

ULYSSES

Lord Alfred Tennyson

The extract I am going to analyze is "Ulysses" by Lord Alfred Tennyson.

It is a dramatic monologue, a particular form of poetry in which there is only one speaking voice, Ulysses.

It embeds different forms of speech like deictics or false starts.

Ulysses is speaking about a crucial moment of his life, something important that happened in his life.

The first section is the introduction in which are presented the setting (Itaca) and the speaking voice.

Here Ulysses is presented not like a young character but like an old one. The reader may understand this important information because he is returning, from experiences, in his home town and he is reflecting on what he can do because he doesn't like to stay there.

Also it comes on light the great human being of the speaking voice. He has known not only the world (place made of people, places different from his one) but he has especially known himself through the world and through challenges he comes on during this journey around the world.

—> Existence and life experiences entering relations with people and these relationships allowed Ulysses to know about himself.

In the second section Ulysses is addressing the mariners who accompanied him through his voyage.

He is giving us an idea of the mariners' manner. He perceives them like respectable and faithful men that have toiled with courage. The reader can understand how much important the mariners are for him. In fact he shares all his life with them. This came on light through the description of experiences they made together, so it is clear that there are close relationships between mariners' experiences and Ulysses' experiences.

In addition Ulysses is inviting his mariners to continue for further intentions.

Ulysses and the mariners are old outside but he feels that inside they aren't old enough to do something more, to go over their expectations.

All the experience they passed, changed and improved their human being. Ulysses feels that something done could remain in the future and for this reason he is proud of him and of his mariners.

The climb has been so hard but now they know how much they lived with intensity and wild and free soul.

At the same time the speaking voice is sure that something good could be done even now.

For this reason he tries to motivate his mariners on doing a last effort that is like a black hole: you don't know anything about what will expect you. Even if they are old and they aren't stronger like one time, they could do more because inside they have a great willpower. However, move them everywhere whenever. (The concept of old is put on light by the slowness of the lines that reminds the slowness and the impossibility of moving with facility of old people. Also he uses many images and metaphoric sentences).

At the end he is making considerations about that after you die anything could be done, despite you have to try to do your best before dying.

The message of this text is to invite to go on living with passion, curiosity, with the desire to know more.