THE ROLE OF LANGUAGE IN THE REPRESENTATION OF CLASS IN VICTORIAN LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT: *The objective of this research is to explore the language register utilized during the Victorian Era. This study employs a qualitative descriptive approach, utilizing content analysis to examine the context, intentions, and messages conveyed in communication. It involves analyzing and drawing conclusions about the speakers as the addressors and the audience as the addressees of the texts. The research highlights societal issues of the Victorian Era, particularly the challenging circumstances faced by orphans and children during the Industrial Revolution, which serves as a central focus. Additionally, it emphasizes realism through its portrayal of authentic characters and settings, detailed depictions of daily life, believable plots, community dialects, character development, and the significance of illustrating social class.*

KEYWORDS : *Register; Social Class; Utterances; Language Variety*

INTRODUCTION

Studying English literature serves as a source of inspiration and fosters creativity while also cultivating essential skills for navigating today's global landscape. Literature reflects the state of the world through various forms, including stories, novels, and plays. Additionally, it provides an opportunity to enhance writing, reading, analytical, and persuasive abilities. Language plays a crucial role in our lives and society. Through its communicative function, language conveys messages about specific conditions and effectively describes the surrounding environment. Linguistics focuses on understanding the nature of language and the communication process. It encompasses both the examination of individual languages and the exploration of general characteristics shared among all languages or larger groups of languages. A

field of study which deals mostly with language use, particularly spoken language, is part of sociolinguistics.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Language serves as our primary means of communication, enabling us to share our thoughts and ideas with others. The function of language pertains to how we utilize it to engage with content and interact socially. These functions illustrate the active application of language for specific objectives. While language is an exceptional tool for communication, it can convey both truths and falsehoods, influence opinions, express emotions, and articulate ideas that might remain unformed without the ability to express them. Beyond being a medium for communication and a repository of knowledge, language also functions as a tool for thought and a source of enjoyment. The complexity of language as a communication system can lead to various human challenges. Each language encompasses multiple styles, providing different modes of speaking and writing suitable for various contexts. For instance, we adopt one style when conversing with close friends of our age, while we may switch to another style in different situations. These styles can vary further based on the dynamics of the conversation—whether it's between men, women, or mixed-gender interactions. Additionally, distinct styles are employed in public speaking, religious ceremonies, and when addressing individuals of different ages. Language is both a system of communication between individuals and a social phenomenon. Humans speak words, write words and use it to express themselves. This form in which language take is primary as every society has its dynamic means of communication with its own conceived and universally accepted accents and definitive terms. Language cannot be separated from society, everyday people consciously or subconsciously choose language variety in order to interact in different social context. People use such concepts as identity, class, status, solidarity, face, gender, politeness, etc. Languages and societies are constantly changing.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, the researcher arrived at the following conclusions regarding the study's objectives: In Charles Dickens' "Oliver Twist," the author

highlights societal issues of his time, particularly the harsh realities faced by orphans and children during the Industrial Revolution, which serves as a central theme in his work. Dickens illustrates these challenges through strong individual characters and detailed descriptions that set them apart from their surroundings. His writing embodies realism through authentic characters and settings, thorough depictions of daily life, plausible plots , genuine dialects of the local populace during that period, character development, and a focus on social class representation. These elements inform the choice of vocabulary, language register, and communication styles among characters, each reflecting the linguistic norms of the era. For contemporary English learners, understanding register is essential. The use of register is crucial as it varies in every conversation. Different situations call for distinct registers, which are influenced by the context, needs, and purposes of each interaction.

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