

articles companies. Old Curiosity shop (1839) is Dickens' first attempt at tragedy. Dickens' first attempt in the historical novel is Barnaby Rudge (1841) with its picture of the Gordon Riots. Martin Chuzzlewit (1843) explores the moral theme of the interplay of selfishness and hypocrisy.

In David Copperfield (1850), Dickens brought the first phase of novel-writing to an end. It was considered the best novel by Dickens and has been the most popular with his readers. It is largely autobiography and affords us a glimpse into the grim background of Dickens' early life and struggle to fame. The story is well-told and the characterization is firm. The characters of Baskin, Mrs. Grimbridge, Mr. and Mrs. Micawber are memorable. To conceive a character as absurd as Micawber and make us believe in him, is a great achievement. Bleak House (1852) is for Dickens not only a social document but also an intricate of profound significance, it is an elaborate experiment in plot-construction and elaborate experiment in plot-construction. The story brings round a protracted law-suit. Dickens has often satirised the devious practices of lawyers and attorneys in earlier sketches, here his satire is comprehensive. Hard Times (1854) is a satire on utilitarianism. It is a satire on Thomas Gradgrind, a hard-headed businessman who impresses upon his children the great importance of facts. In A Tale of Two Cities (1859), Dickens returned to one historical novel and laid his theme in the French Revolution.

Dickens was the novelist of middle-class life. He has been described as a romancer of the London streets. As a creator of memorable characters he is superb. He is a great novelist with all his tendency towards sentimentalism.

Dr. Anand Kumar
18.07.2020