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ISSN 2338-4778 (Print) ISSN 2548-4192 (Online) Volume 8, Number 1, June 2020 pp. 217 - 229

Fagin's Criminal Thought in Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist

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Received: 27 May 2020 Accepted: 31 May 2020

DOI: 10.24256/ideas.v8i1.1351

Abstract

This research aims to reveal Fagin's criminal thought in Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist and to examine the factors that influence Fagin's criminal thought presented in the novel. This research is classified into library research. The subject of the research is Oliver Twist, Charles Dickens' fiction novel. The novel is used as the primary source, while books, journals, and articles related to criminal thought theories in psychology were taken as the secondary source. A psychological approach is applied to analyze the data. The collected data were analyzed qualitatively. In analyzing the data, the researcher took five steps. The data were collected from reading and re-reading the text, identifying those that embody criminal thinking, categorizing them based on the objectives of the research, comparing them to the theoretical frameworks, and finally interpreting them using a psychological approach. After conducting the research, it can be drawn some conclusions; first, by seeing the eight aspects of criminal thought, Fagin has five aspects which are classified in the high category, and second, the factors that influence Fagin's criminal thought reflected in the novel are societal and economic, neighbor-hood and local institutions, and drugs.

Keywords: criminal thinking pattern, criminal thought, Oliver Twist, psychological approach, thought errors

Introduction

Criminal thought has developed into a prominent and important research discipline. Crime is a major subject of public debate and intense concern. Criminal thought is a crime in the form of thoughts or ideas without using physical violence. In a problem, an idea is the most important thing because, without an idea, a thing cannot happen or be carried out. The idea is the place of the first creation, while the reality is the place of the second creation. So, no reality occurs in this life without previously created an idea. Usually, the ideas obtained appear from existing problems.

The term patterns of criminal thinking itself are characterized as an aggregation of negative irrational thoughts (thought errors) and different types of reality denial and distortion (pathological coping strategies) by Walters (1990). It means criminal thought starts from the mind and then becomes a wrong understanding that is obtained from the environment. A wrong understanding will be practiced in the form of criminal acts. Crime is one problem that always appears from time to time. Walters (1995) modified the criminal thought paradigm as the crime is a way of life founded on excuse, encouragement, and rationalization for antisocial behavior and conduct originates from cognitive patterns.

Criminal acts can be attributed to the unconscious processing of information according to cognitive theory (Beck, 1995), which takes place spontaneously on the basis of cognitive schemas. This is customary thinking which works with little or no critical thinking. Individual cognitive schemas comprise patterns of both positive and negative thinking involving errors of thought (Beck, 1995). Thought errors are incorrect thought, meaning seeing something without context, categorically. It can include believing something without evidence, concentrating on possible negative events, seeing unusual events as a pattern, and magnifying or diminishing isolated aspects. If the thinking habits and unconscious perceptions of the person are too negative or unrealistic, the effect is a misinterpretation of circumstances, negative or unrealistic emotions and, in some cases, mental illness or destructive behaviors such as crime (Beck, 1995).

In other words, criminal thought is an idiosyncratic way of thinking that "develops to support, buttress, and reinforce one's criminal decisions" (Walters, 1990:p.83). Nevertheless, Fridell and Hesse (in Lindblom et al., 2018) emphasized that trends, norms, and consequences of criminal behavior are often overlooked, as it has been shown that these factors predict relapsing crime. Thus, it is important to discuss criminal thought.

In this study, the researcher analyzed Fagin's criminal thought. Fagin, the antagonist character in Oliver Twist, is the chief of a boy-thieving gang. He is very materialistic and cruel. He gathered children who had no family and trained them to pick a pocket. Fagin's criminal thought is indicated when, first, he told the children to do pickpocketing, he did this dirty thing not with his hands but he sent the children that he had cared for. Second, he influenced someone to kill his friend. Third, he hold Oliver for a while before making him go out to try and rob a house. In the end, Fagin was arrested and tried for his crime. The jury found his guilty, and he was sentenced to death.

The setting of the novel is in the streets of 1830s London. It was a horrible time. The Industrial Revolution at that time provided many social impacts such as high unemployment, rapid urbanization, and criminal activity (Hoaglind, 1960).

Lea & Young (1993) also stated that unemployed and marginalized people in London in the 19th century are frequently depicted as 'idle hands'.

The reasons for choosing the novel to study are, first, *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens is one of the best selling books that has been published. Second, *Oliver Twist* has been filmed. That makes someone more interested in the novel because Oliver Twist is not only available in printed books but also in audio-visual like a film. Third, in *Oliver Twist*'s story, many moral values can be taken. Fourth, there has never been criminal thought research in *Oliver Twist*. Fifth, the story in the novel, especially criminal thought, is related to viral news in Jogjakarta such as *Klitih*, and similar to the story in the novel, the person is still a teenager.

Crime is a concept with many facets. Many studies find a crime to be a personality, a feeling, an action or an emotion, its multiplicity has been well demonstrated (Thornberry et al., 2016; Walters, 1990, 1995, 2002, 2012). The criminal behavior model of lifestyle (Walters, 1990) conceives serious crime as a lifestyle that results from three factors, referred to as the "three Cs": conditions, choice, and cognition.

Conditions are features of an internal (heredity, intelligence), external (family, peers), or interactive (person x situation) nature that help shape future behavior by expanding or limiting a person's options in life. Conditions do not cause criminal behavior directly; rather, they establish the parameters of a person's vulnerability to future criminal involvement. From the options made available to the individual by the conditions of his or her life, he or she makes a choice. In turn, this leads to a modification of thinking designed to justify and rationalize the person's decisions and eliminate any guilt that may arise from his or her actions.

Conditions, decisions, and cognitions converge over time to create a complex, dynamic, and multidirectional network of factors interacting. Nevertheless, (a) conditions that set the limits of one's susceptibility to future criminal opportunities, (b) choices may steer one's actions towards certain alternatives, (c) cognitions may help the ensuing lifestyle, the three Cs slowly become interdependent. Not only do cognitions arise in support of choice but they also alter the decision-making process and the perception of assorted living conditions by the individual. Similarly, both choices are influenced by, conditions and cognition and exert influence. Conditions help in assessing one's preferences and cognitions to a certain excert. Although lifestyle theory thus emphasizes cognitive factors in the development and continuity of criminal behaviour, it rejects the simplistic notion of an all-inclusive "criminal mind" (Walters, 1990).

Current interest in the cognitive dimensions of crime can be traced back to pioneering work on neutralization by Sykes & Matza (1970), and the contributions of Yochelson & Samenow (1976) to the criminal personality. In a cognition-crime behavior nexus check, Garvin & Goldstein (1990) found the product constructed from products designed to measure five of the criminal thinking patterns of Yochelson and Samenow effectively differentiated between classes of delinquent and nondelinquent youth.

Walters (1995a, 1995b, 1996) developed screening of cognitive thought patterns, which is known as the Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles (PICTS), to measure criminal thinking. The PICTS indicates the general degree of criminal thinking (GTC) with the limit value of >50. Values from 61 indicate a high GCT. Related to the "three Cs", with an eye to evaluate the third C of lifestyle theory: cognition, the PICTS was created.

Criminal thinking can be linked to eight particular patterns of thinking consisting of mollification (rationalizing behavior by placing blame on external factors), cut-off (quickly disregarding thoughts that deter from crime), entitlement (permitting criminal behavior by a special privileged self-attribution), power orientation (the need for utmost control over the environment and others), sentimentality (doing something good to offset one's negative feelings about one's behavior), superoptimism (confidence in one's ability to evade the typical negative outcome of crime), cognitive indolence (using mental "short cuts" instead of using more developed and thoughtful mental strategies), and discontinuity (lack of perseverance and reliability in both behavior and thinking) (Walters, 2007). Criminal thinking consists of eight errors of thinking that maintain and preserve the characteristics of irresponsibility, self-indulgence, interpersonal intrusiveness, and breaking the social rule (Walters, 1990).

Related to the criminal thought process, some factors cause criminal thought. According to Ellis & Walsh (1999), there are eight factors that causing crime, they are societal and economic factors (caused by an economic system that frustrates certain attempts to participate, power inequalities in law enforcement and education, marking factors), neighbor-hood and local institutions (caused by lack of educational opportunities, lack of religious/moral education, peer impacts, bad example of business leaders and community leaders), family factors (caused by lack of supervision & monitoring, poor practices of discipline, bad example, unstable family life), mass media (caused by violence portrayals, pornography, creating unrealistic and unattainable goals), individual differences (caused by low intelligence, mental illness, impulse, risk-taking, lack of empathy and compassion for others), biological factors (caused by evolutionary (natural selection), genetic, hormonal, neurological factors), drugs/ drug use (caused by alcohol, soft drugs, hard drugs), and criminal justice system (caused by failure to be punitive enough, inappropriate or too harsh punishment/ treatment).

Method

This research applies the psychological approach to help in analyzing the novel. According to Subhan (2015), the psychological approach of literature has a view that psychology (the science or study of mind and its processes) can be used to help a literary critic or a literary researcher to explain, interpret, and evaluate literary works. Psychology can be used to explain the psychology of the author and its impact on the making of the novel. In addition, psychology can be used to explain the character and characterization. Subhan (2015) also writes that psychology can explain why a certain character in the novel becomes bad, good,

frustrated, illuminated, or killed by someone.

Based on the statement of Wellek & Warren (1949), the psychology of literature has four branches as follow:

- 1. The psychological study of the writer as a type and as an individual:
- 2. The study of the creative process;
- 3. The study of psychological types and laws present within works of literature;
- 4. The study of the effects of literature upon its readers (audience psychology)

By "psychology of literature" we may mean the psychological study of the writer, as a type and as an individual, or the study of the creative process or the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of literature, or finally, the effects of literature upon its reader (audience psychology). The fourth we shall consider under "Literature and Society"; the other three shall be here be discussed in turn. Probably only the third belongs, in the strictest sense, to literary study. The first two are sub-divisions of the psychology of art: though at times, they may serve as engaging pedagogic approaches to the study of literature, we should disavow any attempt to evaluate literary works in terms of their origins (the genetic fallacy).

This research used descriptive qualitative research to analyze the data. It employed textual analysis which focused on the narrative of the text. Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* was the principal source of data. The data consisted of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, and paragraphs depicting and implying criminal thought. The researcher analyzed the data using five stages. The data were obtained by reading and re-reading the text, finding those that portray criminal thinking, categorizing them based on the aims of the study, matching them with theoretical frameworks, and eventually interpreting them using a psychological approach.

Results

In this novel, there is the most famous villain; he is the Fagin. Fagin is intended as the criminal masterpiece in Oliver Twist. He gathered children who had no family and trained them to pickpocket. Then the result of the pickpocketing he saves to his old age because he wants to have a lot of money without having to work hard.

Fagin's Criminal Thought

This section is the main part of the article the results of research and is usually the longest part of an article. The results of the research presented in this section are the result of a clean process of data analysis such as statistical calculations and testing processes or other processes for the achievement of its research. State the findings of the research concisely.

In favor of a criminal lifestyle, Walters (1990) suggested that eight thinking

styles as the basis for the criminal thought process. Walters believed that while interrelated, these eight styles of thought are sufficiently distinct cognitive aspects of the criminal lifestyle. The Psychological Inventory of Criminal Thinking Styles (PICTS) is an assessment instrument, developed to assess those eight thinking styles. The eight thinking styles include:

Mollification

Someone who has high mollification is he/she who "looks to the environment for explanations of his/her behavior, blames own antisocial actions on external circumstances" (Walters, 2014: p.108). Fagin's mollification can be classified into high. It can be seen from the following quotation:

"As John Dawkins objected to their entering London before nightfall, it was nearly eleven o'clock when they reached the turnpike at Islangton. They crossed from the Angel into St. John's Road; struck down the small street which terminates at Sadler's Wells Theatre; through Exmouth Street and Coppice Row; down the little court by the side of the workhouse; across the classic ground which once bore the name of Hockley-in-the-Hole; thence into Little Saffron Hill; and so into Saffron Hill the Great: along which the Dodger scudded at a rapid pace, directing Oliver to follow close at his heels." (Dickens, 2017: p.93)

The following quotation shows the same issue:

"Although Oliver had enough to occupy his attention in keeping sight of his leader, he could not help bestowing a few hasty glances on either side of the way, as he passed along. A dirtier or more wretched place he had never seen. The street was very narrow and muddy, and the air was impregnated with filthy odours." (Dickens, 2017: p.94)

Dawkins invited Oliver to Fagin's home where Fagin's home environment was a slum environment. Usually, one of the slum environment is caused by population density. If a region has a very large population, this will have an impact on unemployment because there is an imbalance of the population with available jobs. This is what allows a person to commit a criminal act such as pickpocketing in order to maintain a living.

Entitlement

Someone who has high entitlement is he/she who "believes others, including society, owe him/her; often misidentifies wants as needs; views self as unique, privileged, and special" (Walters, 2014: p.108). Fagin's entitlement can be classified into high. It can be seen in the following quotation:

"Ah!' said the Jew, turning rather pale. 'They- they're mine, Oliver; my little property. All I have to live upon, in my old age. The folks call me a miser, my dear. Only a miser; that's all." (Dickens, 2017: p.101)

Fagin misidentified wants as needs. He put aside the needs for the sake of achieving desires without thinking about the problems that will occur. He needed relating to everything that must be met, while desires related to one's desires. He

wanted to enjoy his old age without having to work hard with the treasure he had collected, which was stolen. In fact, someone lives in need of help from others, therefore it is better to establish communication with others so that it is useful for others and himself.

Fagin is a person who easily believes in people. People who are easy to believe in others usually he does not think critically and not many ask, to find out the truth of the information obtained. Like the character Fagin in this novel, he suspects Nancy—a young woman and prostitute who had been trained by Fagin to that profession. Then, he sends Noah Claypole to follow Nancy. Noah Claypole is a generous boy who works for The Undertaker with a tough look. He is one of the gang members in Fagin. Noah tells Fagin what Nancy has done. Without much thought it Fagin believed in what Noah said about Nancy. It can be seen from the quotation as follows:

"So the only proofs of the boy's identity lie at the bottom of the river, and the old hag that received them from the mother is rotting in her coffin." (Dickens, 2017: p.483)

The following quotation shows the same issue:

"In short, Fagin," he says, "Jew as you are, you never laid such snares as I'll contrive for my young brother, Oliver." (Dickens, 2017: p.484)

Fagin believed what monks say about Oliver's identity and Oliver was monk's brother.

The following quotation also shows that Fagin is a person who easily believes in people:

"Tell me that again-once again, just for him to hear, 'said the Jew, pointing to Sikes as he spoke. 'Tell yer what?' asked the sleepy Noah, shaking himself pettishly. 'Tell about-Nancy,' said Fagin, cluthing Sikes by the wrist, as if to prevent his leaving the house before he had heard enough. 'You followed her?' 'Yes.' 'Where she met two people.' 'So she did.' 'A gentleman and a lady that she had gone to of her own accord before, who asked her to give up all her pals, and Monks first, which she did-and to describe him, which she did- and to tell her what house it was that we meet at, and go to, which she did- and where it could be best watched from, which she did- and what time the people went there, which she did. She did all this. She told it all every word without a threat, without a murmur- she did- did she not?' cried Fagin, half-mad with fury." (Dickens, 2017: p.571)

Fagin believed in the information conveyed by Noah Claypole that Nancy met Mr. Brownlow and Rose and she gave them all the information they could need to find Monks there, without arousing anyone's suspicions.

Power Orientation

Someone who has high power orientation has a "desire to be in control of situations and other people, drive for power can lead to conflict with others, argumentative and always wants things his/her way" (Walters, 2014: p.108). Fagin

was someone who tends to control and control others, with his guile. Fagin was a cunning man, he gathered the children then trained to be a pickpocket. The way he teaches is so smooth that it makes children unaware that they are being trained on how to do pickpocketing. Here, he trained Oliver with a strange game. Fagin, Bates, and Dodger then play a game. Bates is the Dodger's sprightly young pal and another member of Fagin. Dodger is the perfect pickpocket for Fagin and it is he who meets Oliver and takes him to London and the location of Fagin. From the following quotation, Fagin's power orientation can be classified into high.

"...we'll teach Oliver how to do it. Shall us Oliver, eh? Ha! ha! ha!" (Dickens, 2017: p.103)

The following quotation shows the same issue:

"When the breakfast was cleared away; the merry old gentleman and the boys played at a very curious and uncommon game, which was performed in this way. Fagin pretends to be an old man walking along, and Bates and the Dodger pickpocket him. Fagin tells Oliver if he works like Dodger and does as he says, he will end up a great gentleman." (Dickens, 2017: p.104)

Fagin tried to influence Oliver's mind. Fagin influenced innocent children like Oliver to be trained as pickpockets. He did not realize that Fagin was showing a strange game with Bates and Dodger that was actually how to do pickpocketing.

"I'm afraid that, if the game was up with us, it might be up with a good many more, and that it would come out rather worse for you than it would for me, my dear." (Dickens, 2017: p.145)

Similar to the previous quotation, Fagin tried to influence Sikes's mind by saying that if Oliver did not return to them, that would endanger Sikes. Fagin said this so that Sikes would recapture Oliver. Actually, Fagin was afraid and worried if Oliver did not return to them.

Sentimentality

Someone who has low sentimentality has "little evidence that the individual uses concern for others to justify his/her criminal actions, in some cases, scores in this range indicate a callous disregard for the feelings of others" (Walters, 2014: p.108). Fagin is greedy people and does not care about the feelings of others. After the children he worked on, then the result was handed over to the Fagin for his old age without sharing to anyone even the children who worked. He also influenced Nancy by saying that he is worried about her, as Sikes is so brutal to her. Sikes is a thief who often works with Fagin. He said that he had a friend in him.

Fagin has high sentimentality. It can be proved from the quotation as follows:

"Ah! 'said the Jew, turning rather pale. 'They-they're mine, Oliver; my little property. All I have to live upon, in my old age. The folks call me a miser, my dear. Only a miser; that's all." (Dickens, 2017: p.101)

Fagin's stolen goods are stored for old age. He kept it to himself. Although the

stolen goods were the result of small children deliberately trained by him, he did not share the results with them.

"No matter just now. We'll talk of this again. You have a friend in me, Nance; a staunch friend. I have the means at hand, quiet and close. If you want revenge on those that treat you like a dog-like a dog! worse than his dog, for he humours him sometimes-come to me. I say, come to me. He is the mere hound of a day, but you know me of old, Nance." (Dickens, 2017: p.543)

Fagin attempted to persuade Nancy to kill Sikes so that Fagin will no longer have to think about Sikes, who knows too much for Fagin's taste. Fagin, here, is driven solely by self-interest and greed.

Superoptimism

Someone who has low superoptimism has "cognizant of the negative consequences of crime and is not overconfident in his/her appraisal of the chances of getting away with crime" (Walters, 2014: p.108). Even though Fagin was a cruel, cunning and often controlling person, Fagin also had a fear of what he had done. He was afraid when Oliver was caught when Oliver, Bates, and Dodger will pick someone at a bookstall. Bates and Dodger managed to escape after being caught picking pocketing. But when Oliver ran he was caught by the people around there. Fagin was afraid that Oliver would say out of about him. Fagin's superoptimism can be classified into low. It is shown in the quotation as follows:

"I'm afraid, that he may say something which will get us into trouble." (Dickens, 2017: p.145)

Fagin was frightened to find that Oliver did not return with Bates and the Dodger after pickpocketing, Fagin was worried that Oliver would tell the police about his criminal crimes that could make Fagin go to prison.

Cognitive Indolence

Someone who has high cognitive indolence is "lacks critical reasoning skills, often takes shortcuts in order to achieve goals and objectives, viewed by others as impulsive and flighty" (Walters, 2014: p.108). Fagin is someone who wants to get something but he has no effort and takes a shortcut to get something he wants. To fulfill his desire of having lots of money without working hard, Fagin gathered children who had no family and trained them to pickpocket and he planned to rob a house in Chertsey. The following quotations show Fagin has high cognitive indolence.

"'Well, 'said the Jew, glancing slyly at Oliver, and addressing himself to the Dodger,'I hope you've been at work this morning, my dears?' 'Hard,' replied the Dodger. 'As nails,' added Charley Bates. 'Good boys, good boys!' said the Jew. 'What have you got, Dodger?' 'A couple of pocket-books,' replied that young gentleman." (Dickens, 2017: pp.102-103)

Fagin took care of boys to work with him and made them be pickpockets as the results from the pickpocket earlier submitted to Fagin.

"There, there, 'said the Jew, coaxingly. 'It was only my caution, nothing more. Now, my dear, about that crib at Chertsey; when is it to be done? Bill, eh? When is it to be done? Such plate, my dear, such plate!' said the Jew: rubbing his hands, and elevating his eyebrows in a rapture of anticipation." (Dickens, 2017: p.223)

Fagin and Sikes planned to rob at Chertsey to get money without working hard, they chose to use shortcuts even in the wrong way.

Discontinuity

Someone who has low discontinuity is "focused, goal-directed, and consistent in thought and behavior; not easily sidetracked and able to follow through on initially good intentions" (Walters, 2014: p.108). Fagin, from the beginning to the end does not change, Fagin remains a bad person. However, Fagin's discontinuity can be classified into low. This can be seen in the quote below:

"Outside, outside, 'replied Fagin, pushing the boy before him towards the door, and looking vacantly over his head. 'Say I've gone to sleep- they'll believe you. You can get me out, if you take me so. Now, then, now then!" (Dickens, 2017: p.652)

When the date of his death approached, he did not ask forgiveness from Oliver when giving the opportunity, and he was never truly converted. Fagin instead asked Oliver to help him escape.

Factors that Influence Fagin's Criminal Thought

According to Ellis & Walsh (1999), there are eight factors causing crime and delinquency. In Oliver Twist, it is found three factors that cause crime and delinquency; they are:

Societal and economic factors

Possible causes for someone to commit crime are the economic system that frustrates efforts by some to participate, power biases in the passage and enforcement of laws, and labeling factors. The economic level greatly influences crime. The higher the economic level, the lower the crime. Conversely the lower the economic level, the higher the crime. As in Oliver Twist's novel, the house environment of the Fagin is a slum and densely populated one. This can be seen when Oliver is taken by Dodger to Fagin's house. Oliver passed through a narrow and very dirty alley. The following quotations show it.

"As John Dawkins objected to their entering London before nightfall, it was nearly eleven o'clock when they reached the turnpike at Islangton. They crossed from the Angel into St. John's Road; struck down the small street which terminates at Sadler's Wells Theatre; through Exmouth Street and Coppice Row; down the little court by the side of the workhouse; across the classic ground which once bore the name of Hockley-in-the-Hole; thence into Little Saffron Hill; and so into Saffron Hill the Great: along which the Dodger scudded at a rapid pace, directing Oliver to follow close at his heels." (Dickens, 2017: p.93)

The following quotation shows the same issue:

"Although Oliver had enough to occupy his attention in keeping sight of his leader, he could not help bestowing a few hasty glances on either side of the way, as he passed along. A dirtier or more wretched place he had never seen. The street was very narrow and muddy, and the air was impregnated with filthy odours." (Dickens, 2017: p.94)

The quotations show that Dawkins invited Oliver to Fagin's house where Fagin's home environment is a slum environment. Usually, one of the slum environment is caused by population density. If in a region has a very large population this will have an impact on unemployment, because there is an imbalance of the population with available jobs. This is what allows a person to commit a criminal act such as pickpocketing in order to maintain a living.

Neighbor-hood and local institutions

Possible causes for someone to commit a crime are lack of educational opportunities, lack of religious/moral training, peer influences and bad example by business and community leaders. Criminal acts come not only from the intentions or motives of the persons but also because of the influence of environmental conditions. in Oliver Twist's novel, the environment where Fagin is not only slums and densely populated but also his people have bad habits such as gambling, drinking. It can be inferred from the following quotation:

"There were a good many small shops; but the only stock in trade appeared to be heaps of children, who, even at that time of night, were crawling in and out at the doors, or screaming from the inside. The sole places that seemed to prosper amid the general blight of the place, were the public-houses; and in them, the lowest orders of Irish were wrangling with might and main. Covered ways and yards, which here and there diverged from the main street, disclosed little knots of houses, where drunken men and women were positively wallowing in filth; and from several of the door-ways, great ill-looking fellows were cautiously emerging, bound, to all appearance, on no very well-disposed or harmless errands." (Dickens, 2017: p.94)

From the quotation, it can be inferred that Fagin lives in an unfavorable environment where the people have a habit of drinking alcohol, so Fagin follows or imitates the habits of the surrounding community. The environment has an important role for someone. Diverse environments always stimulate someone to follow and try to imitate and identify them.

Drugs/drug use

Possible causes for someone to commit a crime are alcohol, soft drugs, and hard drugs. Consuming alcohol can change the behavior of people who drink it. Because when drunk, the person is not able to control themselves so do things that are contrary to the law such as pickpockets. In Oliver Twist, Fagin is an alcoholic in his daily life. He always drank alcohol. The following quotation shows it.

"...There was a deal table before the fire; upon which were a candle, stuck in a gingerbeer bottle, two or three pewter pots, a loaf and butter, and a plate. In a frying pan, which was on the fire, and which was secured to the mantelshelf by a string, some sausages were cooking; and standing over them, with a toasting-fork in his hand, was a very old shriveled Jew, whose villainous-looking and repulsive face was obscured by a quantity of matted red hair. Seated around the table were four or five boys, none older than the Dodger, smoking long clay pipes, and drinking spirits with the air of middle-aged men" (Dickens, 2017: p.95)

Fagin likes to drink alcohol which causes his consciousness to decrease. It also causes his emotions to become unstable which tends to commit a criminal act. It is possible that the criminal act committed by Fagin is caused by drugs.

Conclusion

After analyzing eight aspects of criminal thought, it can be inferred that Fagin has high criminal thought. Fagin has high mollification, high cutoff, high entitlement, high power orientation, and high cognitive indolence, although he has low sentimentality, low superoptimism, and low discontinuity. This is proved by Fagin's poor emotional control. He was easily getting angry. Fagin also believed in other people, desired to control the situation and other people, confidently can avoid the consequences of the crime, uses shortcuts to achieve a goal, difficulty completing what he has started. Moreover, the factors that influence Fagin's criminal thought are societal and economic, neighbor-hood and local institutions, and drugs.

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