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Traddles as an Ideal Character in
David Copperfield

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M. A. THESIS

Traddles as an Ideal Character in *David Copperfield*

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Abstract

Characterization was the soul of a novel. From characters an author expresses his creative ideas and spiritual pursuit. As a minor character of *David Copperfield*, Tommy Traddles was ignored by most critics for the author's short-length description of him. However, as far as the writer was concerned, Traddles was actually the ideal character of this novel as he was a representative of the mainstream values of Victorian society and reflection of the author's praise of human nature as well as his visions towards a better and more rational society. The descriptions of Traddles were short but carefully written. If this novel was compared to a scroll of Victorian social status and customs, Traddles was one of the most striking and impressionistic strokes. All the other minor characters of this novel were less impressive.

Traddles was a great impetus of plot development. First of all, David will not succeed without Traddles' help who did not only witness David's struggling experience but also be of great help. They got acquainted with each other in Salem House where they shared the same miserable childhood. When they met again, they were both grow-ups struggling for a better life. Traddles made a significant contribution to David's career by aiding him in shorthand learning and the domestic publication of David's novels. Secondly, Traddles and Mr. Micawber exposed the conspiracies of Heep, rescued Agnes from Heep's evil hands and restored the property of Aunt Betsey, which brought the climax of this novel. Thirdly, Traddles and Sophy's love story was a tender and moving chapter of this novel.

This paper will demonstrate the argument of Traddles' being an ideal character from four aspects. First, the writer made an analysis of Traddles' character traits which was responsible for his success in career, which embodied the Victorian emphasis on success in career and reflected Dickens' individual experience of struggling as well. Secondly, Traddles' devotion to family reflecting the society's emphasis on the importance of family. Career and family are the two most important pursuits of the Victorian era. Thirdly, Traddles' readiness to shoulder social responsibility was another reason for his being an ideal character. The fourth chapter mainly discussed Dickens' artistic devices in characterizing Traddles. Dickens always tried to moralize by amusing readers. "Good begets good and evil leads to evil" was one of the most important themes of his novels. Traddles' virtues were the major reasons for his success in living a happy life, which provided the research perspective for this thesis.

Key words: Tommy Traddles; ideal character; *David Copperfield*; Charles Dickens

内 容 摘 要

人物是小说的灵魂，作者通过刻画人物表达自己的创作理念和精神追求。汤米·特拉德尔是本书中一个名不经传的“小人物”，由于作者描写他的章节较少而被大多数评论家所忽略。但笔者认为特拉德尔其实是《大卫·考博菲尔》这本小说的理想人物，他代表了维多利亚时期的社会主流价值观念，体现出作者对人性中真善美的讴歌以及对更美好合理社会的憧憬。狄更斯虽然描写特拉德尔的篇幅不长，但都是浓墨重彩。如果把这本小说比喻成一幅描摹维多利亚时期社会现状的人情风俗画卷，特拉德尔则是其中醒目的几笔写意。作者着墨不多，但下笔有力，寥寥几笔，人物形象跃然纸上。作者在这幅宏伟画卷中塑造了上百个角色，但是大多数都是一笔带过，不及特拉德尔形象深刻。

特拉德尔的每次出场都推动情节的极大发展。首先，大卫·科波菲尔的成功与特拉德尔的无私帮助密不可分。他不仅见证了主人公大卫的成长过程且给予大卫许多帮助。他们在萨伦学舍相识，一起度过被鞭笞的童年。再次相见，两人已经成年，各自为生活和事业辛苦打拼。特拉德尔给予大卫事业上无比重要的帮助，帮助大卫习得速记法，促成了大卫事业的一个重要转折点。后来朵拉之死，大卫悲痛欲绝，外出旅游调剂心情，国内小说的出版等事务由特拉德尔全权负责，帮助大卫迎来作家生涯的高峰。其次，特拉德尔与米考伯一起揭露西普阴谋，拯救了艾格尼丝一家，并且收回贝蒂姨妈的财产，推动小说高潮的到来。最后，特拉德尔和索菲的爱情故事，本身便是书中温情动人的篇章。

笔者从四个方面论证特拉德尔作为理想人物的合理性。第一章通过分析特拉德尔的性格特质，揭示出他事业成功的两大特质。这不仅体现了维多利亚社会对事业成功的重视，也是狄更斯本人奋斗经历的映射。第二是特拉德尔对幸福家庭生活的追求，这体现了当时社会对家庭的重视。事业与家庭是维多利亚时期最主要的两大追求。第三是特拉德尔勇于承担社会责任。亲情，友谊，与周围人的和睦相处，这不仅是狄更斯推崇的境界，也是人类亘古不变的追求。第四章，作者分析了狄更斯刻画特拉德尔这个人物的两个主要艺术手法。狄更斯的小说注重寓教于乐，总是试图对人进行道德教化，因此“善有善报，恶有恶报”是小说中最重要的基调之一。特拉德尔的高尚品德无疑是其生活幸福的重要原因，这也为笔者从道德角度进行分

析论证提供了研究视角。

关键词：特拉德尔；理想人物；《大卫·科波菲尔》；狄更斯

Introduction

Tommy Traddles, a minor and obscure character was actually an ideal character in *David Copperfield*. This thesis aims to study the minor character Tommy Traddles and uncover the author's creating ideals. Dickens' short-length description of Traddles made him escape other critics' attention. Surfing on the internet, no one had made Tommy Traddles the argument of his essays in recent decades. Therefore, no literature review could be referred in writing this thesis.

Traddles is indispensable to this novel for the following reasons. He was the only figure who witnessed the growth of David and became his life-long friend. Traddles and Steerforth were both David's roommates and also the only two boys being depicted carefully by Dickens. Although Traddles possessed higher ethnics and personality, which could be manifested through many daily trifles, David was deeply fascinated by Steerforth and neglected Traddles at that time. Later along with David being more mature, especially after Steerforth's eloping with little Emily, he woke up to the fact that Traddles was a noble-minded person who deserved to hold on to. David's changed attitude towards them marking his maturity, which revealed one theme of the novel—initiation.

In addition, Traddles made great contributions on David's success. He spent several hours every night to mock trial so that David could practice short-hand. Traddles played an important part in David's growth. Traddles was also a great impetus for the development of plots. First, he helped to frustrate Heep's conspiracy which brought about the climax of this novel. Second, he helped David master stenography and published books which brought about David's success. Without Traddles, there would not be David's success and the plot development of the novel. Third, his individual struggle for career and marriage also consists of an important plot.

Although there are voluminous researches on this novel, no one had paid attention to Traddles. Researches on *David Copperfield* mainly focused on the following aspects. First, critics studied this novel from the biographical approach. Second, critics studied this novel from historical approach. Chris R. Vanden Bossche argued that the novel was about

David's quest to regain social legitimacy through the discovery of a family. (Vanden Bossche, 87-109) Catherine Waters in her *Gender, Family, and Domestic Ideology* argued that the "domestic angel" and middle-class moral values, etc. were much discussed. (Waters, 20) Catherine J. Golden grouped Dickensian women into three types: angels, fallen sisters and eccentrics. (Golden, 5-19)

Third, many researchers studied this novel from the perspective of psychoanalytic approach. It is regarded as an important means to understand textual complexities, particular those about question of gender and sexual desire. (Bowen, 216-8) Sigmund Freud is the first one to apply this approach to analyze the darker sides of Dickens' plots and imagination. (cited in Wu Qiyao, 3) Wilson's "Dickens: The Two Scrooges" (1940) noted in Dickens's life and work such serious concerns as strained relationships between sons and fathers, trauma in early childhood experience, hallucinations, obsessions and divided personalities.¹ Forth, the language of this novel was also much analyzed. Garrett Stewart in his essay *Dickens and Language* argued that *David Copperfield* wound down with simplicity of diction so extreme as to be flamboyant in its own right.

Fifth, the themes of this novel have always been the research priority. Some critics interpreted this novel from the perspective of Bildungsroman. Russel Whitaker in his *Nineteenth Century Literature Criticism* concluded that the prospect of tracing the life of a real or imagined protagonist from a troubled childhood into successful maturity, according to the pattern of the Bildungsroman, frequently proved both commercially and artistically viable during this period. Charles Dickens produced several remarkable exemplars of this form. (152) Sixth, this novel's performance attracted many researchers' attention. John Glavin in his *Dickens and Theatre* pointed out that Dickens was by every standard account the most theatrical of Victorian novelists. Seventh, some critics interpreted this novel from the translation perspective and compared its different translation versions. Eighth, one of the most discussed topics was on the character studies.

However, nearly no critics paid their attention to Traddles, a minor character with special significances, which was the focus of this thesis.

Critics and readers ignored Traddles for the following reasons. Firstly, Dickens

¹ <http://www25.uua.org/uuhs/duub/articles/charlesdickens.html> 2011-3-20.

depicted Traddles with a very short-length description, which led to his fate of being neglected directly. Critics and readers didn't regard him as a protagonist and thought less about his importance. Tommy Traddles was really a bit part in this masterpiece. He did not appear until Chapter 6. Even in this chapter, he still played the part of small potato. Then he disappeared as David's dropping out soon. The author used a large length to report David's miserable life as a child labor, his ways of escape and new life with his aunt. It seems that Traddles was just a flash in the pan. However, in the later chapter, David met his old friend again in a party. What's more, the author use Traddles' name as a title of Chapter 27. From this chapter, David's life began to interweave closely with Traddles'. Traddles became a vital part and the soul of this novel.

Except David Copperfield, who was studied most often as a protagonist, the evil Heep and the comic Mr. Micawber were also much studied. Thiele David in his essay characterized Heep as both a corrosive upstart in his social role and a living death in the physical role. (Thiele, 201) Thiele studied Heep to reveal the class consciousness of this novel. Micawber was so impressive a character that he has been an entry in the Oxford English Dictionary including the noun "Micawber" and the adjective "Micawberish". Northrop Frye argued that there was a bit of Mr. Micawber in almost everybody we know. (325). What's more, the female characters are also mentioned frequently, e.g. Miss Betsy, Agnes, Dora and little Emily. However, nearly no critics paid their attention to the descriptions of Traddles which were short but carefully written.

Secondly, most critics regarded this book as Dickens' autobiography or semi biography book as it reflected many experiences of the author. David Copperfield, who resembled Dickens in his life experiences, was regarded as Dickens' spokesman. Many critics adopted the biographical approach to study this novel. Therefore, some researchers paid their attention to trace the parallels between this novel and Dickens' life. Alexander Welsh's *From Copyright to Copperfield: The Identity of Dickens* was an exemplar of such interpretation. Many critics paid heed to the close relationship between author's traumatic memory of childhood and the miserable experiences of David, such as Michael Allen's *Charles Dickens' Childhood*. As J. Hillis Miller had put it, the narrative of *David Copperfield* was the clearest account we had of the secret springs of Dickens' imagination.

In order to illustrate the argument of Traddles being an ideal character of this novel,

the writer is going to expound from the following aspects. First, the writer will pile up details of Traddles and uncover authors meaning by close reading. Since Dickens did not depict Traddles voluminously, each detail should be studied and inferred to get Dickens' intention. For example, Dickens described Traddles' clothes which reflected Traddles' status and descriptions of house showed changing economic condition. Second, in order to highlight Traddles as the soul of this novel, the writer will compare and contrast him with other characters in this novel. By comparison, Traddles was the ideal representative as he was possession of independence, honesty which decided his success in career. What's more, his devotions to family and readiness to shoulder social responsibilities consisted of three foundations for being a successful man in Victorian period as well as Dickens' ideal character. Dickens always tried to moralize by amusing readers. "Good begets good and evil leads to evil" was one most important theme of his novels. Traddles' virtues were obvious the major reasons for his success in living a happy life, which provided the research perspective for this thesis.

In the following chapters, the writer will analyze the reasons for his being an ideal character from three aspects including his success in career, marriage and interpersonal relationship. This thesis continues to excavate the fundamental reasons for his success, which rests with his virtues. In the forth chapter, the writer will analyze the author's writing technique in portraying Traddles. The last chapter is a conclusion.

"A drop of water can reflect the brightness of sunlight." Traddles, a minor character of this novel was actually the embodiment of Dickens' ideal and revealed his concern about human. This study will be beneficial for readers to understand the theme of this novel and grasp the spiritual essence of Dickens. What's more, there are still many minor characters in other works of Dickens who played important parts but failed to attract critics' attention. This thesis makes this obscure Traddles eminent and intends to attract more attention from critics.

Chapter One

Character Traits

In order to expound the argument of Traddles' being an ideal character in *David Copperfield*, it is necessary to make an illustration of the author and Traddles in the beginning.

Charles Dickens is one of the most popular novelists in Victorian period. He worked strenuously and wrote 15 novels (the last novel *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* was left unfinished), a large number of novellas and short stories. His works described the life experience of the most ordinary people living in the bottom and deeply reflected the complex realities of English society. After death, he was buried in Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey. The epitaph on the gravestone reads: "He was a sympathizer to the poor, the suffering and the oppressed; and by his death, one of England's greatest writers is lost to the world."

George Gissing made a gracious comment on Dickens. She said:

"Who can more rightly be called an artist than he who gave form and substance to the ideal of goodness and purity, of honor, justice, mercy, whereby the dim multitudes falteringly seek to direct their steps? This was his task in life, to embody the better dreams of ordinary men; to fix them as bright realities, for weary eyes to look upon." (Gissing, 105) Dickens sympathized with people at the bottom of society and almost all his virtuous characters were based on them.

G. K. Chesterton called Dickens "the last great poet." In 1940-41 three essays, by Edmund Wilson, George Orwell and Humphry House, marked the beginning of a critical reassessment of Dickens. George Orwell wrote of Dickens that "In the power of evoking visual images he has probably never been equaled" (Orwell, 38)

He received a great deal of critical claims and was compared to Cervantes and Shakespeare; Harold Bloom thought highly of Dickens and he alleged:

"Throughout the world, he is second only to Shakespeare as a universal author.

Shakespeare is everywhere in Dickens, sometimes concealed, though Dickens's people began closer to Ben Jonson's incarnated humors than to Shakespeare's inwardness." (Harold Bloom, 780)

From the critics' review, it is easy to find Dickens' deep concern with people on the lower rungs and his faith on the victory of virtues. It was the same case in his medium-term masterpiece *David Copperfield* whose publication marked the author's maturity of writing skills as a fruit of Dickens' painstaking labor and great affection. Charles Dickens said: "But, like many parents, I have in my heart of hearts a favorite child. And his name is *David Copperfield*."

Many minor characters were reflections of Dickens' faith on humanity. In this novel, he depicted many minor characters who was obscure but virtuous and made a success at last such as Mr. Peggoty who devoted his life to look for his niece little Emily found her at last. They emigrated to Australia and led a happy life there. Mr. Micawber was also a typical minor character. He was comic and good-hearted. He was poor and sent into the debtor's prison for several times. But he found his way and made a success in Australia at last. There were still many other minor characters who impressed readers deeply. However, all these minor characters of this novel were less impressive than Traddles who was actually the soul of this novel.

As is well known, this novel is made up of a main storyline—David's history of struggle paralleled with three supportive lines including the stories of Heep, Little Emily and the Micawbers'. In addition, there are some small game pieces also attract the readers' attention such as the reconciliation between Doctor Strong and Annie and the long engagement between Traddles and Sophy. The author depicts hundreds of people and all of them are remarkably true to life, which forms a bright spot of this book. However, among all these impressive characters, Traddles emerged from the crowd as the soul of this novel and theme of this thesis as well.

As the pieces of Traddles are scattered among the book, the writer will recollect them to present his life story. Tommy Traddles was an orphan who was adopted by his uncle. His uncle sent him into the Salem House and he was David's classmate. He was the first boy who returned to school and became David's first friend. Traddles was so kind when he saw the placard he did not contempt David. On the contrary, he used his wits to rescue

David from being isolated by other boys. In David's eyes, "Traddles was the merriest and the most miserable of all the boys". (Dickens, 102)

At school, he was always being caned by tyrannous Mr. Creakle. Every time he was beaten, he would draw many skeletons on the slate, which was his way to vent his dissatisfaction. This habit lasted all his life. He was a honorable boy. Steerforth laughed in the church and Traddles was punished as a scapegoat but he did not sell Steerforth down the river. He was very righteous. When Steerforth instigated other boys to bully Mr. Mell, Traddles was the only one who dared to stand out and censured Steerforth. Mr. Mell was expelled from school owing to his mother's living in an almshouse. Traddles was the only one who felt sad and was caned for shedding tears for Mr. Mell's departure. Traddles was very aspirant and hard-working. His uncle was not fond of him and did not prepare him for any profession. The legacy of his uncle was inherited by his wife who only gave Traddles fifty pounds, which was too little for him being a law student. Therefore, he did all sorts of jobs to save money to pay for school.

He did various boring and burdensome jobs such as copying law writings, stating cases, making abstracts, compiling an encyclopedia and so on. Finally, he saved up enough money for his study in the law school. He worked as an attorney but it did not make a success immediately. He kept punching and became a judge. The book recorded clearly the progresses he made all the time. For example, the size of his house was becoming larger and larger. He was patient, optimistic and craved for love and family.

He fell in love with Sophy a curate's daughter. They were deeply attached to each other and engaged. However, Sophy's family's opposition made it a long engagement. Since then, "wait and hope" became their faith. Through their joint efforts, they finally got married several years later. Sophy's family did not only accept Traddles but also respected and loved him deeply.

He was generous to friends and always tried his best to help them even sometimes beyond his reach. Mr. Micawber was a man lived by pawn and borrowing. He was unwilling to settle down. All he had done was moving frequently to run away from his debtors. He fancied all day and waited "something unusual to turn up". Traddles was very generous and he lent his name to Mr. Micawber twice, which spelled a disaster for him. Even in such case, he still got along with Mr. Micawber. Later when Mr. Micawber was

taken advantage by the evil Heep, it was still Traddles helping him expose Heep's corruption and dishonesty, which was beneficial to many other people as well. Traddles also did many good things to David. He helped David practice short-hand. Under Traddles' help, David got married to Dora favoringly.

By piling up all the details together, readers could get a clear picture of Traddles who was quite virtuous and made every success, which made him the central figure of this thesis. Tommy Traddles, a minor character neglected by critics, was actually the soul of this novel for his success and virtues consisting of the standards of an ideal man of that era.

The first reason for Traddles being an ideal character of David Copperfield lies in his success in career, which was a reflection of the belief of Victorian Era that even the lower-class people could move up into the middle-class society through individual efforts.

Generally speaking, although Dickens presents the evil aspects of the world with specific descriptions, such as debtors' prisons and work house, his strong belief in the success of morality is evident. *David Copperfield* reveals the upward movement of the middle class from the insignificance to successful social recognition with hard work and morality. Although evil captures some powerful reigns such as economic strength and social status, morality still exists in humble ones and would win in the end. (Li Dan, 2006)

Victorian Era was a glorious period in the history of Britain, which was named after Queen Victoria. It was commonly acknowledged that it started from 1837 and ended in 1901. The Industrial Revolution promoted the prosperity of Britain society and established Britain as the "factory of the world". The prosperous economy improved life of people from all spheres and changed their minds as well.

Dickens himself was a spokesman of self-made legend. He was born on February 7th of 1812 in a small town of southern England. His father was a clerk working in a navy pay office. He was humorous and lived high but lacked the talent in managing money, which provoked him into being sent to a debtors' prison. Dickens had to leave school and worked in a shoe blacking factory to support the family. At fifteen, he worked as an office in a solicitors firm. Then he learned shorthand and worked as a court reporter. At twenty years old, he has been a successful shorthand reporter in the House of Commons and enjoyed a high income. (Suo, 243) However, his enthusiasm for literature propelled him to embark

on the road of literature. First he worked as a reporter for a newspaper and then he began to publish short stories and novels. He became the most popular writer in Britain at that time. Dickens' personal experiences of rising from nothing became a recurring subject in his novels. Dickens himself was an archetype of rising from obscurity through self struggle. He was optimistic and had a firm belief in the certainty of acquiring individual success through hard and honest work.

Traddles was a product of Dickens' faith in self struggling for success from obscurity. He had a similar exmpled Dickens most than the other caracteperience with Dickens. Though he did not become a writer at last, he resers of this novel. Because he was an embodiment of Dickens' faith of self struggle that meant to make a success on one's own. Traddles and Dickens enjoyed the same quality—independence. On the contrary, David seemingly looked Dickens just as he was once a shorthand reporter and also became a writer at last. However, in essence, his success relied on others' help in a larger degree. David lacked the most essential Dickens' faith—independence.

A. Independence

Dickens highlighted this quality of independence to a rather high degree just like his attitude towards Traddles. According to *Roget's II: The New Thesaurus*, independence refers to the capacity to manage one's own affairs, make one's own judgments and provide for oneself. Dickens valued this quality because it was one of the most significant traits beneficial for his success in career. In this section, the writer will demonstrate Traddles' independence from three aspects.

Traddles was the ideal representative of independence and he made a success on his own. According to the definition, there are mainly three aspects including economical, intellectual and emotional independence.

First, the most important aspect exists in the economical independence. There were three characters in this novel became wealthy through struggle: Traddles, David and Uria Heep. Traddles and David made successes in career through hard-working while Heep achieved his careerism through hypocrisy and conspiracy. Traddles was an orphan, a member of lower social class. He pulled up himself by his own bootstraps comparing with

David Copperfield who was the other positive character building up from nothing.

These two figures all worked diligently to achieve their ambitions and live a prosperous life at last. David became a famous writer at last while Traddles became a successful lawyer and a would-be judge. There are some differences between them, which made Traddles superior to David and made Traddles the representative of Victorian spirits and the spokesman of Dickensian self-made legend. In order to make the conclusion more objective and clear, the writer will make a detailed comparison between them.

David had mother, aunt and some loyal friends such as Peggotty, Agnes, Mr. Doctor and etc., all of whom gave him much support. According to David's individual struggling experience, readers were easy to arrive at this conclusion. In the process of David's growth, he mainly got two kinds of assistance: one was the material assistance from his aunt Miss Betsy Trotwood and the other was the spiritual guidance from Agnes and others. Miss Trotwood adopted him and she did not only provide him a wealthy life but also sent him to the best school. David grew up under quite favorable circumstances and after his graduation he was sent to be a proctor in Doctor's Commons, which was a promising career and need large amounts of money to enter into.

"Why I want to ask, aunt, as this seems, from what I understand, to be a limited profession, whether my entrance into it would not be very expensive?" "It will cost," returned my aunt, "to article you, just a thousand pounds." (Dickens, 355)

One thousand pounds was such a large sum of money! Later, when David decided to study shorthand, Traddles, aunt Betsy and Dick spent several hours every night to mock the court where David recorded their debates. In this way, he acquired proficiency in stenography and led a wealthy life.

Traddles was an orphan and the only relative in the world was his uncle who was a retired cloth merchant. However, his uncle disliked Traddles and got married with his housekeeper. Soon after Traddles left school, his uncle died and his aunt married a young man again. Traddles got all together fifty pounds.

"Why, yes," said Traddles, rubbing his hands slowly over one another, "I am reading for the bar. The fact is, I have just begun to keep my terms, after rather a long delay. It's some time since I was articulated, but the payment of that hundred pounds was a great pull. A great pull!" (Dickens, 410)

Traddles was never been brought up to any profession and at a loss what to do himself. After consideration, Traddles decided to become a lawyer. But he cannot afford the hundreds of pounds to be articled in a law school. Apparently, the apprentice fee of David was higher and it was supplied by his rich aunt, while Traddles accumulated bit by bit for a long time to get the money. He first copied law writings but earned little money and worked as a compiler for an Encyclopedia and stated cases which made him determine to be a law student. Traddles did various jobs to earn money to be articled as a law student.

“So, by little and little, not living high, I managed to scrape up the hundreds pounds at last,” said Traddles.”(Dickens, 412)

Later, Traddles became a lawyer and he worked really hard. He said he was never tired of reading articles of law. Gradually, Traddles' life became better and better. The condition of his house had improved a lot. The size of his house had been enlarged all the time. The house served as a symbol of Traddles' economic situation. When David visited Traddles for the first time, he found that “the street was not as desirable as I could have wished it to be, for the sake of Traddles”. (Dickens, 548) The living environment was “rank”, “sloppy” and “untidy”. “The house was only a story high above the ground floor”. (Dickens, 550) The room was “barely furnished” and all of things packed in the little room. At that time, Traddles had this room rented from Mr. Micawber and a quarter of chamber. Then later Traddles wrote a letter to David that he had chambers in Gray's Inn. David found that Traddles had occupied a set of chambers on the top storey. After Traddles got married to Sophy, they lived in a larger house but still very crowded. When Sophy's sisters came to London and stayed with them, there was not enough room to hold them. There were three rooms in the chamber and seven people. Anyhow, it had been a great step forward. In the last chapter, when David went to have a family dinner at Traddles' house, he described the house as a large one. “Traddles' house is one of the very houses—or it easily may have been—which he and Sophy used to parcel out, in their evening talks.”(Dickens, 1197) The changes of their living condition marked Traddles' progress in economic situation.

Second, the intellectual independence refers to education. Dickens emphasized the

significance of education. He once made a speech in public to point out the function of education. He believed that every country must rely upon the great means of education and improve his people from the kingdom of literature..."² He upheld that the power of knowledge could make people endure humiliation for his dream, teach people to be responsible and value self-esteem. Education was a dividing line between middle class and the working class. Nearly all his characters who acquired success in career were literate. Therefore, education is indispensable for a lower middle-class man to move into the middle class. It was no exception in *David Copperfield* whose characters acquired success through education. For example, Mr. Micawber got success after he emigrated to Australia where he worked as a magistrate. Traddles worked hard to earn money and pay for the law school. Even Uria Heep worked very hard and read lots of law books after work. Dickens paid much attention to school education. Therefore, he made a sharp contrast between Salem House and Dr. Strong's school. At Salem School, all the children were maltreated by cruel Mr. Creakle. Students learned nothing except fear and worry. At that school no justice, no sympathy and no virtues were promoted while at Dr. Strong's school, all the students thought highly of virtues where David felt love and warm.

"Doctor Strong's was an excellent school; as different from Mr Creakle's as good is from evil. It was very gravely and decorously ordered, and on a sound system; with an appeal, in everything, to the honour and good faith of the boys, and an avowed intention to rely on their possession of those qualities unless they proved themselves unworthy of it, which worked wonders..."(Chapter 16, P.246)

David studied in Doctor Strong's school and accepted good education while Traddles finished all his study in Salem House. The different school stood for different educational environments. David was educated to be a honorable man with profound knowledge at Doctor Strong's School. David became a learned person with fine qualities due to the favorite influence of Dr. Strong's school. By contrast, Traddles was the most miserable boy in Salem House and he was nearly caned everyday except on holidays. At that school, he was tortured physically and mentally and cannot acquire any knowledge. However,

² Dickens, Charles. *The Speeches of Charles Dickens*, edited by Kenneth J. Fielding, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010. p.67. This was an excerpt from Dickens' speech of Boston welcoming banquet in 1842.

Traddles was not polluted by the evil atmosphere and still grew to be a righteous man. He had right moral judgment which helped him to make correct decision. His intellectual improvement was the outcome of independent judgement and study on his own.

David and Traddles both continued to study to enter into a profession. They were classmates in Salem House. After David's mother was dead, he was forced to leave school. He fled to his aunt Miss. Betsy for help. She loved David and sent him to the best school where David made great progresses. While Traddles still stayed at the terrible place. After graduation, Miss. Betsey spent abundant money preparing David for the most promising career—proctor. While Traddles made his decision to be a lawyer on his own and made money to pay for his article. However, they both achieved their dream. David's success was closely related to others' help except individual efforts. In some degree, Traddles was a model for David. He relied on himself in doing anything and the spirit of self-help made him an intellectual improvement. Through hardships, David who always sought others' help finally learned to be more independent. Later, Miss Betsy went bankrupt and David began to work to support himself.

The third aspect lies on the emotional independence. As for this aspect, Traddles was also superior to David. First, Traddles had an independent personality and stucked to his ethical principles. David did not have an independent moral judgment and was easily influenced by others. Traddles had a stable emotion and could control himself well while David was so easily changed and learned to be mature under others' help. When they were in Salem House, the kind Mr. Mell was humiliated by Steerforth and driven out of school. David was sorry about Mr. Mell but he laughed with others. While Traddles was the only one who stood out to criticize Steerforth and sympathize Mr. Mell. When Mr. Mell left school, he shed tears in grief. Traddles was very independent in character and stucked to his own principles.

Whenever David was depressed, suffered any loss or made some mistakes, Agnes would always come to comfort him, guided him and led him to the correct path. David was enchanted by Steerforth for a long time and was tainted by some bad habits. Without Agnes' persuasion, he may be corrupted thoroughly and degenerated into an alcoholic or a playboy. One time, when David dined together with Steerforth and his friends, David got drunk and began smoking. Steerforth brought David to a theater and went into the

dress-boxes where the ladies were. In the box, he met Agnes who was shocked to find David doing such shameful things. Agnes asked him to go home and stop making a spectacle of himself in public places. The second day, when David woke up and reflected what he had done, he was full of remorse.

“My recollection of that indelible look which Agnes had given me—the torturing impossibility of communicating with her, not knowing, Beast that I was, how she came to be in London, or where she stayed—my disgust of the very sight of the room where the revel had been held—my racking head—the smell of smoke, the sight of glasses, the impossibility of going out, or even getting up! Oh, what a day it was!” (Dickens, 498)

Agnes was his spirit guider and she warned David against Steerforth who was his bad angel as David was easily led astray by Steerforth. He did not acquire an independent moral judgment until the last of book. Luckily, he had Agnes beside all his life who guided him to move towards a better man. On the contrary, Traddles always did the right thing according to his ethical principles. Although sometimes he made some mistakes in others' opinion such as lending his name to Mr. Micawber, he did it out of kindness and generosity and never regretted what he had done. On conclusion, Traddles achieved his emotional improvement all by himself, while David did it under others' help. David got rid of Steerforth's bad habits under Agnes' help.

They both confronted crisis in life. David had others to comfort him while Traddles had to face it on his own. After Dora died, David was devastated by grief so he travelled abroad. Luckily, Agnes wrote him letters in deep concern which was a great emotional support to David. There were large sections of psychological description of David in this novel, which showed his fragility. Traddles was an orphan adopted by his uncle who was not fond of him. At school, he was the unluckiest boy who was nearly caned by Mr. Crackle every day. “He was always being caned—I think he was caned every day that half-year, except one holiday Monday when he was only ruler'd on both hands” (Dickens, 131) Nobody stood by him to console him. His only way to cheer himself up was drawing skeletons.

“After laying his head on the desk for a little while, he would cheer up, somehow, begin to laugh again, and draw skeletons all over his slate, before his eyes were dry.” (Dickens, 131)

“I used at first to wonder what comfort Traddles found in drawing skeletons; and for some

time looked upon him as a sort of hermit, who reminded himself by those symbols of mortality that caning couldn't last for ever." (Dickens, 131)

Traddles was lonely and nobody cared about him. According to David, Traddles was a strong boy with inner force. He could weather anything all by himself. Traddles was so strong in his heart that he faced the pain alone. He was so optimistic that he just looked the bright side of life. He was so lenient that he easily forgave the man who had hurt him deeply. By contrast, David was fragile, pessimistic and not good at banishing the painful memories.

Independence aided Traddles to achieve success in career and become Dickens' spokesman of self-made legend. He struggled to be a great man on his own through despite all the adversities he had suffered.

B. Honesty

When Miss. Trotwood sent David to school, she gave him three suggestions on how to be a upright man.

She said: "Never be mean in anything; never be false; never be cruel. Avoid those three vices, Trot, and I can always be hopeful of you." (Dickens, 234) This was three important principles Charles Dickens advocated and they stood for his ideals. In *David Copperfield*, there were many moral judgments in the author's narration and the fates of his characters also differed greatly according to whether they were virtuous or not. There was a general pattern in Dickens' novels that the virtuous people will be rewarded while the vicious man will be punished. Sometimes there was some exception, especially in the third period of Dickens' writing when he was a little disappointed towards society and became pessimistic.

David Copperfield was a masterpiece of the second period of Dickens' writing when he still believed in reforms and felt confident in humanity. In this novel, he moralized through rewarding the virtuous characters and punishing the morally corrupted ones. It was commonly recognized that Dickens' novel never stopped moralization because he regarded it as his duty.

Traddles and Uriah Heep both originated from the bottom of society. They were poor

and did not have rich relatives to help them. However, they both made a success in career. As for the economical situation, Heep was more successful as he usurped Mr. Wickfield's authority and obtained a large sum of money by fraud. However, justice would finally defeat evil. Heep soon was driven out of the office, lost everything and sent to a prison. While Traddles worked honestly, his career improved constantly. In the following paragraphs, a detailed comparison would illustrate Dickens' moralization clearly.

Traddles made a sharp contrast with Uriah Heep, a main negative character who also belonged to the lower social class. Uriah Heep's pet phrase: "I am a very (h)umble person." Nearly every time he talked with others he would repeat this phrase for several times. He missed the letter "h" on purpose indicating that he never thought himself humble and just made use of this pet phrase to hoax others. "Humble" was his cloak for his evil intentions. Uriah Heep did succeed in a sense but his success was only limited in economical situation. By hypocrisy and cruelty, he became rich and began to revenge for his being humble. The first thing he did was to revenge for his benefactor-Mr. Wickfield.

When Heep's father died, Mr. Wickfield took pity on him and articed him for free. According to Traddles' narration, readers knew that to be a article of lawyer need hundreds of pounds. Therefore, Mr. Wickfield was his benefactor and helped him rise from his lower status. However, Uriah did not only show any gratitude but also requited others' kindness with enmity. He took away Mr. Wickfield's office and business and he meant to carry off his daughter Agnes. He took control of Mr. Wickfield by deception and wicked means, occupied Mr. Wickfield's house and embezzled Miss. Betsey's property. Uriah was a very mean person who made use of others' weakness and goodness to hurt them. He took his malicious delight from others' sufferings. At last, he became the victim of his own evil deeds and lost everything he got and ended in a prison. His success was acquired by wicked means and doomed to disappear.

By contrast, Traddles achieved professional success through honest work. Their fighting experiences were entirely different. Traddles mainly relied on himself and made every progress in honest ways while Uriah got it by evil deeds. Traddles did various boring jobs to save money to become a law student. Every penny of him was acquired by honest labour. After he was articed and worked as a bar-reader, his employer Mr.

Waterbrook evaluated Traddles as “quite a good fellow—nobody’s enemy but his own.”

He went on judging Traddles:

“I should say he was one of those men who stand in their own light. Yes, I should say he would never, for example, be worth five hundred pound. Traddles was recommended to me by a professional friend. Oh yes. Yes. He has a kind of talent for drawing briefs, and stating a case in writing, plainly. I am able to throw something in Traddles’s way, in the course of the year; something—for him—considerable. Oh yes. Yes.”(Dickens, 511)

Apparently, Mr. Waterbrook spoke paradoxically and irresponsibly. He thought Traddles was a good fellow without enemy except himself, which proved Traddles’ honesty. He satirized Traddles as a man who stood in his own light and would never worth five hundred pound. Then he admitted that Traddles had a talent in drawing briefs and stating cases and did considerable work for Mr. Waterbrook. It was easy to conclude that Traddles was a virtuous people with a high ability in working but was not good at adulation. At last, Traddles became better and better in his career and became a would-be judge while Uriah lost everything and spent his life in prison. Their differences outcomes were corresponding to Dickens’ idea on professional success that any man as long as he worked diligently and honestly would he made his professional progress no matter where he came from. Therefore, Traddles was the ideal embodiment of Dickensian ideas on how to achieve professional success—self-help and honest work.

David was a “lucky dog” compared with “the most unfortunate boy in the world”. David’s luckiness really made a sharp contrast with Traddles’ sufferings. It was easily to judge from the above facts that David’s improvement and advancement was by the aid of other’s help while Traddles’ progress was the result of individual fight.

The writer had examined the novel carefully and found that Traddles always helped others to overcome obstacles and accomplished his goals all by himself. Dickens himself was more Traddles than David in his family background and fighting experiences.

Charles Dickens was the son of a clerk who was arrested for debt and sent to Prison. Thus the twelve-year old Charles was deprived schooling and was forced to work in Warren’s shoe-blackening factory during the time of his father’s imprisonment. Later

Dickens worked as a solicitor's clerk and as a freelance reporter for Doctors' Commons. Then gradually he embarked on the journey of literature. (Tambling, xviii) Obviously, Dickens did not have a rich aunt to support him and strived for life on his own. Although David had done the same jobs as Dickens, David lacked the same spiritual power—self-help which was the just quality of Traddles. In another word, Dickens was the combination of David and Traddles. David was the outer image of him while Traddles was the inner spirits.

Chapter Two

Family Devotions

Victorian valued family happiness to a rather high position, which was regarded as one of the most important criteria of being success. *Home, sweet home* was the name of a very famous song of that time, which reflected people's attachment to home. Dickens highly praised family as a peaceful harbor where any harm could be escaped. Family always played an important part in Dickens' novels, which could be regarded as the extension of family. Stefan Zweig in his *Three Masters* analyzed in subtlety three literary giants-Balzac, Dickens and Dostoyevsky. He argued that each of the novelists he had chosen had created his own sphere: Balzac, the world of society; Dickens, the world of the family; Dostoyevsky, the world of the One and of the All. (Zweig, 2) Just as one famous Dickens critic Eva Showa argued: "Family is the basis of Dickens' novels. An ideal society should stand on such basis. Even when Dickens talked about the sharpest social problem, he tried to deal with it through the interpersonal relationship, education, ethics, and the most significant family. All his positive characters acquired happiness in family while the negative characters failed to get."³ According to Zhao Yanqiu in his *The study of Dickens' Novels*, family was worshiped by both the ruling class and low class in Victorian period, which was looked upon as the way of solving social problems. Family being the most important, the family of happiness and the holiness of family were the three main aspects of Dickens' family ideas.(Zhao, 117) Therefore, just as the preceding lines going, getting the family happiness or not was one standard measuring individual success.

As an ideal character of this novel, Traddles did not only acquire success in career but also acquired family happiness. This thesis mainly discussed it from two aspects. By contrast with David, the acknowledged protagonist of this novel, the writer will make a

³ Eva Showa, *Dickens Studies*, translated by Cai Wenxian, Guangzhou: Guangdong People's Press, 1983. P. 622.

list of reasons for Traddles' being a spokesman of family happiness instead of David.

The first reason was Traddles' outlook of love. Traddles loved Sophy for her virtues and talents. He was patient, optimistic and persistent while David's love towards Dora was aroused by his admiration for facial beauty and wealthy life. Traddles was more mature and sincere in his attitude towards love. Second was Traddles outlook of marriage. Traddles thought that two men with the same mind could make a happy family while David ignored the importance of the similar interests and goals and he paid too much attention to appearance. In the following parts, these two arguments will be exemplified in details.

A. Virtues

Traddles had a different outlook on love from David. Traddles regarded virtues as the most important quality while David valued appearance. Traddles loved Sophy for her virtues. While David loved Dora for her beauty combined with his desire for wealth.

Traddles loved Sophy for her spiritual beauty not her beautiful looks. Traddles called Sophy "the dearest girl". Sophy was very virtuous and good at managing house. The most important, she was very patient and constancy. She proved to be a faithful and capable helpmate for Traddles. What's more commendable, she had the same goal with Traddles.

Therefore, Traddles loved Sophy and would not get married without her for three reasons. Firstly, Sophy was a virtuous girl who was always forgetting herself and took care of others. Sophy was a daughter of curate and she had nine sisters. Sophy was such a considerate girl with domestic competence. Traddles regarded Sophy as the dearest girl in the world as she was always forgetting herself and took care of the other nine. David praised Traddles for his constancy and patience. Traddles thought Sophy was even more virtuous.

"But she is such an extraordinarily dear girl herself, that it's possible she may have imparted something of those virtues to me."(Dickens, 673)

Sophy was the fourth daughter in the family. The eldest daughter was a beauty but she was a little irritable and exacting in character. Sophy always comforted her and put her in

good humor. The second daughter had something wrong with her spine and she had to lie down all the time. Sophy offered to nurse her. As for the two youngest ones, Sophy was responsible for their education. What's more, Sophy's mother lost use of her limbs and was taken care by Sophy.

'But in a merely domestic view it is not so bad as it might be, because Sophy takes her place. She is quite as much a mother to her mother, as she is to the other nine.'(Dickens, 674)

Sophy was of great significance as she took her ill mother's place to look after her sisters and manage the domestic life. Sophy's family intended not to permit her marriage to anyone. They were so selfish that they wanted to keep Sophy at home to look after them for all her life. When Traddles proposed to Sophy, they opposed resolutely. Meanwhile, the economic situation of Sophy's family was not optimistic. If Traddles got married with Sophy, he must bear the heavy burden of her family. When Traddles mentioned Sophy, he said it was a pretty name and Sophy was also beautiful in his eyes. From his description, readers may arrive at the conclusion easily that Sophy was not a very good-looking girl. David thought highly of Sophy and he "felt the greatest admiration for the virtues of this young lady."(Dickens, 674) Virtues were the most important element for Traddles falling in love with Sophy.

Secondly, Sophy was a constant, patient and optimistic girl. She was loyal to her love and would always wait for Traddles. "She is such a dear girl!" said Traddles; 'a little older than me, but the dearest girl! I told you I was going out of town? I have been down there. I walked there, and I walked back, and I had the most delightful time! I dare say ours is likely to be a rather long engagement, but our motto is "Wait and hope!" We always say that. "Wait and hope," we always say. And she would wait, Copperfield, till she was sixty—any age you can mention—for me!"(Dickens, 555)

Then Traddles explained the reasons for their long engagement. Sophy was such a virtuous girl and she always sacrificed herself to help others and she did well in managing house. She was the core of her family and everyone need her. Her family members were very selfish and never wanted to let her go. They obstructed in every way to stop Sophy getting married. Sophy was so kind and was afraid of hurting them. She had to wait for their consents.

Thirdly, Traddles loved Sophy for she was a girl willing to work together with him to create a good future. They both worked hard to buy furniture for their future house. Sophy bought a flower-pot and stand while Traddles bought a little round table with the marble top. 'However,' he said, 'it's not that we haven't made a beginning towards housekeeping. No, no; we have begun. We must get on by degrees, but we have begun. Here,' drawing the cloth off with great pride and care, 'are two pieces of furniture to commence with. This flower-pot and stand, she bought herself. You put that in a parlor window,' said Traddles, falling a little back from it to survey it with the greater admiration, 'with a plant in it, and—and there you are! This little round table with the marble top (it's two feet ten in circumference), I bought. You want to lay a book down, you know, or somebody comes to see you or your wife, and wants a place to stand a cup of tea upon, and—and there you are again!' said Traddles. 'It's an admirable piece of workmanship—firm as a rock!' (Dickens, 555) The flower-pot symbolized Sophy's gentle and constant love towards Traddles. The marble table symbolized Traddles' faith in their love.

David loved Dora for her beauty and wealth. He was mainly fascinated by her beauty and Dora's wealth was also an attraction. David was too easily captive into love by beautiful girls. He had loved at least four girls because of their irresistible beauty, e.g. a girl he met in the dancing room when he was a young boy at school. Later he was attracted by Little Emily and even Rosa who captured him by some beauty in her manners. He was so changeable that he was easily captured by pretty girls. His love was too superficial and lack of the more profound substance that was the spiritual attraction.

Every time he thought about Dora, he thought her beautiful eyes, little hands or delicate clothes, all of which were the embodiment of external beauty. His love towards Dora was in essence the same with Steerforth's affection towards Little Emily. The only difference was that David was more kind and would not desert Dora when he found Dora was not an ideal wife for him. After they got married, the family life disappointed David and he often tried to change Dora. He did not love Dora as she was. Dora's beauty occupied his mind and he knew about Dora's character very little.

Dora sitting on a garden-seat under a lilac tree, what a spectacle she was, upon that beautiful morning, among the butterflies, in a white chip bonnet and a dress of celestial blue! (Dickens, 487)

"I was sensible of a mist of love and beauty about Dora, but of nothing else." (Dickens, 489)

What a form she had, what a face she had, what a graceful, variable, enchanting manner!
(Dickens, 399)

All the above descriptions betrayed the essence of David's love—a love stood on the foundation of external beauty.

What's more terrible, his love towards Dora also interweaved his desire for wealth. He began to love Dora before meeting her. When he first visited Mr. Spenlow, he was attracted by the beauty of the garden and began to imagine the beautiful scene of Miss Spenlow's walking here. There was a lovely garden to Mr. Spenlow's house; and though that was not the best time of the year for seeing a garden, it was so beautifully kept, that I was quite enchanted. There was a charming lawn, there were clusters of trees, and there were perspective walks that I could just distinguish in the dark, arched over with trellis-work, on which shrubs and flowers grew in the growing season. 'Here Miss Spenlow walks by herself,' I thought. 'Dear me!'(Dickens, 397) Garden was an important image which symbolized the paradise. In David's eyes, the house of wealthy Mr. Spenlow was much like a paradise.

When they turned into a breakfast-room, David observed it carefully. He admired all the good furniture and all the kinds of luxurious stuff. Then Dora appeared, David fell in love with her at the first sight. He was enchanted by its well-kept garden and exquisite furniture. All these had impressed him greatly and the beauty of Dora undoubtedly increased his admiration to its extreme. When David visited Traddles, he saw Traddles inkstand with a picture of church which was opposite to Sophy's house.

"The delight, with which he entered into these particulars, did not fully present itself to me until afterwards; for my selfish thoughts were making a ground-plan of Mr. Spenlow's house and garden at the same moment." (Dickens, 555)

This was an important detail which proved that David's love for Dora was not very pure and was mixed with his desire for wealth. After analyzing the process of his loving Dora, readers will arrive at a natural conclusion that David's love towards Dora was mingled with his desire for wealth and his sensitivity to external beauty.

Dora was a naïve girl who could not afford the responsibility of family. She did not

know how to manage family and had not learned to do housework. She was very delicate like a flower. When some unlucky things happened, all she could do was to hide. She was beautiful but cannot do any practical jobs. She was not fit for David. They did not have the same pursuits. She cannot be a helpmate to David. If she had married a wealthy man, she would be happier. She was never trained to be a housewife so she also got upset when David forced her to learn how to keep accounts and do chores.

In a word, they two did not match. In their path to struggle for happiness, David had to fight all by himself. Dora was just a delicate flower so fragile that she had got used to stay in the greenhouse. Aunt Betsy went bankrupt and David returned to a poor life again. Their love was opposed by Dora's father Mr. Spenlow and Dora chose to hide in her greenhouse leaving David to struggle on his own. After Dora's father died, Dora fled into her aunt's keeping house. At the most painful time of David, Dora stayed with her aunts and was satisfied with being treated like a doll. She seemed to forget David. Without Dora's company and lost her emotional support, David worked himself to the bone to earn money and expected to supply a wealthy life for Dora. When he had mastered short-hand and became rich, he got married to Dora. Dora also loved David but she was too weak to stand with him against the tempest of life.

B. Hope

"Wait and hope" was a famous motto for Traddles and Sophy. They used this phrase to encourage themselves. An important quality embodied in this motto was optimistic. Traddles was always full of hopes facing miserable life. He never gave up any hope in getting happiness. Actually, optimistic was not only the precious characteristic which brought him family happiness but also helped him get success in his career. What's more, it was also a manifestation of his humanitarianism. Because he always felt helpful in the goodness of humanity, he could forgive those who had hurt him easily. In a word, optimistic was a rather significant quality of Traddles.

The writer chiefly talked about the importance of this characteristic in his successful marriage. Hope played its big role in two aspects. First, it gave Traddles confidence to persist in waiting for Sophy. Second, it helped Traddles work hard to improve their

economic situation of family which laid a fundamental foundation for their happy life.

In the preceding sections, the writer had illustrated the tremendous obstacles in Traddles marrying Sophy. Traddles believed that his labor would be well repaid. He was sanguine and believed that Sophy's family would change their minds as long as they found his great efforts. However, even he got Sophy family's admission to get married, there still existed economic impediment. At first, he was so poor that all his family crowded in his narrow office. He cannot afford furniture and other domestic decorations.

"It's not a great deal towards the furnishing," said Traddles, "but it's something. The table-cloths and pillow-cases, and articles of that kind, are what discourage me most, Copperfield. So does the ironmongery—candle-boxes, and gridirons, and that sort of necessaries—because those things tell, and mount up. However, 'wait and hope!'..." (Dickens, 413)

He never felt depressed in so many difficulties. He believed everything would go well and endeavored to ameliorate his life. After getting married, they continued to be harassed by poverty. Traddles and Sophy never felt distressed about their poor life and they were hopeful that some good changes would occur. When they were in the extreme poverty, they dreamed of becoming rich one day.

"When it's fine, and we go out for a walk...We look into the glittering windows of the jewelers' shops; and I show Sophy which of the diamond-eyes serpents...I would give her if I could afford it; and Sophy shows me which of the gold watches ...she would buy for me if she could afford it...Then, when we stroll into the squares, and great streets, and see a house to let, sometimes we look up at it, and say, how would that do, if I was made a judge?..." (Dickens, 851-2)

Those were the vivid representations of their being optimistic in the adverse circumstances. At last, Traddles was successful and they moved into the big house they had dreamed all the time.

C. Suitability

Dickens expressed his view that there can be no disparity in marriage like unsuitability of mind and purpose through Mrs. Strong words, which meant that a happy

marriage should and only be built upon a common purpose and the similar mind.

Mrs. Strong adhered to this principle and led a happy life with Dr. Strong while David failed to find this so his first marriage life was unfortunate. David did not realize that the common purpose and the same ideal were the most important element in a marriage and they decided whether the couples were happy or not in their domestic life. Oppositely, he cherished the facial beauty most and chose a beautiful doll wife. After getting married, many problems of domestic management propped out and he began to realize that he need a more considerate and competent wife. When he was lost, he wanted to have a wife to listen attentively to his annoyance and gave him suggestions and guidance. While Dora was not mature enough to understand him, let alone giving him advice. He wanted to have a wife who can run his house well and make everything orderly so that he could concentrate on his career without worrying about the domestic management. However, Dora was unqualified and she made a mess of the house.

Poor Dora, it was not her fault as a spoiled girl from a rich family who was lack of any training in domestic management. Actually, the crux of failure in this marriage was that they two were not suitable. After Dora died, David got married with Agnes and got the family happiness. Agnes was very much like Sophy in her capability of running the house and high intelligence.

Traddles and Sophy were both from the lower class and struggled hard to pursuit happiness. Throughout the whole novel, Sophy was the only girl Traddles had loved and would love forever. He was not scared off by the powerful obstacles stood between them. He worked diligently to build a better life and treated Sophy's sisters well. They two loved each other very deeply and worked together to get married. Facing the opposition of Sophy's family, they still stood together and endeavored to acquire consent.

Sophy did not only supply Traddles spiritual and emotional supports with the motto "hope and wait" but also did some practical work such as saving up for a little furniture to make preparation for their marriage life. Their happiness had lasted all the way of their married life. Though they were poor, Sophy was a good housewife who could make everything in good orders and make full use of every penny and every space to create a comfortable life.

When Sophy married Traddles, he was very poor and their house was very small.

However, she did not complain but try to help. Except keeping the house in good order, she also tried to imitate Traddles' handwriting to copy documents for him. What's more, she gave him emotional supports. She was always confident in Traddles and respected him. She encouraged Traddles to step forward in his work and was fully confident of Traddles being a judge at last. Then they got what they wanted and their life was better and better.

Their love was built on the spiritual attractions and they cherished the same ideals and were like-minded, which was the secret of happy family. That's why they had faith in each other and would never shrink back despite so many impediments. Dickens appraised their love and perseverance and they both were the ideal representative of the author's domestic ideals.

In this book, Dickens illustrated his viewpoints on family happiness by presenting a striking contrast between Traddles' happy family and David's first unfortunate marriage. Traddles took a different outlook on love and marriage from David. Traddles believed in virtues while David was enchanted by facial beauty. Sophy was very virtuous and her precious qualities made Traddles a happy man. Traddles was so optimistic that he did not shrink back facing the opposition from Sophy's family and he worked hard to be a judge. Traddles' choice was proved right by their happy family life. In contrast, David paid too much attention on facial beauty and ignored Dora's characters. Dora was a little girl who need to be taken care by others. David's marriage life often made him unhappy. His first unfortunate marriage proved the motto that there can be no disparity in marriage like unsuitability of mind and purpose.

Chapter Three

Social Responsibilities

Traddles was always ready to shoulder social responsibilities, which explained his popularity among his friends. He was generous to his friends and brave enough to fight against the evils. Nearly every character of this novel made acquainted with him was in fond of him except the evil Heep. Eva Showa argued: "when Dickens talked about the sharpest social problem, he tried to deal with it through the interpersonal relationship, education, ethics, and the most significant family."⁴ Dickens gives weight to the interpersonal relationship and views it as a key in successful life. Traddles as his ideal character had this quality obviously. David knew him at Salem School and they became friends of the life. Mr. and Mrs. Micawber appreciated Traddles and they became close friends. Even the playboy Steerforth had to admit that "there was nothing of the sneak in Traddles." Agnes, Dora, Miss. Bestey and Dick all liked Traddles. Sophy's sisters who were against Traddles at first took to him gradually. Traddles had so many friends for his altruism and leniency.

A. Adversity

Traddles valued friendship. He would never betray his friends and would do anything for their happiness. However, some of his friends made him suffer adversity such as Mr. Micawber. He treated his friends better than himself. He was an embodiment of the virtue—altruism which referred to the unselfish concern for the welfare of others. His altruism towards his friends always brought him some trouble. In this novel, Dickens depicted Traddles' altruism mainly through his unselfish assistance to Mr. Micawber, David Copperfield and Mr. Wickfield. Even though some time his help brought him some

⁴ Eva Showa, *Dickens Studies*, translated by Cai Wenxian, Guangzhou: Guangdong People's Press, 1983. P. 622.

trouble.

“He was very honorable, Traddles was; and held it as a solemn duty in the boys to stand by one another. He suffered for this on several occasions;” (Dickens, 102)

It was David's as well as the author's evaluation of Traddles. Being frugal himself, he was generous to his friends. Traddles was so good-hearted who always spared no effort to help his friends in need. In this novel, Dickens narrated two episodes of Traddles' financial assistance to Mr. Micawber and his generosity was badly repaid.

He lent his name to Mr. Micawber twice to solve his financial problems on the condition that Mr. Micawber was unable to pay back. In Chapter twenty-eight, David invited Traddles and the Micawbers to have dinner together in his apartment. In the dinner party, Mrs. Micawber talked about Mr. Micawber's plan of seeking his fortune. She asserted that Mr. Micawber had great talents and a variety of qualifications. She was firmly convinced that as for Mr. Micawber's being unemployed, the society should undertake the duel obligations. They decided to “challenge the society and set it right” by advertising in the newspaper. Advertising was expensive and they would solve the problem through raising money on a bill. After dinner, David warned Traddles against lending his name to Mr. Micawber.

‘Traddles,’ said I, ‘Mr. Micawber don't mean any harm, poor fellow: but, if I were you, I wouldn't lend him anything.’

‘Oh!’ said Traddles. ‘Yes, to be sure! I am very much obliged to you, Copperfield; but—I am afraid I have lent him that already.’ (Dickens, 431)

It seemed that David's exhortation was too late as Traddles had borrowed his name to Mr. Micawber. Traddles was too simple and good-hearted, he believed Mr. Micawber would not do harm to him. This was the first time that Traddles lent his name to Mr. Micawber. It was proved that David's advice was so right that Mr. Micawber's letter proved everything immediately. After supper, Mr. Micawber handed David a letter in which Mr. Micawber narrate vividly the great loss of the first bill including a large amount of money.

“It would be found in the fact, that a friendly acceptance granted to the undersigned, by the before-mentioned Mr. Thomas Traddles, for the sum of £231 4s.9½d. is over due, and is not

provided for.”(Dickens, 586)

This is a script of the letter from Mr. Micawber to Copperfield. It clearly expressed the unlucky aftermath of Traddles' lending name to Mr. Micawber. A few days later, Traddles' visit proved it. Mr. Micawber's so-called investment failed and their apartment was executed and Traddles' two precious pieces of furniture were also carried off by the broker. Traddles came here to entreat Peggotty to buy his two precious for him.

The two pieces of furniture acted as symbols of the happy domestic life and also marked the great possibility of Traddles getting married to Sophy. These two precious pieces of furniture were proofs of their love and they were two lamps of hope illuminating the long journey of their love. Their significance to Traddles was self-evident.

However, Traddles never nursed a grievance against Mr. Micawber. Inconceivably, Traddles should lend his name to Mr. Micawber for the second time in such case. He explained to David that he cannot bear to watch Mrs. Micawber suffering so he agreed to give his name to the second bill. Traddles was a very charitable man. Though being poor himself, he was generous to his friend. He helped Mr. Micawber twice to get rid of trouble. If his first lending name to Mr. Micawber indicated his generosity, the second behavior showed his leniency. After he was involved into Mr. Micawber's financial problem and the property was mortgaged, he still valued their friendship and rescued Mr. Micawber again from Heep's plot. Though being involved into the predicament himself, he did not complain and continued to be a most faithful friend.

Traddles and David were friends all the whole life. They made acquaintance in Salem House. David was forced to wear a placard on which bore these words—'take care of him. He bites.' David felt worried that others may bully him and seclude him for the sake of these words. Traddles was the first boy who returned to school from holiday. With his intelligence, he helped David get out of the embarrassment of being sneered at by other boys. David was so lucky to meet Traddles first who felt sympathy for the weak ones. Mr. Creakle's plot to isolate David was crushed, which made Traddles one of the most miserable boy. When David's mother was dead, he need go home from school to take part in the funeral. At the last night he stayed at school, Traddles insisted on lending David his pillow.

I don't know what good he thought it would do me, for I had one of my own: but it was all he had to lend, poor fellow, except a sheet of letter-paper full of skeletons; and that he gave me at parting, as a soother of my sorrows and a contribution to my peace of mind. (Dickens, 135)

Traddles, so pathetic and kind, he did not know how to sooth David for such a great sorrow. He lent David his pillow for it was the only thing he could lend. Pillow was soft and Traddles may hope to comfort David against the harsh environment with his soft friendship. How considerate a friend he was! At parting, he gave his skeleton- paper to David for sketching skeletons was his method to counter the sorrows. Therefore, Traddles actually gave two valuable gifts to David: one was his soft friendship and the other was courage to face misery. As for the author's not mentioning other boys' comforts, there were two possibilities. One was that Traddles was the only one who helped him and the other was that other boys' comforts were too little to mention. These were two typical instances in childhood of Traddles helping David when he was in trouble. Undoubtedly, Traddles' close attachment to David and his help to him made him unpopular with Mr. Creakle.

Since David left school and escaped to his aunt Miss Trotwood, they had not met each other for many years until one day when they were both invited to take part in the party held by Mr. Waterbrook. From then on, their life was intertwined together again.

David was less attractive to readers and less important in the writer's mind was that he was lacked of one of the most significant characters that was self-reliance. He was always reliant on Agnes' spiritual guidance and moral judgment, on his aunt's material support to be articulated in Doctor's Commons and on Traddles' various aids in the daily life. Though he began to strive hard on his own after his aunt's bankrupt, he was still weak in the moral judgment. Generally, he was more a receiver than a giver which was opposite to Traddles.

Traddles gave all sorts of aids to David when he was needed. One of the most important assistance was his helping David make success in his career. When David's aunt suffered great economic loss, David had to depend on him to earn a livelihood. He asked Traddles for help to seek a way of making money. Traddles suggested him to learn shorthand.

"I made up my mind to try if Traddles could help us... I wrote Traddles a full of statement of all that had happened and Traddles wrote me back a capital answer, expressive of his sympathy and friendship."(Dickens, 532-3) "Traddles now informed me...that the mere mechanical acquisition necessary...a perfect and entire command of the mystery of short-hand writing and reading..." (Dickens, 533)

Traddles pointed out a road to be wealthy for David. Stenography was so difficult that after working hard on it for three or four months David still failed to master it. After four months, David decided to make an experiment to record the speaker's statement in the Commons. However, he was totally put to rout.

"Shall I ever forget how the crack speaker walked off from me before I began, and left my imbecile pencil staggering about the paper as if it were in a fit!" (Dickens, 532)

David had to turn to Traddles for help again and Traddles tried his best to be helpful. "I resorted to Traddles for advice; who suggested that he should dictate speeches to me, at a pace, and with occasional stoppages, adapted to my weakness..." (Dickens, 532)

Then on the following days, night after night nearly everyday for a long time, Traddles came to David's home where they held some private parliament. In the Parliament, Traddles acted as the speakers to deliver accusations against the Opposition which were played by aunt Betsey and Mr. Dick while David tried to dictate all the speeches. Such debates often lasted till mid-night. After a long time, such good practice brought about great progress of David's shorthand. Traddles sacrificed his own time to aid David and never expected any repay. Besides, Traddles did all sorts of good things to David in daily life. E.g. later after Dora died, David could not bear the great sadness and he started on a long journey. On abroad, he wrote a story and sent it to Traddles who arranged for its publications advantageously.

"The tidings of my growing reputation began to reach me from travelers who I encountered by chance."(Dickens, 823)

Mr. Wickfield, Agnes' father who was a kind old man and operated a law office. When Uria Heep's father died, he took pity on Heep and gave him articles. Dickens made a vivid description of Heep from the eyes of David when they met each other at the first time. "It was quite as *cadaverous* as it had looked in the window, though in the frail of it

there was that tinge of red... It belonged to a **red-haired** person...; who had hardly any eyebrows, and no eyelashes, and **eyes of a red-brown**; dressed in decent **black**..." (Dickens, 229) "But oh, what a **clammy hand** his was! AS **ghostly** to the touch as to the sight! ..." (Dickens, 235) "That his lank fore-finger followed up every line as he read, and made **clammy tracks** alone the page (or so I fully believed) **like a snail**." (Dickens, 243) Colors have special meanings in Bible. Red and black are usually related to evilness and wickedness. Just from the depiction of appearances, readers can judge the characters. "Cadaverous" and "snail" symbolized Heep's evilness. He was like a demon and characterized as a sly and hypocrite serpent.

There is a famous Chinese fable named "*The Ploughman and the Frozen Snake*". A good-hearted ploughman saw a frozen snake and took pity on it. He put the snake in his bosom to warm it. Unluckily, the snake recovered and bit him to death. Snake was a symbol of evilness and ungratefulness. Heep did not only feel ungrateful but also cast his greedy eyes on Mr. Wickfield's office and Agnes. Because Mr. Wickfield was obsessed with meditation on his late wife and drank too much wine, he sometimes became rather weak.

Heep made use of Mr. Wickfield's weakness and he succeeded in making himself a full partner in the business finally. He and his mother moved into Mr. Wickfield's house and attempted to marry Agnes. He became the true manager of the law office and devoured Miss Betsy's property by forging signature. He took advantage of Mr. Micawber's poverty and forced him to do illegal things. Mr. Micawber had his conscience smitten day and night, which also led a deteriorated relationship between him and Mrs. Micawber. Uriah Heep attempted to destroy all the people around him—Mr. Wickfield, Agnes, Mr. Micawber, Miss. Betsy and David Copperfield.

Traddles stood out and assisted Mr. Micawber in exposing Heep's evil deeds. "Mr. Traddles, I have your permission, I believe, to mention here that we have been in communication together?" (Dickens, 749) Mr. Micawber acknowledged that Traddles had been working together with him in uncovering Heep's plots.

"It is undoubtedly the fact, Copperfield," said Traddles, to whom I looked in surprise. "Mr. Micawber has consulted me, in reference to what he has in contemplation; and I have advised him to the best of my judgment." (Dickens, 749)

Traddles acted as the agent of Mr. Wickfield and charged Heep for fraud. David finally realized the true worth of Traddles. "And I cannot help avowing that this was **the first occasion** on which I really did justice to the **clear head, and the plain, patient, practical good sense**, of my old schoolfellow." (Dickens, 763) There were excellent descriptions of Traddles' battle of wits with Heep. At last, Heep cursed Traddles and said Traddles had ruined him.

The just act of Traddles saved Mr. Wickfield's reputation and Agnes from marring this villain. Traddles helped Miss. Betsy evict her property. He also rescued Mr. Micawber from the clutches of Heep and saved Mr. Micawber's marriage. This was Traddles who valued friendship and always tried his best to should his friends' adversity.

B. Leniency

Always forgiving others was also an important factor in keeping a harmonious relationship. Traddles never hated others for a long time. Contrarily, he would love and help them after they went back to the right way. Traddles' leniency was reflected in the following three aspects.

Firstly, he always explained others' behavior in a well-meaning way. Traddles lent his name to Mr. Micawber and acted as his guarantor. Mr. Micawber promised that this investment would be profitable but result in Traddles' bankruptcy instead. Traddles did not complain him and believed that Mr. Micawber would return the money if he had ability. He was lenient to his friends who ever coaxed him.

Secondly, he and Sophy had a rather long engagement due to the opposition of Sophy's family. Sophy's sisters were very selfish and they hoped to keep Sophy single all her life to look after their family. They did not accept Traddles as their sister-in-law. But Traddles did not shrink back but insisted to treating them well. He promised to Sophy's father that he would took the burden of this family and look after all the girls like a brother. Actually, he kept his promise. "He and Sophy squeezed themselves into upper rooms, reserving the best bed-rooms for the Beauty and the girls." He always sacrificed his own comforts for the well-beings of Sophy's family. Finally, all of Sophy's families were fond of him. Traddles was very lenient to treat those who ever disapproved him.

Thirdly, the most important fact of leniency lied Traddles' attitude towards those who had hurt him. Mr. Creakle, the schoolmaster of Salem House who had made Traddles childhood miserable. Mr. Creakle could not resist a chubby boy. Traddles was caned nearly everyday. "He was always being caned—I think he was caned every day that half-year, except one holiday Monday when he was only ruler'd on both hands" (Dickens, 131) However, Traddles did not hate Mr. Creakle. When David talked about their old days with him, Traddles thought those were happy times. He recollected the funny nights they spent together when they used to have suppers and David used to tell stories. All he could remember was happy times. He called "Old Creakle" friendly and said "I should like to see him again too." (Dickens, 552)

Compared with David, Traddles was more lenient and optimistic. David depreciated Mr. Creakle as a brute, while Traddles dubbed him "Old Creakle". Listened to David's complain, Traddles said: "Really? Perhaps he was rather. But it's all over, a long while. Old Creakle!" (Dickens, 552) Let bygones be bygones—this was Traddles' attitude towards life. He was lenient even to those who had injured him deeply.

Chapter Four

Artistic Devices

Dickens depicted Traddles as an ideal character of David Copperfield by employing some literary devices. In the following two sections, the writer will examine these two devices in detail.

A. Example of Personality

Dickens depicted a vivid image-Traddles who was his ideal character in *David Copperfield*. Traddles was a round character who was multidimensional consisting of different personalities. However, E. M. Foster had asserted that Dickens's people are nearly all flat and nearly every one can be summed up in a sentence, and yet there is this wonderful feeling of human depth. (Forster, 76) One reason of his assertion was that Traddles was a minor character who was depicted in a short-length volume. What's more the details were scattered in the novel which led him to be neglected by most critics. This argument holds water to a great degree and most characters are comic and have their peculiarities. But Tommy Traddles is an exception and he is an ideal character of *David Copperfield*.

In the writer's opinion, Traddles was actually a round character as an ideal character of this novel. There are some examples of his different personalities. According to Forster, flat characters were constructed round a single idea or quality in their purest form and readers got the beginning of the curve towards the round if there was more than one factor in them. The really flat character can be expressed in one sentence.(Forster, 73)

However, Traddles did not conform to this definition. He was not as flat as a photograph. Dickens depicted him from different aspects. He was multidimensional. It was really difficult to summarize Traddles in a single sentence. One example of his being round character was that he was weak as a young boy and always beaten by Mr. Creakle.

He was bullied by Steerforth. However, as a young boy, he defended Mr. Mell against Mr. Creakle's unfair treatment and Steerforth's abasement. The same young man could be timid and cowardly while at the same time brave and valiant to fight for his friends and teacher against cruelty. He had two standards. He could bear unfair treatment silently but he would be very strong to fight against enemies for his friends. Later, when he grew up, he was even more valiant facing a devilish Heep who was a satan.

The second example was his generosity to his friends and thrift to himself. Traddles was frugal and unwilling to spend money for himself but he was generous to his friends and relative. He borrowed money and his name to Mr. Micawber, which brought about his bankruptcy. His two pieces of precious furniture were taken away. As the writer had argued, the two pieces of furniture were symbols of love and lamps of hope. He spared their better room for Sophy's sisters while they two were crowded in the attic.

The third example was that he was hard-working but not very clever. Dickens did not depict him as perfect as he can. He admitted that Traddles was virtuous and diligent but not clever. He had a lofty soul but common appearance. Dickens wrote about his untamed hair which looked very funny. He described many scenes of Traddles' hard-working. However, it was not pays on the general meeting that had the repayment. When Traddles tried to learn shorthand, he failed to master it as David did. Though Traddles was very hard-working, he was not very clever. On his way to be a famous lawyer, he also suffered a lot. On the one hand, Dickens wrote about the thick pile law books and his wholehearted devotions to his career. On the other hand, Dickens wrote about his slow development of career. His success came slowly.

The fourth example was his improvement in economical and political situation. His life had been taking place changes. He worked hard to make a success in his career and became a judge from a poor orphan. More conspicuous evidence was Traddles' clothes. Clothes were an important social symbol of Victorian society, which marked the social status and class identity. (Li Zeng, 87) David got acquainted with Traddles at Salem House. "Poor Traddles! In a tight sky-blue suit that made his arms and legs like sausages, or roly-poly puddings..." (Dickens, 102) It was easy to picture a chubby boy with a coat which was too small to cover his body. The image of Traddles was a naive and funny young boy. In Chapter 27, David visited Traddles and they had a long chat. David told

Traddles that he could not help thinking of that sky-blue suit Traddles used to wear. Now Traddles was hard at work in an old coat which indicated Traddles poverty but maturity. Later, Traddles accompanied David to visit Dora's aunts. The author just mentioned the hat and did not describe his clothes. Inferred from the hat, he had been better dressing which alluded to his improvement of social status. What's more, according to Chris R. Vanden Bossche, characters could regain social legitimacy through the discovery of a family. (Vanden Bossche. 87-109) Traddles constructed a family paradise through great efforts which did not only conform to the Victorian values but also helped him regain social legitimacy.

Traddles struggling experience followed the order of the hierarchy of needs, which indicted that he had been improving himself all the time and a evidence of round character. Psychologist Abraham Maslow first introduced his concept of a hierarchy of needs in his 1943 paper "A Theory of Human Motivation" and his subsequent book *Motivation and Personality*. According to his hierarchy of needs, people are motivated to fulfill basic needs before moving on to other needs. The hierarchy of needs is displayed as a pyramid with the most basic needs located at the bottom and the more complex needs at the top of the pyramid. There are five levels of needs in all. They are physiological needs, security needs, social needs, esteem needs and self-actualizing needs. Maslow believed that these needs played a significant part in motivating behavior. Once that lower-level needs have been met, people will move on to the higher levels. He emphasizes the importance of self-actualization, which is a process of growing and developing as a person to achieve individual potential.⁵

At first, Traddles was a poor orphan adopted by his uncle. Then he worked hard to pay for being a lawyer. He had a little chamber. He had satisfied his physiological need which referred to the most basic needs for survival. Then he fell in love with Sophy and got married to her at last indicating his fulfillment of social needs. Actually, most characters of this novel had fulfilled the lower four levels of needs except self-actualizing need.

Traddles was the only character who achieved self-actualization fulfillment of this

⁵ Maslow, Abraham. *A Theory of Human Motivation*, *Psychological Review* 50(4) (1943):370-96.

novel. Self-actualized people had several key characteristics. First, acceptance and realism referred to the realistic perceptions of themselves, others and the world around them. Traddles knew what he was good at and what he was weak in. Second, problem-centering meant that self-actualized individuals are concerned with solving problems outside of themselves. His altruism and always ready to shoulder adversity for his friends were weighty evidences. Third, Spontaneity meant that self-actualized people can conform to rules and social expectations. He worked hard to be a member of middle class, which conformed to the value of Victorian middle class. Fourth, Autonomy and solitude referred to people's enjoying the company of others and need time to focus on developing their own individual potential. His struggling for being a judge was a evidence. Fifth, continued freshness of appreciation referred to view the world with a continual sense of appreciation, wonder and awe. Traddles was optimistic about life and viewed the world with a continual sense of appreciation,

Traddles was a round character and every time his appearance would surprise readers in a convincing way because Dickens actually characterized him multidimensionally. His life was a process of self-improvement from an orphan to a judge. The ideal character need to be round and authentic. Dickens characterized Traddles from different aspects and presented us a vivid and round image.

B. Employment of Archetypes

Dickens employed archetypes in this novel. Many characters had their archetypes. In literary criticism the term archetype denotes recurrent narrative designs, patterns of action, character-types, themes and images which are identifiable in a wide variety of works of literature, as well as in myths, dreams, and even social rituals. (Thomson Wadsworth, 13)

One of the most important plots of this novel was David and his friends' struggle against the evil Heep. After analyzing this plot carefully, readers were easy to find its archetypes in *The Faerie Queene*. *Faerie Queene* was an unfinished English epic poem by Edmund Spenser. The poem was largely symbolic and followed several knights in an examination of several virtues. Spenser had only been able to finish six volumes which included holiness, temperance, chastity, friendship, justice and courtesy. In 1589, Spenser

wrote a letter to Sir Walter Raleigh where Spencer described the allegorical presentation of virtues through Arthurian Knights in the mythical "Faerieland". Arthur represents the virtue of magnificence, which ("according to Aristotle and the rest") is "the perfection of all the rest, and containeth in it them all".⁶

Knight Arthur was the archetype of Traddles who was the perfect man with all the twelve virtues. Traddles as an ideal character of David Copperfield had all the virtues the author eulogized such as altruism, optimistic and loyalty, ect. Traddles epitomized the archetype of Knight Arthur for his moral perfection as well as their significant role in battling with the evil.

Traddles' assistance in David's fight with Uriah Heep was written according to the archetype of Red-cross Knight's fight with the evil dragon. David epitomized the archetype of the Red-cross Knight whose mission was to save the innocent Una from the dragon. Una was a princess of some country whose parents were caught by the dragon. The dragon took her country, controlled her parents and forced her to marry him. Obviously, there were some affinities between these two plots. Mr. Wickfield operated a law office.

Agnes was Mr. Wickfield's daughter who was intelligent, kind, chastity and charity. "I thought of that window; and that I associated something of its tranquil brightness with Agnes Wickfield ever afterwards." (Dickens, 233) David first saw Agnes and she was the embodiment of Una. Uriah Heep was like a serpent in appearance and in characters. When he read books, his hands made a clammy track like a snail. He was sly and hypocritical instinctively. Heep was an evil dragon who took Mr. Wickfield's office and forced Agnes to marry him. Traddles played an important role in winning the battle with Heep. He epitomized the archetype of Knight Arthur, who assisted David the Red-cross Knight in his battle. Therefore, Dickens wrote this novel according to the archetype of Red-cross Knight's fight against the evil dragon.

Initiation refers to the experience that the hero undergoes a series of excruciating ordeals in passing from ignorance and immaturity to social and spiritual adulthood, that is, in achieving maturity and becoming a full-fledged member of his or her social group.

⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faerie_Queene. 2011-3-20.

Traddles underwent a series of painful experiences in passing from obscurity into success and from loneliness into having a happy family. After leaving Salem House, he went to live with his uncle. Soon his uncle died and left him alone in this world without being prepared into any career. He had to leave home and strive for his future. He worked on many boring and toilsome jobs by which he piled up enough money to be a law student. Then he worked as a lawyer and at last he would end as a judge. All his life, he craved for love and family. Therefore, he would not give up Sophy and his dream of starting a family with her. After marriage, he was glad to live with Sophy's sisters was also due to his yearning for family. Through hard working, he returned to a happier family again.

Conclusion

Charles Dickens is the most popular novelist of Victorian period. *David Copperfield* was Dickens' "favorite child" and its publication immediately attracted critics' attention both at home and abroad. Some critics approached this novel by biographical approach which regarded this novel as Dickens' autobiography and studied the reflection of author's traumatic memory of childhood in this book. Some critics employed historical approaches and made lots of studies on the class identity and the social problems of that period. The language and the translated version of this novel were also studied. Characters analysis was one of the most popular approaches in studying *David Copperfield*. However, Traddles always escaped from the critics' attention because he was a minor character who made only a few appearances in this novel.

This thesis studied this character from three perspectives his career, family and personal relationship and examined him carefully in accordance with the spirits Dickens has always been advocating and appreciating. Traddles was actually an ideal character of this novel despite his short-length description. Dickens' novels would never give up moralization and he always hoped to make his readers virtuous. He firmly believed that a virtuous man would make a success through hard-working.

Therefore, Traddles was virtuous and had many good qualities including self-help, altruism, optimistic, etc. which helped him to succeed in nearly every aspect of his life. This thesis was divided into six parts. Chapter one was a brief introduction of this thesis including literature review and the reason and significance of this research. Chapter two talked about Traddles' story and his character traits. Traddles' success in career which was the result of his independence spirit and honesty. Chapter three was Traddles' devotions to family happiness which was the result of his correct view of love and marriage. Chapter four was his readiness to shoulder social responsibility. Chapter five discussed the artistic devices Dickens employed in characterizing Traddles as his ideal character including using example of personality and archetypes.

"A drop of water can reflect the brightness of sunlight." Traddles, a minor character

of this novel was actually the embodiment of Dickens' ideal and revealed his concern about human. This study will be beneficial for readers to understand the theme of this novel and grasp the spiritual essence of Dickens. What's more, there are still many minor characters in other works of Dickens who played important parts but failed to attract critics' attention. This thesis makes this obscure Traddles eminent and intends to attract more attention from critics.

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