Themes of Charles Dickens' novels and their actualization

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Themes of Charles Dickens' novel:

- The difficult childhood of Dickens is a model from which he draws inspiration for his literary works.
- In his novel he wants reflect social changes and the consequences of Industrial Revolution. Dickens reports the industrial society of the Victorian age through a narrative use of the grotesque.
Explotation of child labor

- Child labour refers to the employment of children in any work that deprives children of their right.

- Explotation deprives them to attend regular school and dangerates their mentality, body and social and moral ability.

- The Factory Acts: were a series of Acts to regulate the conditions of industrial employment.
Example of exploitation in Africa:

- 2008: Bloomberg claimed child labour in copper and cobalt mines that supplied Chinese companies in Congo.

- 2012: BBC accused Glencore of using child labour in its mining and smelting operations of Africa.

- Where they worked? Small-scale artisanal mining of gold is another source of dangerous child labour in poor rural areas in certain parts of the world.
Child exploitation behind the big brands

- A 2007 report claimed some GAP products had been produced by child labourers. GAP acknowledged the problem and announced it is pulling the products from its shelf.


- Nike has been accused of using child labor in the production of its soccer balls in Pakistan.
Repressive school

- The typical lesson of the Victorian Age: a lot of teaching was repetition, learning the names and dates of kings and queens, or reciting tables.
- The education of the Victorian Age is based on the Utilitarianism.
- Dickens wanted to create images of the system in which he wished he could changes for criticize the Victorian education system.
Education eastern and western

- The Western parents try to respect the individuality of their children, encouraging them to pursue their passions. For eastern parents, the best way to educate their children is to arm them with skills, get them used to the hard work.

- Example: Amy Chua, a professor of law at Yale but especially mom, wrote a book in defense of the Chinese educational methods, in contrast with the West.

Their children spend their days practicing in math, spelling, playing piano and violin. He prohibited them to use Facebook and video games. But even the tv or the ability to sleep outside. Moreover she force his daughter to play the piano well into the night, without pausing to eat, drink or go to the bathroom.
Industrialization

- An industrialized city was recognizable from a distance by the pall of smoke and smog that hung over without interruption. Another feature of this city are roads, houses, factories, everything is reproduced in specimens identical to one another.

- In Charles Dickens' novel this city is represented by Coketown ("città del carbone"), a metaphor invented by Dickens to describe the negative aspects of industrialization.

- Everything is reproduced in specimens identical to each other, also the human beings are considered equal.
Industrialization in our cities:

- While industries have always brought wealth to the country and a state of well-being to the population, a greater chance of working, it is also true that this phenomenon throughout history has brought many problems.

- Nowadays the condition of our world is transforming:
  - industries that lead pollution in the air, water, and soil
  - atmospheric warming that is leading to the melting of permafrost
  - climate change
  - condition concerning the same factory workers.
Pollution:

- Air pollution is the introduction of particulates, biological molecules, or other harmful materials into the Earth's atmosphere.
- Still pollution is mainly represented by the dark smoke of factories as in Charles Dickens' novel.
- Example: in Italy, in some cities such as Milan, the traffic of motor vehicles is reduced to reduce pollution.
Men like machines

- In Dickens novels there are rhetorical figures (anaphor and repetition) that highlight the mechanical process of machines and suggest the mechanical system of education.

- Charles Dickens wants to make a photograph of the consequences of Industrial Revolution, in particular the mechanization of human nature.

- The factory owners didn't respect the rights of human beings.

- People worked all day with inadequate food rations, often risking life.
Workers nowadays

- Still labor flexibility leads to the mechanization of human beings
- Disrespect of the festivities, the shifts at night lead to not respect the right of men and many times to family breakdown
- Shifts of workers were obligated the inability to turn off the machines at night, leading men to adapt to each job