THE DIALECTS USED BY THE CHARACTERS IN CHARLES DICKENS’S DAVID COPPERFIELD

A THESIS
As a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English Language Teaching

By:
FRANSISKA MARTA SARI
1213000176

UNIVERSITAS KATOLIK WIDYA MANDALA SURABAYA
FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN
JURUSAN PENDIDIKAN BAHASA DAN SENI
PROGRAM STUDI PENDIDIKAN BAHASA INGGRIS
SEPTEMBER, 2006
This thesis entitled ‘The Dialects Used by the Characters in Charles Dickens’s David Copperfield’ has been approved and accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English Language Teaching by the following advisors:

Dr. Agustinus Ngadiman
First Advisor

Mateus Yumarnaanto, M.Hum.
Second Advisor
This thesis has been examined by the committee of an oral examination with the grade of __________ on September 4th, 2006.

Drs. Stefanus Laga Tukan, M.Pd.
Chair Person

Yohanes Nugroho Widiyanto, M.Ed.
Member

Prof. E. Sadtono, Ph.D.
Member

Dr. Agusinus Ngadiman
Member

Mateus Yumarnanto, M.Hum.
Member

Approved by

Dra. Agnes Santi Widiati, M.Pd.
Dean of the Teacher Training Faculty

Dra. Susana Tegilus, M.Pd.
Head of the English Department
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer would like to dedicate her deep gratitude and appreciation to:

1. The Almighty God who has made everything possible under His holy providence.

2. Dr. Agustinus Ngadiman and Mateus Yumarnamto, M.Hum, her advisors, who have given guidance, valuable comments and constructive suggestions in accomplishing this thesis.

3. Her family for their endless encouragement.

4. The dearest Adith and the family for their love and support during the writing of this thesis.

5. Her friends, Uni, Sita, Tito, Tina, Hani, Dewi, and many others whose names cannot be mentioned one by one here.

   Apparently, without the supports of all the people above, the writer would have never been able to finish her thesis well.

   The Writer

**Keywords:** Dialects, Charles Dickens, Novel, David Copperfield.

The thesis shows the dialects used by the characters in Charles Dickens’s novel entitled *David Copperfield*. It attempts to answer the two research problems: (1) ‘what dialects used by the characters in *David Copperfield*’ and (2) ‘what factors affect the characters in *David Copperfield* to use dialects in communicating with each other’.

The data of this thesis were taken from the utterances of the characters in the novel and analyzed using the linguistic features of grammar, word spellings and word choices as the parameter of the study, which related to the non-linguistic factors of settings, topics and participants’ backgrounds involved in the utterances.

It was found that there are three geographical dialects of England at the Victorian Time (1800s) used by the characters in speaking with others. They are Suffolk, Norfolk and Kentish. The three dialects abovementioned are interrelated with the contextual factors of the utterances in the novel. They are, first, the geographical backgrounds and the social status of both the speakers and listeners; second, the places where the conversations take place, such as in Blunderstone (the Suffolk speaking town), Great Yarmouth (the Suffolk and Norfolk speaking town), and Camden town, Buckingham, Adelphi, Chatham, Dover, Canterbury and London (the Kentish speaking areas); and third, the topics being discussed between the speakers and listeners in the conversations.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Approval Sheet (1) ................................................................. i
Approval Sheet (2) ................................................................. ii
Acknowledgements .............................................................. iii
Abstract .............................................................................. iv
Table of Contents .............................................................. v

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study .................................................. 1
1.2 Statements of the Problems ................................................ 3
1.3 Objectives of the Study ..................................................... 3
1.4 Significance of the Study ................................................... 4
1.5 Scope and Limitation ........................................................ 4
1.6 Theoretical Framework .................................................... 5
1.7 Definition of Key Terms .................................................... 5
1.8 Assumption ...................................................................... 7
1.9 Organization of the Study .................................................. 7

CHAPTER II: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Related Literature ............................................................ 9
   2.1.1 Standard English and Dialects .................................... 9
   2.1.2 Written Linguistic Features of the Geographical
     Dialects in England ....................................................... 11
2.1.3 The Novel.................................................................................. 14

2.2 Previous Studies ........................................................................... 16

CHAPTER III: RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Research Design ......................................................................... 18
3.2 The Subject ................................................................................. 20
3.3 The Data Source ........................................................................... 20
3.4 The Research Instrument ............................................................... 20
3.5 Data Collecting Procedures.............................................................. 20
3.6 Data Analyzing Procedures .............................................................. 21

CHAPTER IV: RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Research Findings ........................................................................ 23

4.1.1 The Dialects Used by the Characters in

David Copperfield in Communicating with Others ..................... 23

4.1.2 The Factors that Affect the Characters in

David Copperfield to Use Dialects

in Communicating with Others ..................................................... 29

4.1.2.1 The Participants ............................................................... 30

4.1.2.2 The Settings and Topics ..................................................... 31

4.2 Discussion to Research Findings .................................................... 33

4.2.1 The Linguistic Features of the Dialects of

Suffolk, Norfolk and Kentish Used by the

Characters in David Copperfield ................................................. 34

4.2.1.1 The Grammatical Features ................................................. 34
4.2.1.2 The Variations of Word Spellings .......................... 54
4.2.1.3 The Choice of Words .......................................... 58
4.2.2 The Discussion of the Factors that Affect the
Characters in *David Copperfield* to Use the
Dialects of Suffolk, Norfolk and Kentish ......................... 62

CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION

5.1 The Summary .......................................................... 70
5.2 The Suggestion .......................................................... 71

BIBLIOGRAPHY .............................................................. 72

APPENDIXES:

Appendix 1: The Dialect Mapping in England

Appendix 2: The Characters’ Utterances in Charles Dickens’s *David Copperfield*