subject of research for exploring how values and moral messages related to Christmas impact culture and society.

6. ETHICAL AND MORAL LESSONS FOR KOREAN SOCIETY FROM "A CHRISTMAS CAROL"

The Ethical and moral lessons derived from "A Christmas Carol" are important and should be practiced and developed in Korean society. This novel emphasizes the importance of empathy and compassion through the transformation of Scrooge. Ebenezer Scrooge, once a cold-hearted miser who despised Christmas, undergoes a profound change into a generous person who cares for the less fortunate. This transformation exemplifies the core message of "A Christmas Carol," highlighting the significance of humanity and compassion. Absolutely, emphasizing understanding, consideration, and empathy for others is crucial for the well-being and harmony of Korean society. When individuals are mindful of how their actions affect others and practice empathy, it can lead to more positive interactions and stronger community bonds. Encouraging people empathizing or understanding others' perspectives can lead to a more compassionate society in which they are more likely to assist those in need and understand the struggles of others. Effective communication built on mutual respect and understanding is essential for resolving conflicts and building healthy relationships within families, communities, and a society. Teaching conflict resolution skills that focus on understanding differing perspectives and finding common ground can foster peaceful coexistence and promote reconciliation.

Cultivating a Culture of Caring: Fostering a culture in which individuals genuinely care about the well-being and happiness of others can lead to a more supportive and harmonious Korean society. **Educational Initiatives:** Schools and educational institutions can play a significant role in teaching empathy and the value of considering the feelings and needs of others, contributing to a more compassionate and ethical society. Christmas is considered a time for gift-giving and sharing, emphasizing the values of social solidarity and generosity in Korean society. Solidarity, also known as solidarism, represents a recognition of common interests, goals, principles, and affinities that foster a psychological feeling of unity among various groups or classes. Solidarity embraces individuals and views them as the foundation of society, referring to the connections within a community that unify individuals into a collective whole. This term finds its application in sociology, other social sciences, philosophy, and bioethics. It holds particular importance in Catholic social teachings and within the ideology of Christian democratic politics [19 - 21]. Christmas is widely celebrated in Korean society as a time for gift-giving and sharing, and it holds special cultural significance. The act of exchanging gifts during Christmas underscores the values of social solidarity and generosity in Korean culture. It is a time when people come together with their families and loved ones, expressing their care and affection through the act of giving.

This tradition reflects the significance of cultivating a shared belonging and emphasizing the spirit of generosity and togetherness. In a broader sense, it aligns with the values of empathy, compassion, and support for others, all of which are essential for building a more harmonious and inclusive society. Scrooge's reconnection with his family underscores the importance of close relationships and communication within the family, which should be further reinforced in Korean society. Indeed, awareness of social injustice and inequality is crucial in Korean society, as it is in many other societies around the world. Charles Dickens' novel, "A Christmas Carol," sheds light on the negative consequences of social injustice and economic inequality,

and the story serves as a reminder of the importance of addressing these issues in a compassionate and empathetic manner. In Korea, as in other countries, being aware of social injustices and economic disparities can lead to meaningful changes and improvements. It can inspire individuals, communities, and government institutions to work toward creating a fairer and more equitable society.

This awareness can lead to initiatives aimed at reducing poverty, improving access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, and guaranteeing the well-being of the marginalized members in society are cared for and supported. Ultimately, addressing social injustice and inequality is a collective effort, and raising awareness is the first step toward making positive changes that benefit the entire Korean society. Recognizing these issues, exploring alternatives, and contributing to reducing inequality and building a fair society are essential. The theme of acknowledging past mistakes and seeking correction, as seen through Scrooge's transformation, should inspire a willingness to correct and improve past wrong choices in Korean society. "A Christmas Carol" conveys a powerful message of social responsibility and the greater good, which extends beyond individual actions to societal and environmental considerations. Social responsibility involves individuals collaborating with others and organizations to promote community well-being within an ethical framework. Organizations can manifest their social responsibility through diverse means, such as contributions to charitable causes, promoting volunteer engagement, adopting ethical hiring practices, and implementing environmentally beneficial initiatives. At its core, social responsibility represents a personal commitment to striking a harmonious equilibrium between economic considerations and the local ecosystem, potentially necessitating trade-offs between economic progress and the welfare of both society and the environment [22 - 24].

Applying this message in Korean society can have several important implications: Korean businesses can draw inspiration from the novel to embrace ethical practices, support charitable causes, and engage in activities that benefit not only their profits but also the well-being of society. This can include initiatives like philanthropy, employee volunteer programs, and sustainability efforts. The novel's message can also be applied to raise awareness of environmental issues in Korean society. It encourages individuals and organizations to reflect on the enduring consequences of their behaviors on the environment and take steps to reduce their carbon footprint and protect natural resources. Korean individuals and businesses can be encouraged to support charitable organizations and causes that help those in need, particularly during special occasions such as Christmas. This aligns with the novel's message of contributing to the neighborhood and aiding those who are underprivileged. The idea of social responsibility in "A Christmas Carol" can promote community involvement in Korea.

This can include participating in local initiatives, volunteering, and engaging in projects that uplift the community. The story underscores the role of ethical leadership, which can be applied to encourage leaders in various sectors to prioritize ethical decision-making and social responsibility in their actions and policies. Decision-making, sometimes spelled as decision making or decision making, is the cognitive procedure leading to the choice of a belief or a course of action from a range of available alternatives. It may fall into either the realm of rationality or irrationality. This process involves reasoning and is rooted in the decision-maker's assumptions about their values, preferences, and beliefs [25]. By integrating these principles of social responsibility and the greater good into Korean society, individuals, businesses, and communities can work collectively to address pressing societal issues, promote sustainability, and ensure a better future for all. Scrooge's transformation serves as an incentive to reflect on excessive desires for consumption and ownership and to protect the natural environment, which is essential in Korean society. Moreover, this novel can play a significant role in education, teaching students the values of empathy, sharing, and environmental conservation. Lastly, "A Christmas Carol" underscores the significance of volunteering and community service, encouraging the activation of volunteer activities in Korean society and promoting democratic participation in addressing social issues.

7. LESSONS ON HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS IN KOREAN SOCIETY FROM “A

CHRISTMAS CAROL”

"A Christmas Carol" can offer several important lessons on human relationships, which can also be applied in Korean society. We have a crucial teaching which can be gleaned from "A Christmas Carol": Compassion and Empathy: This story particularly emphasizes the importance of compassion and empathy for those in need. In Korean society, fostering empathy for others and helping those less fortunate can promote fairness and equity. Interpersonal Relationships and Family: The story underscores the significance of interpersonal relationships and family bonds. In Korean society, where family relationships are traditionally highly valued, this story can encourage the importance of cherishing and valuing these connections. Generosity and Philanthropy: The transformation of the protagonist, Ebenezer Scrooge, from a selfish and miserly individual into a generous and compassionate person highlights the idea that giving can bring happiness and satisfaction. Encouraging acts of kindness and charity in Korean society can help address societal issues and strengthen a sense of community. Mending Broken Bonds: "A Christmas Carol" showcases the potential for mending broken relationships. In Korean society, encouraging forgiveness and reconciliation within families can lead to the healing of emotional wounds and the restoration of severed connections. Building Harmonious Communities: The story's message of reconciliation can extend to the broader community.

In Korean society, promoting forgiveness and reconciliation can contribute to more harmonious and peaceful communities, fostering unity and understanding among neighbors and citizens. Fostering Emotional Well-being: Forgiveness and reconciliation can have a positive impact on individuals' mental and emotional well-being. In Korean families, promoting these values can lead to healthier and happier family members. Teaching Life Lessons: The novella indirectly teaches important life lessons about the power of forgiveness. In Korean society, these lessons can be shared within families, guiding younger generations toward making more compassionate and forgiving choices in their own lives. Rebuilding Trust: Forgiveness is often linked to rebuilding trust. In Korean families, practicing forgiveness and reconciliation can help restore trust among family members, creating a more cohesive and supportive family environment. Cultural Values and Tradition: The story celebrates the traditions and values associated with Christmas. Similarly, Korean society can find strength in preserving its own cultural traditions and values while evolving and modernizing [26]. Empowering Through Education: "A Christmas Carol" emphasizes the power of education in enlightening individuals. In Korean society, promoting education can empower people with knowledge, enabling them to make informed choices and contribute to the betterment of society. Eradicating Ignorance: The story presents ignorance as a negative force. In Korean communities, prioritizing education can help eradicate ignorance, ultimately leading to a more enlightened and progressive society. Inspiring Lifelong Learning: The novella can inspire a culture of lifelong learning. In Korean families, encouraging members to pursue education and continuous learning can lead to personal growth and a greater sense of responsibility in society. Promoting Critical Thinking: Education encourages critical thinking and ethical decision-making. Critical thinking entails the examination of accessible facts, evidence, observations, and arguments to make informed judgments through the utilization of rational, skeptical, and impartial analyses and assessments. The practice of critical thinking encompasses traits such as independent, restrained, evaluated, and adjusted mental habits, thereby defining a critical thinker as an individual who either cultivates the skills of critical thinking or has received training and education in this discipline [27].

In Korean society, emphasizing the development of these skills can help individuals navigate complex issues and make positive contributions to their communities. Advancing Societal Progress: Education is a catalyst for societal progress. In Korean society, investing in education can lead to advancements in various fields and a more prosperous and inclusive community for all. The novel "A Christmas Carol" imparts a range of ethical and moral lessons that can be relevant to Korean society, promoting compassion, generosity, family, and community values while challenging materialism and encouraging positive change and responsibility. These lessons can contribute to a fairer and more compassionate society.

8. LESSON ON FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS FROM “A CHRISTMAS CAROL” IN KOREAN SOCIETY

“A Christmas Carol” offers several lessons that can help improve family relationships in Korean society. We have an essential insight which might be come from this story: Valuing Family: The story emphasizes the importance of valuing family and human relationships. In Korean society, it is important to highly regard family and focus on strengthening the connections and precious bonds among family members. Promoting Work-Life Balance: “A Christmas Carol” highlights the negative consequences of overworking and neglecting personal life. Korean society can benefit from emphasizing the importance of work-life balance, allowing individuals to spend quality time with their families. Quality Over Quantity: The story suggests that it's not just the quantity of time but the quality of interactions that matter. Encouraging meaningful, focused family time in Korean households can lead to stronger relationships. Technology and Distraction: In the modern world, technology can be a significant distraction. The story serves as a reminder for Korean families to limit screen time and distractions during family moments. Creating Family Traditions: The novella celebrates the tradition of celebrating Christmas together. Korean families can establish their own meaningful traditions, fostering a sense of togetherness and belonging. Shared Responsibilities: In "A Christmas Carol," Scrooge's self-centeredness is portrayed negatively. In Korean society, sharing responsibilities and working together as a family can strengthen bonds and create a sense of unity. Teaching Values.

The story indirectly teaches moral values through Scrooge’s transformation. Korean families can use stories like this to impart important values to younger generations and promote ethical behavior. Empathy and Active Listening: “A Christmas Carol” teaches the importance of listening actively to family members and understanding their perspectives. Encouraging empathy and effective communication in Korean families can resolve conflicts and build trust. Respecting Individual Differences: The story shows that people can change and improve, emphasizing the importance of respecting family members' individual growth and differences. In Korean society, embracing diversity and personal development within the family can lead to stronger bonds. Supporting Personal Growth: Scrooge's transformation encourages supporting one another’s personal growth and well-being. Korean families can provide an environment that nurtures individual aspirations and encourages family members to reach their potential. Conflict Resolution: Scrooge's redemption journey involves resolving past conflicts. Korean families can adopt constructive conflict resolution strategies to maintain harmony and strengthen family relationships. Nurturing Emotional Intelligence: The story indirectly promotes emotional intelligence. In Korean society, developing emotional intelligence within the family can help members understand and manage emotions effectively, fostering healthier relationships. Cultivating Gratitude: Scrooge learns to appreciate and express gratitude. In Korean families, fostering a culture of gratitude can lead to a more harmonious and appreciative environment, strengthening family bonds Preserving Cultural Heritage: The story emphasizes the importance of preserving cultural heritage. In Korean society, families can play a crucial role in passing down cultural values, customs, and traditions to younger generations, fostering a sense of identity and belonging. Connecting Generations: Family traditions and cultural practices create a bridge between generations. In Korean families, maintaining these connections through shared rituals and customs can help bridge generation gaps and strengthen familial bonds. Creating Meaningful Memories: The novella showcases the joy of creating meaningful memories through cultural celebrations. Korean families can prioritize creating cherished moments together during cultural and family events, enriching their shared history. Promoting Unity: Cultural traditions can unify family members and provide a sense of continuity. In Korean society, the preservation and practice of cultural values can promote unity and mutual understanding within families. Quality Family Time: “A Christmas Carol” underlines the value of spending quality time with loved ones. In Korean society, making an effort to prioritize meaningful family time over individual pursuits can lead to deeper connections and happier relationships. Strengthening Bonds.

The story highlights how shared experiences, like celebrating Christmas together, can strengthen family bonds. Korean families can create opportunities for shared activities and experiences to enhance their relationships. Creating Traditions: The novella encourages the creation of traditions. In Korean households, establishing family traditions and routines can provide a sense of stability and continuity, contributing to

stronger family ties. Respecting Personal Choices: Scrooge's initial decision to spend Christmas alone reflects his personal choice. In Korean society, respecting individual preferences while still emphasizing family togetherness can strike a balance that nurtures healthy family relationships. Active Listening: The story also highlights the importance of active listening. In Korean families, encouraging family members to truly listen to each other's concerns and feelings can enhance mutual understanding and empathy. Expressing Feelings: "A Christmas Carol" demonstrates the power of expressing one's feelings and concerns. In Korean society, creating a safe space for family members to openly share their emotions and thoughts can foster a deeper emotional connection. Conflict Resolution: The novella indirectly teaches conflict resolution skills.

In Korean families, these skills can be essential for resolving disagreements in a constructive and harmonious manner, preventing prolonged conflicts. Building Trust: Effective communication and conflict resolution contribute to building trust among family members. Conflict resolution is defined as the procedures and ways employed to facilitate the peaceful resolution of clashes and avoid retaliation.

Dedicated individuals in the group seek to address group confrontations by openly sharing ideas about their attitudes and opposing motives or with the other members (such as motivations or justifications for maintaining specific beliefs) and by participating in joint deliberation [28]

In Korean society, trust is a cornerstone of strong family relationships, creating a sense of security and support within the family unit. Supporting Each Other: The story shows the importance of family members supporting one another. Korean society can benefit from fostering a sense of solidarity and mutual support within families. Forgiving and Letting Go: The theme of redemption and forgiveness in the story is a valuable lesson for Korean families. Forgiveness and reconciliation can heal rifts and promote harmony within the family. Prioritizing Shared Experiences: The novella underlines the value of shared experiences, like celebrating holidays together. Korean families can prioritize creating meaningful moments and traditions that strengthen their bonds. Enhancing Family Resilience: The story reminds us that families can overcome adversity and strengthen their relationships in the process. In Korean society, families can build resilience by facing challenges together and learning from them. In summary, "A Christmas Carol" provides valuable lessons for strengthening and maintaining family relationships in Korean society. It underscores the importance of valuing family, managing time effectively, showing care and consideration, preserving traditions and culture, and spending quality time together as a family to build stronger connections.

9. CONCLUSION

In our work, we have scrutinized, the impacts of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens on Christmas culture and ethical teachings. Reconfirming the key findings and conclusions: This novel stands as one of the beloved works by numerous readers and audiences during the Christmas season. It conveys a central message that emphasizes the true value of Christmas and human kindness. The work plays a significant role in shaping Christmas music and culture, contributing to the moral aspects of Christmas. Ebenezer Scrooge, once a cold-hearted and miserly individual who despised Christmas, undergoes a transformation, becoming a generous and compassionate person who cares for the less fortunate. This change represents a central message in "A Christmas Carol," highlighting the importance of humanity and compassion. This ethical transformation serves as a reminder of the essence of Christmas through its cultural and musical aspects, promoting love and benevolent actions. For future research directions, we propose studying how "A Christmas Carol" is interpreted and reinterpreted in various cultures and eras, as well as investigating the impact of this work on Christmas practices in different cultures and religions. Such research will enhance our understanding of the enduring significance and diverse cultural meanings of "A Christmas Carol." Following this structure, the paper will be logically organized, providing readers with a profound understanding of "A Christmas Carol" and Dickens' work. We have explored the cultural impact and ethical teachings of "A Christmas Carol," using it as a mirror to reflect upon the unique ethical features of the work. By comparing it to Dickens' other works, we can draw ethical and moral lessons that we, living in Korea, can apply to contribute to a more developed society,

fostering mutual consideration and understanding.

REFERENCES

- [1] L. G. Colledge, *God and Charles Dickens: Recovering the Christian Voice of a Classic Author*, Brazos Press. p. 24, ISBN 978-1441247872, 2012.
- [2] J. Bowen, *Charles Dickens and the Gothic; The Cambridge History of the Gothic*, Cambridge University Press. 2021.
- [3] Stephen Jay Gould, PhD, *Medical Narrative; The Median Isn't the Message*, Virtual Mentor. pp. 77-81, Vol. 15, No.1, 2013. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1001/virtualmentor.2013.15.1.mnar1-1301>.
- [4] A. Moon and D. Benton, "Tolerance of Elder Abuse and Attitudes toward Third- Party Intervention Among African American, Korean American, and White Elderly," *Journal of Multicultural Social Work*, Vol. 8 No.3, pp. 283-303, 2000.
- [5] S. Anita, *The Moral Skeptic*, Oxford University Press. pp. 127–59. ISBN 978-0-19-537662-3. 2009.
- [6] A. A Long and D. N. Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers: Translations of the Principal Sources with Philosophical Commentary*. Vol. 1. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 366–67. ISBN 978-0521275569, 1987.
- [7] D. Brown, *Human Universals*, Philadelphia, Temple University Press, pp. 243, 1991.
- [8] D. Karen "Festivals Post Covid-19". *Leisure Sciences*, Vol. 43 No. 2, pp. 184–189, 2020. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/01490400.2020.1774000>.
- [9] H. S. Chen; T.S. Jap; R. L. Chen, and H. D. Lin , "A Prospective Study of Glycemic Control During Holiday Time in Type 2 Diabetic Patients". *Diabetes Care*. Vol. 27, No. 2, pp. 326–330, February 2004. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2337/diacare.27.2.326>.
- [10] W. E. Studwell and D. E. Jones, *Essays on Christmas Music*, Haworth Press. Publishing Glad Tidings New York, ISBN 9780789003980. Retrieved October 11, 2016.
- [11] M. Clement, *Christmas customs and traditions*. Courier Dover Publications. pp. 47–48. 1976. ISBN 978-0-486-23354-3.
- [12] Hewitt, Martin "Why the Notion of Victorian Britain Does Make Sense". *Victorian Studies*. Vol. 48, No. 3, pp. 395–438. 2006. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.2979/VIC.2006.48.3.395>.
- [13] BBC, *Shropshire movies: A Christmas Carol in Shrewsbury*," September 2016.
- [14] Basil Varkey, "Principles of Clinical Ethics and Their Application to Practice," *Medical Principles and Practice*, Vol. 30, No. 1, pp.17–28, June 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000509119>
- [15] <https://www.tntech.edu/studyabroad/orientation/individual/culture.php>
- [16] U. E. Chigbu, "Repositioning culture for development: Women and development in a Nigerian rural community," *Community, Work & Family*, Vol. 18, No.3, pp. 334–350. July 2015 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13668803.2014.981506>.
- [17] P. Panagiotis and K. Pantelis, "Economic growth and cultural change," *The Journal of Socio-Economics*. Vol. 47, pp. 147–157, 2013. doi:10.1016/j.socec. Feb 2013.
- [18] D. Richard. "The Value of Humanity in Kant's Moral Theory," *Oxford Academic*, Nov. 2023. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/0199285721.001.0001>,
- [19] D. Renate; S. Maria; and L. Leslie, "Social Solidarity, Human Rights, and Collective Action:

- Considerations in the Implementation of the National Health Insurance in South Africa," *Health and Human Rights*. Oct 2018. PMID 30568412.
- [20] A. Stanisław; C. Ewa; and W. Damian , "Social Security in Poland – cultural, historical and economical issues," *Copernican Journal of Finance & Accounting*, Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 11–26, September 2019. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.12775/cjfa.2013.013>.
- [21] T. Fitzpatrick, H. J. Kwon, M. Nick, J. Midgley, and G. Pascall, *International Encyclopedia of Social Policy*, Routledge, p. 1866, July 2013. ISBN 978-1-136-61003-5.
- [22] J. Derrick, *Responsibility*, Endgame. Vol. II. Toronto, Ontario.: Seven Stories Press. p. 696. ISBN 978-1583227305, 2006.
- [23] G. Akhilesh, "Social Responsibility in Business: Meaning, Types, Examples, and Criticism," *Investopedia*. pp. 89, August 2023.
- [24] H. K. Anheier; T. Stefan, *International Encyclopedia of Civil Society*. U.S.A.: Springer Science & Business Media. p. 577, 2009.
- [25] E. N Brockmann and W. P. Anthony, "Tacit knowledge and strategic decision making," *Group & Organization Management*. Vol. 27, No. 4, pp. 436–455. December 2016. doi:10.1177/1059601102238356.
- [26] K. S. Kim and J. L. Kim, "Literary Significance and Cultural Character of 'Personal Narrative,' *JCCT* Vol. 9, No.5, pp.133-140, September 2023. <https://dx.doi.org/10.17703/jCCT.2023.9.5.133>,
- [27] J. Clarke, "Critical Dialogues: Thinking Together in Turbulent Times," *Bristol: Policy Press*, p.6, ISBN 978-1-4473-5097-2, 2019.
- [28] J. F. Gaski, "The Theory of Power and Conflict in Channels of Distribution," *Journal of Marketing*. Vol. 48, No.3, pp. 9–29, 1984. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/002224298404800303>. ISSN 0022-2429. S2CID 168149955.