



## Sadness Expressions in Dickens' Novel "*Oliver Twist*": A Lexical Analysis

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### Abstract

Touching all people without discrimination, sadness is a natural state that differs in its degrees. Being an inner feeling, sadness can be attained by using certain words. Trying to make one's peace with it such expressions attempt to dull the pain in his life. The current study is confined to explore the semantic properties of some words of sadness in Dickens' novel "*Oliver Twist*". It aims at investigating sadness form in Dickens' novel "*Oliver Twist*". It also identifies purposes behind some words of low spirit and specifies the most common ones. It is hypothesized that: 1-In *Oliver Twist*, there are several Markers of sadness that are made use of. 2- The use of one form in a specific situation is different from the use of the same one in another. 3-There is a positive nexus between sadness and other negative emotions such as pain and anger. The study concludes that there is an association between childhood and sadness. In other words, children are more sensitive to bad events.

**Keywords:** *sadness, Oliver Twist, childhood.*

### الفاظ الحزن في رواية ديكنز "أوليفر تويست": تحليل معجمي

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#### ملخص البحث

الحُزْنُ هو حالة طبيعية تختلف درجاتها إذ يؤثر على جميع البشر دون تمييز، و . ولأنه شعور داخلي، يمكن صياغته باستخدام الفاظ معينة. وفي سبيل المحاولة للتصالح مع الحزن وتقبله كحالة واقعية، تحاول هذه المطلحات تخفيف الألم الى حد ما. وتكرس الدراسة الحالية استكشاف الخصائص الدلالية لبعض كلمات الحزن في رواية ديكنز "أوليفر تويست". وتهدف إلى دراسة اشكال الحزن في الرواية المذكورة انفا. كما تحدد غايات استخدام بعض الكلمات ذات الروح المعنوية المنخفضة، وتحدد أكثرها شيوعاً. يُفترض أن: 1- في رواية "أوليفر تويست"، تُستخدم عدة اشكال من الحزن. 2- يختلف استخدام المصطلح الواحد للحزن واحد في موقف معين عن استخدامه في موقف آخر. 3- وجود علاقة طردية بين الحُزْنُ والمشاعر الانفعالية الأخرى مثل الغضب والألم وغيرها. وخلصت الدراسة الى ان نشوء تلازم بين الطفولة والحزن. و بعبارة اخرى، الأطفال أكثر حساسية للاحباط والاحداث المحزنة من غيرهم.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الحزن، أوليفر تويست، الطفولة.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 The Notion of Sadness

Kövecses (1990:35) states that "sadness is a lack of power, inferiority". Shirai and Suzuk (2017:1) mention that this state is an inherited feeling in one's spirit.

Lauwerijssen (2008:3) agrees with Shirai and Suzuk (2017) saying that sadness is "a transient, normal emotion".



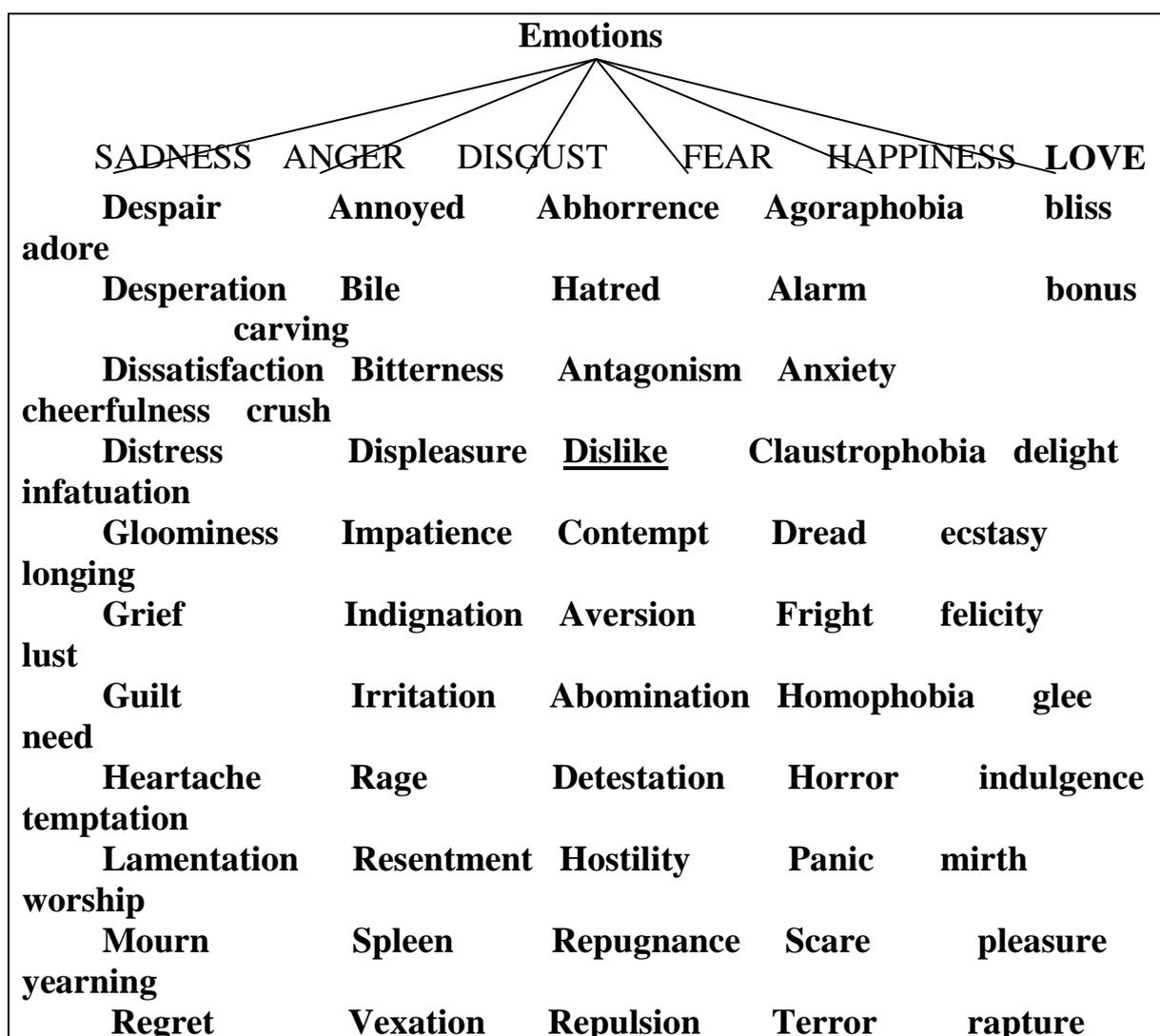
To be a part of human's life, Gu et al. (2019:1) defines sadness as 'one of basic emotions of human feeling'.

Having multifarious dimensions, Diessner and Solom (2005:13-4) Define sadness as

"The opposite of happiness. it comes from loss, or expected loss, of a love object; and that loss is under circumstances in which the person feels they do not have the power or ability to regain the lost love object. Without love for an 'object,' loss of the object will not elicit sadness. **Physically**, it is the loss of material objects or loss of anticipated sensory pleasures. **Socially**, sadness results from the loss of human love or a human love object, such as through the death of a loved one. But sadness also is the result of lovers or friends withdrawing their affection, or removing their selves (through moving away geographically); or from social groups (or institutions) removing their respect or admiration from one."

### 1.2 Sadness as an Emotional State

According to Sandström (2006:13) emotions are classified as follows:





caprice	Wrath	Xenophobia	rejoicing
cherish		Worry	treat

Levels of emotions (Adopted from Sandström, 2006:13)

### 1.3 Metaphorical Use of Sadness

Figuratively, Esenova (2011:93) depicts metaphorical sadness as follows:

#### 1- SADNESS IS BLUE:

She looks blue today.

#### 2- SADNESS IS DARK:

She is in a dark mood.

#### 3- SADNESS IS DOWN:

“He brought me down with his remarks”,

#### 4- SADNESS IS FLUID IN A CONTAINER:

There was sadness in Alina's eyes”.

#### 5- BEING SAD IS BEING LACK OF HEAT:

“Loosing his father put his fire out”.

In addition, Fussell and K. (1998:7) state a number of metaphorical items for autobiographical experiences of sadness which are as follows:

a- *As if a small piece of a puzzle were missing and you can't find it anywhere.*

b- *Like I had lost a part of myself.*

c- *I had a hole in my heart.*

d- *I fall again into my frozen heart.*

e- *Like there's a black hole sucking in all my feelings and emotions.*

f- *I ached inside.*

g- *Everything was dark and destroyed.*

h- *Like I was drowning and there was nothing I could do about it.*

i- *As if I had a lead block in my chest.*

## 2. Analysis of Words of Sadness in “Oliver Twist”

### Text-1-

- Every man who has watched these *melancholy* shades of life, must know it to be so.



Focusing on the darkest corners of life, the drums of sadness resounds. The word *melancholy* signifies feeling sad severely. This item has been used so as to portray harsh realities of poverty and crime, and accepting life as it is without objections and being calm. One should face his fate as it is; otherwise it will be overwhelming.

#### **Text-2-**

- For a long time after it was ushered into this world of *sorrow* and trouble.

Being worthless and meaningless, the author considers life as being unfriendly. The word *sorrow* mirrors a personal experience and it lasts for a long time. It is also matched with past events. Here, the author describes Oliver's fragile state from the very beginning. He is an innocent child whom lives in a very cruelly world, it is awful.

#### **Text-3-**

- Oliver was then led away by Mr. Bumble from the wretched home where one kind word or look had never lighted the *gloom* of his infant years. And yet he burst into an **agony**

Spiritually, to be orphan is something painful. Losing one's parents leaves a gap that cannot be filled. **gloominess** and **agony** are hurtful feelings which are brought by thoughts of grief. Oliver's childish grief embodies the meanness of that time. He is shuffling from bad to worse.

#### **Text-4-**

A sense of his loneliness in the great wide world, **sank** into the child's heart for the first time.

In a climate controlled by obvious reluctance and suspense, the word **sank** implies that one has been injured more deeply than he can say. Oliver is, taken for the unknown future. The word **sank** implies that one has been injured more deeply than he can say. Oliver's feeling of loneliness is unbearable.

Oliver nostalgic emotion for his past becomes illusion. He is going round in circle. He has reached the point of no return.

#### **Text-5-**

Child as he was, he was **desperate** with hunger, and reckless with **misery**.

Living in a constant pain, the word **desperate** suggests having no hope. Besides, **misery** is a hurtful feeling that is caused by some external conditions,



like: poverty, injustice, bereavement... etc. Oliver here feels disturbance in his mood as a result of losing pleasure, being unappreciated and unsupported.

#### **Text-6-**

He had run after the boy because he had saw him running away; and expressing his **hope** that, if the magistrate should believe him,

With searching eyes and longing heart, the word **hope** is a flicker of light in the midst of sadness. It is also an expectation which is accompanied by its achievement. Mr. Brownlow is the one and only one whom believes in Oliver's integrity and innocence. He shares the child's suffering and sympathizing with him Perceiving that he is going through a rough patch and stuffy life.

#### **Conclusions**

1-In the light of the data selected, it is concluded that there are various devices used to explicate living in an extreme sadness.

2- It is founded that the sadness can be shared using some hymns of appeals which manifest active and innocent characters whom are able to endure every kind of hardship.

3- Despite of all pessimistic in life, difficulties of life filter people and strengthen them.

4- Use various words of sadness are mutually reinforce each other.

5- It is inferred that there is an association between childhood and sadness. In other words, children are more sensitive to bad events.

6- Markers of low spirit can made one more humane, lenient and liable to change vividly .

7- Euphemistically, words of sadness are used to soothe some harmful deeds, for example: poverty, depression, orphan hood, injustice etc.

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