**Coketown Analysis**

“Coketown” is an extract taken from “Hard Times” Chapter 5 by Charles Dickens. The extract shows the characterisation of the town during the Victorian Age. This extract talks about Mr. Bounderby and Mr. Grandgrind who walk towards Coketown which is the very protagonist. Dickens’s town is imaginative, and becomes a way to denounce upper class people’s behaviour. The narrator is a third person omniscient one and is prevalent the use of telling; the text is arranged into three sequences.

The first sequence introduces the situation with two protagonists, Mr. Gradgrind and Mr. Bounderby. The place is said to be “a triumph of fact”, an expression that falls in contradiction with what written later “it had no greater taint fancy in it than Mrs. Gradgrind herself”. Mr. Gradgrind and Mr. Bounderby stroll into industrial Coketown, once a red brick town but now discolored, having been blasted with ashes and smoke from the factories. It used to be colorful and attractive, but the ashes from the factory has made it into a kind of industrial hell that sees of any kind as an obstacle in the way of efficiency and usefulness. The narrator uses colours to convey the idea of a town made of bricks but covered by smoke. The smoke is one of the principal elements used to characterize the town. The personification of smoke into ‘serpents’ and the repetitive use of ‘ever’ and ‘never’ underlines that that smoke continues to go out of industries without any end.

The town appears to be perfect, everything has its precise function and works perfectly. The repetition of the word “fact” recalls the idea of something objective and material, as the town proves to be. The narrator compares the monotonously motion of steam engine's pistons to the “head of an elephant in a state of melancholy madness”.

Repetition of expressions like “like one another” and “same” conveys to the reader the idea of equality, monotony and stagnation also at chronological level as the novelist writes “every day was the same as yesterday and to-morrow, and every year the counterpart of the last and the next”.

The material aspect brought by the Industrial Revolution is the topic of the second sequence, since it is told that anything which cannot be sold in the cheapest market.

In the third sequence the two protagonists (Mr. Gradgrind and Mr. Bounderby) come actively into the scene and the narrator conveys once more a negative characterisation of the two. The importance of those “tabular statements” reports once again that everything should be translated into figures. The narrator conveys to the reader the image of bad, restless, insatiable making a contradiction to the word ‘gentleman’ itself.