

**الصفات الإنكليزية في " أوقات عصيبة " لجارلز**

**ديكنز: تحليل**

**للتركيب المقطعي**

**رسالة تقدمت بها**

**الطالبة**

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# Abstract

The present study, as reflected in the title, is an attempt to shed light on the analysis of syllable structure of the adjectives in '*Hard Times*' by Charles Dickens. It helps university students of English carry out a syllable structure analysis. The problem of this study lies in identifying: 1) the structure of the syllable(s), 2) the closed/open and simple/complex syllable(s), in order to reveal whether the adjectives that are being analysed have different syllable structures or not; in addition, no thesis or research has touched upon the phonological analysis of the English monosyllabic adjectives in this novel. This study sets forward three hypotheses: firstly, the (consonant-vowel-consonant) pattern of English syllable structure is the basic one; secondly, the complex syllable constructions are the ones that dominate the selected adjectives; and thirdly, the closed syllables are more than the open ones. This study aims at conducting a syllable structure analysis in terms of: 1) investigating the internal structures of syllables of the monosyllabic adjectives in the data i.e., whether simple syllables or complex ones are dominant and whether closed syllables or open ones are overwhelming; 2) exploring the pattern of syllable structure which is excessively used in the data.

A British dictionary is adopted in identifying the category and the transcription of the monosyllabic adjectives. Words that are original adjectives are selected and analysed, that is to say, words that belong to more than one word class are excluded.

The study is composed of three chapters. Chapter one sheds light on the general theoretical background of the English syllable. It tackles the notion of 'syllable' and presents a review of literature on: definitions, importance, types, structure and divisions of the English syllable. Besides, some concepts relevant to the 'syllable' such as 'stress' and 'intonation' are briefly discussed.

Chapter two introduces a general theoretical framework of the English adjectives. It deals with the diverse definitions of ‘adjective’ according to the three schools of grammar: traditional, structural and transformational-generative. In addition, this chapter displays, in general, morphological, syntactic and semantic classifications and centres around the phonological classification, in particular.

Chapter three, which is the core of this study, is devoted to the syllable structure analysis of monosyllabic adjectives that are found in ‘*Hard Times*’. A tree diagram is used in the analysis and it is the one that is employed by many writers among whom, for instance, Roach et al. (2004: Int.), in this tree diagram the syllable branches into the onset and the rhyme which, in turn, branches into the peak and the coda.

The results of this study have revealed that the total number of the adjectives that have one syllable is (53), the complex syllable structures vary in form in the data and they override those that have simple syllable structures. In addition, the fundamental pattern of syllable structure that is found in the adjectives under investigation is the (consonant-vowel-consonant). Furthermore, the number of the simple sort of monosyllabic adjectives is (23) while the number of the complex ones is (30). On the other hand, the number of the closed type of adjectives is (46) whereas the total number of the open kind of adjectives is (7). Besides, there are some constructions of syllable structure that are not found in the adjectives under analysis. These are: V, VCCC, VCCCC, CVCCC, CVCCCC, CCVCCC, CCCVCCC and CCCVCCCC.