**Analysis of the extract from Beowulf**

*Introduction and declaration of intent*   
The text is an extract from the epic poem "Beowulf" a superb example of Anglo-Saxon literature.  
In the present work a structural analysis of the text will be carried out followed by a linguistic scrutiny of the use of language made by the composer in order to find out how literary language conveys the idea of what made a hero in Anglo-Saxon culture.  
the text communicates the nature of the fight between Beowulf and the monster Grendel. It consists of four component parts having different functions.  
The first section immediately sets the atmosphere pervading the setting and right from the start displays the typical features of Anglo-Saxon poetry. Indeed, alliterative verse and the use of kenning contribute to help the reader make up a mental image of the fight and, last but not least to characterize the actors of the fight.  
From the first line "moors and the mist bands" contribute to the idea of a dark environment where finding directions is hard. In addition the repetition of sound "s" seems to invoke silence from the reader as if he were in front of a difficult, hard and tragic event.  
The scenery is suitable to introduce the monster and that scares human beings because he is, as the kenning (l 2) suggests, "God-cursed". Not only does the kenning create suspense and mystery, it also plays on the level of sound when the intelligent reader can perceive the harsh sound of his name "Grendel" that is in alliteration with God-cursed. In addition the effect is highlighted by the following adverb "greedily" that adds to the greedy nature. It goes without saying that the phrase "God cursed" hints at the religious code as well the coming kenning "the bole of the race of man" and therefore just from its very first appearance in the present text the reader cannot but create a negative idea of the monster but what does the monster show? His nature is very well conveyed by the semantic choice of the composition. He is "God-cursed", "greedy", he lopes and therefore he must be huge, besides he is the "bane of a race" and definitely he is desperately looking for a prey. As a result Grendel is characterize as half man and half anima. The narrator tells the reader all that he does and therefore Grendel's characterization is made up trough action verbs. He lopes, he roams for his hunts of a prey, he moved in search of a prey, in a few words he shows the same behavior of a predator. The setting moves around is a gloomy and dark one, it is full of "cloud-murk" (l 5) but where does Grendel head forth? He wants to ridge " the high hall" (l 4) a place that differently from his environment "shone above him" (l 6). Furthermore it is "a sheer keep of fortified gold" (ll 6-7) as the run-on-line displays.  
Again, the intelligent reader may easily realize that the composer of the poem probably wanted to create a contrast between the plays of the monster, a dark moor and the light of the "high hall" (l 4) where human beings are peaceful by spending their time. Evidently black and dark clouds are associated in negative, devilish the ones that simply damnation, on the contrary. The fortress not only is sheer but it shines and is golden. It follows that the forest, the moor and the cloud-murk are associated with Hell while the golden hall is high and shining as is Paradise.  
But one more feature adds to the monster making of him a character exceptional creature. He is therefore, huge strong, fearless.  
 The second section makes the reader become gradually aware that make of Grendel the exceptional monster he is. In this section he is preferred to as "the creature" that has become the monster he is.  
The verbs chosen add concreteness to Grendel's actions: "grabbed and mauled"(l 11), "bit into his bone-lappings", "bolted down his foot", "gorged on him in lumps"(l 13) and "eaten up hand and foot". The monster's hunger comes to service vividly and conveys to the reader all its strength fast actions and desire to kill his praise. But when it comes to Beowulf the devilish creature that the composer calls "the captain of hell" resort to a kenning once again is taken by surprise by a "hungry harder than anything he had eer uncounted in any man on the place of the earth" the phrase makes of Beowulf the hero he is, he distinguish himself from the rest of mankind and this is why he becomes the legendary hero and the protagonist of the epic poem itself. He stands for the man of courage, brave and ready to defend his raze from any enemy. Beowulf features are well expressed in lines 23-24 where the monster's reactions are conveyed in a vivid way "his body quailed and recoiled" and "he could not escape".  
Once and again Beowulf outstanding personality comes to surface as well as the values of mutual help and solidarity of his men. Beowulf's warriors display their leader qualities through their actions "laying about them", with "ancestral blade" and they reveal to be "stalwart in action" and "kept striking out" in view with the aim of cutting "straight to the soul".  
The composer insists on the extraordinary that underline their singularity well exemplified "that no blade on hearth no blacksmith's art could ever damage their demon opponent" (ll 32-33).  
Time and again the monster is compared to a devilish creature almost close to one with supernatural power. "He had conjured the harm from the cutting edge of every weapon". The reader can surely understand that Grendel is being portrayed with words and expressions that belong to the religious code and he or she can rightly think the composer of the poem might be a Christian one, an example is offered by "straight to the soul" one more is "demon opponent" and last but not least also the phrase "he had conjured" kinds at supernatural power but all the same "the monster's whole boy was in pain"(ll 37-38). The wound is "tremendous" and the sinews split and "the bone-lappings burst". Beowulf victory appears to be therefore not only one that highlights his strength once more, it is also the victory of good over the ere, according with the Manichean vision of the world.  
The composer ends the image of the fight reinforcing the idea of Grendel's defeat say that he is "fatally hurt" (l 42) and the use of the add verb "fatally" brings to service the supernatural idea of the vision of the fight.   
The monster is sent back "under the fen banks"(l 42) and to his "desolate lair"(l 43) the reader's sensitivity brings home the image of Beowulf winning glory but the solitude of the monster as well. The monster is alone while the protagonist of the epic deeds is supported by the solidarity of his warriors. This explains for the relevance of solidarity, unity and community in winning the fight, thus providing the reader information about the values of Anglo-Saxon civilization.