



6.4 Stilistik – det gode eksempel

Example 1

The reader is clearly shown how Tom sees his dad and his lifestyle in the lines 16-35. He uses several alliterations such as “dark and dingy” and “neck” and “nails”. He uses swear words such as “fucking eejits”, but also uses quite advanced language when he uses a metaphor by saying “dead end”, and when he sets up a contrast between “choice” and “mistake”. There is also a list of three in Tom’s inner thoughts when he mentions all the dirty things about his father and his friends: “dirty shirts and dirty necks and filthy nails”.

Example 2

It is particularly important for Tom’s father to make sure, that Tom does not come to believe that he is in any way better than his father because of his academic talents. Therefore, the father ridicules Tom's talents and speaks of them as meaningless in an attempt to show dominance.

Tom says nothing but becomes angry at the father and his friend for their arrogance. He is deeply disgusted by both their character and physical appearance and therefore refuses to be seen as one of them. But at the same time, it can also be noted that there is a kind of division in his character, which is seen through the style of writing, which portrays a contrast in Tom’s language. “Fucking eejits. Belittling everyone to make out the dead end they find themselves in is a choice instead of a mistake. With their dirty shirts and dirty necks and filthy nails.” (ll. 28-29) His inner thoughts are strongly characterized by the shifts between an academic language and an informal and uncivil language. Here we see the different sides of Tom. On the one hand, we have Tom, the gifted student, who uses complicated words such as “belittling”, metaphors such as “the dead end they find themselves in” and alliteration (“necks” and “nails”), desperate to differentiate himself from the lower class, his father and everything he stands for. But on the other hand, we have Tom who grew up in the lower class of Dublin with an abusive father, which unavoidable has also infected his language, as seen in, for example, his use of swear words (“fucking eejits”). The difference between Tom and his father, though, is that Tom refuses to show that side of himself publicly. The swear words are solely kept inside his own mind.

Example 3

The reader is clearly shown how Tom sees his dad and his lifestyle in the lines 16-35. He calls the bar his dad frequents “dark and dingy”, and paints the picture of a dirty sticky place when he says, “the soles of my shoes stick to the floor and announce my arrival” (l. 16). He tells the reader everything they need to know about his thoughts about his dad and his dad’s friend when he says “fucking eejits, belittling everyone to make out the dead end they find themselves in is a choice instead of a mistake. With their dirty shirts and dirty necks and filthy nails” (ll. 28-29). He sees them as some lowlives who make fun of everybody else to feel better about their own misery. He thinks they’re dirty and someone who’s living a life they didn’t choose but fell into by mistake and now can’t get out of. He sets himself apart from his dad and this entire environment. He just feels more intelligent.