**Textual analysis of "Oliver wants some more"**

The text is an extract taken from chapter II of Charles Dickens' novel Oliver Twist which is a typical example of the Victorian literature.
The extract is set in a warehouse where Oliver is hosted and it's meal time. The poor child had to ask the master for one more bowl of soup due to a children's challenge. The reaction of the master was violent: he was surprised because he didn't expect anyone to dare ask for more.
The text consists of three sequences: the introduction, the fact and the reaction.
The first sequence consists on the description of the room in the warehouse and the characterization of the master. The narrator is a third person omniscient who knows everything about the events and the characters. He uses mainly the technique of telling that has the function to tell the reader about the situation the children are living, but also there's a part of showing. He focuses on the setting that is a warehouse and also he focuses the attention on the large stone hall and the master. The image of the stone cold conveys the idea of a sense of cold and submission of children in respect to the master. Indeed in the extract appears antithetical images and ideas, for example the submission and the power. From the very first lines the narrator underlines the asymmetrical relation between people: children are submitted and somebody from a higher position decides what the children have to eat. Also this idea is conveyed by the use of the passive form in the first line: this underlines that the children are inactive. This is because children and also women were considered inferior to men. Just opposed the passive role of the children stands the master who is characterized by the way he's dressed. In order to characterize the master, the narrator uses the expression "an apron for the purpose" as if the real purpose of the master was other, while he simply distributed food. It's an hyperbolic description that rests on exaggeration.
In addition the asymmetric relation between women and men is given by the position of the two women that are connoted as assistants. So the role of women is inferior, while the master comes to surface as a God. The use of language is too much for an ordinary event, indeed "festive composition" makes the reader expect a ceremonial occasion. Moreover it comes to surface the antithetical image of the children and the adults: the adults' description seems celebrative.
The narrator focuses the attention on the quantity of food children are giving. The children were so hungry that they took every drop of soup: the language is empathic and creates irony. The narrator insists on the use of irony because he tells that the children were ready to "devoured": this reinforces the sense of hunger. The expression "no more" underlines the rationed lunch: the narrator wants to convey the idea of the limited amount of the food they could eat. The narrator put the children at a level of animals: the expressions "wild" and "voracious" are associated with animals.
The second sequence consists on the description of the moment of dinner when Oliver requests more food.
The use of lexis underlines the asymmetric position between who rule and the poor children. Also the position of the different characters is well exploited to convey the idea of the hierarchy of the servants.
In the second sequence there's the shift from telling to showing: the narrator uses the shift of the point of view using the direct speech. The narrator also exploits body language in order to make the reader understand that the children were not allowed to speak to each other opening.
When Oliver asks for more food the narrator plays irony on the master because he become pale in front of the child. The narrator underlines the physical aspect of the master who is fat: this creates the contraposition between the poor children who are very hunger and thin and the fatness of the rich master.
The third and last sequence tells about the reaction to the Oliver's request. The request shocked the master and paralyzed the assistants. To judge this form of rebellion was organized a conclave and everyone believed that Oliver would be hang, but the director of the warehouse decided to offer a reward of five pounds to "anybody who would take Oliver Twist off the hands of parish". With the description of the events the narrator wants to show to the reader the terrible condition of life in warehouses and he wants to provoke a sense of pity in the reader.
The use of language is elaborated: he uses a complex language full of onomatopoeic words. Irony is apparently meant to make the reader laugh, anyway laughter is only the immediately reaction because on a second moment the reaction provoke a sense of sadness.