

Deconstructive Analysis of Nonsense Aspect and Semantic Relations in Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass

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Abstract--- Carroll's Alice books are a rarity of nonsense literature, entertaining by all generations. Carroll presents different philosophical ideas to urge people to think about the deep meaning of the English language and the function of literature. This article focuses on the concept of the sense, nonsense and semantic relations in both Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass. Carroll conveys his journey to an imaginary world by Alice to transfer a reader to an unreal world. Several events in this work reflect the fact of the author's reality boring. The purpose of this article is to analyze the text of "Alice in Wonderland" and "Through the Looking Glass" through the semantic relations such as homonymy, homophony, ambiguity, synonymy, antonyms, polysemy, hyponymy, contradiction and the meaning of sense and nonsense. This article provides the reader the meaning of language in both Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass and how the author plays in these semantic relations in order to show the impact of the nonsense and rational ambiguity to convey the reader into imaginary world while showing the power of the word.

Keywords--- Nonsense, Sense, Semantic Relations, Carroll, Imaginary World.

I. INTRODUCTION

Carroll's work is a long journey into a fantasy of a little Victorian gal. In Alice in Wonderland, time was the basic point because it concentrated on growth and this was concerned Alice so as to learn the meaning of the time. So, Carroll wanted to show the importance of the time and not wasting it "the text is really humid, and it is there, between the banks of the dream through which the hidden meaning flows, that are mirrored the text and its timidities: everything happens as though Carroll, instead of taking the risks of loss (of time, of life, of strength, of meaning), saw himself at risk, took pleasure in it, exploited this pleasure, while the very fact of writing down this pleasure frightened him out of his wits" (Cixous & Maclean, 235).

Carroll is a talented author and his problem was his reality boring. He was a professor of logic and mathematics and he was a man who loved children and built relations with them. Alice was one of the children he loved. This has been reflected in his literary works, indicating the nature of his love for Alice and she was his thrilling for the main character in his works. In the Through the Looking Glass Alice started her long journey through a mirror where she faced strange characters as a chess pieces whereas, in Alice in Wonderland, Alice dreamed that she pursued a white rabbit in a forest and she encountered different characters, until she explored that it was just a dream and in both works the author exploited his genius in playing the game and literature at the same time. In these works, he showed a great aptitude reflexing his life background in the events of these stories and he wrote these works for Alice, not for

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the general populace. Additionally, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* has survived until nowadays and these works reflect Carroll's life experience and privacy. His work is not just a story for kids but for all ages. Because old people's view is different from the kid's view and they see things that kids cannot expose. His style in writing creates a spark in a reader's imagination and he showed how he plunged words semantically. Whenever we read this story we discover something new as if it were the sky had no end. These books are the finest books ever where. Moreover, our favorite part was character of the white Knight that represented the author himself. When Alice met him in *Through the Looking Glass* and she abandoned him when she became matured. Additionally, we loved the Cheshire Cat's intelligence and how Carroll creates the fantastic imaginary world full of weird.

With these creatures the reader will understand the text in a remarkable way and s/he will understand the meaning according to his or her conditions "If the receiver understands the wordplay both s/he and the wordplay maker will be united in taking pleasure from it; but if they do not, the wordplay maker may also derive pleasure from it, thinking that s/he is superior" (Alexieva, 139). The context of this story creates reality that makes situations between Alice and all these creatures she faced. Therefore, this work is full of imagination and nonsense. We were amazed when we knew Carroll was a person of facetiousness not a linguist. We read this story a few years ago, but we were only read it just for entertainment because we thought it was a ridiculous story.

However, we perceived its literary value when we took our semantic course in university. We have liked his supernatural style. In the Victorian period; this story was seen to be one of the best works that were loaded with ironic situations and the notion of nonsense. Therefore, we liked this masterpiece work that deserves reading again and again, because whenever we read it we discover new things in the meaning of the language. It is more than an imaginary dream that full of fabulous events and it is considered as a nonsense literature in the Victorian era.

The main purpose of this article is to deconstruct a hidden meaning in the texts of both *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* according to the semantic relations and to see how Carroll beautifully plays with language game such as homonymy, homophony, ambiguity, synonymy, antonym, polysemy and the meaning of sense and nonsense. We will start to define all these notions supported by examples from both *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*, showing how Carroll juggled with the language. Let's together embark this journey to see how Carroll balances between language and reason.

II. SENSE AND NONSENSE

To be honest, it is so risky to navigate through the phenomenon of nonsense in semantic aspects. This notion composed of many "words conveyed absurd or ridiculous ideas" (Tigges, 9). Thus, nonsense texts are consisted of thoughts without any sense or with no meaning in reality whereas the meaning of "the sense of an expression is its indispensable hard core of meaning" (Hurford, Heasley & Smith, 95). Then, the reader will realize what is written and ask himself why the author uses some crazy and illogical ideas in his style? Distinctly, the reader will grasp the meaning of ridiculous idea and how it is different from sense texts. In our life, we know how a child becomes an adult but without thinking much about how the God creates him because these truths are found in our minds. Therefore, in Carroll's style the author wants to make the reader learn how to think about rational things in real world and illogic ideas at the same time because nonsense aspect will open the way to the reader to contemplate the imaginary world

“Carroll's world of fantasy is most profoundly, in its semantic aspects at least, the sort of world for which such a logician as Charles Dodgson might yearn: a world of truth and order” (Spacks, 92).

Additionally, the reader does not comprehend enough from the nonsense text because it might compose irregular syntax and morphology and this will create problems to the reader that might lead to the inability to analyze. There should be a mutual grasp because if the reader did understand the texts this might due to deviations. So, the reader must deconstruct the text to build his conclusion but if the reader couldn't understand the author's ideas he would not feel the nonsense concept and the absence of logic in the text “there is nothing outside of the texts” (Barry, 66). There are a lot of examples of nonsense in *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* such as the poem “Jabberwocky” (see Appendix 1), if you look at this poem you will find a lot of crazy words with absurd meanings and if you search their meanings in an English dictionary you will see that these words are not recorded.

Another famous example of nonsense is the character Caterpillar here the author uses him to explain the nonsense and he describes the dialogue between them. The Caterpillar is seated on the mushroom and he goes on smoking a hookah. He talks to Alice with a drowsy voice.

“[A]t last the Caterpillar took the hookah out of its mouth, and addressed her in a languid, sleepy voice” (Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, 24).

Again, we have a well-known character is the Cheshire Cat. This cat is known for its experience and it can disappear even before its laughter has died out and this surprised Alice because she has never seen like that in her life. The Cat tried to warn Alice from the two characters (the Hatter and the March Hare). Thus, when Alice met them in the tea party she tried to avoid the Hatter because she thought that the Hatter was more dangerous and mad than the March Hare. So, Alice tried to show off herself in the tea party and she put herself in the center situation, showing her superiority and power to them.

“but a grin without a cat! It is the most curious thing I ever saw in all my life” (Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, 31).

Besides, the Cheshire cat confused Alice trying to put in Alice's mind that they are mad.

“Oh, you can't help that,” said the Cat: “we're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad.” “How do you know I'm mad?” said Alice” (Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, 31).

In the Victorian age, the society of high class used to waste in nonsense talking during tea-time and the author critiques this case in a “Mad Tea-Party” in *Alice in Wonderland*. Here Alice meets the Hatter, the March Hare and the Dormouse. They showed their stupidity in this situation because they used to do silly things again and again for a long time and because the Hatter was murdering the time he was accused by the queen for killing the time. Alice in this party was insulted because she couldn't answer the Hatter's riddle. When she said “I don't think” (Carroll, 34) the Hatter told her “Then you shouldn't talk” (Carroll, 34). This is why she decided to leave the party “it's the stupidest tea-party I ever was in my life” (Carroll, 34). Another example of a nonsensical conversation that Carroll showed in this work is like contention to show who is kinder when the March Hare offered Alice a wine but in fact, there was not any. In this case, Alice showed her rudeness for his behavior to control over language but he suspended on her rudeness.

“Have some wine’ the March Hare said in an encouraging tone”. “Alice looked all- round the table, but there was nothing on it but tea. ‘I don’t see any wine,’ she remarked. ‘There isn’t any’ said the March Hare” (Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, 60)

To swerve the conversation, The Hatter sings a song *“Twinkle, twinkle, little bat! How I wonder what you at”* (Carroll, 33). In this situation, the author wants the reader and Alice to distinguish the original reference for this song. This song is similar to the main song *“Twinkle, twinkle, little star”*. He uses the same rhyme but different words that contain an imaginary image. This song is commonly used to lull children to sleep.

The Queen is surprised to this new lyrics that exemplify as a kind of time (murdering the time).

Sometimes words defeat us when we want to convey our ideas to the reader. Therefore, Humpty Dumpty tried to confuse Alice and the goal here is to transfer the meanings when Alice argued with the meaning of glory. Alice is not wary enough and she asked him to explain the meaning for her to see the power of the words.

“I don’t know what you mean by “glory,” Alice said. Humpty Dumpty smiled contemptuously. ‘Of course, you don’t – till I tell you. I meant “there’s a nice knock- down argument for you!’” (Carroll, Through the Looking Glass, 75)

III. SEMANTIC RELATIONS

a. Contradiction

Contradiction is “a sentence that is necessarily FALSE, as a result of the senses of the words in it” (Hurford, Heasley & Smith, 97). In Carroll’s works, he showed how animals and people are represented and this describes what is natural in Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass in contrast to the reality. There are a lot of animals that seemed to be scared from Alice such as the white rabbit. The White rabbit is contradictory case because he has a pocket watch and wears gloves and a vest, behaving like a human being. When Alice saw him she just wanted to talk but he ran away. Another situation that showed how Alice gave a scare the animals when she mentioned her lovely cat *“she’s such a capital one for catching mice”* (Carroll, 21).

Therefore, violence has a significant role in Alice’s books such as the conflict between the Tweedledum and Tweedledee, the Lion and the Unicorn, the Red and White Knight, and the Queen of hearts and her court member. Characters in Alice’s books appeared their violence and this is a contrast to the manners of the world and it is not productive. Additionally, there is a contradiction between the sense and the nonsense, imaginary and real world, and youth and adulthood. In through the Looking Glass, the Red Queen tells Alice that she could show Alice hills look like a valley, but Alice answered her, saying it is nonsense *“I could show you hills, in comparison with which you’d call that a valley”* (Carroll, 60).

b. Antonyms

To my knowledge, this concept describes a relationship between opposite things such as *Ali borrows dictionaries and Ali returns dictionaries*. Antonyms “are predicates which come in pairs and between them exhaust all the relevant possibilities. If the one predicate is applicable, then the other cannot be, and vice versa” (Hurford, Heasley & Smith,

121). Now let us see the most important examples in *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*. Take for instance in “The Queen’s Croquet-Ground”, the words “up” and “down”.

“The Cat’s head began away the moment he was gone, and, by the time he had come back with the Duchess, it had entirely disappeared: so the King and the executioner ran wildly up and down, looking for it, while the rest of the party went back to the game”(Carroll, *Alice in wonderland*, 38).

If you look at the “Alice’s Evidence” episode, you will find another example of antonym when the King of hearts couldn’t recognize between the word “important” and “unimportant” because he was not sure about these two words.

“That’s very important,” the Bang said “Unimportant your Majesty means of course” when the white rabbit interrupted”, “Unimportant of course I meant” the King hastily said” (Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*, 47).

c. Synonymy

Synonymy occurs between two words that have different shapes with the same meaning for example fast = rapidly. Synonymy is “the relationship between two predicates that have the same sense” (Hurford, Heasley & Smith, 106). Carroll plays with words to make his reader more conscious about the language game which involves three elements: the reader, the author and the characters. In “Who Stole the Tarts?” episode, Alice considered the jurors stupid because they write their names so that they do not forget their names at the end of the court. Look at the words “jurors” and “jurymen” have the same meaning.

*“I suppose they are the **jurors**” she said this last word two or three times over to herself, being rather proud of it: for she thought, and rightly too”. However, “**jurymen**” would have done just as well”. (Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*, 44).*

d. Ambiguity

Ambiguity occurs when a sentence has two different meanings. Carroll wanted his readers to question what they are reading and why? *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* exist outside of the normal world. They are different and they are not a part of a society because they are not in the real world. Carroll used ambiguity because these works are fictitious. In “Humpty Dumpty” episode, Mr. Dumpty asks Alice how old she is and she says her age is seven and half. Humpty Dumpty tells her she can’t be exactly seven and half. He is actually questioned the words that she is using. To analyzing texts, we think, depends on the lens of the readers. Carroll played with ambiguity in his two books so as to create a beautiful atmosphere for the reader and to test or increase the reader’s knowledge to pass the problematic issues.

“So here’s a question for you. How old did you say you were?”

“Alice made a short calculation, and said “seven years and six months” “Wrong!” Humpty Dumpty exclaimed triumphantly”.

“You never said a word like it”

“I thought you meant “How old are you?” Alice explained”.

*“If I’d meant that, I’d have said it,” said Humpty Dumpty”. (Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*, 75).*

Another example of ambiguity in “It’s My Own Invention”, the author played with words when the White Knight refers to Alice that the “next course” for making pudding. There are two interpretations in this event. The first interpretation is the following course and this happens when the stress falls on the first syllable of the word whereas, the second one for this event is not for the later course but for diverse opportunity.

"In time to have it cooked for the next course?" said Alice. "Well, that was quick work, certainly!" "Well, not the next course," the Knight said in a slow thoughtful tone: "no certainly not the next course." "Then it would have to be the next day. Well, not the next day," the Knight repeated as before: "not the next day" (Carroll, Through the Looking Glass, 85)

Moreover, in “Humpty Dumpty” episode, Carroll’s style makes the reader understands that linguistic form may be misleading when least expected and this creates humorous impacts on the meaning of the English language. Therefore, he used to make puns and wordplays on language because he believes this will enhance the knowledge of the reader to be more conscious. Most of the linguistic forms liable to an ambiguity that leads the reader to vague meaning as in the following example Mr. Dumpty misunderstood Alice in the meaning of the word “see” that is a direct object in the syntactic structure which leads to the ambiguity.

"only I don't sing it," he added, as an explanation. "I see you don't," said Alice. "If you can see whether I'm singing or not, you've sharper eyes than most, "Humpty

Dumpty remarked severely. Alice was silent". (Carroll, Through the Looking Glass, 77).

e. Homonymy

When we express our expressions in the English language sometimes words deceive us because these words have completely different meanings such as bank (an institution for money or side of a river). Sometimes these words might lead to misunderstanding or confusion. Carroll in his work used a wordplay or pun so as to create the pleasantry. Here are some examples from Carroll’s work for this purpose:

"You can draw water out of a water-well," said the Hatter; "Of course they were," said the Dormouse: "well in"" (Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, 43).

The author here goes on changing the meaning of the words to show the homonymy in this jest. The word “well” means hole for water or good degree. So, both of these words have unrelated meaning. Also here the author uses the word “mine” for homonymy that means a large shell, a hole for getting coal or the pronoun.

"It's a mineral, I think," said Alice.

"there's a large mustard-mine near here. And the moral of that is - 'The more there is of mine, the less there is of yours." (Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, 38).

Take another example in homonymy the author uses it as in the word “fit” that has different meaning such as a loss of consciousness or another meaning of “fit” is suitable.

"Then again before she had this fit' you never had fits, my dear, I think?" said the King to the Queen "Never!" said the Queen furiously, throwing an inkstand at the Lizard as she spoke". "Then the words don't fit you," said the King looking round the court with a smile. There was a dead silence. (Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, 48).

f. Homophony

Words that have different meanings but share the same pronunciation such as the word “mew” (the sound of a cat or a seagull). English is not a phonetic language. That means letters and sounds are unrelated and there is no link between them. Here are various examples from Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass for this purpose: In “A Caucus-Race and a Long Tale”, the Mouse endeavors to tell Alice a story but she couldn’t understand this expression. The Mouse talked about her unhappy story and Alice looked at the Mouse’s tale and misunderstood it.

"It is a long tail, certainly," said Alice, looking down with wonder at the Mouse's tail"

"Fury said to
a mouse, That
he met
in the house,
'Let us
both go
to law:
I will
Prosecute
you-
Come, I'll
take no
denial;
We must
have a
trial:
For really
this morning
I've
nothing
to do.'
Said the
mouse to
the cur,
Such a trial,
dear Sir, With
no jury
or judge,
would be
wasting our
breath.'
I'll be
judge,
I'll be
Jury,'
Said cunning
old Fury:
I'll try
The whole
cause,
and condemn
you to
death." (Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, 20).

This speech is very famous of the Mouse when Alice made mistake because of the homonymy of these two

words “tale” and “tail” that showed in the form of the tale of the Mouse. These two words composed of two elements where the author played with those words because he wants to raise humor in this event, making the comic situation. Also, we have another instance in the words “**knot**” and “**not**”. Both of them have nearly the same pronunciation with fully different meanings. Carroll created these homophones where the first one “knot” means tied together and the second one “not” is used for negation.

“A knot!” said Alice,. ‘Oh, do let me help to undo it!’ (Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, 21).

Again, the author plays with words to show different meanings in the words lesson and “lessen” for the purpose of homophony. The author means different meanings “lesson” is a course of teaching for pupils whereas lessen is to become less (reduced). Also here Carroll discovers the deficiency techniques utilized in schools of Victorian’s age and he showed how these techniques had a significant role to impact on children at that time. Thus, the author endeavors to mock the regimentation of the Victorian epoch.

“And how many hours a day did you do lessons?” “Ten hours the first day,” said the Mock Turtle: “nine the next and so on.” “What a curious plan!” exclaimed Alice. “That’s the reason they’re called lessons,” the Gryphon remarked: “because they lessen from day to day.” (Alice in Wonderland, 40).

In the “Mock Turtle Story” incident, the Queen asked the Gryphon to get Alice to visit the Mock Turtle in order to hear his story. If you look at the text you will see how the author puns on words. There are two similar words in pronunciation “Tortoise” and “taught us” but different in their meanings. The Mock Turtle is talking about the teacher who was surnamed Tortoise. So, this name “Tortoise” has the same pronunciation to the past verb “taught us”. For this reason, Alice was confused and asked herself why they call him Tortoise if he was not one of them.

“we went to school in the sea. The master was an old Turtle – we used to call him Tortoise –”

*‘Why did you call him **Tortoise**, if he wasn’t one?’ Alice asked.*

*‘We called him Tortoise because he **taught us**,’ said the Mock Turtle angrily: ‘really you are very dull!’ (Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, 40).*

Another example of homophony in “The Lobster Quadrille” event, Carroll showed his playing with words such as the word “porpoise” that means dolphin and “purpose” that means goal. Here the Mock Turtle confirmed Alice that he meant what he said but Alice thought that he meant purpose and not porpoise.

“If I’d been the whiting,’ said Alice, whose thoughts were still running on the song, ‘I’d have said to the porpoise, “Keep back, please: we don’t want you with us!”’ ‘They were obliged to have him with them,’ the Mock Turtle said: ‘no wise fish would go anywhere without a porpoise.’

‘Wouldn’t it really?’ said Alice in a tone of great surprise.

*‘Of course not,’ said the Mock Turtle: ‘why, if a fish came to me, and told me he was going on a journey, I should say “With what **porpoise**?”’*

*‘Don’t you mean “**purpose**”?’ said Alice.*

‘I mean what I say,’ the Mock Turtle replied in an offended tone”. (Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, 42).

Another example can be seen in “Who Stole the Tarts?” episode. The author plays with the words to make the reader realize what s/he is reading. Both of “tea” and the letter “T” have the same pronunciation.

“and the twinkling of the tea--‘The twinkling of the what?’ said the King. ‘It began with the tea,’ the Hatter replied. ‘Of course twinkling begins with a T!’ said the King sharply. ‘Do you take me for a dunce? Go on!’” (Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*, 45).

Here are examples can be seen from the second book *Through the Looking Glass*. The author shows his clever style to attract the reader, in particular, the children to discover different meanings in the fantasy world because such kind of writing is full of riddles. Look at the words “horse” and “hoarse” *‘You might make a joke on that -- something about "horse" and "hoarse," you know.’* (Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*, 62).

According to Carroll, language game strengthens the imagination of the reader, especially for children. Interestingly, if we look at the “Queen Alice” episode, we will find another example of the language game, for instance, “flour”, “flower” and “ground”, “ground”. Here the author used both homophony and homonymy at the same time.

“How is bread made?”

‘I know that!’ Alice cried eagerly. ‘You take some flour-’

‘Where do you pick the flower?’ the White Queen asked. ‘In a garden or in the hedges?’

‘Well, it isn’t picked at all,’ Alice explained: ‘it’s ground-’

‘How many acres of ground?’ said the White Queen. ‘You mustn’t leave out so many things’ (Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*, 87).

g. Polysemy

According to (Hurford, Heasley & Smith, 130), a state of polysemy is “one where a word has several very closely related senses”. That means it is different from homonymy and the meaning of polysemy is related senses. Take for instance, “A Caucus-Race and a Long Tale” when the Mouse narrates her tale she uses the verb “found” in the meaning of thinking but the Duck utilizes it in different meaning to determine something. Again Carroll plays with words to make humorous texts.

“--I proceed. “Edwin and Morcar, the earls of Mercia and North Umbria, declared for him: and even Stigand, the patriotic archbishop of Canterbury, found it advisable-

-”“Found WHAT?” said the Duck. “Found IT,” the Mouse replied rather crossly: “of course you know what “it” means.’ (Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*, 19).

In the “The Mock Turtle’s Story”, when the Mock Turtle talked to Alice about the education the word “school” has two different meanings. The first one is a place where kids go to get education but the second one is a category of fish “When we were little,” “we went to school in the sea”. (Carroll. *Alice in Wonderland*, 40)

In “The Lobster-Quadrille” event, Carroll makes another case of polysemy to bring entertainment to the reader such as the word “Dinn”. In the first one, Alice said “dinn” she stopped in the middle of the word she wanted to say dinner, but the second one, the Mock Turtle imagined that this word meant a place name. In this situation, The Mock

Turtle couldn't realize Alice's expression.

"Oh, as to the whiting," said the Mock Turtle, "they – you've seen them, of course?" "Yes," said Alice, "I've often seen them at dinn –" she checked herself hastily. "I don't know where Dinn may be," said the Mock Turtle;" (Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, 42).

Interestingly, another example of polysemy we can find it in "The Rabbit Sends in a Little Bill" that represents homonymy and homophony at the same time. The author played on the English language with the word "Bill". The first meaning of "Bill" is the name of the lizard in the story of Alice in Wonderland whereas the second meaning is a declaration or giving information about something.

*"Now, who did that? – It was Bill, I fancy –
Who's to go down the chimney? –
Bill's got to go down – Here, Bill! The master
says you've got to go down the chimney!" (Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, 23).*

h. Hyponymy

Hyponymy means "a sense relation between predicates (or sometimes longer phrases) such that the meaning of one predicate (or phrase) is included in the meaning of the other" (Hurford, Heasley & Smith, 109). For instance, in "Who Stole the Tarts?" event, the author used the words "creatures", "animals" and "birds" to offer the hyponymy "*she was obliged to say **creatures**, you see, because some of them were **animals** and some were **birds**.)". (Carroll, Alice in Wonderland, 44).*

I am going to give other various examples of both books (see appendix 2).

IV. CONCLUSION

This article involves two main sections, the first one explains the concepts of sense and nonsense and the second one shows the semantic relations in Alice's books written by Lewis Carroll. This article focuses on the nonsense and semantic relations such as homonymy, homophony, ambiguity, synonymy, antonyms, polysemy, hyponymy, and contradiction to show how the author manipulates words cleverly to create madness, absurdity and imaginary world. This article does not cover an entirely deconstructive analysis of all events in Alice's books, but it endeavors to illustrate the most important concepts of both Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass.

Carroll's fabulous works stayed being read with the same zeal nowadays and it transferred the reader to a fiction world and the nonsense sound to be the set of the day. Carroll made an imagination world plainly separated from the actual world and he reflected his sarcastic view of reality in this work because he critiqued the Victorian age. Nonetheless, he manifested the insincerity of the Victorian community because it was one of his goals of sarcasm. He used the nonsense because he wanted to give a lesson to the reader how to appreciate the worth of nonsense. Therefore, this work is full of nonsense and the reason behind that is, he used it as a motif of integrity. After showing different examples of how the author played in words, we have realized that nonsense is the most widely utilized in both Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass in order to help the reader to state immense numbers of questions that immerses him in chaos and absurdity. So, it is not straightforward to play with words but for Carroll, it

will add a flavor to the texts that trigger the reader and it gives the reader wisdom to enhance his knowledge avoiding complexity with enjoyment.

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Appendix (1)

"Jabberwocky", a nonsense poem written by Lewis Carroll.

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves

Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:

All mimsy were the borogoves,

And the mome raths outgrabe.

"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!

The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!

Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun

The frumious Bandersnatch!"

He took his vorpal sword in hand:

Long time the manxome foe he sought—

So rested he by the Tumtum tree,

And stood awhile in thought.

And, as in uffish thought he stood,

The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,

Came whiffing through the tulgey wood,

And burbled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and through

The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!

He left it dead, and with its head

He went galumphing back.

"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?

Come to my arms, my beamish boy!

O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!”
He chortled in his joy.
‘Twas brillig, and the slighly toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.
 (Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*, 57)

Appendix (2)

Example	Semantic relation	Explanation
<i>Antipathies</i> , AWL, P. 14	Nonsense	Alice was confused to say the word “The Antipodes” but she said another word because she forgot it.
<i>Great girl</i> , AWL, P.17	Polysemy	Mature in length and person
<i>Take care of the sense, and the seconds will take care for themselves.</i> AWL.P.38.	Nonsense	It refers to quid or pound.
<i>I am a poor man ...</i> AWL. P. 45.	Homonymy	Bad speaker or moneyless
<i>Miss....miss your lesson.</i> TLG.P. 64.	Homophony	Losing the lesson or style for name.
<i>Either you or your head must be off.</i> AWL.P.36.	Polysemy	Two different meanings (give up or cut off)
<i>Explain myself...I cannot explain myself...I am not myself.</i> AWL.P. 24.	Homonymy	The word myself has different meanings
<i>An old crab ...the patience of an oyster.</i> AWL. P. 21.	Polysemy	Crab means either peevish person or animal.
<i>This is the driest thing I knew.</i> AWL.20.	Homonymy	When the Mouse endeavors to tell her story
<i>Two....to.</i> TLG. P. 79.	Homophony	Different words with the same pronunciation.
<i>Time ...to beat time.</i> AWL. P. 32.	Polysemy	The Hatter and the March Hare believe that the time is a person
<i>Axis-axes.</i> AWL. P.28.	Homophony	The Duchess thinks of axes but Alice meant the axis of the earth
<i>There is a large mustard-mine....the more there is of mine.</i> AWL. P. 38.	Homonymy	The first mine means a big whole, the second one means a pronoun
<i>Neither more nor less.</i> AWL. P. 76.	Antonym	Two opposite words
<i>Fighting for the crown.</i> TLG. P. 80.	Ambiguity	A different meaning for the preposition “For” that creates ambiguity. The white King refers to the crown as an example of kingship, whereas Alice refers to the crown as standing for the property.