Mr. Bounderby last part

The third sequence, or the second part of the extract , sets the atmosphere of the extract, the setting is “ a formal drawing-room of Stone Lodge “ where the two protagonists discuss about Mr. Bounderby’s birthday. The narrator wants to underline the superior position assumed by man towards the woman, typical characteristic of the Victorian age infact he says : “he thus took up a commanding position from which to subdue Mrs. Gradgrind”.

The third sequence is characterized by the passage from telling to showing in which Mr. Bounderby remembers in a cold and dark way his past of poverty, he says: “I hadn’t a shoe to my foot.As to a stocking, I didn’t know such a thing by name . I passed a day in a ditch.” This sentence underlines the situation of poverty and ignorance that change in the time. With this memory Dickens wants to make the reader feel sorry for what happened to the protagonist in his youth, but in reality he is characterizing it in a negative way, as we can see immediately afterwards. In fact, with the passage to showing the narrator no longer filters information, the reader can understand the true nature of the man directly from his words.

The fourth sequence considered the characterization of Mrs. Gradgrind the Mr. Gradgrind’s wife , is description is opposite to the Mr. Bounderby ones, she is “little, thin, white”. Then is present a dialogue between the two characters where the narrator wants to underline the drama of the conditions of life and health that man had to endure in his childhood. in the dialogue one sees perfectly the authority of the husband on the figure of the woman, something very common during the Victorian age where the center of the family was presided over by the father or the husband.