

Mimetic Reading of J.K. Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy*: A Political Critique of the United Kingdom's 2010 General Election through the Analysis of Children Characters' Sufferings

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to analyze the symbolisms presented in J.K. Rowling's novel, *The Casual Vacancy*, in order to demonstrate how it provides constructive criticism of the three biggest political parties in the United Kingdom during the 2010 General Election. The paper employs Paul Ricoeur's Threefold Mimesis as a tool to analyze the symbolisms presented in *The Casual Vacancy*. The paper examines how these symbolisms are used to critique the Conservative, Labour, and Liberal-Democrat parties. The paper reveals that *The Casual Vacancy* provides constructive criticism of the three biggest political parties in the United Kingdom during the 2010 General Election. It highlights the Conservative Party's rigid, outdated policies and tendency to establish class exclusivity. It also emphasizes the need for the Labour Party to pay more attention to its supporters' concerns and to evaluate its members. Additionally, the paper discusses how the Liberal-Democrat Party needs to be more selective in postulating its candidates and resolving its scandals. J.K. Rowling's novel, *The Casual Vacancy*, serves as an effective means of critiquing the political landscape during the 2010 General Election in the United Kingdom. By employing Paul Ricoeur's Threefold Mimesis to analyze the symbolisms used in the novel, this paper demonstrates how *The Casual Vacancy* provides constructive criticism of the three biggest political parties in the United Kingdom. The paper highlights the need for political parties to reevaluate their policies and actions to address their supporters' concerns.

Keywords: *threefold mimesis, constructive criticism, the UK's 2010 General Election, British three biggest parties, The Casual Vacancy.*

INTRODUCTION

The Casual Vacancy is Rowling's first novel that is addressed to adult readers. It was first published in 2012 by Little, Brown and was adapted three years afterward by BBC and HBO as a TV show with the same title. Drugs, sex, prostitution, rape, self-harm, and the use of foul language are highlighted in this novel to emphasize how wretched the society of a

town called Pagford is. The sequence of the story starts with the sudden death of Barry Fairbrother, the town Councillor, which is caused by an aneurysm. His death, later on, alters a series of disordered events in the town because it creates a vacancy in the Council.

The author of the book, J.K. Rowling (2012), revealed that the novel was written after she noticed the presence of change in the atmosphere of the

United Kingdom's 2010 General Election. However, that will not be where our concern is grounded because the novel apparently emphasizes the process of an election instead of solely the result. We are encouraged to figure out the actual purpose of the book. Thus, the present study is conducted by demonstrating how the symbolisms of the three biggest parties participating in the UK's 2010 General Election presented in the novel are interpreted by analyzing the sufferings experienced by children characters. The result of the analysis is expected to be presented in the form of a critique of the mentioned parties.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Previous studies of the novel were conducted by several researchers including the studies titled "*Child Abuse and Child Neglect in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter and The Casual Vacancy*" written by Kamonlaporn Sirisophon (2014) which discusses the way J.K. Rowling elaborates how the abused or neglected children in both novels eventually manage to overcome their difficulties depending their pliability; the second study is conducted by Fitri Fatimah (2016) by employing psychological approach, the thesis was published under the title of *Enmity Reflected in J.K. Rowling's The Casual Vacancy (2012): An Individual Psychological Approach* discussing about the way the characters in enmity use their creativities to build a strategy to win a vacant position; the third study covers the scope of linguistics written by Mega Yuwarisna Widianingrum (2011) under the title of *Flouting Maxims in the Novel the Casual Vacancy Written by J.K. Rowling* from which Widianingrum draw a conclusion that the most recurrently maxim employed by the characters of *The Casual Vacancy* is flouting maxim of relation, which refers to the maxim which occurs when the response given by the hearer is obviously irrelevant to the topic provided by the speaker; the last study is written by Ariyani Pratiwi (2016) under the title of "*Influence of Parenting Style on the Development of Adolescent Personality Reflected in J.K. Rowling's The Casual Vacancy 2012: A Behaviourist Approach*" which observes three different parenting styles (authoritarian, indulgent, and uninvolved) and how

they result on difficult relationships between parents and their children.

The present paper is aimed to examine the symbolisms presented in the novel *The Casual Vacancy* and how they are used to portray the actual events during the United Kingdom's 2010 General Election by employing mimesis theory. After finishing the analysis, the paper is expected to be able to uncover the hidden political messages contained in the fictional narrative. All of the mentioned studies employ intrinsic and authorial analysis to examine the novel, while the present paper utilizes a mimesis approach to explore the phenomena established in the novel. Thus, it can be said that the present study is different from the previous studies.

The present study is conducted to elaborate on how the sufferings of the children characters are used to address the delinquent natures of the three biggest parties participating in the UK's 2010 General Election through symbolism.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Paul Ricoeur's Threefold Mimesis

Ricoeur initiates his study on mimesis because he finds that the former theories of mimesis are not perfectly formulated. This is due to the fact that the former theories only provide the way the mimesis process is done without including the reader's personal reading experience and appraisal during the process of reasoning. His novel theory then is designed by involving the activity of hermeneutic phenomenology in which one is expected to conduct an activity encompassing a cycle of the process of understanding the historicity of a narrative which is proceeded by the understanding of lived time as accordingly to one's reading experience than go back again to the historicity. This process is undergone back and forth until one is capable of understanding the whole meaning of the narratives. Threefold mimesis is divided into three moments:

Mimesis1 (Prefiguration)

Mimesis1 is where the process of establishing the pre-understanding of a narrative is conducted. It

possesses three features: meaningful structures, symbolic resources, and temporal character. Meaningful structures uncover the agents of narrative, as well as the motives which inspire them to carry out certain conduct ensuing certain consequences. Symbolic structure focuses on the identification of symbols appearing throughout the chain of events. Simultaneously. Temporal character refers to the existence of temporal unity between two referential narratives functioning as the media of mediation between both narratives through the congruence of plots.

Mimesis2 (Configuration)

Mimesis2 is deliberated to be the core of the mimetic analysis as it serves as the hinge between Mimesis1 and Mimesis3. In this instance, the process of mediation between both sides of narratives takes place by exercising one's understanding of two times: lived time and cosmic time through historical time. Historical time is produced in the form of a calendar, succession of generations, archives, documents, and thesis. (Ricoeur, 1988, p. 99)

Mimesis3 (Refiguration)

At this moment of mimesis, one is expected to be able to grasp the full meaning of narratives and to come up with a new perspective regarding fiction. The perspective that is produced is supposed to go outside references and is based on one's reading and interpreting experience.

METHODS

Library research is chosen as the method which is utilized to analyze the novel. The data are obtained from various sources in the form of written materials which are considerably relevant to the main topic of the discussion. The data consist of primary data, which are obtained from J.K. Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy*. Secondary data sources are also employed to add more perspectives to the analysis as well as to enrich it.

The primary data are taken from the texts provided in the novel, J. K. Rowling's *The Casual*

Vacancy, hence the data are in the form of narrations, descriptions, slight or deep slices of conversation, and all possible written materials which are found in the novel and are considered relevant to be used to support or answer the main ideas or questions proposed by the research. The secondary data are taken from other books, reports, journals, essays, articles, interviews, and online sources, which establish pertinent data information regarding the theories, materials supporting the theories, and other resources which can be explored to elaborate the analysis.

As the present paper is aimed to acquire the full meaning of time and narrative, data analysis is conducted accordingly to the order established by Ricoeur's theory of Threefold Mimesis. The major analysis takes place in mimesis2 because it is where the answer to the cardinal question: "What are those delinquent natures of the three biggest parties participating in the UK's General Election that need to be brought into rumination?", is answered.

The analysis is held in the proper structural order: mimesis1, mimesis2, then mimesis3. Thus, the analytical process is carried out in three steps as follows:

1. Mimesis1 provides a prior understanding of the world of action provided in the novel by expounding the agents of circumstances as well as their motives for doing certain conduct. The hypothetical symbolisms are mentioned.
2. Mimesis2, conducting a phenomenology of time by mediating historical events with fiction by exercising our reasoning. The symbolisms mentioned in Mimesis1 are mediated with history through historical time (the historicization of cosmic time) to integrate the dissymmetries between the two narratives.
3. Mimesis3, discovering the full meaning of the narrative, which, in this case, is proving that J.K. Rowling's *The Casual Vacancy* is used as a means of critique directed to the three biggest parties participating in the UK'S 2010 General Election. Our personal appraisal is stated as proof that the grasping of the full meaning of both narrations is accomplished.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As mentioned in the previous section, the analysis of this paper is conducted in three steps, namely Mimesis1, Mimesis2, and Mimesis3.

Mimesis1 (Prefiguration)

In the moment of Mimesis1 the analysis focuses on the establishment of the meaningful structures, symbolic resources, and temporal character presented in the novel. This establishment is supposed to be the process of preunderstanding of the fictional narrative.

The first feature of mimesis1, as has been mentioned in advance, is meaningful structures. This feature of Threefold Mimesis expounds the agents of plots as well as their motives. Employing a mimesis theory, this paper undoubtedly attempts to discuss the sufferings displayed in the story. Meaningful structures are elaborated by analyzing the sufferings experienced by children characters in the novel. Those sufferings are divided into three groups: the war between the rich and the poor, children neglect, and dysfunctional family.

The first suffering, the war between the rich and the poor, is experienced by Krystal Weedon, a girl coming from a poor family living in the Fields. Krystal is narrated to be the victim of unjust policies made by the Mollisons. The Mollisons is a senior family in Pagford and they are well-recognized for their eagerness to endorse a wealthy family named The Fawleys. The Mollisons wish the Fields to be got rid of Pagford's authority because the area is resided by people of a low class who tend to conduct lawless actions such as drug misuse, robbery, and rape. Furthermore, the majority of the residents are unemployed and the Mollisons find the fact disturbing that the family thinks they will only add burdens to the Pagford Parish Council's expenses. Krystal Weedon is used as the representation of the Fields. The Mollisons decide to join the unexpected election and plan to remove the Fields from Pagford. The plan makes Krystal depressed and confused. She intends to seek protection from the Walls, but during her attempt, she loses his beloved brother by accident. At the end of the story, Krystal decides to commit suicide by overdosing with drugs she gets from her addicted mother's stash.

The second suffering, child neglect, is performed by two parents coming from Barry Fairbrother's supporters: Tessa and Collin Walls and Parminder Jawanda. Tessa and Collin Walls are described as a couple of working-class who work as educational workers for a local school. Tessa and Colin Wall are described to be well-intentioned persons, but they fail to recognize their adopted son's needs. Colin imposes strict rules on his son, Stuart Wall, and Stuart starts to rebel because he wishes to be freed from his parents' rules so that he can authorize his own life now that he is getting older. Tessa and Colin only provide material support for their son, but they neglect the wellness of their son's psychological state. Meanwhile, Parminder Jawanda is a practitioner in a local hospital who fails to cancel her daughter's insecurity. She even often worsens it. Sukhvinder Jawanda, the poor daughter, always thinks that she is unattractive and less smart as compared to her other siblings. The girl suffers from depression, and she often cuts herself. However, Parminder could not care less about her daughter's mental state even though she is described as a member of the Council who is vocal in fighting for people of lower class rights. Stuart and Sukhvinder, later on, use the unexpected election as a chance to express their anger and disappointment toward their oblivious parents. They decide to join Stuart Price in writing embarrassing threads about their parents on Pagford Parish Council's website. Their threads affect the result of the election.

The third suffering is a dysfunctional family. We decide to pick the Prices as the agents. The victim of this suffering is represented by Stuart Price, the oldest son of Simon Price. Simon is described as an abusive father and husband to his children and wife. He often abuses his family, be it verbally or physically, even only for small problems. He often calls his son names for their "undesirable" qualities. Simon decides to join the election, notwithstanding his reputation as a well-known asocial. He is also considered as a cunning and corrupt person. He meets his defeat after Stuart posts an original thread on Pagford Parish Council's website under the username of *The_Ghost_of_Barry_Fairbrother*. The original thread written by Stuart sparks rumors in the community. Afraid of being processed legally, Simon Price calls off his candidacy.

The three elaboration of children sufferings above also serves as the world of actions which explains the agents of plots as well as their motives.

The second feature of Mimesis1 is symbolic structures. Considering that Pagford's anticipated election is participated by three affiliations, we select three main symbolisms: The Mollisons represent the Conservative Party, Barry, and his supporters represent the Labour Party, and Simon Price represents the Liberal Democrats. The supporting arguments of the decision are elaborated in Mimesis2 where two narratives: *The Casual Vacancy* and the narrative of the United Kingdom's 2010 General Election, are mediated.

The third feature of Mimesis1 is a temporal character which alludes to the importance of the unity of time. We collected the data showing two congruent timelines and plots, which are considered important to conduct the operation of phenomenology. Phenomenology is the key method of undergoing the analysis in Mimesis2 in which one is supposed to mediate between two referential times: lived time and cosmic time, through historical time.

Mimesis2 (Configuration)

In this moment of Threefold Mimesis, the mediation between two narratives occurs. This moment of mimesis is meant to disclose the delinquent natures of the three biggest parties participating in the United Kingdom 2010 General Election after looking closer to the sufferings experienced by the children character of the novel *The Casual Vacancy*. As mentioned beforehand, there are three symbolisms shown in the novel. We attempt to mediate all of the features mentioned in Mimesis1 with the mimetic features of the referential historical time. We determine that there are three symbolisms found in the novel as respected to the historical time: The Mollisons represent the Conservative Party, Barry and his supporters represent the Labour Party, and Simon Price represents the Liberal Democrats.

The Mollisons as Conservative Party

The decision to ensure that the Mollisons are utilized as the symbolism of the Conservative Party is made

based on a number of considerations. The considerations are made according to the analysis of its behaviors, actions, and tendencies. As stated by Geertz (1973), symbols can be described through processes of culture because before being transformed into text, symbols exhibit a texture (Ricoeur, 1984). Therefore, one must certainly observe the conventions, beliefs, and institutions which compose the symbolic framework of a culture to understand the nature of the symbols

The first symbol that we highlight is the manner in which the Mollisons choose to postulate a candidate for the upcoming election. The Mollisons promote the young Mollison, Miles, as the candidate to run for the election because the old Howard Mollison will stand far less chance to win the election due to his age. The decision to postulate a young candidate to represent an old affiliation was also made by the Conservatives by promoting the young David Cameron to run for Prime Minister in 2010. We infer that Miles Mollison is used to symbolizing David Cameron and his youthful maneuvers to restore his associated party's relevancy to modern society since it is considered one of Britain's oldest parties

The second symbol appears in the form of physical matter. Howard is spotted wearing a blue and white Pagford crest to embellish his attire. We believe that the choice of the colors of the crest is not made fortuitously since it matches the fact that the Conservatives logo is also colored blue and white. Another explicit evidence is shown by the naming of the character. Miles Mollison's wife is named Samantha, while David Cameron is married to Samantha Sheffield.

The third symbol is shown through the way the Mollisons favors to endorse people of high rank. The Mollisons, especially Howard and Shirley (the parents), every now and then is described as a family that admires people of high rank, the Fawleys. Shirley Mollison is also narrated to display her massive obsession with the royals. It is apparent by the way J.K. Rowling pictures Shirley's home-decoration preference. Furthermore, the family's attitude of establishing exclusivity in a society that technically is built by the working class is shown by the composition of its members. Even though the Mollisons are considered influential in town, they do

not engage supporters outside their family members. Analyzing these attitudes, We infer that the Molisons represent Conservative Party's behaviors because, according to Gordon Brown's remark during the third prime ministerial debate, The Conservatives tended to make policies that favored the rich. Moreover, he states that the Conservatives were the only party that refused to evaluate the membership of the House of Lords.

The fourth symbol to point out is Shirley's accusation of Parminder and other Barry's supporters for posting the thread against Simon Price, saying that they intended to prevent Simon from splitting the pro-Fields vote. This goes as accordingly to David Cameron's alleged accusation against Gordon Brown and the Labour Party during the first prime ministerial debate stating that they had scared the public with their policies.

The last symbol is the Mollisons' obsolescence which is described through the attitudes of the family. Shirley is given the responsibility of operating Pagford Parish Council's website, yet the website does not seem to be regularly moderated. Additionally, Howard also exhibits an austere attitude of not fancying any changes to his hometown. These can also be used to analyse the fourth symbol.

Barry Fairbrother and his supporters as Labour Party

The second symbolism is Barry Fairbrother and his supporters as the symbolism of the Labour Party. Several symbols are examined to back up our conjecture.

The Casual Vacancy, the title of the book, is used to demonstrate the vacant political condition caused by the death of Barry Fairbrother. As equally to the actual historical event, the United Kingdom's 2010 General Election was called on after the Queen gave her approval to Gordon Brown's proposal to dissolve the parliament, which resulted in the prorogation of the 2005-2010 period. Furthermore, both elections mark the end of a leader's era: in the book, it is the era of Barry Fairbrother, while in the actual historical event, it was the end of Gordon Brown's prime ministerial and parliamentary era.

The second symbol appears in the way the alliance promotes representation. Tessa, Parminder, and Kay, as the members of Barry supporters, impose their biggest ambition to win the election upon a man of potential but is a victim of his own insecurities and anxiety, Colin Wall. Colin is described to be suffering from paranoia. We assume that Colin's attributions are used to represent Gordon Brown's leadership quality. As pursuant to an article issued by The Telegraph in 2010, Gordon Brown was described as a man who possessed great potential as a leader: intellect, huge ambition, and a good heart. However, Brown had failed to read the situations in a better way. He failed to acknowledge that the party was in need of a fresher leader to deliver a better performance (Seldon, 2010).

The third symbol, which becomes the major topic of the discussion in the prior chapter, is Colin-Tessa and Parminder's obliviousness. As expounded in Mimesis1, the mentioned parents are described as oblivious because they fail to recognize and provide for their children's needs. We believe that their obliviousness is used as a symbol of a scandal involving Gordon Brown and a labor party supporter. The leader of the Labour Party, Gordon Brown, was involved in a scandal that afterward was named Bigotgate. It referred to a scandal in which Gordon Brown was caught calling Gillian Duffy, a labor supporter, "a bigoted woman who talks about everything". Brown was excited to meet Duffy because she intended to engage in a discussion with the party leader. However, Duffy's concern on the subject of immigration irritated Brown. The former PM forgot to turn off his microphone after the meeting. He was caught ranting at Duffy after he left the room. Duffy allegedly refused to forgive Mr. Brown, notwithstanding his private apology. She was also believed to sell her story to the media (Lyal, 2010).

To our acknowledgment, Sukhvinder and Stuart are devised as the symbolization of the Labour Party's reckless tendency to be oblivious to the people that they are supposed to care about the most. Their obliviousness, later on, is believed to affect their voters' voting behavior.

The last symbol to be discussed is the composition of Barry Fairbrother's supporters which comprises people of working-class who serve as

Pagford's social workers: doctors and practitioner (the Jawandas), educational workers (the Walls), social workers (Kay Bawden), to lawyers (Gavin Hughes). Barry's supporters unite to continue his efforts to fight for the rights of the lower-class people residing in the Fields. They collaborate to help improve the lives of the lower-class people who, in the majority, consist of drug addicts and criminals under unfortunate circumstances. We assume that this is used as a portrayal of the member composition and mission of the Labour Party. The Labour Party is a center-left winged party whose missions are to bring national economic prosperity and the welfare of social workers.

Simon Price as Liberal-Democrats

The third symbolism is Simon Price as Liberal-Democrats. Simon Price is used as the agent of suffering for his son, Andrew Price. The decision to use Simon as the representation of Liberal-Democrats is based upon the analysis of several symbols.

The first symbol is Simon's position in the election which is considered minor as compared to his two other opponents. Simon Price is described as a man who is barely recognized by the public, while the Lib-Dems were still considered as a young party whose competence was undeniably dubious.

The second symbol is the manner of Simon's defeat. Simon experiences his defeat because his furious, abused son writes an embarrassing thread on Pagford Parish Council's website. The thread is written under the username *The_Ghost_of_Barry_Fairbrother* which reveals Simon's lawless actions, such as using the facilities at his workplace to print out the pamphlets for his campaign and smuggling illegal goods. Meanwhile, Lib-Dems was reported to be involved in scandals claiming that the young party was aided by illegal financial support providers. In 2008, the Lib-Dems faced court because it was reported to have accepted a £2.4m donation from a foreign financier. The indictment, later on, grew more valid, for in 2015, an inner circle of Lib-Dems seniors was accused by the Telegraph's undercover reporter of accepting illegal donations. The party argued that the donation was not declared, which supposedly had to be, because the financial supporter demanded the party to keep their liaison

confidential (Newell, Malnick, Fayaz, Telford, Heighton, 2015).

We conclude that Simon's smuggled computer/goods are used to symbolize the Lib-Dem's illegal funding and donation. Moreover, there is a possibility that Andrew Price might be used to symbolize the under-covering reporter who reported Lib-Dem's scandals (or any other people who did).

The third symbol is Simon's poor quality of leadership. Simon is described as incapable of doing his job as a father and husband because he is abusive and problematic. He constantly mishandles family problems and always rushes to discipline his wife and sons. He also displays delinquent behaviors and a tendency to get involved in bribery. We consider that Simon's poor quality of leadership portrays Lib-Dems' quality of leadership since the party was repeatedly run under the leadership of a problematic or at least unfitting leader: Charles Kennedy (who struggled with alcoholism), Sir Menzies Campbell (too old to do his job), Nick Clegg (allowed illegal funding and donations).

The fourth symbol is manifested through Simon's manner of defeat. Failing to manage his fear of being convicted for his illegal actions, Simon decided to cancel his candidacy as a councilor, whereas, in the event of the 2010 General Election, Nick Clegg agreed to create a coalition parliament with the Conservatives, which means that he also gave up the chance of he being a Prime Minister. Furthermore, as the majority of the coalition, Lib-Dem's voice would naturally be dominated by the Conservatives, be it intentionally or not. Needless to say, Simon's cancellation is used to symbolize Lib-Dem's defeat.

Mimesis3 (Refiguration)

The final result of the employment of the theory of threefold mimesis by Paul Ricoeur (1984) is the grasping of the full meaning of the narrative. After undergoing the operation of Mimesis1 and Mimesis2, we resolve to settle her final finding: *The Casual Vacancy* is used as a means of critique of the three biggest parties participating in the United Kingdom's 2010 General Election.

Achieving the fundamental purpose of the paper which is to reveal the delinquent natures of the

three biggest parties participating in the UK's General Election, we finally come to the conclusion that the work indeed can be used as a means of critique of the three parties by portraying the painful reality suffered by the children characters. We believe that the book attempts to communicate messages concerning the United Kingdom's 2010 General Election. Our appraisals mark the peak of mimetic analysis, which is the understanding of the full meaning of both narratives.

The Conservatives should start evaluating and, if possible, renewing its too-right-winged policies and views so it is still capable of bearing relevancy with modernization. It is inexorable for the developed country to undergo global and demographic dynamics one way or another. Furthermore, the Conservatives should start considering establishing a fairer economic system that prevents certain classes from benefiting from other classes, a system that indulges class impartiality.

Labour Party should start evaluating its members in order to dispense prospective candidates. They also should pay more attention to the people whom they are fighting for. Bigotgate is one of the big scandals from which the party should learn a lesson. J.K. Rowling is known to be a close friend of Gordon Brown, but the present writer believes that the author of the book must always be impartial in her judgment, for instance, by not pretending that the party she supports made past mistakes in handling the nation's economy and welfare in particular.

Liberal Democrats should evaluate their members so they can eventually promote ideal leaders. The party is also expected to resolve its illegal funding scandals in order to regain people's trust as well as its political aptitude so the people will stop questioning its credibility.

CONCLUSION

Serving its function as a dark comedy book, in the moment of Mimesis2, *The Casual Vacancy* is used as a means to criticize or, to the most extreme degree, ridicule the three biggest parties by expounding the

emerging problems resulting from their delinquent natures. Their delinquent natures are modified into fiction through the descriptions of the agonizing reality experienced by children characters: Krystal Weedon's poverty and miserable faith are used to disclose the Mollisons' dislike toward the poor people that it prevents them from gaining the same access to a proper life just as equally with people of higher social rank, Sukhvinder Jawanda and Stuart Wall's anger and disappointment toward their parents are used to disclosing the Wall parents and Parminder Jawanda's oblivious nature despite their good intention to help people in need, and Andrew Price's wounded feeling because of the abusive treatments he keeps receiving abuses from Simon Price has led to the uncovering of his delinquent nature as a person through the thread Andrew posts in Pagford Parish Council's website.

The moment of Mimesis2 is used by the present writer to mediate the symbols presented in the novel to address the three biggest parties participating in the United Kingdom's 2010 General Election. At the end of the analysis, we conclude that *The Casual Vacancy* is used as a means of critique of the three parties participating in the United Kingdom's 2010 General Election: The Conservatives need to evaluate its rigid, too right-winged, outdated policies in order to be able to catch up with modernization and to expunge its tendency of establishing class-exclusivity (for people of higher social rank); the Labour Party needs to evaluate their members so it is able to promote more suitable candidates and to pay more attention to their supporters' concerns to the extent that scandals such Bigotgate can be avoided; The Liberal-Democrats needs to resolve its scandals (particularly the financial ones) and to be more selective in postulating their candidates to avoid offering problematic candidates.

In accordance with the previous study, the main problems of the novel indeed revolve around the faith of low-class people, child neglect, drug addiction, domestic abuse, rape, etc. The present paper also aims to analyze the issues addressed in the novel but with a different approach from the previous study. In this paper, the issues are examined thoroughly, and it is concluded that the novel can be used to critique an actual historical event.

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