

جامعة تكريت

كلية التربية للعلوم الانسانية

قسم اللغة الانكليزية



المرحلة الثالثة

Subject Name: Novel

Lecture: Hardtimes

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2025-2026

Sixth lecture

The Victorian Age

The Victorian age took its name from Queen Victoria (1830-1901) was the age of Progress, stability and great social reforms. but in the same time was characterized by poverty, injustice and social unrest. the Victorians were great moralists, they promoted a code of values based on personal duty, hard work, respectability and charity. these values were of equal application to all layers of society, but were given their essential Victorian form by the upper or the middle class. Also this era was a time of major social, economic and technological progress around the world with The industrial revolution driving changes across almost every aspect of every aspect of daily life. according to (Taibi 2008)

“An age that began with a confidence and optimism leading to economic boom and prosperity eventually gave way to uncertainty and doubt regarding Britain’s Place in the world. Today we associate the nineteenth century with the protestant work, ethic, family, values, religious observation and institutional faith” (1) 1.2. Victorian Society after the Industrial Revolution The industrial revolution, a term, first coined in the mid-nineteenth century to capture the economic transformation of the period Which spread from Britain to other countries what is particularly understood by the term is a major shift from an organic economy to a mineral-based economy, by replacing wood as a major source of power with coal to drive new steam engines....(Jeremy and Macrailld 2003).

During this period, there are many changes happened in several parts of the world and took place in the life and the work of people (Taibi 2008), these changes are the result of the development of Industrialization which can be defined as the rapid industrial growth that began in England during the middle of the eighteenth century and then spread over the next 50 year to many other countries. The industrial revolution has a positives and negatives changes during the Victorian age, the positive one, the new factories made many people better feed, clothes and houses and the negative one is many people become victims, because this changes made children and women worked in factories because of the bad condition they were lived (Taibi 2008).

The middle and the working classes were the creators of the wealth, they were getting little benefit for themselves and they were without low and political power. Whereas members of the upper class were leaders and kept the political power in the country (Mikanova 2005) and this is what allowed emergence of social classes in the society. In addition, the family life was unhappy for the three different classes it mean the upper, the middle and the lower classes, during the Victorian period, the condition of life were totally different between the members of different social classes. Also in the working conditions the workers was usually from the lower class in the Victorian period with the bad and miserable conditions. "Millions of workers lived in slum or in vacated old decaying upper class houses. The occupants of slums had no sanitation, no water supply, no paved streets, No decent food or new clothing. many now had to walk miles to mill or factory Work.....their horses of work begin at 5,30m and were never less than ten. The 4 Brutal degrading conditions were so awful that drunkenness and opium" (Taibi 60, 2008)

Moreover, there is another term used after the industrial revolution was the child labor, the lower class families in early and mid-Victorian period would not be able to feed themselves if the children had not been worked, the following quotation will show this: (.....but for the vast majority of children<> if it existed at all, was effectively over by the age of 10. beyond that age, and often earlier, children within the lower class required to contribute to family income or to maintain themselves. Even children who did not earn a wage worked long hours in the service of their parent and others at home, in the streets, in fields, and in factories) (Harris 48, 1994)

In some towns of Britain the children of the working class were forced to work. An example is Charles Dickens's character in the novel *David Copperfield* who worked at the age of 12 in a blacking factory. Many children worked 16 hours per day under bad conditions (Mikanova 2005). As mentioned before the industrial revolution led to many effects. A major one is the social class change that appeared in England society as a result of economic reasons, so the British society was divided into three social classes, the upper class, the middle class and the lower class.

1.2.1 The Upper Class: The first class was the upper class, or the aristocracy class that included the church and nobility which had a great power and wealth; it consisted of about two percent of the population and included the Royal family, Lords, the clergy, great officers of state and its specifications, they did not work, the income from inherited land and investments,

and they were always spent most of their time going to social events. In addition the members of this class were born nobility and they owned the majority of the land. They were privileged and they had no taxes, the upper class made a lot of money, the wealthiest ones of them made about 30,000 pounds per year. They put aside 150 pounds per year to their sons and 100 pounds per year to their daughters from the day they were born (Cody 2013).

The Middle Class: According to(Cody 2013) Second class was the middle class, during the second half of the eighteenth century in Britain, there had been a small class of merchants, trades and small farmers, this small class was <> and its specifications, it was known as the intelligent artisan; this class only consisted of men, who provided the income in mental and clean work, they were paid monthly or annually, and their jobs included bankers, shopkeepers, merchants and engineers, Lawyers, businessmen, traders, teachers, and other professionals, in the world the middle class included everyone between the working class and the upper class and new roles were defined for men and women from this class for example middle class men went for work in business, while their women stayed home and take care for their family, middle class men did not get married until the age of 27 or 30 because of the importance of being financially stable, this class made up about fifteen percent of the population, people of this class shared their ideas, they valued hard work, sexual morality, and the individual responsibility.