I am going to analyse the structure and the characterization of the two protagonists, Gabriel and Gretta, of the novel “The Dead” written by James Joyce. The part of the novel that I am going to analyse starts with the phrase “Gabriel had not gone to the door with the others.” and ends with the phrase “The blood went bounding along his veins; and the thoughts went rioting through his brain, proud, joyful, tender, valorous.”.

To start with, the first character that enters into the scene is Gabriel, which sees his wife Gretta. Indeed, she is characterized through Gabriel’s eyes. Gabriel sees Gretta standing in front of the stairs listening to music in darkness.

After that starts a dialogue between Aunt Kate and Miss O’Callaghan, which are two secondary characters. The narrative technique of the dialogue is very important in all over the novel because it equilibrates narration and characters’ thoughts. In addition, brief lines compose dialogues.

After the dialogue, the setting returns like the first one. Indeed darkness has a central role for the narration and particular attention is given to the colours. In addition, about the narrative techniques there is a third person narrator.