

A Psycho- Stylistic Analysis of Harmony of Waiting between Coronavirus and Beckett's Play "*Waiting for Godot*"

Prof. Zainab Hussein A.

Zainab Hused22@mtu.edu.iq

University of Kerbala /presidency of the
University

Abstract

Living in a lost as Beckett's play "*Waiting for Godot*", people feel in fogginess condition. In other words, life is about to be stopped. Utterances employed to denote waiting in "*Waiting for Godot*" and relate them with Covid19 is the problem of this study. It aims at shedding a light on the most common items used to express waiting in this particular play. It is hypothesized that: 1-In "*Waiting for Godot*", there are some words and expressions used to indicate good expectation. 2- It is expected that certain utterances can absorb negative thoughts of some characters. 3- Furthermore, waiting is the lowest degree of patience. The findings reveal that positive waiting in the two matching cases is heartening and inspiring. Waiting is experienced differently within the same situations. It also can return self-confidence and activate what has been broken in one's life. It abides all overwhelming ideas.

Keywords: Good expectation, hope, time, waiting, stylistic analysis

تحليل نفسي-اسلوبي لتناغم الانتظار بين جائحة كورونا ومسرحية صامويل بيكيت " في
انتظار جودو"

أ. زينب حسين علوان

جامعة كربلاء / رئاسة الجامعة

الملخص

في مسرحية بيكيت "في انتظار غودو"، يعيش الناس في حالة من الضبابية، وكأن الحياة على وشك التوقف. وتتناول هذه الدراسة العبارات المستخدمة للتعبير عن الانتظار في المسرحية وعلاقتها بجائحة كوفيد-19، وتهدف الى تسليط الضوء على أكثر الاساليب شيوعاً للتعبير عن الانتظار في هذه المسرحية. وتفترض الدراسة ما يلي: ١- توجد بعض المفردات التي تشير إلى التوقع الايجابي في انتظار غودو". ٢- من المتوقع أن تتمكن بعض الاساليب من امتصاص الأفكار السلبية لبعض الشخصيات. ٣- يُعد الانتظار أدنى درجات الصبر.

وبعد تحليل العينة المنتقاة وجد ان أن الانتظار الإيجابي في كلتا الحالتين مُشجع وملهم حيث ان تجربة الانتظار تمارس بشكل مختلف في نفس المواقف. كما أن الانتظار يُعيد الثقة بالنفس ويقلل من الهشاشة النفسية ويُنشط ما انكسر في حياة النفس البشرية. اذ انه يُخفف من حدة الأفكار المحبطة للامال.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التوقع الايجابي، الأمل، الزمن، الانتظار، التحليل الأسلوبي.

1. Introduction

Living in chaos, *Waiting for Godot* includes different contradictory themes such as patience vs. being busy vs. wasting time, active vs. passive etc. Beckett endeavors to fill the emptiness of characters' life. Engaging them is the sole issue of the playwright. Practicing some activities to pass the time and alleviate their boredom is taken in to consideration. Similarly, in time of covid-19, people have been separated from each other in unexpected way. They try to be involved in what is interested. It is the one and only one adopted approach to stay alive.

Language plays a vital role in carnation of such sort of waiting. It gives a sense of sustainability to bridge these two equivalent cases peacefully. The researcher tackles this sensitive topic and locates a lens on echoes of harshness.

2. Literature Review

The concept of "waiting" has been studied religiously by many specialists. Leech (1981) carried out a detailed study related to style and discussing the word "wait accordingly. Schweizer (2008) studied

this topic from a perspective of philosophy. Irvin MSN (2008) dealt with emerging theme of waiting. Klapproth (2010) investigated relation between expectation and waiting practically. Analyzing religious texts, Al-Ameedi, and Al-Shuwaili (2024) examined waiting expressions stylistically.

It seems that most of these studies focused on syntactic analysis. Few studied this topic from perspectives of syntax, semantics and phonology. The present study deals with stylistic aspects of "waiting" and harmony between Coronavirus and Beckett's Play "Waiting for Godot" so as to bridge the gap.

2. Waiting: A General View

Phenomenologically, Irvin MSN (2008:1) observes that "waiting is a stationary, yet dynamic, and unspecified time-frame phenomenon". Waiting is "the simultaneous living-in-the relevance of two courses of action which is caused by an enforced interruption of a previous stream of consciousness". It is interpreted in terms of power (Göttlich ,2015:53, 55). Stein and Urdang (1966), as cited in Klapproth (2010:2), defines waiting as the fact of "remaining in a state of response or inaction, until something expected happens". Furthermore, Schweizer (2008:1) states that "waiting" gives it "flattering names" such as "patience" "virtue". For him (ibid:2) waiting is more than merely a delay or a matter of time.

As far as style is concerned Leech and Short (2007:10) states that style "refers to the way in which language is used in a given context, by a given person for a given purpose". For the verb "wait", it is stylistically used to indicate a stative verb; it denotes the actual/current state of being of the subject, while at the same time indicating a future plan for Kunnath (2024:452). Consider the use of waiting in this sentence:

1-I am waiting for the rain to go away.

Sometimes, *waiting* becomes *githum* once being associated with time, as Schweizer (2008: 14-34) intensifies:

Although time is supposed to function like a door or a hall through which we pass unawares, in waiting, the door jams and the hall is endless. The hour does not pass. The line does not move. Time must suddenly be endured rather than traversed, felt rather than thought. In waiting, time is slow and thick.

For Kunnath (2024:454–6), waiting is "an imaginary timeline, a series of past, present, and future moments". It is also unpredictable act.

According to Widdowson (1975:4), stylistics is "the study of literary discourse from a linguistic orientation". Leech and Short (2007:11) highlight that literary stylistic aims at showing the relation between language and artistic function. Leech and Short (ibid: 129,132), discuss "waiting" stylistically, mentioning that *waiting* can have indications of *messiness* and *redundancy* or *realism*. In most cases, waiting depends on the context it occurs. Consider:

2–You just wait. (Stereotype) (ibid: 129)

3– Oh, but wait, have you been on a trip? (A turning point) (ibid: 132)

4– He had waited unmoved during so many centuries (ibid: 160)

However, there are some constraints that make waiting difficult to be master which are (*the Wisdom of Waiting*, n. d.: 2). Consider the following restriction on waiting:

1– Uncertainty

2– Delays

Disappointment –3

4– Trials

5–Powerlessness

3. Idiomatic Expressions of Waiting

To produce new meanings, "waiting" can be conveyed using other words and phrase which are as follows:

No.	Idiomatic Expressions	Meaning	Example
1.	On pins and needles	suspense	5– Hoping for good news, I sat on

			pins and needles during the discussion.
2.	Like waiting for a letter that never comes	waiting fruitfulnessly	6- She waited for a call like waiting for a letter that never comes.
3.	Like a butterfly trapped in a jar	unable to escape	7-Sara sat in her room, feeling like a butterfly trapped in a jar.
4.	A leaf in the wind	out of control	8- He felt like a leaf in the wind, being pushed around while waiting for the decision.
5.	Like standing in a dark room	Waiting fearfully	9-Waiting for the test results was like standing in a dark room, not knowing what to expect.
6.	A closed door with no key	no way	10- The opportunities seemed like a closed door with no key
7.	Like waiting for a light that never turns green	It never occurs	11-Waiting for his answer was like waiting for a light that never turns green.
8-	Like sitting in the eye of the storm	Something chaotic may happen	12-She felt like she was sitting in the eye of the storm, waiting for the busy week to begin.
9-	Like sitting in the back of the classroom	disconnected from the action	13-Steve sat in the back of the classroom, like a bystander, as he waited for his chance.
10-	A quiet, unspoken tension	nervousness	14-The examining room was filled with a quiet, unspoken tension.

Cited in (<https://idiomsmaster.com/metaphors-for-waiting/>)

Additionally, there are other phrases which can be used interchangeably with the verb "wait" with a slight difference in their indications and they are as follows: (cited in <https://www.scribd.com/document/686398493/Other-ways-of-saying-Wait>)

1- Hold on!

2- Hang on a moment!

3– Just a second!

4– One moment, please!

5–Wait a minute!

3. Stylistic Markers of Waiting

Stylistically, the lexical items “wait, waiting, await ... etc” can be used with various figures of speech as shown below:

1– Metaphor

Metaphor is a comparison without the use of "as" or "like" (Cuddon, 1998:507). The verb await is employed metaphorically in:

15–Every night its Titanic form seemed to await something; but it had waited thus, unmoved, during so many centuries.

2–Rhetorical question

Crystal (2003b: 218) states that rhetorical question is a question but it has the force of an assertion; it neither seeks information nor elicits an answer.

16– "How much longer can we wait?"

3– Repetition

Repetition is a device in which words, sounds and ideas are used more than once for the purpose of eliciting rhythm and creating emphasis (Cuddon, 1998:742)

17– *Waiting?* So you were *waiting* for him?

4– Parallelism

Quirk et al. (1972:329) mention that parallelism is an equivalent of degree between two structures. It is a balance of two or more similar words, phrases, clauses or sentences.

18– *Nobody comes, nobody goes, it's awful!*

5– Exclamatory Sentence

To express strong feeling is called exclamation. It is a statement that expresses strong emotion. In English grammar, an exclamatory sentence ends with an exclamation mark (ibid: 176).

19–Hold him tight!

6– Command

They are sentences which normally have no overt grammatical subject, and whose verb is in the imperative (ibid).

20– *Let's wait till* we know exactly how we stand.

4. Coronavirus and Literature

The pandemics have made a huge impact on social, cultural, and economic aspects. For a long time, the theme of pandemics is so clear in literary texts. It plays a major role some artistic works. The crisis of these pandemics instigates novelists, authors and playwrights to find out a way so as to relief themselves and the people as well. It is also a style to document these exceptional circumstances in a satisfactory way.

Since literature reflects the image of human's life, therefore, pandemics provoke their creativity to employ them in literature. The people's suffering and their consequent pains are portrayed in literature. The horrific scenes of misery pave the way to creativity in expressions. In other words, theme of pandemics is a representative example to share others of what is going on.

The journey of suffering and the loss of millions of people overwhelm their shadow on human life. Thus, literature is the only outlet which carries the concerns of life so as to bridge the gap. This innovative method has been followed by many to entertain others and touches their heart through these hard times (Roswall, 2022:11).

In his abstract, Cooke (2009:1) sheds light on the pandemics in literature. The emergence of some literary movements that embody the crises in their works is considered as evidence of those painful stages in the history of humanity. They explain clearly the case of struggle of man with his fate. Resonate entirely throughout the time.

Waiting for Godot, a play by Samuel Beckett, "is representative of what has come to be known as the Theatre of the Absurd. Various defined as existentialist, dystopic, post-modern among other genres, it is characterized by obscure themes, illusory hopes, awaiting an event that never occurs and lacking a conclusion in the dramatic sense" (James, 297:2020). Bridging the gap in time of lockdown, literature reminds people of tragedies whom others suffered from. It also gives people the chance to share their troubles and their concerns objectively and healthily.

Coronavirus awakens the writers' memory. It also gives rise to express the inner emotions such as: hope, sad, fear, panic etc. They embody their challenging times in different ways. The sense of isolation encourages them to develop their ideas and apply them in their works. They try to imply the crisis in their production. The writers and poets respond actively to the crisis and seek ways of healing and surviving.

5. Balance between Coronavirus and Beckett's Play *"Waiting for Godot"*

As with other pandemics, Coronavirus constitutes a turning point in man's life. It may change way of expression in literature and art. The feelings of melancholy, sadness and isolation are considered the source of inspiration for artists. The tragic scenes been rendered literally. The language of sticking in one frame is dully.

Oteiwiy (2012:13) mention that" Beckett's language is a mixture of elements rarely found together in the same narrative. It is ... full of offensive details, terrifying insights into meaninglessness of human life."

Some texts selected from Beckett's play "*Waiting for Godot*" are analyzed, showing semantic purposes of some lexemes that denote inactively and being in vain. It is hoped that this study would be of use to linguists and those who are specialist in literature and in semantics.

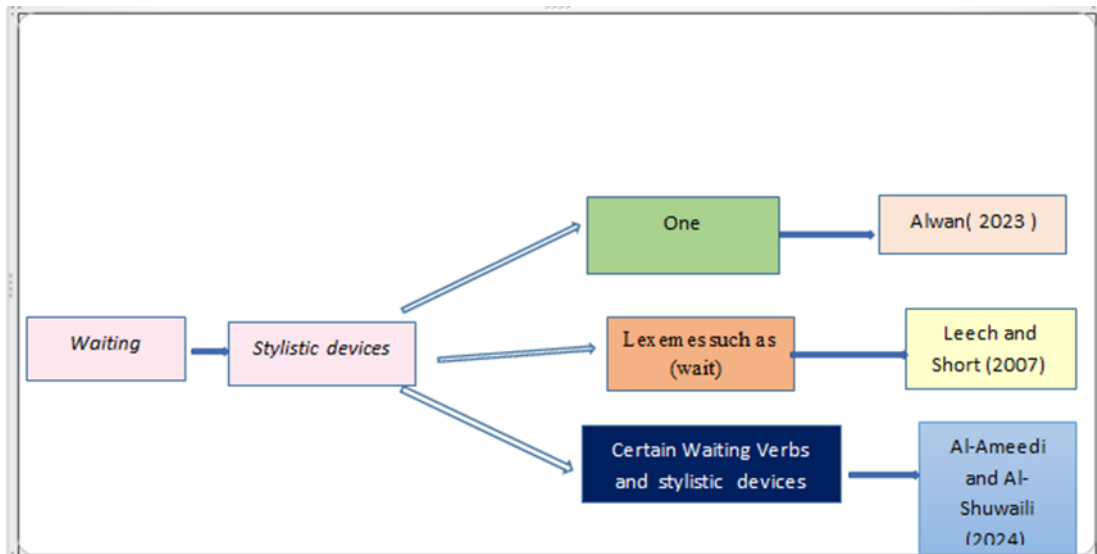
Everything is overwhelming since death is all around the world. Uncertain future is the next step. States of mystification and confusion imitate Beckett's play "Waiting for Godot".

Futureless, no other choices, no way out, one feels that everything is absurd. One cannot determine merit or demerit of such current state.

6. Model of Analysis

The model adopted to analyze the following selected texts is developed on basis theoretical part. Leech and Short (2007) and Al-Ameedi and Al-Shuwaili (2024) suggest a number of figurative styles such as metaphor, parallelism, rhetorical question, exclamation, command and repetition that imply waiting, in addition to observations make by the researcher herself. The eclectic model used in analysis of the present study is as follows:

Figure-1- Model of Analysis



7. Data Analysis

"One day, is that not enough for you, one day he went dumb, one day I went blind, one day we'll go deaf, one day we were born, one day we shall die, the same day, the same second, is that not enough for you?" (*Waiting for Godot*)

Pessimistically, "one" manipulates the cycle of life. Once repeating the word "one", the sense of alienation echoes deeply. Living

in chaos has been summarized in pronouncing "one" frequently. Repetition emphasizes that characters are enslaved by futile waiting. It includes all the negativity of human existence from the very beginning to the end. Life is only a matter of course. Sooner or later, one should face his decisive fate. There is a clear reference for painful timelessness. Everything has been marginalized in this speech.

Text-2-

" ***We're waiting for Godot.***

With expectation, the word *wait* is another word of patience. It exhibits the sense of anticipating for something to be attained.

Metaphorically, *Godot* symbolizes salvation. Having confidence, *wait* is an implicit word of patience. It denotes being ready for something to happen

Text-3-

" ***Let's wait till we know exactly how we stand.***

Stand carries the meaning of accepting something unwillingly. To put it another way, the word *stand* implies the sense of having no action (i.e. being passive). Undergoing suffering, *stand* is to remain firm in a negative way. Stand here is metaphorically used to compare the current moment to a physical position.

Text-4-

" ***Nothing happens, nobody comes, nobody goes, it's awful!***

Unexpectedly, the verb (*comes*) here displays the meaning of waiting indirectly. *Parallel structures* is utilized to arouse curiosity of the audience and visualize state of being confused. Here, the waiting is compatible with horrible scenario of deadly waiting which leaves no room for retraction.

Text-5-

"ESTRAGON: ***Wait!***"

Using directives, he orders him to wait. The command "Wait!" is a desperate attempt to waste time. It also signifies existential waiting. Here, characters are compelled to wait for the unknown. This line encompasses their inability to take actions or to leave.

Text-6-

" POZZO: Waiting? "

Contradicting other characters, Pozzo is astonished with their passive waiting. His inhospitality and realism embodied in using such rhetorical question.

Text-7-

"He might have waited!"

In this text, using exclamatory sentence and past tense reveal shadows of uncertainty. Time is slow and thick in for characters whom waiting Godot. Events are intertwined to the extent that one cannot recognize. Exclamation is an echo of internal chaos. It disintegration of one's identity.

8. Coronavirus and Beckett's Play Waiting for Godot: An Approach Study

In Beckett's Play, it is obvious that words, to some extent, are capable to express the inner self. They reflect the worries of the play and his readers as well. Beckett's characters are not the only whom they suffer. It is a reflection of every human's misery everywhere and every time.

Under the monotony of lockdown, people just wait. The ability to wait seems to be collapsed. It may bring about death. The sense of chaos is everywhere. The increase of oppression of the world which is full of cruelty and tyranny has become intolerable. So waiting is the only the solace and comfort.

Samuel Beckett's masterpiece in *Waiting for Godot* reveals the concept of waiting. His language searches for a way of relief. He

addresses similar conditions of humanity. The issue of waiting has been rerolled nowadays. It look like a flashback of his play. This accurate potation of interrelation between these two cases shows the harmony between them.

People have no choice but to wait. There is no precise time how long they have to wait, no one knows exactly what they are waiting for, or when the waiting is over

Beckett's characters and people's personalities have been deteriorated. Both are unable to integrate harmoniously with their traumas. Words, and language in general, are the merely arena that can render one's psychological fragments which is phenomenon of losing the ability to express wants, desires, or needs. It is just a matter of being alive.

Waiting depletes one's spirit. It inspires man, and terrifies him at the same time. What a mess people are in! The secret of this sensitive topic likes a puzzle. The subject has been left as an open –ended question. One of the characteristics of waiting is the reformation. Man should have self–reformation. Another one is that human beings should learn from their past mistakes through literature.

texts	indications	tenses
1 One day, is that not enough for you... one day he went dumb, one day I went blind, one day we'll go deaf, one day we were born, one	Marginalization and loneliness	Present & past
2 – <i>We're waiting for Godot</i>	Patience and hope	Present
3" <i>Let's wait till we know exactly how we stand.</i>	psychological effect (adaptation)	Present
4–““ <i>Nothing happens, nobody comes, nobody goes, it's</i>	confusion	Present

<i>awful!</i>		
5-" <i>ESTRAGON: Wait</i> "	Compulsion	Present
6-" <i>POZZO: Waiting?</i> "	Belittlement and inhospitality	Present
7- " <i>He might have waited!</i> "	uncertainty	past

Table-1- distribution of tenses and connotations of "waiting items" in selected Texts

No .	Texts	Stylistic devices used	Frequency	Percentage
1.	1- <i>One</i> day, is that not enough for you...	One + repetition	2	14%
2.	2- <i>We're waiting for Godot</i> 3- <i>Let's wait till we know exactly how we stand</i>	metaphor	2	28 %
3.	4- <i>Nothing happens, nobody comes, nobody goes</i>	Parallel structures + repetition	1	14 %
4.	5-" <i>ESTRAGON: Wait?</i> "	Command+ repetition	1	14 %
5.	Text-6- " <i>POZZO: Waiting?</i> "	Rhetorical question	1	14 %
6.	7-" <i>He might have waited!</i> "	Exclamatory sentence	1	14 %
7.	Text(1), text (3) and text(4)	repetition	3	42 %

Table-2- Statistical Distribution of Stylistic Devices of Waiting

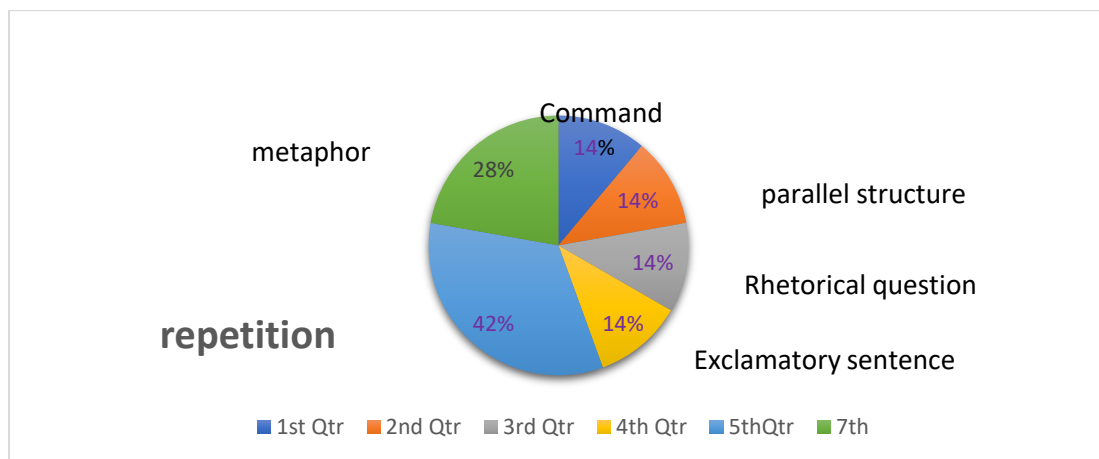


Figure-2- Percentage of "waiting" devices

Depending on the above- mentioned tables, it is clear that present tense is common in expressing waiting. Present tense motivates reader(s) and makes him following up all the update. It enlivens echoes of presentence and cultivates the idea of accepting life as it is with all its ups and downs.

Apparently, "repetition" is the most frequent devices. The researcher thinks that such frequency is compatible with horrible scenario of deadly waiting which leave no room for retraction.

Based on foregoing tables and figures, it is obvious that the verb "waiting" has several indications. Euphemistic uses of "wait" in selected texts are so common. This can be attributed to the idea that they are employed as compensation for removing unfavorable senses.

Concerning points of similarity, it is found that "wait" has been picked up to match the idea concerned. It is also noticed waiting in the selected play and Covid19 time share common meanings such as *hope, peace, etc.*

In both cases, one can feel dynamite of "wait". It keeps on being energetic. Its renewal and inspiration enthuse reader(s) to go beyond its real meaning. It becomes an ongoing concept of growth. Forms of waiting are deeply engaging and contemplative.

Beside its positive references, "wait" conveys inner struggle of man with his fate. In both cases, waiting implies destructive attitudes. It is hard to specify whether it has a long or short time waiting. Actually, it depends on individuals themselves and their endurance.

In comparison with coronavirus period, frequency of "waiting" gives priority for this peculiar action.

This means that there is a hope-orientation in the two discussed cases of waiting. It values positive thinking so as to have peace of mind.

Semantically, metaphor is employed to mirror the human condition. It portrays a promising character, person or thing that can be as savior. Its wide use directs readers where waiting is neither a means to a particular end nor an end in itself.

The future tense has not been employed so as to avoid jumping the gun. *Rhetorical question and exclamatory sentences* open new insights and activates other emotions including *patience, hope* etc.

Parallelism enlivens echoes of loneliness and cultivates the idea of accepting life as it is with all its ups and downs. Waiting in this case becomes not the journey towards destination, but destination itself. Using "command" in such situations reveals that waiting can be voluntary or involuntary.

As a result, it can be stated that waiting is a suitable arena for showing similarities and differences of the two matters. "Waiting" makes them a part of reality rather than just wasting time.

Beckett's play and Time of Covid-19 represent point of no return. Going through a rough patch, one should optimize his life. Things may look up and this is the only choice to have. It is either to adapt or being crashed psychologically. Waiting is omnipresent in people's everyday lives.

Some faith leaders state that it is God's punishment. In other words, it is "God's angry" which has no limits. Insisting on practicing different vices is the main reason behind such heavenly torture. It is the curse of the heaven to those whom are sinners which includes even those whom do not because they do not have their real roles of advising others.

Contrary to that position, it may be the time of speculation. God is so mercy Who does not harm his creature in such a severe way. It is just a hint to keep pace with God's limits and instructions. Optimistically, Coronavirus seems to be the reminder of God's existence so that all

people, regardless of their religions, resort to God so as to relief them of this virus.

With hope and patience, it can be said that there is still a chance for life to go on without stopping and everything will be fine at the end. God's miracle is about to come just wait.

" *Waiting for Godot*" is one of the popular plays by Samuel Beckett's. It is considered as a masterpiece. It reflects much of the age. This study is limited to a lexical analysis of passive and odd waiting in relation to time of pandemic. His play, *Waiting for Godot*, is replete with being idle that contribute to conveying the intended meaning. Repetition denotes melancholy of boredom which should be ended. Waiting should be employed actively rather than passively.

There is a preference of using repetition in order to waste time. It is like stretching a rubber band and not knowing when to stop pulling. It occupies the highest rate among the most frequent devices. Repetition has the rates (42 %). It looks like a slow motion.

Rhetorical question invents an imaginative atmosphere. It creates a conscious decision to wait. The use of the certain lexemes reveal longing for radical change. People are stuck; they wait for their *Godot*. They refer to fruitless of life.

7. Conclusions

1-There is a tendency to use devices which denote waiting. Beckett's characters take their positive expectations of the future to be proof in favour of waiting.

2- Frequency of using repetition confirms that long waits are rated more positively than short ones.

3- It is concluded that waiting represents the minimal threshold of patience in the two matching affairs.

4-Within the same situations, it is noted that waiting is experienced differently

5- Words denote waiting parallel of two grave issues faced humanity. One neither can go on nor return, it is awful.

6- Some selected texts have not used waiting directly. This can be attributed to the stuffy atmosphere in the two above mentioned cases.

7- It is inferred that "words of waiting" have a rehabilitative task. It revitalizes not only characters, rather readers as well and they impart solace.

8-In the light of the data selected, it is concluded that people are trying to adapt with such situations. Nowadays, people have the same emotions of Vladimir and Estragon, which fluctuated feelings and emotions in "Waiting for Godot,"

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