Phonological Deviations in Dickens' "Hard Times"

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1. Abstract

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) achieved a recognizable place among English writers through the use of the stylistic features in his fictional language. This study is concerned with Dickens' unique fictional language, used in one of his novels entitled "Hard Times", in relation to phonological deviation from settled norms in English. It endeavors to show Dickens' manipulating language and the effects achieved through this manipulation.

This research investigates Dickens' use of language which deviates from the linguistic norm phonologically. As such, it is hypothesized that Dickens used phonological deviation to show the character's social class.

The study aims to analyze the types of phonological deviations in Dickens' "Hard Times". It determines the reasons behind these deviations, and how that reflects

Dickens' philosophy and style in presenting class distinction in this novel.

According to the hypothesis, the research has come up with a number of the findings as a result of the stylistic analysis of phonological aspects carried out in this study. So, phonological deviation has a very important effect on the readers (and hearers).

Out of the stylistic analysis, the research has found out that the writer uses a language deviated from the literary convention or everyday speech. He uses two types of phonological deviation to achieve his purpose.

2. Discourse and Discourse Analysis

Discourse is a linguistic term that deals with the linguistic structure above the sentence level. It can be either spoken or written. Scholars have defined discourse in different ways. For instance, Ochs and Shieffeline (1983: 69) define it as 'any sequence of two or more speakers who are interacting with one another'. As for Brown and Yule (1983: 1) discourse simply means language in use. According to Carter (1993: 22) discourse is a parallel term with text. It means, in its general sense, any stretch of language, spoken or written. Another definition is adopted by Crystal (2003a: 141) who views discourse as 'a set of utterances which constitutes any recognizable speech event'. The dictionary defines discourse as 'the use of language in speech or written in order to produce meaning' (Oxford, 2007: 434).

It is clear that all the aforementioned definitions indicate in a way or another that the term' discourse' refers to language in use. As such discourse analysis, Cook (1989: 6) states, is the search for what gives discourse

coherence, or simply the study of spoken or written language in its social and psychological context. It studies the relationship between language and the context in which it is used. This is why discourse analysis studies not only written texts of all kinds, but also spoken data from conversation to highly institution listed form of talk. On his part Carter (1993: 23) shows that discourse analysis is a relatively new branch of linguistics, which tries to identify and describe linguistic regularities and irregularities in utterances which cannot be accounted for at a grammatical level, i.e. they operate above the level of the sentence. In such a sense, discourse analysis, he adds, is concerned with the examination of language in use across sentence boundaries for creating descriptive frameworks which try to explain how such texts are organized. According to Yule (1996: 83) discourse analysis means investigating the spoken and/or written language in all forms and functions. It investigates not only the interpersonal function of a language (social function), but also its textual function (creating well-formed and appropriate text), and also its ideational function (expressing thought and experience in a coherent ways). In this respect, Grenoble (2000: 1) points out that discourse analysis requires full knowledge of language understanding. By 'full knowledge', Grenoble means not only relative fluency, but also an understanding of literary and social traditions. She adds that discourse analysis is active and dynamic aims at analyzing the total picture of natural communication, examining how the whole of language comes together in its linguistic and extra-linguistic contexts. Consequently, a successful analysis of any discourse may demand an account of

phonetics, syntax, semantics, pragmatics and paralinguistic features, in addition to real world knowledge (ibid: 2).

2.1 Style and Stylistics

Style is a general term of a wide currency, since it is applied to various fields of human activity. It is used for example: as a characteristic of an individual (a personal style), a distinct personality (Keats' style), or mode of fashion, living,...etc. That is why, it is difficult to be defined accurately. However, in discourse analysis, Turner (1973: 21) refers, to the manner of expressions in speaking or writing (i.e. style is 'what grammar leaves out'). Turner (1973: 23f) comments that Swift definition of style as 'proper words in proper places' is an expletory one. It amounts to the use of words according to situation, implying: the reason behind the choice, draws attention to the relation of a text to its setting, and shows how one may have different styles in different situations. Style can also be defined as 'the man himself' or as 'a constant and continual phrase or tenors of speaking and writing'. Such a definition is a descriptive one, implying: the reason behind the particularity of ones style, and asserts the essential of this particularity(ibid). According to Wale (1990, cited in Missikova, 2003: 18) style can be seen either as variation in language literary or nonliterary use, the set or sum of linguistic features as the characteristic of an author, or as the choice of items and their distribution and patterning. On his part, Crystal (2003a: 440) argues that style in its broad sense means ' situationally distinctive uses (varieties) of language'. While, in its restricted sense refers to the relations among participants in language communication, particularly the level of formality (ibid).

Consequently, style, as generally agreed, is the distinctive use of spoken or written language which differs in its organization from one person or group to another (www.1,2008:1).

The study of style is what is termed stylistics. Stylistics, just as style, can be viewed in several ways. This variety is due to the main influences of linguistics and literary criticism. Turner (1973: 7) defines stylistics as that branch of linguistics which focuses on variation in the use of language, often, but not exclusively, with special concern to the most conscious and complex uses of language in literature. In a more simple words, stylistics is the scientific or a methodical study of style (ibid: 8). Turner (ibid: 30) notices further that stylistics is as linguistics has a phonological, lexical, and stylistic levels. Another view is provided by Widdowson (1979: 3) who defines stylistics as ' the study of literary discourse from a linguistic orientation'. It is a means of linking the two and has no autonomous domain at its own. As for Mistrik (1985, cited in Missikova, 2003: 15), stylistics is a field of study where the methods of selecting and implementing linguistic, extra-linguistic or artistic expressive means and devices in the process of communication are studied. It is, generally, of two types: linguistic stylistics and literary stylistics. In such a sense, stylistics is a branch of linguistics, which deals with the study of varieties of language, its properties, principles behind choice, dialogue, accent, register, etc (Crystal, 2003a: 440). Similarly, stylistics can also be seen as a distinctive term which may be used to determine the connections between the forms and effects within a particular variety of language. It looks at what is 'going on'

within the language, what the linguistic associations are that the style of language reveals. On this account the goal of most stylistic studies is to relate the literary effects to linguistic causes (www.2, 2008: 1).

2.2 Deviation and Foregrounding

Linguistic deviation can be seen as a creative use of language which differs from the norms of literary convention or everyday speech. Such a deviation creates elements of interest and surprise(Leech, 1969: 57). Leech (ibid) adds that deviation is of different types, for example: phonological deviation, graphological deviation, lexical deviation, grammatical deviation, semantic deviation, etc. Cook (1989: 74) perceives deviation as ' a case of non-conformity to the norms and regularities of discourse structure'. On his part, Crystal (2003a: 134) argues that deviation refers to a sentence, or another unit, which violates the rule and appears grammatically, phonologically, or even semantically ill-formed. In such a sense linguistic deviation means a disruption of the normal process of communication that leaves a gap in ones comprehension of the text. The gap can be filled, and the deviation renders significant, but only if the reader, through imagination, understands some deeper connections which compensate for the superficial oddity (www.4, 2008: 3).

Foregrounding is a term used in stylistics and sometimes in pragmatics and discourse analysis, to refer to any deviation from a linguistic or a socially accepted norm; the analogy is of a figure seen against a background. The

deviant feature is said to have been 'foregrounded'.(Crystal,2003a: 124).

Obviously, then why it considers one of the foundations of stylistics (www.5,2008:1) .

In a purely linguistic sense, foregrounding refers to new information, in contrast to elements in the sentence which form the background against which the new elements are to be understood by the listener/reader (www.6,2008:1).

However, it may worth to mention that foregrounding can be achieved not only by deviation from the norm but also by parallelism (i.e. repeating linguistic structures more often than normally expected). Furthermore, the use of foregrounding whether in art or elsewhere is claimed to be a basic principle of aesthetic communication, highly interpretable, and arguably more memorable (www.7,2009: 1f).

3. Leech Classification of Linguistic Deviations

Leech (1969:37) discuss different types of linguistic deviations distinguishing the three main levels of language : realization, form, and semantics. Realization is realized by phonology and graphology; form comprises grammar and lexicon; whereas semantics is denotative or cognitive meaning. These three main levels of language can be illustrated as below:

Realization	Form	Semantics
Phonology	Grammar	Denotative or
Graphology	Lexicon	Cognitive Meaning

Figure of Three Levels of Language

Leech's way to classify language into three main levels is very important to solve many problems in language. For example, homophones are words with the same pronunciation but different meanings (e.g. light (adjective) and light(noun).Synonyms are words with the same meaning but different forms(e.g. nonetheless, nevertheless, profound and deep). Homophones are words with the same form and pronunciation but with unrelated meanings(e.g. head is used to refer to the object on the top of one's body, on the top of a glass of bear on the top of a company, etc.). In such case, breaking language down into one or two components, form and meaning is inadequate. Knowing a language means knowing the Form of a language (Grammar and Lexicon), Realization(Phonology and Graphology), and Semantics(meaning).

3.1 Kinds of Linguistic Deviations

There are many kinds of linguistic deviations which can produce foregrounding :

3.1.1 Lexical Deviation

The most obvious example of lexical deviation is neologism. Neologism is a new word or example which is introduced into language, e.g. nonce-formation. Nonce-formation is the invention of new words. A word is considered to be a nonce-formation, if it is made up for the nonce, i.e. for a single occasion (Leech, 1969: 42).

Crystal (2003a: 315) defines a nonce-formation as a linguistic form which a speaker consciously invents or accidentally uses on a single occasion. Many factors

account for its uses, e.g. a speaker cannot remember a particular word, so it is coined as an alternative approximation (as in linguistified, heard recently from a student who felt he was getting with linguistics), or is constrained by circumstances to produce a new form (as in newspaper headlines). Nonce-formations have come to be adopted by the community in which case they cease by definition to be nonce and become neologisms.

Another example of lexical deviation is functional conversion. It is the process of converting a word from one grammatical class to another. This process is common in literary language (Short, 1969: 46).

Sometimes "slip of the tongue" or "speech error" in which one deviates in some way from the intended utterance to form a new word, can be considered another example of lexical deviation. Some of these tongue slips are called malapropism. It refers to the misuse of words which comes when one says "reprehend" for "apprehend", "derangement" for "arrangement" and so on (Clark, 1977: 287).

3.1.2 Graphological Deviation

A graphological deviation is relatively minor and superficial part of style, concerning such matters as spelling, capitalization, hyphenation, italization and paragraphing . Such matters are to great extent determined conventionally by syntax and become noticeable expressing only when a writer makes a graphological choice which is to some degree marked or unconventional, such as a deliberate misspelling (Leech and Short, 1981: 131).

Graphological convention is still evolving as it can be seen in the various ways that people currently express: emphasis using, spacing and special symbols. Sometimes, capitalization of varying sizes is used for: emphasis, irony, satire, and other literary purposes. Hyphen marks two kinds of word division: a break at the end of a line, and the parts of a compound word (green-eyed). It is sometimes used to give a contrast in meaning which is conveyed (Crystal, 2003b: 238) .

Dash is used singly to show a comment or after thought at the end of a sentence, or simply an incomplete utterance. Sometimes it is used to signaling a missing word or letter (ibid) .

3.1.3 Grammatical Deviation

The number of grammatical rules in English is large, therefore the foregrounding possibilities via grammatical deviation is also very large (Short,1969: 47).

One important feature of grammatical deviation is the case of ungrammatical such as: " I dose not like him" (Leech, 1969: 45). It is worth mentioning that grammatical deviation indicates the social classes of the speakers. The existence of differences in language between social classes can be shown in the following sentences:

<ins>Uneducated Class</ins>	<ins>Educated Class</ins>
I aint done nothing.	I haven't done anything.
I weren't me that done it.	I didn't do it.
	(Trudgill, 2000: 65)

The most important types of grammatical deviations are where a writer uses a double negation, a double comparative and a double superlative. In Old and Middle English the idea of negation has been often expressed several times in a single sentence. As in these examples: "I will never do nothing no more" and "This was the most unkindest cut of all" (Brook, 1977: 146).

Grammatical deviation, sometimes, is a result of falls analogy. Analogy is a term used in historical and comparative linguistics, and in language acquisition, referring to a process of regularization which affects the exceptional forms in the grammar of a language. The influence of the regular pattern of plural formation in the English, for example, can be heard in the treatment of irregular forms in the early utterances of children, e.g. men's, mans, mouse's. The children are producing these forms on the analogy with the regular patterns, e.g. boy , boys , cat , cats (Crystal, 2003a: 23).

Foreign learners, also make falls analogy by applying by applying regular forms for irregular forms such as :goed, seed, knowed, etc. Processes of analogical creation are one of the main tendencies in the history of languages, as when verbs which had an irregular past tense form in Old English came to be produced with regular –ed ending, e.g. help becomes helped play becomes played (ibid.).

3.1.4 Phonological Deviation

Short (1969: 55) stresses that because the sound dimension of a language belongs to speech and most of the literature is written, there is relatively little scope for phonological deviation. The implicit sound pattern can

always be made explicit in reading loud. To a large extent, this implicit phonological patterning is determined by the choice of words and structure at the syntactic level, where it can be regarded as an important ingredient of stylistic value (Leech and Short, 1981: 132) .

However, since the writing system is in many respects a system for representing the sound pattern of speech, a further source of phonological effects is graphology. For example :

Mr. Podsnap in **Our Mutual Friend**, speaks in capital letters, when addressing foreigner: HOW DO YOU LIKE LONDON? Such mimicry, of course, often extends to the use of unorthodox spelling to suggest a character's unusual accent (ibid.).

The phonological deviation is associated with the social class. All phonetic behavior is determined by individual and social needs. Education is such a need, and a reasonable conformity to a serviceable norm will operate as a sort of standard in all speech communities. Educated English people, then show a wide range of permissible variation in pronunciation and usage. It is controlled partly by a literary norm and partly by social sanction though the half educated often abandon good local speech for something which is difficult to refer to as a norm (Firth, 1972: 198).

Trudgill (2000:35) stresses that grammatical deviation from standard English is associated with phonetic and phonological differences, although this is not indicated on the printed page, that is to say, there are social-class dialects as well as social accents .

Sometimes deviation from the normal use of sounds or mispronunciation of sounds may be the result of habit, e.g. childish mispronunciation which have never be corrected or they may arise from physical defect (Jones, 1918: 12). Furthermore, Trudgill (2000: 35) asserts that grammatical deviation from the standard English is associated with phonetic and phonological differences, although this is not indicated on the printed page, that is to say, there are social-class dialects as well as social-class accents.

3.1.5 Morphological Deviation

The lowest unit of syntactic organization is the word. Phrases consist of words. Morphemes are the building blocks for words (Bookshelf), for example, consists of two morphemes(book) and (shelf). These two morphemes can also stand freely on their own as words, and so are usually called free morphemes. But not all morphemes are free : for example, the word (unclean) has two units of meaning (clean) and the negation marker (un). Here, (un) is a bound morpheme . (unfortunately) has four morphemes (un), (fortune), (ate),and(ly) (one free and three bound). One way of word producing deviation at a morphological level is by adding an ending to a word not normally be added to :
Example :
Perhapless mystery of paradise .
(e.e Cummings ,from especially ecstatically this)
Here, Cummings is playing on our knowledge that there is an easily extendable morphological series by which we can produce a list of words by adding the suffix –(less)

to a noun (e.g. hopeless, hateless, sunless). But (perhaps) is not normally a noun, but an adverb. By comparing (perhapless) with normal paradigm, we can see that Cummings is pointing to an apparently contradictory of heaven, namely that it is a mystery with no uncertainly (Short, 1996:51).

4. Phonological Deviations in Selected Texts in Dickens' "Hard Times"

So, according to Leech's classification, it is important in this study to illustrate some type of linguistic deviations in the language of **Hard Times**. Present-day standard English will be set as a norm of the deviations. On account of the limited materials, it is important to follow the phonological deviation mentioned by Leech.

The writing system is in many respects a system of representing the sound patterns of a language. One type represents substandard pronunciation of regional dialects, while the other represent substitution of sounds that are results of physical defects. Those two types will show the way and the features of pronunciation of that speaker and reflect his/her class and regional area (dialect).

According to Leech's classifications, realization component is phonology and graphology. In such case, the writing system is in many respects a system of representing the sound patterns of speech. There are two types of phonological deviation in "**Hard Times**". The first one represents substandard pronunciation of regional dialects, while the other represents substitution of sound that is a result of physical defects.

The following, texts from the novel are good examples of phonological deviation showing substandard pronunciation of regional dialects.

4.1 Substandard Pronunciation

Text no.1:

"My friends, Stephen began in the midst of a dead calm, I ha' hed what's been spoken o' me, and 'tis lickly that I shan't mend it. But I'd liefer you'd hearn the truth concerin myslen, for my lips than for onny other man's though I never cud'n speak afor so monny, wiout bein moydert and muddled (Book(2), V: 131).

The Analysis:

"ha" (= have) "hed" (= heard) "spok'n" (spoken) "o" (= of) "tis" (= this) "lickly" (= likely) "shan't" (= shouldn't) "concerin" (= concern) "myseln" (= myself) "fro" (= from) "onny" (= any) "cud'n" (= couldn't) "afore" (= before) "monny" (= many) "wiout" (= without) "bein" (=being) "moydert" (=moderate).

Text no.2 :

"I'm th' one single Hand in Bounderby's mill , o' the men theer ,as don't coom in wi th' proposed reg'lations . I canna' coom in wi em' . My friends, I doubt their doin' yo onny good . Licker they'll do yo hurt (Book(2), IV: 126).

The Analysis:

"th'" (= the) "o'" (= of) "theer" (= there) "coom" (= come) "reglations" (= regulations) "canna" (= cann't)

"doin'" (= doing) "yo" (= you) "onny" (= any) "lickr" (=likelier) .

4.2 Substitution of Sounds

Mr. Sleary has a defect in pronunciation. He is a stout man. He is troubled with asthma and whose breath comes far too thick and heavy which affects his pronunciation with the sound /s/ and /z/ and makes it /Ɵ/ sound.

Text no.3:

"Glad to hear it, Thquire . Not that I want to get rid of the child, any more than I want to thtand in her way. I'm willing to take her prentith, though at her age ith late. My voithe ith a little huthky, Thquire , and not eathy heard by them ath don't know me ;.....(Book(1) , V1: 32).

The Analysis:

/Ɵ/ pronounced as /s/	/Ɵ/ pronounced as /z/
thquire = squire	eathy = easy
ath = as	wath = was
thatand = stand	voith = voice
	ith = is

Text no.4:

'Your thervant ! Thith ith a bad piethe of bithnith , thith ith. You 've heard of my clown and hith dog being thuppothed to have morrithed? ' (Book I, VI: 29).

The Analysis:

Thervant = servant, thith = this, ith = is, piethe = piece, bithnith = business, thith = this, ith = is, hith = his, thupposthed = supposed, morrithed = morrised .

Table of Phonological Deviation

Types	Frequency of Occurrence	Causes	Percentage
Phonological Deviation showing vulgar or substandard pronunciation	36	To indicate character's social class (low class)	66.66%
Substitution of sounds such as /s/ or/z/ sound pronounced as /Ө/	18	Due to physical defects of the character	33.33%
Total Phonological Deviations	54	Different reasons	100%

According to the above table, the phonological deviations are represented in two types: substandard or vulgar pronunciation and substitution. In the first type there are many cases more than the second type (66.66%). This case shows the person's social class (low class). Whereas, the second type is the substitution of sounds such as /s/or /z/ is pronounced as /Ө/. This type shows the physical defect of the person and it is fewer occurrences than the first one (33.33%). It is clear that the cases of the first type more than the second type. This will support what is supposed of the reason behind this research (class distinction).

5-Conclusion

Dickens' language of fiction is unique. There are two aspects of phonological deviations substandard of pronunciation and substitution of sounds. The first type, indicates the character's social lower class. The substandard (66.66%) occurs more than the substitution of sounds (33.33%). The substitution of sound, such as /s/or /z/sounds pronounced as /Ɵ/, indicates the character's physical defects. It occurs less than the first one.

Dickens uses selected characters that represent social lower class of people. Their speech and pronunciation are reflected in the written form that shows its deviation from Standard English. He uses two types of phonological deviation. One phonological deviation reflects substandard pronunciation of regional dialects (this reflects the class of the speaker), while the other deviation is a result of physical defects which the characters suffer from.

This shows that the writer, as critics anonymously agreed, has his way of reflecting the life and everyday language of his society. He, further in this novel, differentiates between those people who have physical defects and those whose dialects and their social class are clear in their speech.

الاستخدام الصوتي في رواية ديكنز "الأوقات العصيبة"

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المستخلص:

حقق جالس ديكنز (١٨١٢ - ١٨٧٠) مكانة مرموقة بين الكتاب الانكليز من خلال أسلوبه في كتابة الرواية وجاءت هذه الدراسة للبحث في أسلوب ديكينز المُميز في تَوظيف اللغة القصصية من الناحية الصوتية في واحدة من رواياته ألا وهي "الأوقات العصيبة"، أي دراسة الانحراف الصوتي عن النماذج القياسية المحددة للغة الانكليزية. و تُحاول الدراسة أن تُبين استخدام ديكينز للغة و التأثيرات الناتجة عن مثل هذا الاستخدام.

يَهتم هذا البحث في دراسة الاستخدام اللغوي عند ديكينز وكيفية استخدامه للنواحي الصوتية بشكل يخرجه عن المعيار اللغوي المتبع في الاستخدام. وعليه أفترض إن ديكينز فعل ذلك في محاولة منة لإظهار الطبقة الاجتماعية التي تنتمي إليها شخصيات الرواية.

تَهدف الدراسة إلى تحليل أنواع الانحرافات الصوتية في رواية "الأوقات العصيبة" لديكينز، وتَحديد الأسباب التي تقف وراء هذه الانحرافات. وكيف إن ذلك يعكس فلسفة وأسلوب لديكينز في إظهار الاختلاف الطبقي بين شخوص الرواية.

في ضوء الفرضية، فقد تَوصل البحث للنتيجة المشار إليها وذلك من خلال التحليل الأسلوبي للنواحي الصوتية التي دُرست ها هنا، ألا وهي التأثير البالغ الأهمية للانحراف الصوتي على القراء (والمستمعين) .

وكـنتيجة للتحليل الأسلوبي، فقد أظهرت الدراسة إن الكاتب استخدم لغة تخرج (تنحرف) عن الأسلوب الأدبي أو عن كلام الناس اليومي، وذلك من خلال استخدامه لنوعين من الانحرافات الصوتية لتحقيق هدفه المنشود في هذا العمل الأدبي.

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