**COKETOWN**

The extract from Hard Times is a hyperbolic description of a typical Industrial town. This is suggested by the name of the city itself. The description conveys to the reader a sense of sadness and desolation by the description of dark colors and of a dark atmosphere and by the repetition of “ever” and “never” referring of this.in the following lines this sensation is given also by the simile between the steam-engine and an elephant in a state of melancholy madness and by the alliterative repetition of “m” sound.

There is a contrast between the description of Coketown like a controlled orderly made of facts town and the comparison with the face of a savage. It seems to suggest the real precarious life conditions of the habitants, hidden by the city order.

The material aspect of the town is exaggerated by the grotesque: the obsessive repetition of word “fact” also associated to word “immaterial” and the paradox “a town so sacred to fact” give an exasperated and caricaturized description of a town based on work and material, concrete things.

The rhetorical questions “of course got on well?” and the exclamation “dear me” focuses the reader attention on the negative answer that is the message the novelist wants to convey in this extract.

The grotesque can be seen also in the paradoxes of the eighteen denominations who officially do not count any members of the Teetotal Society who are always drunk. This denounces the false controlled face of life during the Victorian Age.

The repetition of word “gentlemen” in the last lines calls back the readers’ attention and focuses it on the description of the dark aspects of the town.