Coketown analysis

It is an extract from chapter five from Charles Dickens “Hard Times”. It is a third person omniscient narrator. It is arranged into four sequences of telling. The title refers to the city where Mr Bounderby and Mr Gradgrind walk; the word Coketown is composed by two words: coke and town and so it suggests the reader that the city is an Industrial city. The first sequence is the pretext to introduce the characterisation of the city. Right from the start of the characterisation the narrator uses a contradictory elements to give an idea of the city: the triumph consists on the elimination of any “taint of fancy”, it goes without saying that the triumph may refer to a war where the imagination defeats. Indeed the city loses all her previous aspects and its identity “bricks that would have been red if the smoke and ashes had allowed it (ll. 4-5)” and it seems “like the painted face of a savage (l 6)”. The narrator upends the vision of the town because at first he focuses the attention on inanimate symbols of Industrial Revolution (machinery and chimneys) because them characterise the everyday life of the citizens. The image of the smoke conveys the idea of something that hide the identity because it doesn’t allow to see clearly nothing and so different things seem to be the same thing “all very like one another”. All people do the same thing at the same time as robots.