

A Stylistic Analysis of *The BFG*

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Roald Dahl (1916-90), who is a British writer and also famous for such books as *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (1964) and *Matilda* (1988), believes that a good children's book is not just for entertaining, but it teaches children the use of words and the joy of playing with language. Among his works, *The BFG* (1982) is particularly full of unique word usage and vocabulary because Dahl depicts the BFG, the main character, as a giant who has never had education at school. In fact, his difficulties with the English language lead to all sorts of jokes and tongue-twisters, malapropisms and spoonerisms. Considering these facts, the aim of this thesis is to investigate the BFG's idiosyncratic language, especially his unique words and expressions, to categorise them from the various points of view based on their similarities, and to consider the effects of them and how they attract the young readers, through surveying the notable features in his words and expressions.

Chapter I deals with the BFG's grammar. One of the distinctive features in his grammar is the frequent use of verbs in progressive form, which seems to be more closely related to the form and sound of verbs rather than its progressive meaning.

Chapter II focuses on his vocabulary which is the most notable characteristics in his speech. A number of coinages are scattered in his speech, and what is more, the way of creating new words is not monotonous but various. The followings are some examples: *wigglish*, *cannybull*, *cattlepiddler*, *bellypopper*. Chapter III is the analysis of usage. For example, his unique words often appear in swearing throughout the story. This chapter tries to show when they are used and to explain the reason.

Chapter IV analyses his words from the viewpoint of phonology. Although there are hundreds of unique words, some phonological features are commonly used in many of them. The common or similar sounds create the distinctive rhythm in his speech.

Chapter V shows the examples of his unique and humorous mistakes including spoonerism and malapropism, especially in idiomatic phrases. All those mistakes are not just mistakes but humorous devices to entertain readers.

The BFG's unique speech effectively works to make children realise the joy of English and plays a very important role of describing the relationship between the BFG and other characters.