

Reflection of Post-World War II History in the Novel *An English Murder* By Cyril Hare

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ABSTRACT

World War II was a major event that occurred in the past that had many impacts on human life, both in terms of economy, social, and culture. In addition, World War II also had an impact on literary works. Many writers criticized and expressed their emotions through literary works. One of them is the novel An English Murder by Cyril Hare which is set in the post-World War II era. This study aims to analyze how the novel An English Murder reflects what happened in Britain at that time using a qualitative descriptive method. Using Lucien Goldmann's theory of human facts, which emphasizes that literary works relate to the social structures that shape them, this study concludes that the novel An English Murder clearly depicts the social conditions in England after World War II. In addition, the research also shows that although An English Murder is a work of detective fiction, it manages to portray a broad social and political reality, as well as provide an overview of the problems that occurred in post-World War II Britain.

ARTICLE HISTORY

Published March 7th 2025



KEYWORDS

An English Murder; Britain; World War II; Social.

ARTICLE LICENCE

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1. Introduction

The most devastating international conflict in history, World War II, started two decades after World War I and claimed the lives of between 35 and 60 million people from different countries, including 6 million Jews killed by the Nazis. The loss of lives, homes and hope scarred millions more. The Soviet Union's victory in China and the expansion of communism across Eastern Europe are two of the lasting effects of the war. Another impact was the transfer of power from Europe to the two competing superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, which later came into conflict in the Cold War (Subanti, 2018).

Britain's transition to socialism was one of several political changes that occurred around the world in the early 20th century. While there were several reasons for this, the main one was Britain's involvement in World War II and how the conflict brought the country together. There were proponents of socialist social programs in Britain in the early 20th century, but their implementation was hampered by the country's capitalist economy and the ruling Conservative party. There had to be a trigger to raise public awareness to support socialist reforms in order for them to be implemented. World War II would have been this trigger. The war effort would require better accountability on how the government could take care of the suffering population (Walker, 2013). Significant changes occurred in the UK after World War II. This event became a turning point that forced social improvements in society. In this case, the government had to take greater responsibility for meeting the needs of those harmed by the war.

On the other hand, World War II also had an impact on the literary world. Writers around the world reacted to the two world wars that resulted in the loss of land, property and lives. They showed their concerns through their writings. Emotional reactions and concerns were expressed in their works. Most condemned the destruction caused by the war. Others saw the war as a heroic and patriotic expression of love for their country. British writers responded to their country's involvement during World War I and II with different literary genres. Many expressions of the impact of war were captured in the form of poetry and novels. Some writers emerged before and after the war with war themes, especially the era between 1915 - 1950s (Subanti, 2018).

Literature has been defined in various ways. For example, you can define it as "imaginative" writing in the sense of fiction-writing that is not real (Eagleton, 1996; Rahman, 2024.; Sugiyartati et al., 2020; Junaid et al., 2023). This means that literature is a product of the author's imagination and creativity. In this case, literature gives freedom to the writer to explore ideas, settings, and characters according to his or her imagination. Since fictional writing tells stories that are not necessarily based on actual events or facts, works such as novels, short stories, and poetry are sometimes considered

the main literary genres in this definition. However, literature is rich and diverse. If literature is only defined as works of fiction or imagination, then there will be several other aspects of literature that are missed. Literature is not only about what the author tells but also about the meaning of what the author says, the language used, as well as how the literary work makes the reader understand or even feel what is in the work. Goldmann in (Maulana et al., 2022) understand the origin of literary works in relation to the worldview of the author's social group and the social conditions of the society that gave birth to literary works. The literary work that will be discussed in this study is a novel. As literary works, novels are able to reflect the social conditions of society in detail and realistically. Literature presents life and life consists of social reality. Literary works are also associated as a form of imitation of the human subjective world so it can be concluded that literary works are a reflection of human life (Asha et al., 2022; Rahman et al., 2022; Suma et al., 2024; Abbas et al., 2023; Junaid et al., 2024).

The novel *An English Murder* by Cyril Hare, which is the object of study in this research, is a mystery novel that does not only discuss crime stories. The judge Alfred Alexander Gordon Clark used Cyril Hare as his alias. He was educated at Oxford and Rugby after being born in Surrey in 1900. A member of the Inner Temple, he joined Roland Oliver's chambers, which handled many of the major crime cases of the 1920s, after being called to the Bar in 1924. Prior to World War II, he worked as a barrister. He then held a number of legal and judicial positions, including one as a Surrey County court judge. His work gave him the opportunity to blend the elements of the crime book golden age with the actual crimes he came across. The first edition of *An English Murder* was out in 1951, during a period of profound social and political change in Britain.

The novel captures the sociopolitical tensions that existed in post-World War II Britain, particularly the conflict between social classes and political ideologies. One of Britain's last aristocratic families, the Warbeck family, hosts a Christmas party at their home, Warbeck Hall, and invites their closest friends and relatives to join them. Dr. Bottwink, a European immigrant Jewish historian with different political beliefs and histories than the Warbeck family, is one of the prominent visitors invited by the family to celebrate Christmas. The outside world is cut off from Warbeck Hall after a violent snowstorm. When Lord Warbeck's son, Robert Warbeck, passes very unexpectedly after consuming a beer, right before Christmas, the tension rises even further. Everyone was surprised by the unexpected death, and the guests became tense. As an outsider, Dr. Bottwink observed everyone in the house and began to investigate what was really going on. He learns from his observations that Robert's killing touches on a number of larger social concerns, including class conflicts and the effects of the new political philosophy that is widely accepted in Britain, in addition to personal motivations.

An English Murder not only presents a suspenseful mystery story, but also reflects the social and political changes taking place in Britain. Through its characters, the novel highlights the conflict between social class and political views, as well as how the old traditions of the English aristocracy are being displaced by more modern values. When viewed as a structure, the literary work must have something to do with historical topics rather than another realm beyond history (Goldmann & Boelhower, 1980). Goldmann highlights the significance of the connection between literary works and their historical setting in this instance. He claims that in order to comprehend a literary work, we cannot regard it as an entity distinct from history. But literary works must also be viewed through the lens of the historical and social context in which they were created. Thus, literary works can be studied using a sociological approach because sociology discusses social life. Literary sociology is the study of literary works and their involvement with social structures (Amarasuli et al., 2024). Literary sociology can be understood as a science that focuses on the relationship between society and its social life. Therefore, the novel *An English Murder* can be studied using the theory of literary sociology with the subdiscipline of genetic structuralism because it views literary works as a reflection of the behavior of people's lives.

According to genetic structuralism, the literary work is a constitutive element of social consciousness and is less related to the level of the real consciousness of transindividual subjects than it is to their possible consciousness. At this mediating level, one is far from a mechanistic or simply mimetic theory of the art-society relation (Goldmann & Boelhower, 1980). Goldman divides interrelated concepts in applying structural genetic theory, namely human facts, collective subjects, and worldview. The focus of this research is the concept of human facts. The first basic principle of genetic structuralism is that human facts must be related to the behavior of a subject in order to be understood. We will soon consider the nature of this subject, but it is obvious that human facts are the result of human behavior and can be very precisely defined. Man transforms the world around him in order to achieve a better balance between himself (as subject) and the world (Goldmann & Boelhower, 1980). The concept of human facts in genetic structuralism refers to everything that humans produce in the process of history, including literary works, economic systems, social institutions, and culture. Human facts not only reflect the socio-historical conditions of a certain period, but also reveal human efforts to overcome contradictions in their society and achieve harmony between individuals and their environment.

In order to support the research, the researcher used several relevant previous studies. First, Asha et al., (2022) wrote a study titled *Social Condition of Southern America in the 1930s as Reflected in Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird*. This study focuses on how the novel's depiction of racial concerns and the effects of the Great Depression speaks to the social climate of the 1930s South America by using Lucien Goldmann's Genetic Structuralism methodology. The study concludes that *To Kill a Mockingbird* depicts the harsh social reality of the South America, where racial prejudice controls the actions of individuals and society.

The second study entitled *Sketching Historical Context in Lee Daniels' The Butler: A Mimetic Approach* written by Harang et al., (2019). This research shows that the movie provides a significant picture of three types of history: political, social, and intellectual. This research uses a qualitative methodology with a mimetic approach. The researchers compared the findings in the movie with relevant historical records to identify accurate representations of history. This research concludes that the historical context in *The Butler* is crucial to understanding the civil rights struggle in the United States.

The third study entitled *Historical Events of Second World War in France in Hannah's The Nightingale Novel: Historicism Approach* written by Hikmah et al., (2023). This research explains how the historical events of the Second World War in France are depicted in *The Nightingale* novel, using a historicism approach. The study concludes that *The Nightingale* effectively reflects the history of the Second World War in France and depicts the human struggle in the face of great challenges.

Based on the analysis of several previous studies that have been reviewed, there are several research gaps that can be identified. First, different research objects. There have been quite a number of studies that discuss the objects in the previous studies. However, there is no study that specifically analyzes the novel *An English Murder* by Cyril Hare. Second, these studies focus on different historical contexts. The first study deals with the issue of racism in South America, the second study deals with the civil rights struggle in the United States, while the third study deals with an important historical event, the Second World War in France. Lastly, the theoretical approaches used in previous studies vary, such as the genetic structuralism, mimetic, and historicism approaches as well as formalism.

Up to this point, there is no research that discusses the novel *An English Murder* by Cyril Hare. However, there have been many studies that discuss how a literary work can reflect social circumstances in real life. In this case, *An English Murder* as a novel written in the post-World War II period, Cyril Hare offers a narrative that can be seen as a reflection of the social changes that occurred in Britain. Therefore, by using the approach of Lucien Goldmann's concept of human facts, which emphasizes the importance of the relationship between literary works and the surrounding social facts, this study aims to analyze how the novel *An English Murder* depicts social changes, political ideologies, and family traditions that have shifted due to the impact of the war.

2. Methodology

In this research, the authors used a research design with a qualitative descriptive design method. With data samples in the form of scene excerpts from the novel itself. The data sources in this study are divided into two, namely primary and secondary data. Then the researcher uses data collection techniques by reading, marking, and showing. The last stage is the analysis technique. Further explanation is given in the following points.

2.1. Research Design

In this research, researchers used a qualitative descriptive method. Qualitative research deals with life as it is, things that happen, situations as they are in everyday events, moment by moment. Qualitative researchers seek life experiences in real situations. In general, they try not to disturb the atmosphere and do not interfere with their methods. This is done to ensure that the data and analysis will reflect what happened (Woods, 2005). This qualitative descriptive method allows researchers to dig deeper into the social conflicts and ideological shifts that exist in the novel *An English Murder*. Researchers will be able to identify the main themes and relationships between characters and the human facts behind the story through observation and analysis of characters, dialogue, and plot.

2.2. Technique of Collecting Data

The researcher started collecting data from the novel *An English Murder* using the documentation study technique. The researcher read the novel *An English Murder* by Cyril Hare repeatedly. The next step was marking. The researcher underlined every narration or dialog that had aspects of human facts. In addition, researchers also looked for several studies that discussed the social conditions of Britain at that time. The last step is data collection. In this step, the researcher displays the data that has been collected.

2.3. Technique of Analyzing Data

After collecting the data, the researcher examined *An English Murder* by highlighting and identifying dialogues and narratives that portray the cultural and sociopolitical climate of Britain following World War II. Then, the researcher also took quotations from journals or studies that discussed Post-World War II in Britain related to the novel. After that, the researcher grouped the novel quotations and journal quotations that were related to each other and described them. Last, the researcher concludes the whole discussion.

3. Result and Discussion

The research results explain the findings of Cyril Hare's *An English Murder* and relate them to the socio-political conditions of post-World War II Britain. Using Lucien Goldmann's theory, specifically the concept of human facts, helps to understand how the novel *An English Murder* reflects the social life at that time. First of all, for all three, every human fact is meaningful. Whether it be a dream, an act of delirium, a cultural work or a historical process, human facts are the result of a subject's meaningful behavior (Goldmann & Boelhower, 1980). In this context, the themes present in *An English Murder* are part of meaningful social facts. Such as how the novel depicts how British society responded to the major changes that occurred after the war. Through this theory, it can also be seen that the social changes depicted in this novel did not escape the changes that occurred in the structure of British society at that time. The researcher found that the novel reflects social changes in Britain after World War II through three main themes: class conflict and social change, political issues, and family traditions and modern values.

3.1 Class Conflict and Social Changes

It depicts the tensions between social classes amidst the progressive changes that took place in post-World War II Britain. In the post-war period, the traditionally rigid structure of Britain began to change by providing many opportunities for the middle and working classes. However, these changes were not always accepted by everyone, especially the upper classes who objected to their privileges being taken away.

Data 1

"That's one thing foreigners will never understand," said Mrs. Carstairs emphatically. "They imagine that we are still living in the past. They don't realize the great changes that have come over the country in the last few years and that there are greater ones still to come." (Hare, 1951, pg. 76)

Based on the above quotation, it can be seen that Mrs. Carstairs emphasizes her view that British society underwent significant changes after the war, especially in terms of reducing the gap between social classes. However, there are still many misconceptions, especially by foreigners, who still think that British society is still living in the past.

Data 2

Mrs. Carstairs: "As I think I have pointed out to you before, we are living in an advanced, democratic state, far more advanced in all the things that matter than any of your so-called people's democracies. Such things as titles and peerages are interesting relics of the past, no more, and you would be far better occupied in studying our unrivalled system of social welfare, for example, than in brooding over trifles like the proper way to address a fellow citizen." (Hare, 1951, pg. 177)

In this quote, Mrs. Carstairs again emphasizes that British society has progressed, especially in terms of democracy. Mrs. Carstairs also adds that things like titles of nobility are no longer valid now.

Data 3

Sir Julius abruptly found himself back in mid-twentieth century, in a world where the owners of historic mansions were pitiable anachronisms, helplessly awaiting the hour when the advancing tread of social justice would force them from the privileged positions they had too long usurped. (Hare, 1951, pg. 3)

In relation to the previous two quotations, Sir Julius, who is also part of an aristocratic family, suddenly recalls the time when the class system in Britain was slowly becoming unenforceable. Those in the upper class had many privileges, but the changes forced them to lose them.

Data 4

Dr. Bottwink "I wonder whether, in all the circumstances, it might perhaps be preferable if I did not accept your kind invitation to take dinner with your family this evening? It seems to me that possibly"

Lord Warbeck: "Nonsense, my dear fellow," said his lordship kindly. "I insist that you should. You are to consider yourself a guest of the house, just like anybody else." (Hare, 1951, pg. 52)

In this quotation, it can be seen that Dr. Bottwink politely declined the invitation to dine with the Warbeck family at Warbeck Hall, as he felt he did not belong there with the other guests due to his social status. However, Lord Warbeck firmly says that Dr. Bottwink is just like the other guests. Lord Warbeck's attitude reflects the progressive thinking that took place in Britain after the war.

Data 5

Susan: "Why shouldn't I say what I like to her?" said his daughter, with an air of defiance that did not escape being at the same time defensive. "I am as good as she is, aren't I?"

Briggs: "No, my girl," Briggs replied solemnly. "Not if you was to marry the highest in the land, you wouldn't be her equal, and it's no good your pretending otherwise." (Hare, 1951, pg. 150)

The quote above illustrates that differences in social status are very influential in life. Susan, as a younger generation following the changes of a more egalitarian Britain, feels that she is just as good as other women from higher social classes. However, Briggs, the father, who still maintains the conservative view of traditional Britain, emphasizes to his daughter that even if she marries someone from the upper class, her social status will still not be able to change. In this case, despite the social changes that have taken place in the UK, the conservative view of class hierarchy still exists in some parts of their society.

Based on the quotations above, it can be seen that *An English Murder* depicts the social changes that occurred significantly after World War II, especially in terms of the abolition of the class system. In data quotes 1 and 2, Mrs. Carstairs asserts that British society has made progress, especially in terms of social equality and democracy. He confirmed that the titles of nobility, which were of great importance before, are currently no longer valid. However, in the midst of such changes, social tensions still remain. In data quote 3, as aristocrats feel how slowly their privileges are being eliminated. Furthermore, in the data quote 4 it is shown how the progressive attitude of Lord Warbeck, who no longer cared about differences in social status, treated Dr. Bottwink is just like the other guests. In addition, in data quote 5, Susan as a young generation who also follows the social changes taking place in Britain believes that she is equal to anyone. However, Briggs, as an older generation who still maintain traditional British values insists that social status is something that cannot be changed.

This reflects the social state of Britain at the time, "Britain was already in a hard spot in 1939 when the war started and what most of the British people had in common was the desire for a better life and a better system to give them that life. Britain has had its fair share of class distinction and class warfare but due to the hard times before and the war itself, the population was drawn together to declare that a better way was needed." (Walker, 2013). World War II certainly had many negative impacts on society. However, on the other hand, because of the difficulties they had faced due to the war, it triggered people's desire to have a better life. One of them was related to the class system in Britain. Previously, the UK enforced a class system, so there were many problems between classes. However, people together tried to eliminate the system so that their desire to have a better life could be realized.

In addition, (Addison, 2019) also added, "Wartime Britain was never a land of social harmony, but an exclusive focus on the negatives yields a distorted picture. Perhaps the best overall measure of social solidarity is the extent to which people in all classes acquiesced in the surrender of their personal freedoms." Although wartime Britain was not a harmonious country, they all felt the same hardships during the war. Although social conflicts still existed, they had what is called solidarity. Like how the nobles agreed to give up their titles for equality.

3.2 Political Issues

This theme is basically related to the previous theme, class conflict and social changes. The novel reflects the tension between conservatives, who want to preserve old traditional values, and progressives, who favor social and political equality.

Data 6

In a gaunt room on the upper floor of a disused warehouse in South London, Robert Warbeck was concluding a monthly conference of section leaders of the League of Liberty and Justice. He was a tall, good-looking young man with red-brown hair and the fixed look of a fanatic in his rather prominent grey eyes. The dozen or so men he had been addressing for the last half-hour were a mixed collection of all types and classes. None were more than thirty-five years of age. The common factor that united them, apart from the complete absorption with which they hung upon their leader's words, was their dress. In common with him, each wore a pair of grey flannel trousers and a purple pullover, on the left breast of which was embroidered a white dagger. (Hare, 1951, pg. 29)

The quote above explains that Robert is the leader of an organization whose members have different class backgrounds. They gather and work together using the same uniform. Regardless of their class, they both have a white dagger symbol embroidered on the left chest of their clothes as a form of their identity.

Data 7

Lord Warbeck: "Enemies' is rather a strong word to use. I bear no ill will to Julius. He is, like the rest of us, in the power of what Dr. Bottwink would call the *Zeitgeist*." (Hare, 1951, pg. 41)

In this quote, Lord Warbeck mentions something called '*Zeitgeist*', which means the spirit of the times. This term refers to the dominant thought of a particular time period. In this context, Lord Warbeck is saying that Sir Julius is just like those whose thoughts are influenced by the social and political changes taking place, or rather the liberals.

Data 8

Dr. Bottwink: "Oh, now I have shocked you, Briggs, and I should not have done that. But you know who Mr. Robert is?"

Briggs: "Of course I do, sir. His lordship's son and heir."

Dr. Bottwink: "I am not thinking of him in that capacity. Do you not know that he is the president of this affair that calls itself the League of Liberty and Justice?"

Briggs: "I understand that to be the fact, sir."

Dr. Bottwink: "The League of Liberty and Justice, Briggs," said Dr. Bottwink very clearly and deliberately, "is a Fascist organization." (Hare, 1951, pg. 17)

However, in this quote Dr Bottwink says that the League of Liberty and Justice is a fascist organization, which adheres to a fascist ideology that opposes democracy and a liberal political system. This contradicts the name of the organization which uses the words 'Liberty' and 'Justice' which have positive meanings. In addition, the previous quote explains that people of all classes gathered together and listened carefully to Robert, their leader.

Data 9

"Pathetic!" Robert was to be denied no longer. "Shall I tell you what I think of him? He's nothing but a traitor to his class, a traitor to his country" (Hare, 1951, pg. 41)

From this quote, it can be seen that Robert does not side with the liberals at all. He explicitly calls Sir Julius, who is also part of the Warbeck family, a traitor to their class and his country. Sir Julius was considered a traitor because he sided with more progressive views.

Data 10

Lady Camilla: "Oh, don't imagine that you are the only one! You were merely the excuse for his bad manners. He hates Sir Julius every bit as much more, I should say, because he thinks

he is one of his own clan who has gone over to the other side. And he can't stand Mrs. Carstairs either, for the same reason." (Hare, 1951, pg. 54)

Robert hates Sir Julius because he thinks that Sir Julius is the only one in their family who supports the other side. In addition, he also hates Mrs. Carstairs for the same reason. However, as far as he can see, Robert is the only member of the Warbeck family who is on the other side, supporting the conservative view.

Based on the above quotations, *An English Murder* depicts the social and political situation of post-World War II Britain. Robert Warbeck, is the leader of the League of Liberty and Justice organization, whose members come from different social classes. However, Dr. Bottwink firmly states that the organization is a fascist organization, which is against the principles of democracy and liberalism. This illustrates how conservative ideologies such as fascism are trying to survive the waves of social and political change. "On post-war questions, the gap between the philosophies of the Labour and Conservative parties could not be bridged, and the White Papers on post-war reconstruction were compromises, but it would have been unthinkable in the 1930s for the leaders of the Labour and Conservative parties to publish joint statements setting out agreed objectives in social and economic policy." (Addison, 2019). Despite the changes, the philosophical or ideological differences between the liberals, in this case the labor party, and the conservatives remain difficult to bridge. This was true in the Warbeck family, where members of the Warbeck family followed progressive thinking. While in this family, Robert is the only one who still tries to maintain his conservative thinking. In line with this, Kurcewicz says, "The Conservative Party took power in 1951, they maintained the decolonization model promoted by the Labour Party. A characteristic feature of the thirteen-year rule of the Conservative Party was the ambition to maintain Britain's ties to the territories formerly controlled by the Empire" (Kurcewicz, 2014). Despite being in power, the Conservative Party continued some of the decolonization policies initiated by the Labour Party. This indicates that even conservative parties must adapt to the changing times. In this case, Robert with the organization name the League of Liberty and Justice followed the changes. However, behind it, he strongly opposed it. He even regarded Sir Julius and Mrs. Carstairs as traitors to their class for following British progressive thinking.

3.3 Family Traditions and Modern Values

This theme focuses on the shift in family values from old traditions to more modern values. The social changes that occurred in post-war Britain not only affected social and political issues, but also affected the fading of long-established family traditions.

Data 11

Lord Warbeck: "but I think that in your own way you feel as deeply as I do about the traditions of our family and the traditions of this dear old house. As far back as I can remember, and further than that, Christmas at Warbeck has meant the reunion of our family and our friends. There's not much left of the family now. (Hare, 1951, pg. 40)

Based on above quotation, Lord Warbeck, as the head of the Warbeck family, highly values the traditions that exist in his family. In this case, it is the Christmas event which means the reunion of his family and friends. This tradition symbolized the stability and integrity of the family before the war. However, after the war, this tradition has slowly started to disappear with fewer and fewer family and friends coming to the event.

Data 12

Robert: "That's rich! You're right, Briggs! Let's keep up tradition while we may! The last Christmas in the old home thanks to Cousin Julius and his pack of robbers! Fill up the glasses, Briggs, and give yourself one too." (Hare, 1951, pg. 94)

In this quote Robert sarcastically says that thanks to Sir Julius and his group, in this case the people who support change in Britain, the liberals, are responsible for the slow fading of their family traditions. Robert refers to the Christmas celebrations at Warbeck as 'the last Christmas in the old house,' implying that the changes brought about by Sir Julius and the liberals mean that the Christmas traditions will not last.

Data 13

Ny. Carstairs: "It's no distance to church," she objected. "Surely we can have the path cleared as far as that?"

"Who by, my good woman? Who by?" said Robert with an ugly laugh. "The stable-boys and under-gardeners? You seem to forget that there aren't any wage-slaves at Warbeck now. You and Julius have seen to that!" (Hare, 1951)

The above quote illustrates how the social changes in Britain also affected the workers in the Warbeck family. Before the changes, large families like the Warbeck family had many workers to help with household chores. However, after the war, the restriction of privileges for aristocratic families and the reduction of traditional labor made their families have to adapt. As in the previous quote, Robert also blames this on Sir Julius as the cause of their labor loss.

Data 14

"I am sorry you take it like this, my dear boy," said Lord Warbeck seriously. "As a matter of fact, Dr. Bottwink's presence is quite accidental. But your society won't be confined entirely to them. We can't afford much hospitality in these days, but we can do better than that." (Hare, 1951, pg. 42)

In this quote Lord Warbeck says that nowadays they cannot afford much hospitality as in previous years. Christmas traditions that used to be full of guests and lavish banquets are now difficult to carry out. This is due to the loss of their social influence and the shift towards a more egalitarian society, therefore, traditional values are being replaced.

Based on the quotes above, it can be seen that the social changes that occurred after World War II also affected the traditions in the family. In Excerpt 12, it is shown that Lord Warbeck highly values the Christmas traditions that exist in their family. However, the changes have made this tradition slowly fade away. This is made clear by quote 13, where Robert sarcastically blames Sir Julius as well as the people who support the changes for the fading of their family traditions. This is in line with the following quote, 'The paradoxical effect of war overall', writes Angus Calder, 'seems to have been that it loosened family ties and moral constraints, while simultaneously creating a yearning for a settled home life' (Addison, 2019). Not only did the war bring good changes to the society, but it also had a paradoxical effect where family ties were slowly loosened.

In addition, in quotes 14 and 15, this change is also seen in how the Warbeck family no longer has as many workers as before. So, they also cannot provide proper meals and hospitality as before. In this case, Addison says that, "Conversely the war has often been equated with progress in the sense of a movement towards greater social equality" (Addison, 2019). One of the effects of the shift towards a more egalitarian society was the loss of labor and resources that the Warbeck family had. The war had created opportunities for greater social equality, but it also took away the privileges of aristocratic families like the Warbecks.

4. Conclusion

This study concludes that Cyril Hare's *An English Murder* is not only a mystery novel that tells a crime story, but also a description of the social and political changes in Britain that occurred after World War II. Class conflicts between the old aristocracy and the middle class, changes in the political ideology of society, and the fading of family traditions replaced by modern values, are the main themes that lead to a deeper understanding of the social and political conditions at that time. The war had put British society through so much hardship. Therefore, they collectively try to create a better life by slowly eliminating traditional values with more egalitarian values. However, of course, this will not be achieved that easily. This can be seen from the relationship between the characters in the novel, which depicts the tension between the old aristocracy and the middle class. This research provides an understanding that literature can be a means to understand historical and social change. *An English Murder*, although primarily a mystery novel, also has other themes that serve as a subtle critique of the dynamics of English society in relation to the changes taking place in their midst. However, it also has other themes that serve as a subtle critique of the dynamics of the English society towards the changes taking place in their midst.

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