

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analysing the portrayal of the protagonist in Charles Dickens *A Christmas Carol*, I would like to draw a conclusion. The protagonist of the novella is Ebenezer Scrooge, a person who spends his life just to make money for himself until he forgets about the importance of time to share with others. One day, on the Christmas Eve, Jacob Marley's spirit is coming and he tries to remind Scrooge to change his behavior. Otherwise Scrooge will end up like him, dragging a heavy chain as a punishment for his greed and selfishness during his lifetime. Moreover, he tells Scrooge that the Spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future will visit him and bring Scrooge to his past, present and future Christmas moments so that Scrooge can see what kind of person he really is.

Charles Dickens as the author of this book has the purpose which is presented through the portrayal of Ebenezer Scrooge. At the beginning of the story, Scrooge is described as a cold-hearted, selfish and materialistic person. The first characteristic, which is cold-hearted, can be seen from his absence from Marley's funeral as he chooses to keep working and making money. Scrooge's cold-heartedness is also described by the narrator's use of weather imagery that

compares Scrooge's cold heartedness with heat and cold weather. The last proof to confirm Scrooge's cold-heartedness is when he stays away from his own nephew even though he wants to get close to Scrooge. The proofs reveal that Scrooge is a cold-hearted person.

Furthermore, Scrooge is portrayed as a selfish person. This can be seen from his unwillingness to give more coal to his clerk although he needs it. Scrooge also has a policy to cut Bob's salary if the clerk takes the Christmas holiday. In addition, Scrooge refuses to support and help the poor people through charity even during Christmas time. Also, the way Mrs. Cratchit complains about Scrooge's behavior to Bob indicates that Scrooge is really a selfish person.

Finally, Scrooge is described as a materialistic person. This is shown when Scrooge says that he prefers to open his office on Christmas holiday rather than accepting Fred's invitation to attend a Christmas dinner because he thinks that Christmas does not give him any financial benefit. His materialistic characteristic can also be seen from his thought that Marley was not wrong when he kept pursuing money during his life time. Scrooge's materialistic characteristic is revealed when the Spirit of Christmas Past brings him to the moment when Belle, his former fiancée, says that she feels her position has been replaced by material possession. To this, Scrooge replies that he does so because he is afraid of being poor and determined to be wealthy. These proofs lead to the conclusion that Scrooge is a materialistic person.

At the end of the story, the author reveals that Scrooge is a dynamic character, which means that he experiences a significant character transformation due to the turning point when he has encountered Jacob Marley's spirit and made his journey with the spirits from Christmas Past, Present and Future. In his

journey with the Spirit of Christmas Past, he sees himself as a good person who has a lot of friends and someone to love until his obsession with money changes everything. Scrooge becomes a person who spends all his time to make money, which causes his fiancée, Belle, to leave him. At the Christmas present moment, after seeing the beauty of the Cratchit family's togetherness and the joyful in Fred's Christmas dinner, Scrooge starts to realise that money is nothing if there is no happiness in his life. Scrooge also regrets his refusal to donate his money for charity after seeing the actual condition of the poor people. Later, after his journey with the Spirit of Christmas Future, Scrooge sees that no one cares about his death and attends his funeral. If he died, people would come just to steal and take away all of Scrooge's assets. After experiencing those moments with the three Spirits, Scrooge realises that he has done something wrong to his life and others'. He realises that fortunately he has now become a better person.

The development of Scrooge's character is shown through his changes from a cold-hearted, selfish and materialistic person to become a generous and kind-hearted one. Scrooge's first new characteristic is generous. His previous selfish and materialistic characteristics have turned to be generosity by sending Bob Cratchit family a Christmas turkey and raises Bob Cratchit's salary. Furthermore, Scrooge also promises to donate some money for charity. All these proofs show that Scrooge, who formerly was a selfish and materialistic person, has turned to be generous.

At the end of the story, Scrooge becomes a kind-hearted person. This can be seen from his attending the Christmas dinner at Fred's house. He also becomes the second father of Tiny by paying Tiny Tim's health treatment to keep him

alive. In the end, the narrator describes that Scrooge has totally been transformed into a kind-hearted person for all people.

After analysing the portrayal of the protagonist, I conclude that Dickens has created Scrooge to show that material possession is unable to make someone find the true happiness. From Scrooge's character improvement, Dickens suggests that awareness and kindness toward others are important aspects to gain the true happiness in life. Before Scrooge encounters the Spirits, he is described as someone who only pursues wealth. He does not know how to pursue happiness and how to love others, which makes him unable to be happy. After seeing many things in his Christmas past, present and future moments with the Spirits, Scrooge realises that wealth is nothing if there is no happiness in his life. Thus, Scrooge has improved his previous behavior to become a kinder person who has a happier life. If Scrooge does not improve his cold-hearted, selfish and materialistic characteristics, he may not find his true happiness and will end up like Jacob Marley.

Dickens has written this novella to represent the actual condition of the Victorian society. Scrooge is the representation of the middle class people during the Victorian era, who mostly do not have much awareness of others because they are too busy making money. Dickens shows how the middle class people treat the workers through the way Scrooge treats Bob. From that depiction, Dickens wants people to realise that it is not right to treat the working class in such a way. Dickens also tries to criticise the Government during the Victorian era for the lack of welfare of children and the poor people. Moreover, Dickens gives an idea of what will happen to society from the changes that Scrooge has experienced so that

readers could be more aware that character changes can also affect positively to the surroundings and the future generation.

Finally, in my opinion, people often act similarly to Scrooge; they keep pursuing perishable things like wealth and popularity, believing that those things could make them truly happy. However, they will end up like Jacob Marley, who has regrets because he has been too busy pursuing false happiness so there is no opportunity to do good things for others. Through this story, the author reminds the reader to spread more love and kindness because wealth is only temporary but goodness will always be appreciated forever.

