

Repetition in *Christmas Carol*: A Stylistic Analysis

Koichiro Hiraoka

I treated *A Christmas Carol* (1843), written by Charles Dickens, as the topic of this thesis. I wanted to analyze the story from the viewpoint of stylistics. There are many kinds of expression involving repetition in the story. I decided that I would focus on them and analyze them.

We can discover many kinds of expression involving repetition in the story. Therefore, I did not expect that I would be able to come to a conclusion through analyzing each of them. However, I considered that analyzing each of them carefully would contribute to reading the story more deeply.

Once I had collected all of the expressions involving repetition, I divided them into four categories, that is to say: repetition in sounds; repetition in words; repetition in phrases; and repetition in sentences. Moreover, I analyzed each of them carefully in each chapter.

We may consider it innovative to analyze novels from the viewpoint of sound, for we usually read them silently. However, in this text there are some factors which are characteristic of a story for children. Therefore, I expected that there must have been a lot of opportunities for parents' to read it to their children. In addition to this, there is the fact that Dickens held public readings many times. Considering these facts, we can say that it is very effective to analyze the story from the viewpoint of sound. In fact, there are some results of analysis which show that repetition in sounds has the effect of impressing the mood of a scene or a character's feelings on readers more deeply.

Repetition had many kinds of effects. By using them, Dickens must have tried to impress something on his readers. One element was the atmosphere of a scene. Another was the inside of the minds of his characters. Another element was the anticipation of an incident or the movement of time or things. In addition to these factors, there were various other results of my analysis. I could discover that Dickens used a lot of technical skills and included various meanings in his repetitions.

It is not so easy to draw a single conclusion from all the repetitions which I have analyzed. Nevertheless, if I dare to draw a conclusion, I insist that

Dickens tried to impress something on readers through his uses of repetition. He must have used repetition to enable readers to read his intentions. I can say that analyzing each repetition and trying to read his intentions must assist us in reaching a deeper reading of the story.