

A Stylistic Analysis of Some Tales by Beatrix Potter

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The Tale of Peter Rabbit is one of the most famous children books. It was written by Beatrix Potter. She was born in London in 1866 and wrote twenty three stories in her life as a whole. Her works are widely read even now and her drawings entertain us. However, I think the reason the stories have been widely read is more than the drawings, and there are some artifices in her sentences. Therefore I focused on four viewpoints and discuss them in this thesis.

In Chapter I, I discussed point of view. In her stories there are shifts of point of view in many places other than the changes involving subjects or diathesis. Particularly I dealt with many expressions in which the author appears in the stories and writing techniques which involve shifts of point of view. I examined her effective uses of point of view which enable her to enrich her multi-layered world.

In Chapter II, I dealt with the variation of words. Potter sometimes uses many expressions to refer to one thing. I considered that there are certain intentions in the places where she used different words, and that the variety of her words is one of the writing techniques she uses to attract the reader. Therefore, in this chapter, I focused on some examples of her varied words and considered what her intentions may have been.

In Chapter III, I discussed a variety of reporting verbs. She uses a lot of reporting verbs and the number of them is different according to the story or the character. She uses not only familiar reporting verbs but also unusual ones. At that time, they were used when she chose the reporting verbs which fitted the character and characterized the character as an animal. Thus her various uses of reporting verbs are one of her writing techniques, and give shape to her style or her fictional world.

In Chapter IV, I looked at some of the word play which Potter uses many times throughout her stories. I considered that it is one of the salient features in her writing techniques which she uses to attract children. Looking at her word play leads us to a deep comprehension of her style.

In these ways, I examined her characteristic use of language from four

points of view. Her stories are full of artifices to attract children. This results from her affection for children or animals. Children encounter books through being read to by their parents. Therefore she incorporated a lot of artifices to attract and entertain them.