

## Direct Speech Presentation in *Oliver Twist*

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### I Introduction

*Oliver Twist* is one of the most popular novels written by Charles Dickens (1812-1870), a British writer who is famous for such books as, *A Christmas Carol*, *David Copperfield*, and *Great Expectations*. My study examines the features and effects of direct speech presentation used in Charles Dicken's *Oliver Twist* which could be different from those used in *Great Expectations*.

### II Reporting Verbs

*Oliver Twist* and *Great Expectations* has the same number of reporting verbs. By comparing these two, the verb 'said' and 'replied' are frequently occur in both novels. The number of phonically descriptive verbs is larger than that of two other types of verbs in *Oliver Twist*.

Also, it is clear that content-descriptive verbs are most frequently used in *Great Expectations*. Even though there is a small disparity of number between the neutral verbs and phonically descriptive verbs, phonically descriptive verbs are the second most frequently used.

Furthermore, interestingly, comparing the protagonists in each novel, there is a difference in the use of content-descriptive verbs. In *Oliver Twist*, because it is written in the third-person, the narrator holds the perspective in the novel.

In contrast with *Oliver Twist*, *Great Expectations* is a first-person novel, and is written from Pip's viewpoint. For this reason, the conversational partner intervenes more frequently in *Great Expectations*.

### III Conclusion

By comparing the two novels by Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist* and *Great Expectations*, focusing on the reporting verbs, it is possible to say:

- (1) The form of speech types is changed in accordance with the difference in viewpoints.
- (2) Various types of reporting verbs and phonically descriptive verbs are used to make the characters more real.
- (3) The different viewpoint of the protagonist is affecting the use and

frequencies of the content-descriptive verbs.

(4) The speech form types affect characters' emotions.