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An examination of selected binary oppositions in the work of Elizabeth Gaskell which serve to demonstrate the author's response to unitarianism and other prevalent influences within mid-Victorian society

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Abstract

This dissertation examines in detail the work of Elizabeth Gaskell, a mid-Victorian English author. It establishes that she was significantly influenced in her writing by the Unitarian social milieu to which she belonged during her lifetime, and by a wide range of other dominant influences, such as Romanticism and the rise of Darwinism. It demonstrates that conflicting doctrinal strains within Unitarianism, and emphases in Unitarianism differing from that of other prevailing influences within society, jointly contributed to the particular nature of her literary output.

Elizabeth Gaskell's work is characterised by a series of binary oppositions, a feature of her fiction which serves to illustrate her individual response to conflicting value concepts. Rather than dogmatically resolving the series of antinomies revealed throughout her work, she maintains their co-existence in such a manner that the mutual interdependence of each set of polarities is perpetuated. This suggests that she preferred, despite varying emphases at certain points, an intelligent open-endedness regarding opposing views. In fact, her work infers an acceptance that textual vitality and purpose is fostered by allowing such tensions to exist.

The binary oppositions exhibited in her work that are discussed in this dissertation are varied in nature. In Chapters Two and Three, the Priestleyan notion of necessarianism, a form of moral determinism, is set against the equally evident notion of free-will and divine benevolence. In Chapter Four, the radical edge of her Unitarian faith is balanced by an equally strong appreciation of the benefits of social respectability. Elizabeth Gaskell's work reflects a recurrent commitment to the Unitarian values of truthfulness, but she also understands the textual benefits of concealment and deception.

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The other big problem phonologists are confronted with is to define the phonemic status of the sound in the neutral position. There is one more big problem in phonology — theory of distinctive features. It was originated by N. S. Trubetsky and developed by such foreign scientists as R. Jakobson, C. G. Fant, M. Halle, N. Chomsky, P. Ladefoged, H. Kucbra, G. K. Monroe and many Soviet phonologists, such as L. R. Zinder, G. S. Klychkov, V. Ya. "The-phoneme retains its status of the minimal unit of sound in the language system. Its indivisibility should be qualified as inability to be broken up into smaller units of sound." "As for the ultimate phonological unit, it is an instrument for the linguistic structuring of extralinguistic substance which might be called prephonic rather than phonic." 1. II. Types of oppositions. Oppositions in morphology. In discussing grammatical categories, we shall often have to mention. oppositions, that is, pairs of grammatical forms opposed to each other in some way. The opposition may be defined as a generalized correlation of lingual forms, by means of which a certain function is expressed. oppositions were divided into binary and more than binary (ternary, quaternary, etc.). The most important type of oppositions is the binary privative opposition; the other types of oppositions are reducible to the binary privative opposition. The binary privative oppositions formed by a contrastive pair of members in which one member is characterized by the presence of a certain differential feature (strong, marked, positive), while the other member is. Literature Gaskell North And South Religion Unitarian Elizabeth Gaskell Binary Conflict. The Concept of Unity in Elizabeth Gaskell's "North and South". By Tristan Gans 2010, Vol. 2 No. 04 | pg. 1/1. 9.) George Orwell writes in The Road to Wigan Pier "In times of stress 'educated' people tend to come to the front; they are no more gifted than the others and their 'education' is generally quite useless in itself" (48). Gaskell, who lacks Orwell's bourgeois guilt, asserts that there are substantial differences between the classes (usually manifested in dialect), and agrees that the education is inherently useless, but emphasizes its importance as status (cultural capital) through, among other things, the fact that despite Mr. Thornton's (and his mother's) lack of social pretensions—"we are a In other words, language in the narrow sense of the term is a system of means of expression, while speech is the manifestation of the system of language in the process of intercourse. Other terms are used in linguistics by different authors to denote the two basic aspects of language: Noah Chomsky wrote about 'language competence' and 'language performance', Luis Hjelmslev used the terms 'linguistic schema' – 'linguistic usage', 'linguistic system' – 'linguistic process' ('text'), Roman Jakobson opposed 'code' and 'message', etc. Common features serve as the basis for uniting the grammatical forms within the same paradigm. The prevalent type of paradigmatic opposition in grammar is a binary privative opposition. So, we can say in binary privative opposition one member is characterized by the presence of a certain differential feature, while the other member is characterized by the absence of this very feature. Let's take the opposition "table - tables". The common feature of this opposition is the expression of the category of number. The differential features are oneness or singularity in the first member and plurality in the second member. This kind of opposition is used in phonetics as well. Let's take the opposition /d/; /t/. The common feature of this opposition is the fact that both members are