Coketown

I am going to analyze the text “Coketown” it is an extract from the utilitarian novel Hard Times.

It was written by Charles Dickens. He is the great Victorian novelists.

understood that the Industrial Revolution produced benefits did not linked with wealth. By this information the reader may aspect the extract talks about this fact and put in light with concrete demonstrations what the novelist said.

Right from the title the reader can expect that the text is about a typical town of the beginning of the industrial revolution because coke is a typical kind of coal used in the factories during the Revolution. Coketown is a typical Victorian city. It is an Industrial city. It is a narrative text and the main aim of a description is to create a mental picture of the place the novelist is telling about. In the present text the narrator is the third person omniscient. The text displays the most important figures of Utilitarianism philosophy. Utilitarianism is a political, economic and social doctrine which was widespread at the beginning of the 19th century. The principle on which it is based are pain and pleasure. Utilitarianism tends to produce benefit, advantage, pleasure, good or happiness. The Utilitarianism philosophy in the principle advance by Jeremy Bentham. The two characters of the text are Messrs. Bounderby and Grandgrind. Starting from the first line it is important the synthetic description of “Coketown” where the narrator tells that it is a “triumph of fact”. If the reader goes on with the reading he/she can notices that the word “fact” is repeated many times (12 times). Indeed he/she can understand that it is a key word. In all the text there are reference to time, for example “for ever and never, and never” that seemed to suggest the situation was not going end. The narrator uses also a lot of adjectives refer to the colour. The colour black underlines the darkness and the pollution instead the water is red like the blood. In the present text the narrator wants to give a not completely objective description of the Industrial Society, thus he wants also to give to it a bad connotation, probably to make the reader understand the dark side of the Industrial Revolution.