**THE KEYNOTE ANALYSIS:**

In the present text I’m going to analyse an extract from chaper five from Charles Dickens’ novel “Hard Times” in order to find out the deep meaning, to make my analysis more effective and to put my reflection into a better focus. The narrative passage considers the moment when the protagonists Messers. Bounderby and Gradgrind were walking to the city Coketown and there is a deep description of it.

The narrator decides to appeal at the third person omniscient narrator as all the Victorian novels do. The reader can notice the narative technique adopted by the narrator through the sentence “Let us strike the key-note, Coketown”. Indeed the narrator is intrusive since he seems to be inside the text and he knows everything.

Moreover the text employes the narrative technique of telling since there aren’t dialogues or exchange of words between the characters, but only a description of the city.

In order to give us an overall vision of the city, the narrator develops the description through metonimy. Berforehands Mr. Dickens analyzes the city from above, from afar; moving on he shifts his attention more specifically to the description of details.

The mention of the two characters walking is used to introduce the city, a “triumph of fact” since it suggests praticality and concreteness. The narrator declares his own intention: describe Coketown as a musical.

Besides Mr. Dickens expresses his idea of the city using a symbolic chromatic language: red, gray and black. Red is the color attributed to the brick and it symbolizes pathology, blood, suffering, passion; gray conveys the idea of something old and ancient; at least black of the interminable serpents of smoke from the tall chimneys devolves the idea of sin. Therefore the reader understands it is not a positive description: it conveys the idea of disease, so it is an indirect criticism by the narrator to the city, where everything is monotonous like the piston of the steam-engine working up and down. The language describing Coketown's appearance could not be more condemning or disdainful. It used to be colorful and attractive, but the ashes from the factory has made it into a kind of industrial hell that sees uniqueness of any kind, such as individual human beings, as an obstacle in the way of efficiency and usefulness. Besides the description of the extreme pollution highlights the dangers of this environment.

The narrator uses a lot of figures of speech in his description and in particular he adopts anaphora in order to make the description more realistic and emphasize the idea of ​​repetition and monotony which runs the city.

The narrator clinches several times Coketown is a city based on work, everything is work, without comforts or elegancies. The bell is the only object which is ornamental, except the New Church. The narrator reiterates everything in the city is fact, the material and the immaterial.

To conclude the reader should note the monotony life of the inhabitants of Coketown, who are forced to live in an industrialized town, where labour is the first concern.
People have lost their personality, their individuality. By the use of metephors the narrator wants the reader to reflect about the inhabitants’ bad conditions: the life they are leading in the city is dangerous in two different level, physical and psychological.
The alienation due to the repetitive life in Coketown is a significative and worrying message of the existence of a psycological risk that workers may suffer.