**BEOWULF’S CHARACTERISATION**

The object of the present work is to discuss and analyse Beowulf’s characterisation in the text which is an extract of the epic-heroic poem *Beowulf*.

In order to reach the goal, the present work will develop first an analysis and then provide the narrator's methods to introduce the character.

At the beginning the reader is curious to know who this "he" is to which the speaking voice refers.  
From a syntactic point of view, in the first verse there is an alliteration that sees the repetition of the sound "H". Subsequently, with the phrase "no one else like him" we want to exalt for the qualities of him expressed through a superlative: he says that he is unique. Then there is an absolute negation and a simile. "No one else" is used to connote uniqueness which accompanied by absolute negation, a further technical technique used to enhance it. With the expression "alive" he wants to underline that he is the only one alive: he wants to underline his uniqueness and his actions, his courage.

In the fourth line there is an absolute superlative, so its absolute qualities are enhanced and there is also an alliteration with the repetition of the sound "M". The uniqueness is then put into a better focus with the use of the absolute superlative adjective “mightiest”, usually associated to gods or divinities, and the alliteration of the consonant sound “m”, “mightiest man”. His divine nature his also underlined by the expression “on earth”, which creates a syntactical and semantic parallelism with the previous “on home ground”, that connotes his heroic qualities.

In the fifth line the two adjectives refer to social class and power. The verb "order" makes us understand that he has servants and we can understand that he is an authoritative or authoritative person: only at the end of the reading could we attribute one of the two characteristics to him.

Furthermore, the fact that he requires a boat with specific characteristics underlines the fact that he is competent in navigation.

From the expression “He announced his plan” it is assumed that there is an audience here it is emphasized that he makes his plan public. The verb to announce comes from the religious word annunciation which is the religious event in which the archangel Gabriel goes to her Mary and tells her that she will give birth to Jesus Christ. It follows that the use of this verb makes this action important.

By the way the Beowulf’s characterization, until now, the narrator introduces the character of Beowulf in media res, using the telling technique to plunge him into the situation. He does not put the proper name of the person he is talking about, but he uses the personal pronoun "he" and this has the purpose of intriguing the reader who wants to know who this "he" is.

In the introduction of this character, the narrator uses absolute negation to compare him with the others: he wants to highlight his uniqueness. Then his uniqueness is deepened through the use of an adjective that usually refers to the divinities and to emphasize it he again uses alliteration. Later he uses the expression "on earth" to show that it was almost a mistake of nature because no person who lives on earth has the same qualities as him, so he is almost divine: his heroism comes from all this.

Then he refers to his social class and his power and therefore to his authority because he announces and therefore everyone is listening to him. He has an expertise in his area of him because he says he knows how to order the right boats.

The narrator wants to bring out his uniqueness again with the use of the negation "nobody" and "no elder" that is, through an anaphoric structure, made through an absolute negation.

Moreover, with the expression “Nobody tried to keep him from going” the reader understands that people don’t hold he because they respect him. With the noun “ambition” the reader understands that he has a lofty reputation. It follows that with the word “leader”, with this choice the poet wants to underline and explain that he has and knows the expertise as a leader. In the next line there is the word “captain”, it recalls the concept of leader, depicted before. In addition, this word highlights his quality as a warrior, his generosity and his availabity.

As well as this in the sixteenth line, there is the presence of alliteration. In fact, in the word “canny”, “coast” and “currents” the sound “c” creates a hard sound to underline the courage of the protagonist.

The seventeenth line starts with the word “Time”. This choice of the speaking voice explains that there is a different situation from previous lines. In addition, the speaking voice uses the expressions “the boat was on water” and “in close under the cliffs” to highlight the competence of the protagonist in the navigation activity and that recalls what the speaking voice said in the sixth line (“that would ply the waves”). The sound effect that creates recalls the idea of water, sea and something that slamming.   
From a syntactic point of view, there are frequent alliterations on key words, for example the repetition of the sound “w” in the sixteenth line used to convey the sound of water against the ship to the player, or “s" in the twentieth line also used to transmit a sound, in this case that of sand.

The poet uses the verb “churned” to underline the emotion of warriors in that situation. There is the presence of words as “gangplank”, “vessel’s hold” and “wood-weathered ship”; these words emphasis the ship shape, its motion and how it was structured. In the expression “then heaved out away with a will in their wood-weathered ship” the speaking voice explains that, also, warriors have hope and wills and that highlights even more their courage.

It follows a personification of the ship. Indeed, the speaking voice refers to the ship with the subject pronoun “she”. Moreover, he refers to the bow with the noun “neck”, in fact, he considers the ship as a person. Furthermore, he compares the ship to a bird to highlight warrior’s sensation of freedom. In these stanzas the poet uses a particular feature of Anglo-Saxon poetry: the kenning indeed the poet uses the word “water”, “sand”, “hold” or “ship” to refer to the idea of sea. This choice conveys to create rhythm and characterize things and people more effectively. Moreover, in the next line there is an another alliteration where the sound “w” is repeated to convey to image of the stormy wind.

After that, in the 26 line, the speaking voice uses the adjective “curved” to connote the prow. Moreover, you also can notice a personification, indeed the possessive adjective "her" is used to refer to the ship.   
With the expression “had covered the distance” the speaking voice, through a metaphor, wants to underline that they were getting closer and closer to their destination. In the next line references are made to the place and time to then focus the reader on the concept that is found later, that is the sighting of the land by the seafarers. To the latter noun is associates the demonstrative adjective "those" which communicates distance to the reader as it is an adjective used to speak in the plurality of what is far from the speaker. Moreover, here there is also an alliteration where the sound “s” is repeated.

Afterwards, the speaking voice makes a description of the land previously sighted then comes to the conclusion that this was the perfect place they were looking for to dock. It follows that, having found a landing place to stop, equipped with suitable rocky and steep cliffs hit by the sun, the sea voyage ended here. In addition, here there is a reference to the light that illuminates the rocks and this refers to God, who will also be named later at the end of the poem.

In the line 31, with the noun Geats, the speaking voice refers to the Hygelac’s thanes. In the next line there is an alliteration where the sound “o” is repeated. Perhaps the speaking voice makes this choice to further underline the fact of the end of the voyage, making the reader focus on the actions of the Geats, who jump on the sand bank and docked the ship.

As well as this, from a syntactic point of view, you can identify an anaphora that is the repetition of the conjunction “and” at the beginning of two of the final lines.

The narration ends with a thanksgiving to God who allowed them an easy crossing. Therefore faith in God, that is, to Jesus, is implicitly communicated.