THE IMPACT OF CALCUTTA PLAGUE TOWARDS THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF LONDON IN *EMPTY WORLD* BY JOHN CHRISTOPHER

A THESIS



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THE IMPACT OF CALCUTTA PLAGUE TOWARDS THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF LONDON IN *EMPTY WORLD* BY JOHN CHRISTOPHER

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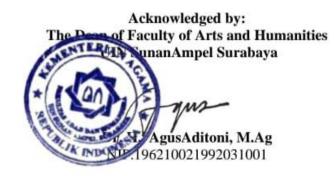
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ABSTRACT

Labib, A Hammam. (2021). The Impact of Calcutta Plague Towards The Social Condition of London in Empty World by John Christopher. English Department, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Advisor: Dr. Wahju Kusumajanti, M. Hum.

Keywords: impact, sociology of literature, plague.

In this study, the writer analyzes the impact of the Calcutta plague on the social conditions of society in the novel *Empty World* by John Christopher. In this novel, it is told that the changes caused by the Calcutta plague were terrible and made the plague a killing machine with a swift and wide spread. This study aims to describe to the reader the impact of the plague, which not only has an impact on public health. It also impacts the economic conditions, education, and social life of people in the world.

This study uses a qualitative method. This study also uses the theory of sociology of literature to describe the impact caused by the plague. A detailed explanation of what a plague is is also included so that this research can be adequately understood. The writer collects quotes and narrations about the impact of the Calcutta plague on the social conditions of society in the novel *Empty World*.

The results of this study show how the Calcutta plague spread. Then the plague brings negative impact to the society in London that are many people killed. Short of food supply, Loss of trust in others, and Extreme rat population explosion.

ABSTRAK

Labib, A Hammam. (2021). Dampak Wabah Calcutta Terhadap Kondisi Sosial di London di novel Empty World oleh John Christopher. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Pembimbing: Dr. Wahju Kusumajanti, M. Hum.

Kata Kunci: dampak, sosiologi sastra, wabah.

Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menganalisis dampak wabah Calcutta terhadap kondisi sosial masyarakat dalam novel *Empty World* karya John Christopher. Dalam novel ini diceritakan bahwa perubahan yang disebabkan oleh wabah Calcutta sangat mengerikan dan membuat wabah tersebut menjadi mesin pembunuh dengan penyebaran yang cepat dan luas. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan kepada pembaca dampak wabah yang tidak hanya berdampak pada kesehatan masyarakat. Hal ini juga berdampak pada kondisi ekonomi, pendidikan, dan kehidupan sosial masyarakat di dunia.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Penelitian ini juga menggunakan teori sosiologi sastra untuk menggambarkan dampak yang ditimbulkan oleh wabah penyakit tersebut. Penjelasan rinci tentang apa itu wabah juga disertakan sehingga penelitian ini dapat dipahami secara memadai. Penulis mengumpulkan kutipan dan narasi tentang dampak wabah Calcutta pada kondisi sosial masyarakat dalam novel *Empty World*.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bagaimana wabah Calcutta menyebar. Kemudian wabah tersebut membawa dampak negatif bagi masyarakat di London yang banyak memakan korban jiwa. Kekurangan pasokan makanan, Hilangnya kepercayaan pada orang lain, dan ledakan populasi tikus yang ekstrim.

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer discusses background, problem, objectives, significance, the scope of limitation, and study method. Each is presented in a different number.

1.1 Background of the Study

A plague is a disease that attacks humans and mammals. During the Middle Ages, a plague killed millions of people in Europe. Modern antibiotics are an effective way of treating the plague. This disease can lead to severe illness or death if not treated promptly. One of the famous plagues is the Black death. Black Death or the oriental plague, the bubonic plague, or just the plague is "the Great Mortality." In England, however, it is just "the Plague." In Italy, it is known as "la Mortalega" (the great death). Gould summarizes these outbreaks: Inflammatory ulcers, glandular tumors, and dark spots are all commonly associated with putrefaction, which is thought to be a frequently occurring symptom" (1996, p489). The number of fatalities is difficult to calculate because the fatalities are highly dependent on where they occur. The longer the period preceding the onset of the outbreak, the greater the population was before the outbreak. G. Christakos (2005, p291-292)

The Great Plague of London resulted from the Black Death that struck London between 1664 and 1666. Patient A feels weary, experiences chills, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, and pain in the abdomen in this outbreak. Increasing levels of mental disturbance lead to stupor and delirium. A blushing or pale face, as well as a feeling of constriction in the chest, are typical. The pain travels throughout the body, and shortly after, the lymph nodes in the neck become swollen. Gould, George MacLean (1996, p491)

It is believed that the Great Plague of 1665 killed around twice as many people as the Great Plague of 1664, also known as the Black Death. Another contributing cause was the water, which promoted the spread of the disease in England. According to Moote (2004, p9), it is estimated that the Great Plague caused the suffering felt by Britain and continental Europe. Due to the solid marine trade between London and other British ports, water aids in spreading infection.

In the recent outbreak in London, the poor were most affected since they had nowhere else to go. On the other hand, the rich could exit the city when they retired to their state estates or left to be with family elsewhere in the country. Many of the city's businesses and property owners were utterly devastated by the Great London Fire that followed. According to Leasor (1962, p. 193–196), Though the capital's road plans were rarely updated, these blueprints stayed intact. Some changes were implemented, such as widening roads, installing sidewalks, abolishing open gutters, prohibiting wooden buildings and overhanging gables, and building design and construction regulations. Many structures were tastefully built with brick or stone. The capital city is both young and healthier than it was in the past. Even in the wake of the traumatic events of 1665 and 1666, London felt like a smaller community. A thoroughly intelligent person.

Plague is also one of the inspiration themes in a literary work. For example, in the novel, *Empty World* by John Christopher (1977), a deadly virus known as the Calcutta Plague is spreading worldwide. The main character, Neil, a teenage boy, realizes that he is entirely alone due to the plague. Previously Neil lost his entire family in a car accident and was able to rise from adversity. After the plague outbreak, Neil's world became empty of people, and Neil realized that he had wasted everyone's existence.

The Calcutta Plague is a plague that has become the greatest threat to all mankind globally. The human risk of being infected with the Calcutta Virus varies. Several conditions and comorbidities increase the chances of developing the Calcutta Plague to experience severe symptoms. If treatment is delayed, it will result in continued death. Everyone infected with the Calcutta plague will have a high fever. This condition has become a familiar sign because the immune system of every living thing works to fight a disease or virus.

According to Damono (1984, p. 6), sociology is objective and scientific research on humans in society, research on institutions and processes of society. Sociology tries to find out how social relation is made possible, how it exists, and its existence. By studying social institutions and all economic, religious, political problems, all of which are social structures. We get an idea of how humans adapt to the environment about the mechanism of socialization. This civilizing process places members of society in their respective places.

Sociology of Literature is an understanding of literary works by considering social aspects (Ratna, 2003, p. 3). Sociology of literature as a type of approach to

literature has a paradigm with different epistemological assumptions and implications than those outlined by literary theory based on literary autonomy.

Like many works of post-disaster science fiction, Christopher's novels contain the implicit idea that the essence of existence can be found in the core concerns of human nature: survival, bonding, reproduction, and the search for meaning. Based on this, literary works can be viewed from a sociological perspective. Literary works can be seen from a sociological perspective by considering social aspects. Social aspects concern humans with their environment, community structures, institutions, and social processes.

This study will choose the plague as the main focus of research, how an epidemic that also occurs in real life is described in the novel *Empty World*.

The discussion of this research formulates questions; (1) How is the Calcutta plague depicted and impacted in the novel *Empty World* and (2) How is the relationship between the *Empty World* novel and real events.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

This study has two goals as in the following lines.

- 1. To find out the description and impact of the Calcutta plague in the novel *Empty World*.
- 2. To find out the relation between the *Empty World* novel and real events.

1.3 Significance of the Study

The author hopes this research can be more beneficial for readers to anticipate the spread of the plague by complying with emergency regulations from the government for the common good. Therefore, this research theory can be a reference for English Literature students who want to research the sociology of literature and approach certain issues. Furthermore, they can broaden their horizons about literary knowledge.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The writer provides a scope so that the research discussion becomes clear and systematic. The scope of this research is a novel entitled *Empty World* by John Christopher. The limitation of this research is the spread of the Calcutta plague, which affects the social conditions of the people of London. In addition, the limitations of this study make the writer try to do research that focuses on discussions that the writer has adjusted. In analyzing the problem, the writer wants to introduce the Calcutta plague and its impact on the community's social conditions.

1.5 Research Method

In this piece of the thesis, the method of study examines how the examination is done logically. The research method covers the research design, data sources, data collection, and data analysis.

1.5.1. Research Design

This research is library research that works through many books and other references such as articles and journals to support the research topic. This study uses a qualitative method that relies on the analysis and explanation of researchers from data taken from the novel *Empty World*. This method is the best way to get a deep and detailed understanding of the data.

1.5.2. Data Source

There are two sources of data, the primary sources and secondary sources. In this study, the primary data source is a novel entitled *Empty World*; the author is John Christopher. Secondary data sources are taken from journals, articles, theses, and books related to this research issue.

1.5.3. Data Collection

The writer used several steps in collecting the data:

- 1. The writer reads the novel *Empty World* as the primary source intensively by making a data table.
- The writer collects all the words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs relevant to The plague and its impacts then interprets each quote.
- 3. The writer searches for and finds significant issues to be researched.
- **4.** The writer also found relevant theories from journals, articles, and books to support data analysis.

Last, the writer classified the data based on the statement of the problem

1.5.4. Data Analysis

After collecting the data, the writer will start to analyze the data. The collected data that have been described, then analyzed using the following steps:

- a. The writer divided the discussion into two critical issues: The description of the Calcutta plague and The Impact of the Calcutta plague on the community's social conditions.
- b. The writer explains the plague, People who are potentially infected with the plague, the spread of the plague, and the Calcutta plague's impact from sociology and literature.
- c. The writer interpreted the results through the analysis
- d. The writer draws conclusions based on the analysis.

CHAPTER II REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This chapter presents a review of related literature. Through literary criticism, criticism provides ideas, reviews, and comments about a particular literary work. Literary criticism can also be a way to understand the author's thoughts from work. In every study, criticism is needed to support the idea or topic being discussed. Several criticisms will be submitted to help the writer complete this research.

To analyze the novel *Empty World* by John Christophers, the writer uses several theories discussed in this chapter. This analysis only concerns the text in a storyline in the novel, so the writer uses the sociology of literature and mimetic theory to analyze this novel. The writer describes a plague represented in the novel and an impact on a teenage boy in this novel who is still free from the plague.

2.1.1 Sociology and Literature

At first, the term sociology of literature combines an aspect derived from the sentences sociology and literature. Sociology is a science that focuses on general aspects of society and tries to find general patterns of people's lives. Sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society. The study of social institutions and social processes; seeks to answer how society is possible, how it

works, why it persists (Swingewood, 1972, p. 3). It means Sociology can be a bridge to answer questions about how the condition of a society, how it works, and why the community survives.

Sociology of literature understands a literary phenomenon related to social aspects. It is an interdisciplinary approach to reading and understanding literature. According to Swingewood (1972, p. 6), the boundaries of sociology as a science, the limits of literature, then describe the differences and similarities between sociology and literature. Therefore, before explaining the nature of the sociology of literature, it is necessary to understand the limitations of sociology as the basis of science.

The sociology of literature is applied in this research as the basis for the needs of this research. This theory is due to the discussion of social phenomena represented in the novel *Empty World* by John Christopher. This study uses the sociology of literature as a point of view to analyze social conditions in a plague at that time. This study discusses a boy who is free from a deadly plague with his social life. It will be about how teenage boys face such a lonely life and try to survive

2.1.2 Sociology of Literature Approach

According to Damono (1978: 17), the sociology of literature approach is a literary study approach based on the sociology of the author who takes issue with social status, social ideology, and others concerning the author as a producer of

literary works. It relates to authors, readers, and literary texts. The approach is used to approach and identify an object in a study. In literature, an approach is used to analyze something in a literary work. Therefore, at least two approaches are proposed in the literature, namely intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

A particular society supporting an author will naturally give birth to a specific type of literature and work. Furthermore, it is said that views, attitudes, and values, including the needs of a person, including the author, are drawn from existing and applicable social system sources. (Hardjana, 1981, p. 81). Without realizing it, society itself is a factor in determining what people should write, how to write it, and for whom a literary work is written and for what purpose. Thus, it is clear where manipulation is carried out to examine which functions are dominant in a text (entertainment, information, sociology). So that the role of literary works in society can be traced.

The sociology of literature approach is one of the approaches in the literature, especially literary works extrinsically. The sociological approach to literature seeks to analyze humans in society in relationships (Elliott, 2014, p. 64). This thought means that the sociology of literature approach is an approach to literary works that connects literary works with social aspects (society) because of the author's experiences and views on social life.

In this research need, the writer uses the sociology of literature approach as one of the approaches to this research. An object of this research is a teenage boy experiencing the impact of an accident that befell his family until the arrival of a plague that makes many people die. Therefore, the writer discusses the relationship between teenage boys and foreign communities around who are still survivors of the dangerous plague told in the novel *Empty World*.

2.1.3 Mimetic theory

Mimetic theory is the literary theory that has been described by M.H.Abrams in his book The Mirror and the Lamp where this theory as the approach which focuses on the relationship between the text and universe. The term of mimetic originally means as imitation in Greek. That means what the author describes in a literary work is a mirror that refelcts the world. Therefore, the mimetic theory could be meant as the imitation, image, reflection, feigning, counterfeiting, copy, portrayal and representation.

The mimetic orientation the explanation of art as essentially an imitaion of aspects of the universe, was probably the most primitive aesthetic theory, but mimetic is no simple concept, the first recorded appearance in the dialogues of plato. According to socrates the art of painting, poetry, music dancing and sclupture, are all imitation. There are three category of mimteic theory. the first is imitable, means the idea are unchanging and eternal. the second category is the wolrd of sense, natural or artificial and third category is reflecting the second, such as shadow, mirror, water and the fine arts.

2.2 Review of Related Studies

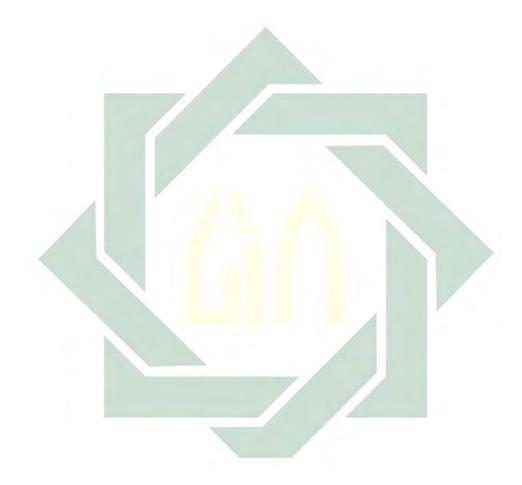
The writer found the previous research that was the same as the novel but other analyses and different analyses. The first is Fajrin, Nanda Sukmawati (2019), with a thesis title *Human Creation Process in Aldous Huxley's Brave New World*. This research uses mimetic theory to describe the condition of people nowdays which portrays within the novel. The results of this study indicate that there are two main phases in the creation process, they are before pre decanted and post decanted.

The second is Vita Anggoro Sari (2016), a student from the English Department Faculty of Art and Humanities, State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya, with a thesis title *The Reflection Of The Russian Revolution In George Orwell's Animal Farm*. The problem of this thesis reflected on the 1917 Russian Revolution in the novel. The writer uses literary sociology theory to examine the Russian revolution and its relationship with this novel.

And the last is Siti Malinda (2018), with a thesis title *Reflection Of Wall Street Condition In The Wolf Of Wall Street Memoir By Jordan Belfort*. The issue of this study is about economy, law and lifestyle of stockbroker that is reflected in the memoir. This thesis basically uses Mimetic theory. The writer explain the real condition that happened in Wall Street, such as lifestyles of stockbroker, weak supervision, Secularities and Exchange Commission laws.

This research will be different from previous research where previous research discusses how the creation of humans using machines differs, or how a

novel is inspired by the Russian revolution in 1917, and the state of an American economic institution in the novel. This study will choose the plague as the main focus of research, how an epidemic that also occurs in real life is described in the novel *Empty World*.



CHAPTER III

In this section, the writer answer the questions in this study. First, the writer explain about the description and impact of the Calcutta plague in the novel *Empty World*. second, the writer explains about the relations between real events and the novel *Empty World*.

3.1 The description and impact of the Calcutta plague in the novel *Empty World*

A plague occurs when a disease spreads and infects more people than usual in an area or community or during certain seasons. Plague usually lasts for an extended period, ranging from days to years. Not only in one area, but the plague can also spread to other regions or countries around it.

A plague can infect anyone when a person's immune system is weak. However, some people have been confirmed to be infected with the Calcutta Virus because a person's age is a factor that can affect it. The writer have found the description and impact of the Calcutta plague as follows:

3.1.1 Explaining the Calcutta plague in detail

The Calcutta pandemic has an impact on public health. It affects the economic conditions, education, and social life of people in the world. Based on the novel *Empty World*, the number of victims who died from the Calcutta Virus

in India reached thousands. This pandemic has caused several governments in each country to implement policies regarding blocking all places. Foreign visitors come, which has implications for limiting community activities, including economic activities, educational activities, and other social activities.

The decline in these activities impacts the socio-economic conditions of the community, especially the survivors who have difficulty dealing with the city's critical economy. Unfortunately, however, the government's efforts to control the spread of the plague by issuing policies to address this pandemic's social and economic impacts have not worked optimally. Finally, many residents, especially in London, experienced gloomy and terrible lives during the Calcutta Plague region.

3.1.1.1 The beginning of the plague

The plague is an incident where the infectious disease has increased rapidly and significantly, exceeding the usual situation in a specific area at a particular time. Can cause havoc to cause many victims from various countries around the world. Initially, the plague's emergence was not immediately known because of the new virus that did not yet have a name or drug to cure someone who had contracted the virus. "Like in India which appeared suddenly and took many lives. He went on: "But there's an interesting example in the opposite direction, in that epidemic they had in India, a few months back." (Christopher, 1977, p. 6)

Mr. Dunhill gives an interesting example because it is based on an incident a few months ago in India. Then in the Biology class which Mr. Dunhill's teaching

in Neil's class was a fact that suited the subject of the day. It can be concluded that the Calcutta Plague has emerged. The uncomfortable reality for them is that the plague will soon spread to their homes in the UK if there is no quick action to stop the spread of the virus. The Calcutta Plague, it had been called, because that was where the first cases had occurred. It had swept through northern India, killing hundreds of thousands, and then died out. (Christopher, 1977, p. 6)

The plague was first known to be in northern India, a horrific plague that has killed thousands of people. The plague was known as the Calcutta Virus. This virus is spreading rapidly, and no cure has been found to stop the plague. In reality, the government cannot stop the spread of the plague without all its people's power to comply with their respective regions' emergency policies.

3.1.1.2 People who have a high potential for contracting the plague

A human's risk of being infected with the Calcutta Virus varies. Several conditions and comorbidities increase the likelihood of being exposed to the Calcutta Plague to experience severe symptoms. If treatment is delayed, it will result in ongoing death. As described in the novel *Empty World*, one of the risk factors for being exposed to the Calcutta Plague can be seen from age. Experts believe people in their fifties over have a higher risk of contracting the Calcutta Virus than those in their forties. The reason is that when they get older, they have an immune system that tends to decline, simply because the immune system weakens with age. It mimicked a rare disorder called progeria, specifically the

Hutchinson-Gilford syndrome. Children grow old before they grow up.

(Christopher, 1977, p. 6)

The second phase of the sign of someone having the Calcutta plague is connected to today's discussion because it is similar to Hutchinson-Gilford syndrome or other progeria names. A rare disorder that causes children to age before they become adults. Therefore, it can be said that the Calcutta virus can attack anyone, not least because this virus attacks the body of someone who has a decreased immune system.

"Fortunately in this case it was not the young who were affected but the old, chiefly the very old. Mostly the victims were over sixty. There were one or two cases as young as the middle forties, and the results there were much more striking: wrinkling of skin, whitening of hair roots, calcium loss, atherosclerosis. It was as though they were racing towards the grave, instead of indulging in that slow crawl which satisfies us normal geriatrics." (Christopher, 1977, p. 6)

Many people are worried about the existence of the Calcutta plague. However, the fact that we should know is that the Calcutta plague mainly affects the elderly. The Calcutta plague is susceptible to older people aged around sixty years and over. It does not rule out the possibility that young people aged thirtyfive years and over have the potential to contract the virus. However, there is a slight chance for children to be infected as well.

The signs remain the same, namely wrinkling of the skin, bleaching of hair roots, loss of calcium, atherosclerosis. The apparent danger of the Calcutta Plague made Mr. Dunhill assumes that this epidemic can cut the retirement age that should be enjoyed by every elderly. It is as if people infected with the Calcutta plague race to the grave because this plague can accelerate the aging process and make the sufferer die a few weeks after being infected. Mr. Dunhill was in his fifties. It was probably as much as forty years since he had sat in a classroom, listening to someone as old as he was now. (Christopher, 1977, p. 6)

Mr. Dunhill is a Biology teacher in his fifties and has taught at this school for many years. Neil had to listen to all of Mr. Dunhill's explanations because if the plague had reached his area of residence, then there was no guarantee for them to survive. Mr. Dunhill includes the criteria for people who are at significant risk for contracting the virus. If that happens, it does not take long for other people to catch the virus. The victims quite literally died of nothing except old age." "They were old already, though." (Christopher, 1977, p. 7)

Generally, infected victims will experience unbearable pain before they meet their death. However, they seem to die in old age because the virus causes the victim to experience premature aging and eventually die. Mr. Dunhill can confidently conclude that he has information from various existing research and can be proven scientifically. That was the day Mr. Dunhill stayed away from school. He was back two days later and looked no different. However, through the days that followed, the class watched him. (Christopher, 1977, p. 19)

Mr. Dunhill did not go to school for a few days to keep himself from contracting the Calcutta plague because he had to be more vigilant in his old age. After all, if he got infected, it would be terrible for the people around him. Some information from BBC news that the plague has spread in London, but there is no

sign that the Rye area will also be exposed to the Calcutta virus. It was impossible not to, Neil found—impossible not to speculate that he was marked for death and wonder how soon the end would come. (Christopher, 1977, p. 19)

Mr. Dunhill is an old teacher, and of course, Neil and the other students would think that Mr. Dunhill could also catch the virus. Social distancing is an essential way to avoid the rapid spread of the Calcutta virus. No one knows what the distribution process was. However, it was all caused by the selfish actions of some people who had recklessly violated the local government's isolation rules. The faces looked at Mr. Dunhill, and Mr. Dunhill looked back at the faces and talked about Biology. (Christopher, 1977, p. 19)

In every Mr. Dunhill starts teaching, the students always pay attention to him because they are worried that there is a Calcutta virus in him. At the same time, it will signify that the plague has attacked Rye and will continue to spread until it reaches Winchelsea. At the same time, this condition will be an alarm for all people in Rye to protect themselves from the uncontrolled transmission of the Calcutta virus.

She picked up a clod of earth, crumbled it, and threw it on the sheet. She said: "Goodbye, Ted," then turned away and went back into the house. Neil stayed and covered the body with earth. Neil buried his grandmother a week later. During that time he did not go out except to get food for them both. (Christopher, 1977, p. 23)

Neil's grandmother had said goodbye in front of her husband's tombstone with his name on it. Neil buried his grandfather's body. Unfortunately, Neil's moment of togetherness did not last long because his grandmother also followed her husband's departure with a death case from the Calcutta virus. This incident illustrates how painful it is to—left by a loved one, and all that is the impact of the uncontrolled spread of the plague.

Age is a determining factor in how strong a person's immune system is. In general, people know that if the elderly will not survive if they are infected. Most of those who have great power can arbitrarily violate the government's emergency policy and ultimately make the Calcutta plague more dangerous for everyone. This condition is exacerbated by the increasing number of fatalities from the thirties age; in this case, it will significantly affect the economy due to the lack of skilled workers.

3.1.1.3 The Description and effects of the Calcutta virus

The most important thing here is knowing how the Calcutta virus process when it infects a person until many victims die from it. Before explaining it according to the quotes in the *Empty World* Novel, the writer wants to introduce what a virus is. Viruses are microbes that cannot live without attaching to their host. Viruses are also much smaller than bacteria. Every virus has genetic material, either RNA or DNA. When entering the body, the virus will attack healthy cells and take over the nutrients and oxygen.

Furthermore, the virus will begin to multiply until finally, the cell it is carrying dies. Not only damage healthy cells, in some cases, viruses can also turn normal cells into dangerous cells. "Today they were dealing with cell structures, and Mr. Dunhill moved on to a discussion of the ageing process." (Christopher, 1977, p. 5)

The subject matter that taught by Mr. Dunhill today is the structure of the cell and then proceeds to discuss the aging process. Every lesson at Neil's school emphasizes discussion because it will train every student to think and speak appropriately based on the references they learn. This explanation did not bore Neil because Biology is a subject that focuses on studying the various functions of living cells and types of living things, from the smallest to the largest. On earth, there are still many mysteries unknown to Modern Science, which makes Neil excited to take Biology lessons. "There was some evidence, he pointed out, for believing that ageing was caused by the increasing inability of cells to remember the functions laid down for them in the genetic blueprint, a sort of cellular amnesia." (Christopher, 1977, p. 5)

Mr. Dunhill teaches that aging is caused by the inability of cells to remember the functions assigned to them in the genetic blueprint. The simple explanation of this is an increase in cell damage; Neil learns something exciting and new. The lesson happens to be, in fact, and has become a threat to the region around India that the virus can kill slowly. Simply put, if someone experiences unnatural wrinkles at the age, he should not be. It means that it has been confirmed that that person has contracted the Calcutta virus.

"You'll remember there were two phases of the disease," Mr. Dunhill said. "Initially there was a fever, followed by recovery and a symptomless period varying between ten days and three weeks. That was followed by a general deterioration of bodily functions, leading to collapse and death. (Christopher, 1977, p. 6)

Everyone who is infected with a disease or virus will experience a high fever. This condition has become a familiar sign because the immune system of every living thing works to fight a disease or virus. In the case of the Calcutta plague, there are several characteristics that we can understand if someone has contracted this plague. First, fever but no visible symptoms, but after ten days or three weeks, the body will experience a general decline in body functions resulting in death. Mr. Explanation Dunhill is a picture of what has happened to people who died from the virus and is a fear in itself for people who worry that they will end up like that. "The striking thing was that the second phase strongly resembled an accelerated ageing process. (Christopher, 1977, p. 6)

Mr. Dunhill shows his students the similarities of the second phase to the earlier discussion of the aging process. The second phase sign that people have contracted the Calcutta plague is an accelerated aging process. The patient will not feel pain when he is infected with the Calcutta virus, which is very dangerous. Because it can make people think it is okay to go to another area to save themselves from the plague. "It's a tenable explanation," Mr. Dunhill went on, that the Calcutta virus attacked the individual cells in such a way as to inhibit or destroy that memory function we have been talking about." (Christopher, 1977, p. 7)

Currently, Mr. Dunhill wants his class discussion to remain conducive and focus on the discussion he brought today. There was panic from some students

after hearing an explanation about the Calcutta plague. Mr. Dunhill repeated his remarks at the beginning of the discussion. If the Calcutta virus is a virus that attacks individual cells to destroy memory functions that make infected people experience premature aging. This plague makes the people's mentality down because since the plague has infected the people of London, they think as if the angel of death is ready to take their lives at any time.

On Monday morning his appearance was shocking. He looked ten years older at least, and they saw his hands tremble when he went to write on the blackboard. The writing was scrawled and wavering. During class the Headmaster came in and spoke to him. Their voices were low, but it was obvious that the Headmaster was urging something, Mr. Dunhill refusing. (Christopher, 1977, p. 19)

The plague will undoubtedly attack the elderly because it is not surprising that the principal and other teachers are very afraid of being infected. When Mr. Dunhill started teaching, his students saw a noticeable change in Mr. Dunhill. He had the Calcutta plague, making him look ten years older. The principal's arrival to see Mr. Dunhill was, of course, due to the Calcutta plague. The principal tried to tell Mr. Dunhill that he should not come to school again and indirectly told Mr. Dunhill to die peacefully at home. It lasted another two days, during which he continually deteriorated. His skin wrinkled, his voice became more reed-like, his movements tottery and uncertain. (Christopher, 1977, p. 20)

The change after two days due to the Calcutta plague made Mr. Dunhill look different and age faster, as he had described in one of his lessons. The incident that Mr. Dunhill is currently suffering from is an example of the Calcutta virus being so dangerous and makes the sufferer feel his old days. This effect was the beginning of the extinction of the elderly in London.

"The reason the hair proper, while thinner, is still no more than tinged with grey, is simply that human hair grows at a slower rate than that of the cellular deterioration caused by the Calcutta virus." He paused, as though speech were becoming wearisome. (Christopher, 1977, p. 20)

Mr. Dunhill's explanation of aging is the process by which cellular damage changes faster than hair growth. Calcutta virus has a short process and causes the sufferer to die quickly. Mr. Dunhill, who is experiencing premature aging, makes him tired as quickly as older people feel in general. However, the difference is that he will soon meet his death in the next few days due to being infected with a virus.

3.1.1.4 Spread of the plague

The Calcutta Plague is still one of the significant health problems worldwide, especially in London. Transmission of this virus is also straightforward to happen. Therefore, it is necessary to take preventive measures so that the spread of infectious diseases can be stopped. However, unfortunately, the community's noncompliance makes all these preventions in vain. The Calcutta Plague can be transmitted from one person to another directly or indirectly.

The cause of the virus is directly transmitted. It can be infected from one person to another through physical contact with an infected person, such as touching, splashing saliva when sneezing or coughing, and kissing. Transmission can also occur through blood, such as blood transfusions or sharing needles with other people. Sexual intercourse with people with the Calcutta virus is also possible. Unfortunately, transmission through sexual contact is rare.

The spread of infectious diseases can indirectly contract the Calcutta virus, and transmission can occur when you touch objects that people have contaminated with the Calcutta virus. Usually, this incident occurs in a public place. However, this case is rare, and it can be ascertained that most of the transmission did occur directly. "There was a well-known case of a child in Brazil, who at six months had adult teeth already yellowing, at two years white hair, thinning on top, and who died at ten of hardening of the arteries." (Christopher, 1977, p. 6)

This quote proves that the spread of the Calcutta plague is swift to reach Brazil. The case that shocked the world community was where a six-month-old child contracted the Calcutta virus and went through a strange process. However, it has happened until many news channels reported the incident. This aging process is accelerated due to progeria disorder and made this case quite famous.

Was the joke about being a geriatric as light-hearted, Neil wondered, as it seemed? People died: he had come to know that in the last few weeks in a way he had never known before. And they must fear it, he supposed, more and more as the inevitability drew closer. (Christopher, 1977, p. 6)

Strange things immediately occurred to Neil, feeling that being Geriatric would be fun. However, Neil did not want to accept the consequences of being Geriatric because he often saw people die. The worst possibility was contracting a virus. Neil knows that a geriatrician will have a big responsibility because

geriatrics is a branch of medical science. That studies the physiological conditions and diseases related to the elderly, focusing on premature aging.

Furthermore, it will be directly related to the Calcutta virus, which usually attacks the elderly. Neil saw many sides that Neil did not like, especially when he saw the dead. Then suddenly the plague was in Rye, and two days later in Winchelsea. (Christopher, 1977, p. 19)

A proof that the Calcutta plague only took two days to spread to Winchelsea, even though the city is remote in southeast England. Even Doctor Allan predicts that the Winchelsea area will be free from the spread of the plague because it is a place that new people rarely visit. The only cause of the Calcutta plague spreading in Winchelsea was selfishness. Someone who avoided contagion of the virus but unknowingly spread the virus to one resident in Winchelsea and then spread to almost all residents city.

He went on: "It seems that you may shortly be living in a world in which the old have ceased to exist. The middle-aged, too, perhaps, because the number of cases in the thirty plus group seems to be increasing." (Christopher, 1977, p. 20)

The uncontrolled spread made the Calcutta plague a real threat as it affected many people in England. This situation was exacerbated by dissidents who had a significant role in the spread of the Plague in England. This increasingly uncontrollable situation is why many people died from the Calcutta plague when they were over thirty. That was due to the many stresses that made a person's immune system weak. "It was still called the Calcutta Plague after it had spread south to Sri Lanka and leapt across the Indian Ocean to a new foothold in

Mombasa. Sources of infection were next confirmed in Cairo and Athens."

(Christopher, 1977, p. 11)

The spread of this plague is relentless, but the plague outbreak can be stopped if a vaccine is found. The Calcutta plague has become a disease of global importance in recent years. The spread of this plague so quickly from Sri Lanka and then across the Indian Ocean that it could infect the people of Mombasa. The cities of Cairo and Athens were indeed declared the following areas to spread the Calcutta plague.

A State of Emergency had been declared, and was effective forthwith. Certain orders were being promulgated by the Home Secretary, and one of these related to admissions to the United Kingdom from abroad. Until further notice no-one aged forty or over would be allowed entry, by any means of transport or from any part of the world. (Christopher, 1977, p. 12)

Keeping our food clean is one of the most important ways to avoid contracting the Calcutta virus. Implementing an isolation system is the best way to prevent the spread of the Calcutta Plague. Each country will impose a block on the arrival of new arrivals from various regions. The right step is because then the spread of the plague in their country can be controlled. This policy will also make it easier for the government to record all its citizens.

People's panic made it difficult for the government to discipline its citizens and hoped for emergency regulations. The government could be carried out according to the plan that state officials had discussed. The worst risk can also be from the government's strategy because it does not rule out the possibility of giving orders that cause the plague to get even more out of control.

These policies are to avoid people who have not been infected with people who have been infected. The spread of the Calcutta plague has made every country's leader enforce a strict entry. Exit system will apply until the Calcutta plague is completely contained globally. This method is considered ineffective because there is a possibility of breaking from one country to another. After all, that person is rich and gives money to border guards.

3.1.2 The Plague harms society

The impact that occurred due to the plague on the community's social conditions went through several phases. Each phase would be classified and explained according to the quote in the novel *Empty World*. This study aims to find out what happened to the community as a result of the plague. The tragedies in the lives of Neil and the survivors are a selection of nature. A city that was initially crowded with people suddenly becomes a dead city that will gradually return to a forest.

The Calcutta virus has taken human lives, but the more deadly virus is egoism, which has taken humanity. This condition also makes trust in fellow community members to be lost. No one can protect the safety and welfare of the survivors because the law does not apply. Most of the survivors do not want themselves to have a good relationship, help, or say hello to anyone. "Chaos, if the experience elsewhere is anything to go by. But it may not reach our little backwater." (Christopher, 1977, p. 17)

Doctor Alan firmly believes the spread of the Calcutta plague will not reach the remote towns of southeast England. Although the plague has not yet spread in London, Doctor Alan feels that soon the plague will spread in England. There is a possibility of survival for the villagers because outsiders rarely visit the place.

This condition is clear that the spread of the plague can occur due to the selfishness of residents. They want to flee from the village or abroad in the hope of surviving the threat of the Calcutta virus. However, instead, he is the one who brought the virus to a new place and made residents feel the ferocity of the Calcutta Plague until it causes victims. This situation made the Calcutta Plague increasingly out of control, which ultimately harmed both the infected and the survivors who lost their loved ones.

It is a very inhuman impact, an act of crime when someone is unaware of being infected with the Calcutta Virus. Then someone gets carried away to a new place and makes that place instantly chaotic because of the virus. Then who will be blamed? no one knows the perpetrators of the spread, which causes the medical workers to be overwhelmed when dealing with patients infected with the Calcutta Virus. "Thanks. The undertakers. Medical treatment won't be a problem, but disposal of bodies will. I hear in Germany the crematoria are working flat out, round the clock, and they're still having to dig mass graves. Lime pits, actually." (Christopher, 1977, p. 18)

This plague has claimed so many lives that the gravediggers have no time to rest in the end. Doctor Alan also took this incident to obey the government's directives not to suffer like people in Germany. This mass death can be prevented by not moving to other places so that the virus does not increase the death toll. However, people do not get certainty about the antidote to this virus and decide to save themselves by running away.

Several countries have experienced economic instability because the plague has infected many citizens. In this position, many of the poor and government staff have died. The life and death of humans in the world are at stake by the hard work of medical experts searching for a vaccine. The official line now resembled the one the doctor had suggested. The worse the epidemic got, the sooner it would run its course. (Christopher, 1977, p. 19)

Neil believes that the plague will end soon, and the government has provided new rules for the whole community to follow to stop the spread of the plague. However, everything returns to the people's attitude because, if people can understand the situation in their country, they will obey the regulations from the government so that people's conditions improve. The country's economy will be stable. "Meanwhile all possible measures were being taken to control the situation; and the cooperation of the public was sought in helping to get the country through the dark and difficult days ahead." (Christopher, 1977, p. 19)

The government cannot stop the spread of this epidemic without the contribution of the community. With various new regulations from the

government to the public, they can be obeyed and aim to minimize its spread. Such situational control has been widely applied in countries affected by the plague and has returned to the public's response to new regulations. The government would be futile if people who are selfish and reluctant to obey them have fatal consequences for the people in other areas. "In particular it was urged that older people should only leave their homes when the journey was absolutely necessary." (Christopher, 1977, p. 19)

One of the rules from the government to stop the plague from spreading is that every older person is advised not to leave the house for any reason. However, in reality, what happens is that those with money prefer to leave their mark on their homeland and cause negative influence. However, it is not essential for dissidents. "This would give them the best protection personally, and also minimize the risk of spreading the epidemic. It was not easy to gauge exactly what was going on after that." (Christopher, 1977, p. 19)

The steps taken by the government to the community are aimed at stopping the spread of the plague and immediately restoring all community activities. The government is trying to save its people, but no one can predict that the Calcutta Virus can be stopped. However, the various risks that will occur in the future will be the responsibility of each individual. That fact is the reason for dissidents to be selfish. "The rumours multiplied, of course. There were stories of lime pits being dug in the London parks, of people fleeing from the unbearable stench of decay in districts where the disposal of bodies had completely broken down." (Christopher, 1977, p. 19) Many new rumours tell about the lives of people who are facing deadly epidemics because rumours are information whose sources have not been verified. However, this information can influence social behaviour and encourage them to do various ways to survive the plague. The increasingly gripping death that ultimately destroys their zest for life.

3.1.2.1 Many people killed

When people are infected with the Calcutta plague, the lousy impact is the fear of death that will soon pick them up. It is known that the Calcutta virus has a great potential to infect the elderly. Most of them who have money avoid it by looking for a new place to live in another distant city or country. The significant effect is when a rich older man will use his money to avoid the Calcutta plague by moving to another country. However, he does not realize that the plague is spreading more widely due to his actions. "The old who were poor were helpless, of course; but by and large the old were richer than the young, and were ready to use their money to escape the invisible death." (Christopher, 1977, p. 11)

The spread of the Calcutta virus is a form of selfishness by irresponsible individuals, causing many victims and becoming terror for every community in all corners. Because of this, many people spent all their wealth to save themselves from the Calcutta virus. Nevertheless, they did not realize or ignored the government's advice not to leave the city or country. However, the dissidents were reluctant to obey the rules and busy themselves by escaping the plague. The risk of carrying the disease to places still free of infection did not weigh too heavily with them. (Christopher, 1977, p. 11)

Many people are selfish when it comes to life, and they avoid it at all costs. In some countries, they have similar cases because the plague is due to the negligence of their community, and the role of the government is only to discipline its citizens. All the fate of people's safety depends on medical experts who have dedicated their lives to science. "It was said that the Prime Minister was dead, and most of the Cabinet. Certainly he did not appear on television again." (Christopher, 1977, p. 19)

Many victims died from this Calcutta Virus because it attacked ordinary people and attacked state officials. These factors have a terrible impact on the economy and politics in the country. Not a single citizen can withstand the storm of death caused by the Calcutta Plague. The virus has a great potential to destroy memory cells in the bodies of people in their fifties. The bus failed to appear on the final day of school, and Neil had to walk the two and a half miles across the Marsh to Winchelsea. (Christopher, 1977, p. 21)

In this case, there are two possibilities between people dying from the virus or avoiding doing all the activities people usually do for fear of the plague in Rye. On the last day of school, Neil finally came home by foot past Marsh to Winchelsea because there were no vehicles on the road.

As he climbed the steep hill to the town gate a car was travelling erratically down. At one point it was heading straight for him. He found it fairly easy to get out of the way—then watched it crash into the fence, ten yards below, and hang there, suspended over the drop. He went back to look more closely. It had one occupant, the driver, a desiccated ancient he barely recognized as Mr. Behrens, a middle aged friend of his grandparents. There were no signs of injury, but he was dead. Since there was nothing he could do, Neil resumed his climb. (Christopher, 1977, p. 21)

It was very unexpected because he died while driving the vehicle until it hit the road fence. At first, Neil thought that a vehicle was approaching him to give Neil a ride, but when Neil found out that the vehicle was going out of control, Neil changed his mind and stayed away from that car. Then Neil tries to find out what happened and intends to help him, but after realizing that the driver has died, Neil leaves him and hopes that someone will evacuate his body.

Neil could believe that the single accident victim was Mr. Behrens. Because Winchelsea is such a small town that Neil almost recognized everyone there or rather the elderly. By looking at the condition of his death unscathed, it was confirmed that he died of the plague. Things like this make people increasingly pessimistic about surviving in the face of the horrors. This plague attacks the sufferer without any signs or symptoms.

Deaths that occur from the Calcutta virus sometimes have a surprising impact on the sufferer because Neil's case was sudden death. In these conditions, the virus has a great potential in the death of Mr. Behrens because of his reasonably old age. Cases like this are an example of the terrible impact of the Calcutta Plague.

Winchelsea always had an empty look compared with most places, but the emptiness this afternoon was almost tangible. The day was warm and grey, and one or two large spots of rain splashed as he went along the High Street. (Christopher, 1977, p.21)

Winchelsea is a small town that is naturally quiet, but this afternoon, Winchelsea has no visible signs of life. The main reason is that the population of Winchelsea is primarily older people, plus the plague has spread in the city. The dark cloudy weather compounded the silence and as Neil started down the High Street on his way home. Nature seemed to give a sign of deep sadness to the fate of the people in the town of Winchelsea. "The body would be found soon enough, and put in the truck that went daily to Rye with the small town's quota of corpses." (Christopher, 1977, p.22)

After recalling the previous incident that Neil saw on his way home, he thought everything would be covered. The government sent trucks to transport the plague victims every day. This incident is the most critical discussion in this study because the story in this novel illustrates how terrible the spread of the Calcutta Plague was. The plague was caused by the selfishness of citizens who ignored government regulations and moved to a new place. So that thousands of innocent lives were lost due to the plague.

The television set came on, signalling the end of another power cut; but the screen stayed blank until Neil switched it off. He wondered if that was temporary, too, or if television had closed down for the duration of the crisis. Not that it mattered. (Christopher, 1977, p.23)

All television channels have been shut down since the virus spread across the country, including in the area where Neil currently lives. Since the plague spread until the government could not control its spread, television stations started to stop their work for the safety of journalists and their workers. The Calcutta Plague has

become a terrible terror for all the citizens of London, and there is no guarantee for them to survive if they have contracted it. Then it only takes a few days for them to die.

He walked out across the fields and found a farmhouse. It seemed to have been deserted: there was no sign of human life and no one came when he knocked. After he had done that several times without answer, he tried the door. It was only on the latch, and he pushed it open. A smell of death contended with older smells of polish and leather and cooking, but he saw no bodies downstairs and did not venture higher. (Christopher, 1977, p.24)

Neil finds a deserted field, and he finally tries to open the house because his main goal is to find food. Since the death of his grandmother, Neil begins to realize that the Plague of Calcutta has made his days very hard and that anyone who survives will suffer the same fate. The next point discussed the hunger due to the Calcutta Plague because this plague has become an angel of death ready to pick up anyone who gives up on survival. "On the way back he encountered sheep loose in the road, having made or found a gap in the fence which normally penned them in. Since there was no traffic, it did not matter." (Christopher, 1977, p.25)

The cattle in areas affected by the Calcutta plague were neglected because the farmers had died in their beds. The cattle had started roaming the streets because there was no one to take care of them. This condition is made worse because no people are crossing the city streets. The Calcutta virus has killed many people. It has made public facilities so that the laws usually enforced for the public to obey are no longer valid. "The smell of death grew stronger. The corpse lorry had been full the previous day; today it did not appear." (Christopher, 1977, p.25)

Many victims died from the Calcutta Virus. Many people did not know because most of them died at home, sleeping in their beds, and their bodies were not cared for until they rotted. The decomposing bodies caused an unpleasant odor to spread throughout the city of Rye. This terrible life must have resulted in social fear. Everyone whose territory was affected by the plague would feel the same way. "But he had a reluctance to move away from the place he knew; even the hateful smell of death, pervading everywhere, was not enough to overcome it." (Christopher, 1977, p.27)

Neil's desire to stay on the pitch was hindered by the smell of death spread in the pitch area, making Neil feel uncomfortable and thought about giving up his intentions. Many rotting corpses in houses in Rye cause a very unpleasant smell. Surprisingly the people living in Rye seemed to have gotten used to the smell of death that wafts in every corner of the city.

Rye was horrifying. It was not so empty as Winchelsea: Neil saw quite a few people in the streets, and a couple of motor cars being driven. But the people had dazed hopeless expressions and the smell of death was overpowering, a sickly cloying sweetness which hung nauseatingly on the hot breeze. (Christopher, 1977, p.27)

Rye was an ordinarily bustling city, but it was as if no one else passed each other when Neil was there. There were only people walking briskly, but their expressions were languid as their life energy evaporated. Rye is a densely populated city, so it is only natural that the smell of death smells very strong. The condition of society in Rye describes the initial state of the plague infecting many people there. However, soon Rye will become like Winchelsea, where there is no one left there.

Immediately below on the Salts were the lines of brown and one gaping ditch. Presumably it had been left like that when the bulldozer operator died or fled. He could see the whiteness of lime at the bottom of the ditch. (Christopher, 1977, p.28)

Neil sees a mass grave in Salts, and there are several gaping moats for other victims who died. The volunteers to bury the dead were confirmed to have died from contracting the Calcutta virus. When their immune system declined, they worked non-stop until they were exhausted. Bulldozer workers also died, and there was no substitute for a new volunteer to bury the bodies of the Calcutta plague.

The plague that spreads in a densely populated country will undoubtedly take many victims. If only the government and society cooperated with their respective initiatives, perhaps the spread of the plague could be controlled. Nevertheless, no matter how big our efforts are in suppressing the death rate due to the epidemic, it should be noted. It will be in vain without a vaccine that can cure the Calcutta virus.

3.1.2.2 Short of food supply

The main difficulty with the impact of the Calcutta Plague was food, as there was nothing to fill the usual stock of food. The survivors have no other choice but to look for canned food in shops or supermarkets in the city because canned food is a preserved food and will last a long time to some extent. Farm animals can no longer be expected because there are causes that lead to this food crisis. It really cannot be avoided. All of them have been summarized by the writer and will be discussed at this point. "There were difficulties about that: one of the shops had reopened, but had scarcely anything on its shelves." (Christopher, 1977, p.24)

Neil was having a hard time living his life when the Calcutta Plague hit was food. All were caused by the economic instability that occurred in London. Food supplies can no longer be provided in shops or supermarkets, and no one works in them. Surviving by relying on Neil's food stock is impossible. Therefore Neil is required to look for food supplies in various nearby shops that have canned food supplies. "In the kitchen there was spoiled food, but beyond there was a larder which yielded cheese and potatoes and a large bowl of eggs which, when he tried them in water, showed their relative freshness by sinking." (Christopher, 1977, p.24)

Neil trying to find food inside the farmhouse, and while looking in the cupboard outside, there were several types of food such as eggs and potatoes. Neil tried to submerge the potatoes in water because then he could tell if they were edible or not. In this case, it proves that food that is not accompanied by preservatives will not last long. One example is a potato; if left too long will cause green spots caused by solanine. The main poison produced by potatoes can be very dangerous if consumed.

No wonder why the survivors who run out of food stocks in their homes will go out to look for canned food. However, keep in mind that public facilities such

as electricity have not worked since thousands of Londoners died from the Calcutta Virus. Neil has to find a new place to live because the stove in his house uses an electric stove. Neil is free to live anywhere and use anyone's belongings. No one in Winchelsea or Rye left but himself except in London. It is the capital of England and the United Kingdom, which is certainly wider, and some survivors may still survive there. "He made up a bundle of what he wanted and left three pound notes on the kitchen table, weighted down by a potato." (Christopher, 1977, p.24)

Neil feels that taking without permission is theft, so Neil deliberately pays for it by giving a note. Neil is an example of a survivor who is still adapting to the circumstances resulting from the impact of the Calcutta Plague. It is a natural habit to take what we need and pay for it according to the item's value, but for conditions like today where the plague has killed many people in London. Even the world will be in vain because besides the law is no longer valid, money and wealth are also no more price. At least the shelves were full of tins of food, and Neil found a cardboard box and methodically filled it. He did not bother to leave money: that was all over, too. (Christopher, 1977, p.32)

Neil also took the canned food left in the shop, and Neil thought there was no need to leave money for the food he took because money no longer applies to anyone. The survivors realize that the most valuable thing is having a healthy body and surviving until the Calcutta Plague ends. The plague had an unexpected impact and paralyzed all activities in London.

He was about six years old. His name, it seemed, was Tommy—Tommy Mitcham, he said, and went on to reel off his address. His parents would have taught him to do that in case he got lost: Neil remembered his mother teaching him. She could never have imagined him being lost like this. He told his story haltingly but clearly. Mummy and Daddy had got sick, and then died. They were upstairs. They had told him not to go out without them. He had been eating biscuits, but they were all gone. He was hungry. (Christopher, 1977, p.33)

Parents will teach their children not to go anywhere without the supervision of their parents, and it is intended that the children do not get lost. Tommy's experience was so heavy even at his young age that he was very confused. This condition is also made worse when Neil learns that Tommy's parents have died from the Calcutta virus, and before they die, they tell Tommy not to go without them. This position makes Tommy have to take the initiative to survive by eating biscuits and sharing them with his younger sister Susie. However, now they are known to be starving because they run out of food.

His luck changed unexpectedly. He had finished the provisions in his haversack; he thought of going back home, but decided it would be easier to forage near at hand. He went to the nearest supermarket in the King's Road, and smashed a way in. There was plenty of food, but also sections of shelf which had been stripped. He looked more closely and saw the signs of a recent human presence: dust disturbed on the shelves and floor. (Christopher, 1977, p.83)

Neil had prepared all the supplies in his backpack had run out faster than expected, so he had to return home. Neil preferred to find food nearby and went to the nearest supermarket on King's Road, breaking the door and breaking it down. Inside King's Road, there was plenty of decent food to eat. However, some chipped shelves made Neil immediately think that there were signs of a human who had just entered the shop. Neil's guess was confirmed again by clues visible from the dust on the shelves and the floor that looked like someone's tracks.

The Plague of Calcutta forced the survivors to find food to survive. However, the plague also changed their mindset to be warier than anyone. The Calcutta plague has rendered law and security in the city of London meaningless. Survivors are being trained to be extra vigilant to protect themselves from the virus and protect themselves from the crimes of others.

3.1.2.3 Loss of trust in others

The plague has changed and even taken all, the bad effects caused by the Calcutta virus itself are so terrible that it causes a country to experience total economic paralysis so that television channels cannot report anything because no one can survive long when infected with the Calcutta Virus. In an instant, the plague has turned a large and peaceful country into a dead country. The plague does not look at race or caste because this virus spreads very quickly.

Since this plague spread, everyone finally realized that true wealth is not from wealth but physical and spiritual health. The Calcutta Plague damages memory function in the body and damages the mentality of sufferers and survivors. However, the plague cannot kill all people because some people have strong immune systems that can survive. However, their personalities have been changed by the fear of the spread of the plague, which is increasingly dangerous. "Neil saw fewer people each day. Those he did encounter in the ghost like streets of the little

town seemed as disinclined for contact, for greeting even, as he was himself." (Christopher, 1977, p.31)

The Calcutta plague has had a major impact on the affected communities. People also get mental stress that makes them unable to socialize like they used to. The survivors want to survive, but they do not realize that they have thrown away their social life. They also protect themselves from being infected through contact with other people. This kind of life has killed their social relations and made them an individualist society. "It was funny, he thought: it had been understandable in the beginning, when people were hoping to avoid catching the plague and shunned possible carriers." (Christopher, 1977, p.31)

Neil believes that people are trying to avoid the Calcutta Plague by reducing socialization. This effort is the main key in solving or breaking the chain of spreading the Calcutta Plague. The government has applied this appeal to the community to try to apply it to people worldwide. The government has taken every way to control the spread of the Calcutta Plague. The Calcutta plague was getting terrible; one example is the mass closure of public transportation between countries.

However, all that the government hopes without the community's cooperation will only become a discourse until finally, the unavoidable impact for many people is a slow death. The offenders are only a handful of people compared to the entire population in London; it only took a few weeks for the entire city to catch the Calcutta virus. A very sad incident made people realize not to interact

with anyone and even choose to cut off social relations for the safety of each individual. "But now, surely, they must know there was no way of missing it? They were all victims, or destined soon to be." (Christopher, 1977, p.31)

People realized that they were victims who could not escape the Calcutta Plague that was spreading in London. As a result, many of them are desperate to move on with their lives. This incident triggered many questions in Neil's head; all the people who died did not mean the Calcutta virus caused it because maybe many of them survived. However, they preferred to commit suicide in their respective homes.

Stigma against dissidents is one of the factors that cause many people to choose to live, not side by side with other survivors. It all started with people's concern about one person's selfishness until that selfishness spread like a plague that infects one person and then spreads to others again. Fear of the plague became the beginning of many other branches of fear that eventually damaged people's mentality, and social relations began to lose their existence.

Social conditions become a crucial thing in a region, especially in the context of a country. The Calcutta Plague not only killed society but also economically and mentally. This terrible incident caused people to get used to an individualistic life which eventually became a new culture for the long-term London society.

KEEPING HIS VOICE AS CASUAL as possible, Neil said: "I'm sorry, but Are you all right?" There was no reply from the figure on the ground. He did not think she was injured, but the fall might have winded her. He stooped and took an arm. "Let me help you." She rejected his hand, but got up on her own. He could not see her properly until she was standing. Thick fair hair was pulled back under a cap from a pointed face. (Christopher, 1977, p. 85)

The bicycle the girl was riding fell, and Neil apologized for accidentally hitting it. He asked in a calm voice about the girl's fallen state. The girl was named Billie, and she was one of the surviving survivors like her, plus it was odd that the girl did not answer Neil's question. He thought the girl was not hurt, but a guilty Neil came to his aid and grabbed the girl's hand. When Neil offers his help, the girl refuses. The girl's face was still not visible until she stood up straight. The girl was dressed with thick blonde hair tied back and a pointed face with a hat.

The survival of the survivors does not depend on others, and it has become entrenched in London society. Most of them will stay away from other survivors if they meet because they are reluctant to deal with anyone. That is why Neil's good offer when he reached out to him was immediately rejected. The main impact of the plague on social conditions, one example of which is the people's distrust of one another.

His efforts to make conversation, though, were not very successful. To direct questions she gave terse unforthcoming replies. No, she had not been in London all the time. Where had she come from? Derby. When had she come to London? A while back. Had she met other survivors? A look, another shrug. No. (Christopher, 1977, p.86)

On their way, Neil tried to make her comfortable by asking questions. However, the atmosphere bored him even more because Billie was not interested in responding to him. Billie is one of the representatives of the community who wants to distance themselves from social interaction. Even as far as she lived as a

survivor, she did not meet anyone but Neil. The latter met several other survivors

before he finally met her.

The click was faint, but it alerted him. He ran round to the back of the convenience: a small window was open and she was half out of it. They stared at each other in silence; then she dropped down inside and came out by the way she had entered. Neil said: "I'm really not going to attack you, or anything. You do believe that, don't you?" She did not answer, and he did not pursue it. They walked side by side without talking. He was trying to puzzle her out. She was obviously scared of him, yet somehow did not give that impression. But whatever it was, he knew he must be patient. (Christopher, 1977, p.86)

In this case, the impact is a disability in understanding social situations because the survivors should unite and help each other. However, it does not mean that they live under the same roof. However, at least their presence in communicating can establish a meaningful life in social relationships. Neil's desire to convince every survivor he meets to trust each other is difficult to achieve because London is no longer safe.

Living with high vigilance has become something they must master to survive in the economic crisis hitting England. It is based on distrust with other survivors because they will not know that they have trusted the right person or not. Besides their fear of the Calcutta virus, fear of crime is the reason that makes them protect themselves.

3.1.2.4 Extreme rat population explosion

The impact on this point is an offshoot of the main problem in this study. The main obstacle is the presence of residents in the city, which has experienced a

drastic population decline, making rats more flexible when looking for food. The uneaten food supply in the city leaves the rats free to forage and breed quickly. They were leading to an extreme population explosion. Although not all food in the city can last long, rats are classified as omnivores because they eat everything. This case makes it difficult for the survivors to find food because of the rats. "But the rats went on increasing and began to appear in packs like the dogs, and by day, indifferent to other living things. Or at first indifferent." (Christopher, 1977, p.44)

Neil is annoyed that they are getting bolder by the day and even have a large herd to loot food all over the city. All the survivors are already struggling to find food, but rodents' herds also need it to survive. At first, the survivors did not realize it. However, after the food supply began to be difficult to find, the survivors realized that they had to compete with rats.

The plague has exerted much pressure in a row so that some mentally weak people will experience a sense of excessive panic and fear. The population of rats makes survivors even more vigilant, besides having to protect themselves from crime. They also have to be careful with the ferocity of hungry rats because they do not hesitate to prey on humans. "One day he saw one of the dogs, a small ill looking brown mongrel, limping in the rear after its companions had run down the High Street." (Christopher, 1977, p.44)

Neil finds a mutt that looks sick and is limping, and he realizes that the wounds are from a herd of hungry rats. Some of the dog's friends ran for their lives and left the injured dog alone. This incident surprised Neil because the rats

were so vicious that they made other living things bigger than they feel threatened. Likewise, Neil felt that he chose to leave the dog. The rats seemed to come from nowhere, a darker brown stream made up of hundreds of living hungry bodies, and the dog went down, yelping in agony. (Christopher, 1977, p.44)

Due to the rapid breeding of mice, it seems that food supplies are running low, so they do not hesitate to eat the dog alive. Neil also found much fur covered in blood when he walked through the town of Winchelsea in search of food supplies at a nearby shop. Lack of food makes the rat herds ferocious, thus raising the vigilance of survivors to protect themselves and their food supplies. Neil was some fifty yards from the scene. There was nothing to be done, and he turned away back to the house. (Christopher, 1977, p.44)

The process of the rats taking the dog's life not only made Neil hear the scream from far away from where it happened, and the dog was still screaming. The scream became a tragedy where nature made the most basic living food chain the most domineering. With the increasing number of rat populations, their existence is increasingly threatening other living things. "The yelping did not last long. He thought about it in the sitting room, in front of the blank screen of the television set." (Christopher, 1977, p.44)

Neil could not believe what he had just seen and proved that natural selection was cruel. Soon nature will turn a city full of empty residents' settlements into a place filled with plants and many other wild animals roaming around. The night is

scary because electricity is no longer available and is only lit by the moon. Neil did not know how the rats devoured the dog in one night.

His supply of biscuits had run out some days before, and when he had gone to the shop he had found only gnawed scraps of paper where there had been a shelf of wrapped packets. The rats were running out of food, too. (Christopher, 1977, p.44)

All the survivors worry about running out of food supplies. However, when they decide to find something in the store to take home, they will realize that the ferocity of the rats was caused by the depletion of all food stocks in Winchelsea. As a result of these rats, the welfare of the community is disrupted. The solution for the survivors to survive is to go to another city to find food supplies that are still fit to eat. "Eventually cannibalism would restore a balance, but until that time they would be an increasing menace. They would pull down more than a puny terrier before they turned on one another." (Christopher, 1977, p.44)

The threat of the survivors will be reduced if the food needs of the rats are met. However, the survivors will starve to death, so the wise decision is to take as much food stock as possible in the city and then defend that food stock from the threat of rats. If the rats have lost their food source, then they will start cannibals. Cannibalism can arise out of the urge to survive for some reason. However, the rats will eat other animals before they eat each other.

He left early the following morning, taking only a change of clothes in a haversack. He cycled in the direction of Rye, but did not enter the town: the rat situation there was likely to be worse than in Winchelsea. (Christopher, 1977, p.44)

What is certain in the minds of all survivors is that when you see rats in a small town like Winchelsea. The rats were experiencing a drastic increase in population. The food supply there is not as much as in a big city like Rye or London. Their population in a big city is certainly more, and that is very scary. However, Neil still has to take risks to go to Rye for his survival.

The impact this time changed the public's view of their fear of spreading the Calcutta virus into an awareness of the importance of life. Many of them surrendered and wanted to end their lives. However, on the other hand, rats are always restrained whenever they try to find food. Since the Calcutta plague attacked all the townspeople, the rats felt free and even dominated the town with their presence. The issue above illustrates that despair will bring you to the end of your life journey. However, a strong desire to live is the first step to becoming a motivation for all people.

3.2 The relations between real event and the novel *Empty World*

In this sub-chapter, the researcher will examine how the picture of real life is reflected in the novel *Empty World* by using Mimetic theory.

When his luck turned, it turned properly: a Jaguar XJ automatic, looking as though it had just been driven from the showroom, and in fact with less than 2,000 on the clock. Neil climbed in gingerly, awed by the splendour, and found keys in place and a fuel gauge registering nearly full. (Christopher, 1977, p.49)

The luxury car Neil finds makes it awkward to drive it and he finally got lucky after finding an automatic Jaguar XJ that looked like it had just been driven from the showroom and was definitely driveable. Some of the cars available in some places didn't fit as he needed because the difficulty was that he didn't know how to refuel at the gas station.

The car was introduced in September 1968. Power-assisted steering and leather upholstery were standard on the 2.8 L De Luxe and 4.2 L models. The long-running XJ6 range made its debut in 1968 and ran, in one type or another, for the next twenty-four years. "The Rolls. Bonny Black Bess. No, I think we'll have the Rombouts—it's quicker." (Christopher, 1977, p.53)

The Rombouts is a famous coffee brand in london. In 1966, Rombouts comes to the United Kingdom. Following the success of the One Cup Filters in Belgium, the Rombouts family bought them to the UK along with their full offer of coffees, biscuits and ancillary items. "Come aboard. Rest the feet. Feel like a cup of tea? Orange Pekoe, Lapsang- Souchong, or Tetley teabags? Or how about coffee? Just renewed my Rombouts yesterday." (Christopher, 1977, p.53)

Clive offers Neil some tea drinks, such as Orange Pekoe, Lapsang Souchong, or Tetley teabags and Clive also offers coffee drinks, He wants Neil to rest. His friendliness was suspect because they had just met and surely Clive had other intentions behind his kindness. The quote clearly states that the Tetley teabags brand is one of the most widely known export tea brands in the UK.

In 1856, in partnership with Joseph Ackland, they founded "Joseph Tetley & Company, Wholesale Tea Dealer". In the 1880s they started selling tea to the United States, and started to come up with ideas again; one of them is a tea bag.

Optimism remained as he continued the journey into London, in a blue Cortina. (Christopher, 1977, p.64)

On his way to London Neil uses a blue car with the Cortina brand, a short car with not much tank, Neil remains optimistic with the hope of not running out of fuel in the middle of the trip. Every way there is a beautiful view, Neil stops the car and enjoys the horizon. The Ford Cortina is a car made by Ford of England in various guises from 1962 to 1982, and was the best-selling car in Britain in the 1970s. She was humming as she busied herself, a McCartney tune. He said suddenly: "It was discussed, wasn't it?" She half-turned. "What was?" (Christopher, 1977, p.95)

Neil meets two female survivors and tries to establish a social relationship but this is not the beginning because once they can understand each other they must start working together so that they can survive in the middle of the Calcutta pandemic. The new tension sparked panic among them but things calmed down a bit when Lucy hummed a McCartney song.

From McCartney's name, it can be seen that this singer is a member of a squad band called The Beatles. The band is historically formed in the 1960 (Frontani, 2009). If seen from the McCartney tunes that Lucy humming and the year The Beatles were formed, it can be ascertained that the Calcutta Plague events described in the novel took place in the year after the 1960s.

Cupboards were well stocked with food, and a Calor gas stove had been imported into an otherwise all-electric set-up. Crates of beer stood in a pile against one wall. The whole scene had an organized look. (Christopher, 1977, p.70)

Neil enters the house again and sees the contents of the cupboard full of food and the gas stove that uses Calor has been imported to an all-electric setting. The needs that Neil must look for must be appropriate and have an important function for his survival. Calor is a brand of packaged butane and propane which have an extraordinary gas controller and is one of the UK's largest liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) suppliers, established in 1935.



CHAPTER IV

4.1 CONCLUSION

This chapter summarizes all the analysis results discussed in the novel *Empty World*, written by John Christopher. John Christopher's inspiration for the novel *Empty World* was aimed at the freedom of children. Who thought it would be fun if only he and a few friends were left in a vast country where they could be free to do what they wanted and could have everything they wanted.

This research is adjusted because the world has experienced various plagues of change, such as smallpox and polio. Smallpox is a contagious, disfiguring, and often deadly disease that has killed an estimated 500 million people in the last 100 years of its existence. The plague is a killing machine and has become a symbol of social fear because its spread is still a scourge that lingers in every human being.

This study provides a clear picture of the changing situation caused by the uncontrolled spread of the epidemic. The Calcutta Plague was a plague that made people age prematurely. In the Calcutta plague, there are several characteristics that we can understand if a person has contracted this plague. First, fever but no visible symptoms, but after ten days or three weeks, the body will experience a general decline in body functions resulting in death.

The Calcutta virus has taken the lives of humans, but the more deadly virus is egoism, which has taken humanity. This condition also makes trust in the community lost because no one can protect the safety and welfare of the survivors. After all, the law does not apply. Most survivors do not want a good

relationship, help, or say hello to anyone. It is hoped that these events will serve as a lesson for readers to anticipate various problems related to the spread of the plague. This study describes the dire impact that one person's mistake can have on the lives of many innocent people.

After infecting someone, the process of the virus is to kill without pain because some people will be killed. After all, indeed, they are made to feel what it feels like to be an older person faster than they should be and die because of old age. Calcutta virus attacks individual cells to destroy the memory function that causes the infected person to experience premature aging. This condition makes the people's mentality go down because since the plague hit London, they think as if the angel of death is ready to take their lives at any time.

Transmission of this virus is also very quickly happen. Therefore it is necessary to take preventive measures so that the spread of infectious diseases can be stopped. However, unfortunately, the community's disobedience makes all these preventions in vain. The Calcutta Plague can be passed from one person to another directly or indirectly. A human's risk of being infected with the Calcutta Virus varies. Some several conditions and comorbidities increase the chance of getting the Calcutta Plague to experience severe symptoms. If treatment is delayed, it will result in ongoing death.

As described in the novel *Empty World*, one of the risk factors for the Calcutta Plague can be seen from age. Experts believe people in their fifties have a higher risk of contracting the Calcutta Virus than those in their forties. The reason is, when they get older, they have an immune system that tends to decline, simply because the immune system weakens with age. These factors have a terrible impact on the economy and politics in the country. The social conditions that make a person have to live a difficult life since the plague robbed everything. A person's disobedience is the leading cause of the spread of the plague until his selfishness can spread it. The impact of the plague on the social conditions of society that occur in the novel by using the sociology literature point of view. Plague is a general term that refers to the spread of a virus in a large and densely populated area or an infectious disease. England is the primary setting as an area experiencing a social-economic downturn. This research focuses on the impact of the plague that has changed the community's social conditions. The spread of the Calcutta virus was marked by a group of people infected, moving from one country to another. Literary works are reflections of real life is illustrated in the novel *Empty World* which uses many brands that exist in real life.

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