



جامعة تكريت
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قسم اللغة الانكليزية

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عنوان المحاضرة : Psychological Study in Hard Times

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Psychological Study in Hard Times

Psychological study means analyzing human thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and motivations. It looks at how people's minds work, how they react to situations, and why they make certain choices. It also studies how society, environment, and relationships affect the human psyche.

In literature, psychological study is used to explore:

Inner conflicts of characters

Emotional struggles (fear, guilt, love, anger, trauma)

Motivation behind actions

Mental states (depression, obsession, repression, etc.)

2. How to Apply Psychological Study in Hard Times by Charles Dickens

Dickens's *Hard Times* (1854) is a social and psychological novel that shows how industrial society and utilitarian philosophy affect human minds. Here's how you can apply psychological analysis:

a) Mr. Thomas Gradgrind

Obsessed with Facts and rationality.

Psychologically, he represses imagination in his children.

His later regret shows the conflict between reason and emotion.

b) Louisa Gradgrind

Raised without emotional freedom.

Suffers from repression, emptiness, and a loveless marriage.

Psychological study shows how the denial of emotions damages identity.

c) Sissy Jupe

Represents the imaginative and emotional side.

Psychologically healthier because she balances heart with mind.

d) Stephen Blackpool

Struggles with class oppression and personal injustice.

His inner suffering reflects psychological impact of poverty and exploitation.

3. Steps to Apply Psychological Study in the Novel

1. Identify characters' mental states (e.g., Louisa's emptiness, Gradgrind's rigidity).

2. Look for causes (e.g., strict education system, industrial environment, utilitarianism).
3. Analyze consequences (e.g., Louisa's failed marriage, Gradgrind's moral awakening).
4. Relate to psychology theories (repression, emotional needs, humanism).

In short: A psychological study of *Hard Times* shows how suppressing emotions, imagination, and individuality in an industrial society leads to inner emptiness, alienation, and personal tragedy.