

<http://dx.doi.org/10.17703/JCCT.2024.10.3.189>

JCCT 2024-5-23

환경이 성격형성에 미치는 영향; 찰스 디킨스의 소설 “올리버 트위스트” 중심으로

Impact of Environment on Personality Formation through the Novel “Oliver Twist” by Charles Dickens

양정원*

Yang, Jungwon*

요약 우리는 이 논문에서 인간의 성격이 자신의 내재적 특성과 환경과의 다양한 상호작용 즉, 환경에 순응할 것인가 환경을 극복할 것인가를 통해 어떻게 조화를 이루면서 형성되는지 대한 연구를 제시한다. 인격과 성격은 타고나기도 하지만 후천적 영향을 받는다. 우리는 해당 주제의 중요성을 강조하고, 이 핵심 문제를 살펴본다. 흥미롭게 몰입하여 읽을 수 있는 찰스 디킨스의 소설 “올리버 트위스트”를 연구 대상으로 선택한 의의를 살펴본다. 주인공에 중점을 두어 인간 내재적 특성과 주변 환경과의 상호작용을 하면서 성장하는 과정을 강조한다. 흔히 받아들여지는 가정과는 달리, 디킨스의 시각은 선천적 특성을 강조한다. 주인공 올리버를 통해 주변환경보다는 선천적 특성의 중요성을 강조하여 성격 형성에 큰 영향을 줌을 암시하고 있다. 두 원인 요소의 결정적인 영향을 강조하면서, 내재적 특성에 더 큰 비중을 둔다. 우리는 그의 작품을 통해 그의 시각과 주장을 살피고 확인해 보기로 한다. 그의 시각으로 환경이 성격 형성에 미치는 영향을 탐구함으로써, 우리는 선천적 특성과 환경 간의 복잡한 상호작용을 이해하고자 한다. 현대 독자들에게 성격 특성이 어떻게 진화하고 환경적 요인에 의해 형성되는지에 대한 주장을 제공하고, 전반적인 이해를 하는 것이 목표이다. 우리는 핵심적인 장면과 등장인물들을 검토함으로써 디킨스의 주장을 지지하지 않기로 한다. 그러나 어느 것을 지지하는가 라는 질문에 대한 대답은 독자들의 몫으로 둔다.

주요어 : 찰스 디킨스, 성격 형성, 빅토리아 시대, 사회 정책, 아동 착취

Abstract In this paper, we study the diverse dynamics of human personality formation, examining the harmonious interplay between innate traits and the surrounding environment. Our focus is on Charles Dickens' renowned work, "Oliver Twist," where Dickens underscores the critical role of both the environment and innate traits in shaping personalities. We explore Dickens' unique perspective, emphasizing the deep insights gained through his work. The paper outlines the research background, stressing the topic's importance and explaining the necessity of addressing this crucial issue. The significance of choosing "Oliver Twist" as the research subject is highlighted, underscoring its special relevance. The main content thoroughly investigates how innate traits and the environment profoundly influence individual personality formation. Contrary to common assumptions, Dickens' perspective unequivocally highlights the greater importance of innate traits. Our analysis supports this claim, examining key scenes and characters in "Oliver Twist." By exploring his distinctive viewpoint on the environment's impact on personality formation, we enhance understanding of the interaction between innate traits and the environment. Focused on "Oliver Twist," our goal is to provide contemporary readers with profound insights into how personal characteristics evolve and are shaped by environmental factors, utilizing Dickens' masterpiece as a central reference point.

Keywords : Charles Dickens, Personality Formation, Victorian era, Social Policies, Exploitation of Children

*정회원, 한세대학교 교양학부 교수 (제1저자)
접수일: 2024년 3월 6일, 수정완료일: 2024년 4월 10일
게재확정일: 2024년 4월 20일

Received: March 6, 2024 / Revised: April 10, 2024

Accepted: April 20, 2024

*Corresponding Author: jwyang_research@naver.com

Dept. of Liberal Arts, Hansei Univ., Korea

I. INTRODUCTION

The organic interaction between environment and personality development has been a consistent subject of study from various perspectives. Generally, an individual's personality is shaped through interactions with the environment, and in turn, the environment is influenced by the personality. The environment plays a significant role in the individual's growth and development. Various environments, such as family, school, and social situations, contribute to the formation of an individual's values, attitudes, and behavioral patterns. These environmental influences can have both positive and negative effects on the development of self-concept and social skills. Simultaneously, personality is also shaped by the environment. Individual personality traits are finely tuned and developed through interactions with the surrounding environment. A person with an extroverted and social personality is more likely to thrive in dynamic and social environments. In this relationship, the interaction is not unidirectional but rather bidirectional. Individuals both choose and shape environments that suit them, and the chosen environment, in turn, influences their personality. This intricate interaction adds complexity to the process of personality development [1].

While it is widely acknowledged that both innate tendencies and environmental factors play crucial roles in personality formation, we emphasize Charles Dickens' novel "Oliver Twist" to argue that, according to Dickens, environmental factors exert a more substantial influence on personality development than innate tendencies. The interplay between genetics and environmental factors encompasses various facets, encompassing exposures to substances like pesticides or industrial waste within our living or working spaces, as well as behaviors such as smoking or an unhealthy diet that heighten the susceptibility to diseases [1, 2].

In essence, the development of personality is a nuanced and intricately linked process, with ongoing mutual influence between the individual and their environment. Appreciating and acknowledging this intricate interplay is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of individual growth and development. We undertake a thorough examination of the factors that contribute to the development of human personality, centering around a pivotal question: whether personality is predominantly shaped by inherent tendencies or significantly molded by the external environment. This inquiry stands as a focal point in diverse academic disciplines, including personality psychology, sociology, and education. The outcomes of this

research carry substantial implications for the theories and practices within these fields, contributing valuable insights to the broader understanding of human development and behavior. The exploration of these dynamics serves to enhance our capacity to support and nurture individual growth, fostering a more nuanced comprehension of the intricate relationship between personality and the surrounding environment. Environmental factors extend to stressful situations like racism. In genetic studies, there is a recurrent emphasis on accounting for these environmental factors, recognizing their potential to amplify the risk of genetic damage or disease in individuals. It underscores the intricate relationship between genetic predisposition and external influences on health outcomes. By using Dickens' novel to gain a deeper understanding of human nature, it enhances insight into how human nature and societal environments interact. The choice of "Oliver Twist" as the subject of the study is justified by its exemplary reflection of Dickens' unique perspective on personality formation [1, 3]. Through this work, deep insights into how human nature and societal environments interact can be gained. This paper is expected to provide readers with a new understanding of Dickens' work and, concurrently, a deeper comprehension of personality formation.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

Building on the exploration of innate temperament and environmental influences on personality development, it is essential to delve deeper into Charles Dickens' perspective as conveyed through his novel "Oliver Twist." Dickens, a keen observer of human nature, intricately weaves a narrative that suggests the dominant role of innate temperament in shaping personalities. In the book, the eponymous protagonist's journey from the workhouse to the streets of London serves as a canvas for Dickens to paint a vivid picture of the impact of innate temperament on an individual's destiny. Oliver's innate goodness and moral compass remain unsawed despite the harsh and often corrupting environment he encounters. Dickens seems to propose that Oliver's innate qualities, such as compassion and integrity, act as an unwavering foundation that withstands the external pressures and adversities he faces. Dickens' portrayal of other characters in the novel, such as the conniving Fagin or the tragic Nancy, further underscores the significance of innate temperament. These characters, shaped by their inherent traits and predispositions, navigate a world that both challenges and reinforces their core natures.

The environment serves as a stage where innate

qualities are either amplified or suppressed but rarely fundamentally altered. However, it is crucial to acknowledge that Dickens does not entirely dismiss the role of environment in shaping characters. The grim and impoverished backdrop of Victorian London undoubtedly influences the choices and opportunities available to Oliver and the other characters. He subtly argues that while the environment may serve as a catalyst for certain actions, it is the innate temperament that ultimately determines the response to these external stimuli. By examining the intricate dance between innate temperament and environment, it aims to offer valuable insights into the age-old question of what truly shapes the essence of human nature. It aims to derive a nuanced understanding of the factors influencing personality formation and contribute to the current scholarly discourse on this subject. It explores various theories on how innate temperament and environment interact to shape personality. This provides an in-depth understanding of the topic and broadens the framework of comprehension [4]. By integrating Charles Dickens' novel "Oliver Twist" and his perspective into this study, we offer a new interpretation of personality formation. Through Dickens' work, it provides unique insights into how innate traits and environment interact in shaping personality, enriching the understanding of this topic. We present a new perspective on Dickens' work, playing a crucial role in fostering a deep understanding of human nature.

1. AUTHOR CHARLES DICKENS

Charles John Huffam Dickens, born in eighteen twelve and passing away in eighteen seventy in London, was a British novelist of the nineteenth century. His literary works are renowned for addressing societal issues such as social inequality, child labor, poverty, and crime, establishing him as a pioneer of modern novels. Dickens, influenced by his challenging early experiences working in a factory due to his family's financial difficulties, drew upon these hardships in his subsequent works. Famous for novels like "Oliver Twist," "Great Expectations," "A Christmas Carol," and "A Tale of Two Cities," his works continue to be considered masterpieces in world literature. His novels are characterized by rich character portrayals, strong social critique, and detailed narrative structures. His distinctive satire and humor uniquely defined his works, and his literary achievements have continued to be cherished not only during his lifetime but also in the years that followed. His literature continues to convey powerful messages and literary pleasure to readers worldwide [5].

Dickens, as an eminent figure in English literature, acclaimed as both a novelist and social critic. Renowned for creating some of the most iconic fictional characters globally, he is widely regarded as the preeminent novelist of the Victorian era. The Victorian era, spanning from the twentieth of the eighteenth of June, thirty-seven to the twenty-second of January, nineteen o-one during the reign of Queen Victoria in the United Kingdom and the British Empire, marked a pivotal period in history. Often defined differently by various interpretations, it succeeded the Georgian era and preceded the Edwardian era, with its latter part overlapping the initial phase of the Belle Époque era in continental Europe. Dickens' literary contributions enjoyed unprecedented popularity during his lifetime, and as the twentieth century unfolded, critics and scholars acknowledged him as a literary genius. His novels and short stories continue to captivate readers today [6].

Expanding on the theme of serialized storytelling, Dickens' innovative approach to publishing revolutionized the literary landscape during the Victorian era. By releasing his novels in serialized form, he not only captivated the imaginations of readers but also established a dynamic connection with his audience. The anticipation generated by Dickens' cliffhanger endings transformed reading into a communal experience, with people eagerly discussing plot twists and speculating on the fates of beloved characters. Dickens' astute use of serialization went beyond mere entertainment; it served as a powerful tool for gauging public sentiment. The periodic nature of the releases allowed him to observe real-time reactions, enabling him to adapt his narrative based on the feedback received. This interactive relationship between author and reader was a groundbreaking development, foreshadowing modern concepts of audience engagement. His narratives were not confined to the realms of fiction alone. He skillfully interwove elements from contemporary social issues and events into his plots, providing readers with a mirror to reflect upon the challenges and nuances of their own time. This socio-literary fusion contributed to the broad appeal of his works, transcending class and education barriers.

This democratization of literature contributed to the emergence of a new class of readers, fostering a literary culture that extended beyond the elite. Among Dickens' enduring contributions, the eighteen forty-three novella "A Christmas Carol" remains a poignant example of his narrative prowess. The timeless themes of redemption and generosity continue to resonate, ensuring the enduring popularity of this work and inspiring countless adaptations across various artistic mediums. His legacy, shaped in part by his innovative use of serialization, continues to influence how stories are told and consumed in the present day.

Dickens' legacy endures not only through his literary masterpieces but also as a transformative figure who shaped the landscape of Victorian literature [7-9].

2. HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE NOVEL

Charles Dickens' novel "Oliver Twist" was written during the Victorian era, spanning from eighteen thirty-seven to nineteen o-one, in the mid-nineteenth century. Indeed, the socio-economic landscape of the Victorian era, particularly the impact of the Industrial Revolution, provided a fertile ground for Dickens to weave his narratives, and "Oliver Twist" stands as a compelling reflection of the challenges and injustices prevalent during that period. The Industrial Revolution brought about sweeping changes, transforming agrarian societies into industrial powerhouses. As cities expanded, a surge in population occurred, accompanied by the rise of factories and the migration of people from rural areas to urban centers in search of employment. However, this rapid urbanization was not without its dark underbelly. Dickens, a keen social critic, used his literary works to shed light on the harsh realities faced by the working-class and impoverished communities. "Oliver Twist" is set against the backdrop of a gritty, urbanized London where the consequences of industrialization are palpable. The workhouses, where Oliver initially finds himself, epitomize the dehumanizing conditions faced by the poor.

The stark contrast between the opulence of some characters and the abject poverty of others underscores the widening gap between the social classes. The exploitation of child labor, a prevalent issue during the Industrial Revolution, is poignantly depicted through Oliver and his peers at the workhouse. Dickens exposes the vulnerability of children, who were often subjected to harsh conditions and meager wages, highlighting the moral decay that accompanied rapid industrialization. Moreover, Dickens' characters, such as Fagin and the Artful Dodger, embody the consequences of economic disparity and social neglect. Fagin's criminal activities and the life of the street children emphasize the desperate measures individuals took to survive in a society that seemed indifferent to their plight. "Oliver Twist" can be seen as Dickens' call for social reform and compassion in the face of widespread suffering. His narrative serves as a powerful critique of the societal ills exacerbated by the Industrial Revolution, advocating for a more humane approach to address the challenges brought about by economic and social changes.

By grounding his storytelling in the realities of Victorian society, Dickens not only created enduring literary works

but also contributed to the public discourse on social issues. "Oliver Twist" remains a poignant reminder of the human cost of unchecked industrialization and a testament to Dickens' commitment to social justice through his writing. "Oliver Twist" critically addressed these issues, vividly depicting the harsh realities of the time. The novel portrayed the weakening of the working-class and impoverished segments of society, unstable labor conditions, and the growing social disparities. Through the unfortunate circumstances of the protagonist, Oliver, and the societal injustices occurring around him, the novel offered a critical perspective on the problems prevalent in society during the Victorian era [6]. Dickens aimed to raise awareness among readers about the injustices and inequalities of reality and to convey a message urging social improvement. In this context, "Oliver Twist" is regarded as a literary work of significant importance as it vividly depicts the dark aspects of contemporary society.

3. CONTENT OF THE NOVEL

Oliver Twist's mother dies shortly after giving birth to Oliver alone, leaving him an orphan and placed in a parish-run workhouse. The workhouse board was only condescending and had no interest in helping the poor, so the budget was leaking here and there and Oliver had a difficult time growing up. When he became a boy in his early teens, the parish tried to make Olive work as a laborer, as they often did, and eventually he was sold to an undertaker named Sowerberry. The Sowerberrys also treated Oliver harshly, and his apprentice.

In "Oliver Twist," the mistreatment of characters extends beyond Oliver himself. The Sowerberrys, with whom Oliver briefly resides, treat him harshly. Their apprentice, Noah Claypole, and the maid under him also subject Oliver to mistreatment. The portrayal of abuse isn't limited to Oliver alone; even Charlotte, another character in the narrative, experiences abuse. Charlotte works for the Sowerberry's. She is the servant and lives in the same house. After Oliver arrives as an apprentice, she misuses Oliver, as do the Sowerberry's. Charlotte's love interest is Noah Claypole, an assistant in the shop, and she is willing to do anything for him. This underscores Charles Dickens' exploration of social injustices and the harsh conditions faced by various individuals, particularly those from the lower classes, in nineteenth-century Victorian England. The novel vividly depicts the challenges and cruelties that characters like Oliver and Charlotte endure as they navigate a society marked by inequality and hardship.

One day, Oliver, who couldn't stand it anymore, was

locked in a room for attacking Noah Claypole, but he found the opportunity to escape and head to London. On his way to London, Oliver meets a boy, and follows him to the slums of London. It turns out that the boy is a member of a gang of pickpockets headed by an old Jewish man named "Fagin," and Fagin is trying to make Oliver a pickpocket as well. One time, Oliver followed the boy out and his pickpocketing was discovered, and the boy blamed it on the innocent Olive and was arrested. The magistrate wants to sentence Olive to three months of forced labor [10]. Oliver's innocence is proven by witnesses and he is released. Mr. Brownlow, the old gentleman whom the boy tried to pickpocket, took pity on. They take Oliver home, where he is treated generously and lives happily. Then one day, while Oliver was out running an errand for Brownlow, he was picked off by Nancy, a member of Fagin's gang.

He gets caught and is taken back to the pickpocket den. There, they were monitored and abused. William "Bill" Sikes serves as the primary antagonist in the novel. He is a malevolent criminal associated with Fagin's gang, engaging in heinous acts as a ruthless robber and murderer. Sikes is accompanied by his formidable "bull-terrier" dog named Bull's-eye, which loyally shadows him throughout much of the narrative. The presence of Sikes and his menacing canine companion adds a layer of dread to the story, reflecting the darker and more dangerous aspects of the society depicted in Charles Dickens' work. One day, a villain named Bill Sikes came to see Fagin and asked him for a child to use for theft. They ask for it and Oliver is pointed out. Oliver is forced to move to a mansion with Bill Sikes.

He sneaks in to open the door, but he intentionally causes a commotion and wakes people up. Bill runs away with Olive and chases after the people who ran out of the mansion. However, in the meantime, Oliver is shot, injured, and abandoned. He is captured by people and brought to a mansion, where the owner is Rose Maylie. They were criminals who tried to rob their house. Not believing that one of them is young Oliver, they nurse him back from his injuries. When he comes to his senses, he tells his story to Maylie, and they take pity on Oliver's unfortunate situation and allow him to stay at the mansion [11].

Oliver lives with them and spends his days happily, although he is anxious because he doesn't know when the evil gang will find him. Meanwhile, the diocese where Oliver was once entrusted had an unscrupulous low-ranking official named Bumble, and one day a strange man visits him. Revealing his name as Monks, he tells Bumble that he is looking for a boy who was left as an orphan in the past, and Bumble senses that the child he is looking for is Oliver.

In fact, his mother, who died the day Oliver was born, left a golden box to give to Oliver, but it was stolen by her greedy people and ended up in the Bumbles. It turns out that Oliver came from a noble family called Leeford, and when his father died, he left his legacy to Olive. "Leeford" is the surname of the noble family to which the protagonist Oliver belongs in the novel *Oliver Twist*. The golden box that Oliver's mother intended to give him was stolen by her greedy relatives and eventually ended up in the possession of the Bumble family. The evidence that revealed Oliver's origins was a golden box, but his brother tried to conceal this fact in order to monopolize the inheritance. He takes the box from the Bumbles and throws it into the depths of the Thames River, then goes to Fagin and makes a deal with him on the condition that he kidnap Oliver again and turn him into a thief.

When Nancy learns of this, her conscience takes over and she secretly visits Rose to inform her of this, and Rose tries to help Oliver somehow. With Rose's help, Olive succeeds in reuniting with Brownlow, who took care of her before she was kidnapped [12].

III. FACTORS AFFECTING PERSONALITY FORMATION

Personality formation is a complex process resulting from the interaction of various factors across different domains. It is essential to comprehensively understand the various influences, and among them, the key factors in personality formation include [13]:

Genetic Factors: Personality traits are partially transmitted genetically. Genes influence individual tendencies, temperament, and intelligence levels.

Environmental Influences: Surrounding environments play a crucial role. Family, education, culture, and social situations influence personality formation, with a particularly significant impact during early stages of life.

Social Interactions: Various social interactions affect personality. Relationships with family, friends, colleagues, and societal groups play a vital role in an individual's social integration and identity formation. **Cognitive Abilities:** Cognitive abilities, learning skills, and literacy affect personality formation. Higher intellectual abilities can aid in problem-solving and self-development. **Self-Concept:** Individual self-concept influences self-understanding and identity formation. Strengthening and accepting oneself determine the characteristics of personality. These diverse

factors interact to shape an individual's unique personality, evolving and developing over time. The factors influencing personality formation can be broadly categorized into two main types. First is innate temperament, determined by biological factors such as genes, representing an individual's inborn tendencies or disposition. The second is the environment, encompassing external factors like family background, cultural surroundings, and education, significantly impacting personality formation. These two factors interact, shaping and developing an individual's personality, with no definitive conclusion on the superiority of one factor over the other [14]. Personality formation is deeply connected to an individual's social situation. Social interactions act as another crucial influencing factor, where the groups individuals belong to, social relationships, and cultural backgrounds significantly impact personality. Particularly, family structure and roles, educational levels, and economic status influence an individual's social integration and identity formation. Moreover, the values and norms of the groups or societies to which an individual belongs continuously affect personality development. From a psychological perspective, mental health and emotional well-being play a significant role in personality formation. Positive experiences and a stable emotional environment promote personality development, while negative experiences or emotional distress can have counterproductive effects. Additionally, individual cognitive abilities, learning experiences, and literacy also influence personality formation. These factors interact together to intricately shape an individual's personality. Moreover, personality is a dynamic process that develops continuously over time, involving various stages. Therefore, understanding personality formation requires insights and research from diverse academic fields. The knowledge derived from such research can be applied effectively in areas such as personal development, education, counseling, and social policies [15].

This paper explores the key factors influencing personality formation, posing a fundamental question: whether human personality is determined by innate elements or significantly influenced by the given environment. This is a crucial topic for deriving a fundamental understanding of human nature and behavior. While most people may believe that both innate temperament and the environment influence individual personality formation, Charles Dickens, through his works, emphasizes the former. Dickens's "Oliver Twist" best reflects this perspective, offering profound insights into personality formation. The objective of this paper is to gain a clearer understanding of the factors influencing

personality formation through Dickens's approach. By doing so, we aim to obtain a deeper understanding of human nature and how it is influenced by the environment. This is considered an important research topic in various fields such as psychology, sociology, and education [16].

The exploration of factors influencing personality formation represents a crucial avenue for expanding our comprehension of human nature, offering profound insights into the intricacies of human thought and behavior. This study, with a specific focus on Charles Dickens's literary works, aims to contribute substantially to our understanding of how human nature intersects with societal environments in the process of personality development. Dickens, as a renowned social critic of the Victorian era, provides a unique lens through which we can examine the interplay between innate qualities and external influences on character formation. By delving into the narratives crafted by Dickens, this paper seeks to unravel the nuanced connections between human nature, society, and the environment, shedding light on the intricate dynamics that shape personalities. The overarching goal is not only to present a fresh perspective on personality formation through the exploration of Dickens's works but also to facilitate a deeper understanding of the complex relationships that exist between individuals and the societal contexts in which they evolve. Through this exploration, the research aspires to make a substantial and meaningful contribution to the fundamental understanding of personality formation, bridging the realms of literature and psychology to enrich our comprehension of the human experience.

IV. CHILD LABOR

Expanding further on the issue of child labor, it is crucial to note that Dickens' portrayal of this societal ill in "Oliver Twist" extends beyond a mere critique of the prevalent practices. Through the character of Oliver, Dickens emphasizes the innocence and vulnerability of these child laborers, highlighting the moral bankruptcy of a society that exploits its most defenseless members. Oliver's journey from the workhouse to the criminal den paints a stark picture of the limited options and dire circumstances that many children faced during that era [17]. Furthermore, Dickens conducts a thorough exploration of the systemic intricacies surrounding child labor, laying bare the complex interplay of economic forces and societal indifference that perpetuated the exploitation of vulnerable children.

The vivid depiction of workhouse conditions serves as a poignant tableau on which Dickens sketches a scathing critique of institutional deficiencies marked by paltry

budgets and condescending attitudes. These conditions not only cast a glaring light on the harsh realities confronted by the destitute but also accentuate the systemic lapses that facilitated the persistence of exploitative practices. Dickens's portrayal goes beyond a mere condemnation of individual perpetrators; it becomes a searing indictment of the broader societal structures that allowed such exploitation to flourish. The stark contrast between the meager resources allocated to these institutions and the inherent disdain with which the impoverished were treated reveals the deep-rooted societal apathy towards the plight of the underprivileged.

The workhouse, intended to be a haven for the needy, instead becomes a symbol of systemic neglect and moral bankruptcy. In this portrayal, Dickens masterfully weaves together the economic and social threads that entangle the lives of the marginalized. The meager budgets allotted to workhouses reflect a larger economic calculus that prioritizes efficiency over humanity. Simultaneously, the patronizing attitudes of those in authority symbolize a societal callousness that devalues the worth of the impoverished. The resulting environment becomes a crucible where the vulnerability of children is exploited with impunity. In the narrative, Fagin's exploitation of children for criminal activities stands as a metaphorical commentary on the dual victimization experienced by these young souls. Dickens uses Fagin's character to highlight the profound societal injustice that allows for the exploitation of innocence. This metaphor serves as a poignant reminder of the broader consequences of societal indifference and economic inequalities, urging readers to confront the harsh realities faced by vulnerable children caught in the cycle of exploitation and abuse. Dickens skillfully weaves a narrative that condemns not only the direct perpetrators of child labor but also the societal structures that enabled and, in some cases, encouraged such exploitation [18]. Dickens' exploration of child labor in "Oliver Twist" goes beyond a condemnation of the practice itself. It serves as a multifaceted critique of the societal norms, economic systems, and moral values that allowed this injustice to persist. The novel prompts readers to reflect not only on the historical context but also on the enduring relevance of such issues in the contemporary world.

V. SELECTION AND ANALYSIS OF NOVEL

This paper presents an in-depth study of the factors influencing personality formation. The central question revolves around whether human personality is determined by innate traits or significantly influenced by the given environment. The focus of this research is centered on

Dickens's novel "Oliver Twist." While many people believe that both innate traits and the surrounding environment influence personality formation, Dickens, through his novel, emphasizes the significance of innate traits. This study explores Dickens's perspective and gains profound insights into this theme through the analysis of his work. Regarding the research methodology, this paper employs the analysis of Dickens's "Oliver Twist." Chosen for its exemplary reflection of Dickens's views on personality formation, this novel serves as the primary subject of the study. By analyzing this work, we aim to gain a deeper understanding of personality formation.

Additionally, this paper discusses the key tools and methods employed for data collection, ensuring the reliability and validity of the research. The tools and methods used to analyze Dickens's work, along with explanations of the results obtained, constitute a crucial part of this paper. Through this discussion, readers can gain a clear understanding of the process and outcomes of the study. The essence of human nature encompasses inherent dispositions and characteristics, encompassing the innate ways in which individuals think, feel, and act. It serves as a descriptor for the fundamental qualities that define humanity and attempts to articulate what it truly signifies to be human. However, the use of this term has sparked controversy, as there exists a persistent dispute regarding the actual existence of such a defining essence.

Discussions surrounding human nature have remained a pivotal subject in philosophy throughout the centuries, stimulating ongoing and spirited debates within the philosophical community [19, 20]. Although separate, discussions surrounding human nature often intertwine with the debate over the relative significance of genes and environment in shaping human development, commonly known as the 'nature versus nurture' discourse.

This concept remains influential across academic disciplines, spanning the natural and social sciences as well as philosophy. Numerous theorists assert insights into human nature, contributing to ongoing debates and inquiries. The traditional dichotomy of human nature is often contrasted with culturally specific human attributes that vary among societies, emphasizing the distinctions associated with particular cultures. We aim to provide a profound understanding of personality formation through the analysis of Dickens's work, offering deeper insights into the essence of human nature.

VI. ANALYSIS OF THE EXPRESSION OF THE PROTAGONIST'S CHARACTER AND THE IMPACT BY SURROUNDING

ENVIRONMENT

The formation of human personality involves a complex interaction between innate temperament and the given environment. This paper aims to investigate how such interactions impact the shaping of an individual's character, focusing on Charles Dickens' novel "Oliver Twist." Initially, we will delve into the traditional debate regarding whether human personality is innate or shaped by the given environment. Dickens, through his novel, highlights the significance of innate temperament while emphasizing the impact of the surrounding environment on an individual's character formation. However, he is also interested in how personal choices and actions respond to the given environment. The analysis of the novel will scrutinize key characters and scenes from the novel [21].

We cast a spotlight on the intricate interplay between innate temperament and the surrounding environment as portrayed in the characters of Charles Dickens, with a keen focus on pivotal scenes shaping the development of the protagonist, Oliver Twist. By scrutinizing these crucial moments, the study aims to unveil the underlying mechanisms that contribute to Oliver's growth process and the formation of his personality. Delving into Dickens's nuanced narrative, the analysis will dissect scenes where Oliver faces challenges, confrontations, and moments of self-discovery, elucidating how his inherent qualities and the external milieu collaborate to mold his character. Through this examination, the paper seeks to offer a deeper understanding of the complexity inherent in personality formation, as envisaged by Dickens. It aims to unravel the layers of influence stemming from innate traits and the environmental circumstances surrounding Oliver.

The study's broader objective is to provide modern readers with profound insights into the intricate dance between personality and environment, illustrating how these elements coalesce to shape human behavior. By bridging the literary and psychological realms, this research aspires to enrich contemporary perspectives on the multifaceted nature of personality development, drawing relevance from Dickens's timeless exploration of the human psyche. Ultimately, the study endeavors to contribute to the ongoing discourse on the nature of human behavior, offering a nuanced lens through which readers can perceive the dynamic interplay between innate temperament and environmental factors in the formation of character.

VII. PRESENTATION OF RESULTS ON THE CORRELATION BETWEEN

ENVIRONMENT AND PERSONALITY FORMATION

The correlation between environment and personality formation has been extensively explored in numerous studies. Generally, the environment can influence personality formation, but personality can also impact the environment. The environment plays a crucial role in an individual's growth and development. Environmental factors such as family, school, and social situations can influence an individual's values, attitudes, and behavioral patterns. For instance, parenting styles at home or the educational environment at school can affect the formation of an individual's self-concept and social skills. Extroversion, within the realm of personality traits, refers to a facet marked by a proclivity for expressive and outgoing behavioral patterns. Individuals identified as extroverts commonly exhibit talkativeness, sociability, activity, and warmth in their interactions and demeanor. Individuals with extroverted and sociable personalities tend to thrive in socially active environments [22]. Moreover, the relationship between the environment and personality formation is interactive. Individuals both choose and shape their environment, while the environment also reacts to and influences an individual's personality. This interaction forms a complex process that impacts an individual's personality formation. The interplay between the environment and personality formation involves a reciprocal relationship. The environment influences personality formation, and simultaneously, personality can also influence the environment. This interaction is a crucial factor in an individual's growth and development.

We explore the two main factors influencing human personality formation: innate temperament and environment. Specifically, it analyzes Charles Dickens' novel "Oliver Twist" to examine the roles these factors play in personality formation. While many people believe that both innate temperament and the environment significantly influence personality formation, Dickens seems to emphasize the greater role of the environment in his works. Consequently, this paper verifies Dickens' perspective and gains profound insights into the topic through the analysis of his work.

A person's temperament style significantly influences their behavior and interactions with others, as well as their engagement with the broader environment. Through this, we can gain a deeper understanding of how these two factors interact in shaping personality. This paper provides a profound understanding of personality formation through Dickens' work, offering deeper insights into the nature of humanity. By gaining new insights into personality

formation through Dickens' work, we can expand our understanding of human nature.

VIII. LESSONS FOR US

Charles Dickens viewed the lower-class society of nineteenth-century Victorian England with love and concern. In the annals of the United Kingdom and the vast British Empire, the Victorian era epitomized the reign of Queen Victoria, spanning from the twentieth of June, eighteen thirty-seven until her demise on the twenty-second of January nineteen o-one. The Georgian era, spanning from seventeen fourteen to around eighteen thirty-eight in British history, derives its name from the succession of Hanoverian monarchs—George the First, George the Second, George the Third, and George the Fourth. The characterization of the Georgian era is occasionally broadened to encompass the brief reign of William the Fourth, concluding with his death in eighteen thirty-seven. This period is marked by the political, social, and cultural developments that unfolded under the influence of the successive Georgian monarchs, shaping the course of British history during these years. The designation "Augustan" signifies an acknowledgment of the influence of ancient Roman Republic's Latin literature. It is essential to note that the term Georgian era does not extend to the reigns of the twentieth -century British monarchs George the Fifth and George the Sixth, as those periods are simply referred to as Georgian without the "era" designation. The Victorian era's societal commitment to high moral standards permeated all social classes, fostering both social reforms and limitations on certain liberties. Economic prosperity surged during this period, yet the persistent issue of undernutrition cast a shadow over the era's achievements.

IX. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have investigated the key factors influencing personality development, focusing on Charles Dickens' novel "Oliver Twist." We raised the fundamental question of whether human personality is determined by innate traits or significantly influenced by the given environment. While many believe that both innate traits and the environment play a role in shaping personality, Charles Dickens, through his novel, emphasizes the weight of innate traits. We have provided a deep analysis of Dickens' perspective and presents key research findings derived from his work. The mental and physical scars and stigma developed through experiencing violence at a young age do not easily disappear or heal. Even into adulthood, these

experiences remain in memory and have a significant impact on the future. Falling into the path of evil without a chance to escape, becoming a victim of villains, can easily happen in the surroundings.

References

- [1] D. P. McAdams and O. Bradley, "Personality development: continuity and change over the life course." *Annual review of psychology*, Vol. 61, pp. 517-42, January 2010. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.psych.093008.100507>
- [2] A. Gilpin, *Dictionary of Environment and Sustainable Development*, John Wiley and Sons, pp. 247 p. 1996.
- [3] G. H. J. Pearson, "Some early factors in the formation of personality," *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, Vol. 1, No. 3, pp. 284–291, 1931; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1939-0025.1931.tb04822.x>
- [4] S. M. Kathryn and S. M. Danielle, "The Multidimensional Knowledge in Text Comprehension framework," *Educational Psychologist*, Vol. 56, NO. 3, pp. 196-214, 2021; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00461520.2021.1872379>
- [5] P. Ackroyd, *Dickens*, London: Harpercollins, January 1991. ISBN: 978-1-85619-000-8
- [6] W. Y. Kim, "Comparing the Status and Position of Women in Victorian England and Modern Korean Society with a Focus on the Novel "Tess of the D'Urbervilles","" *International Journal of Internet, Broadcasting and Communication (IJIBC)*, Vol.15, No.4, pp. 366-382, November 2023; DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.7236/IJIBC.2023.15.4.366>
- [7] Charles Dickens (Author), Viking Classics (Editor), Charlotte Davis (Foreword), *Oliver Twist (Annotated): Original 1839 Special Edition with New Historical Annotations (Kindle Edition)*, Viking Classics, pp. 424, September 2023.
- [8] G. L. Colledge, *God and Charles Dickens: Recovering the Christian Voice of a Classic Author*. Brazos Press, pp.224, January 2012. ISBN: 978-1441247872.
- [9] C. Simon, *Charles Dickens and the Great Theatre of the World*. Vintage; Reprint edition, pp. 384, August 2012. ISBN: 978-0-345-80323-8.
- [10] SuperSummary, *Study Guide: Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens (SuperSummary)*, pp. 126, August 2019. ISBN: 1688086285
- [11] Charles Dickens (Author), Philip Horne (Introduction), *Oliver Twist*, Penguin Classics, pp. 608, April 2003. ISBN-13: 978-0141439747
- [12] Charles Dickens (Author) and Garth Nix

- (Introduction), *Oliver Twist* (Puffin Classics) Paperback – pp. 391, June 2008. ISBN-13: 978-0141322438
- May 2022. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2022.111549>.
- [13] C. Wrzus, "Processes of personality development: An update of the TESSERA framework," *The Handbook of Personality Dynamics and Processes*. Elsevier. pp. 101–123, 2021; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-813995-0.00005-4>
- [14] Y. Hang , C. Soto, B. Lee , L. G. Speyer, A.L. Murray, R. Möttus, "Social expectations and abilities to meet them as possible mechanisms of youth personality development," *Journal of Personality*, Vol. 91, No. 3, pp. 601–612, June 2023. DOI: <http://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/8yp6x>
- [15] V. Bilohur, "Formation and Development of Personality Established by Change and Growth," *Humanities Bulletin of Zaporizhche State Engineering Academy*, Vol. 76, pp. 77–89, 2019. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26661/2072-1692-2019-76-06>.
- [16] I. Zwir , C. Del-Val, J. Arnedo, et al., "Three genetic–environmental networks for human personality," *Molecular Psychiatry*, Vol. 26, pp. 3858–3875, 2021. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41380-019-0579-x>
- [17] J. Faulkner, "Vulnerability of 'Virtual' Subjects: Childhood, Memory, and Crisis in the Cultural Value of Innocence," *SubStance-The Johns Hopkins University Press*, Vol. 42, No. 3, pp. 127-147, 2013. DOI: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24538069>
- [18] E. Chase and June Statham, "Commercial and sexual exploitation of children and young people in the UK —a review," *Child Abuse Review-Wiley Online Library*, Vol. 14, Is. 1, pp. 4-25, February 2005. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/car.881>
- [19] J. H. Fowler and D. Schreiber, "Biology, politics, and the emerging science of human nature," *Science*, Vol. 322, No. 5903, pp. 912–914, November 2008. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1158188>.
- [20] M. Kronfeldner, N. Roughley, and G. Toepfer, Georg, "Recent Work on Human Nature: Beyond Traditional Essences," *Philosophy Compass*, Vol. 9, No. 9, pp. 642–652, September 2014. DOI: <https://doi:10.1111/p hc3.12159>.
- [21] S. Paulson, H. A. Berlin, C. B. Miller, and M. Shermer, "The moral animal: virtue, vice, and human nature," *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, Vol. 1384, No. 1, pp. 39–56, June 2016. DOI: <https://doi:10.1111/nyas.13067>.
- [22] Esha S. Naidu, Elaine Paravati, Shira Gabriel, "Staying happy even when staying 6 ft apart: The relationship between extroversion and social adaptability," *Personality and Individual Differences*, Volume 190,