





The Discourse Functions of Antonyms in *Faceless by Amma Darko*

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ABSTRACT

This article investigates the discourse functions of antonymy in Amma Darko's *Faceless*. It also explores the principles that govern the order of antonymous pairs in *Faceless*. The study is motivated by an observation, based on corpus data, that certain antonymous pairs co-occur in written data, and that they perform various discourse functions. There is also the argument that certain antonymous pairs tend to be used in a preferred sequence in the sentence. Data was collected from Amma Darko's *Faceless*, a novel about the plight of street children in Ghana. The authors argue that in *Faceless*, antonymous pairs often co-occur within one word class and that these antonym pairs function differently to highlight some of the themes of the novel. The authors also argue that in the novel, antonym sequence is influenced by the following principles: idiomaticity and non-gender, chronology and positivity.

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INTRODUCTION

Most semanticists regard antonymy as 'a lexical relation'.¹ For Murphy, it is the "archetypal lexical semantic relation."² Consequently, some scholars have argued that it is different from its fellow relations. Kagan, for example, has argued that antonym pairs, unlike synonyms and hyponyms, are committed to memory in childhood and remain a key feature of language use throughout adulthood.³ According to Jones, "it is this ubiquity in adult discourse that has attracted most attention in recent years as corpus data have allowed quantitative statements to be made about antonym co-occurrence."⁴ Charles and Miller, for example, in comparing sets of antonymous adjectives in context, have argued that canonical pairs co-occur more frequently than non-canonical pairs.⁵ Justeson and Katz have also shown that antonyms co-occur in texts at higher-than-expected rates.⁶ Fellbaum has also shown that antonyms occur across as well as within word classes.⁷

¹ Geoffrey Leech, *Semantics* (Middlesex: Penguin Books, 1974); John Lyons, *Semantics*, vol. 2 (Cambridge university press, 1977); David Alan Cruse, *Lexical Semantics* (Cambridge university press, 1986).

² M Lynne Murphy, *Semantic Relations and the Lexicon: Antonymy, Synonymy and Other Paradigms* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), 169.

³ Jerome Kagan, *The Nature of the Child* (New York: Basic Books, 1984).

⁴ Steven Jones, "A Lexico-Syntactic Analysis of Antonym Co-Occurrence in Spoken English," (2006): 192.

⁵ Walter G Charles and George A Miller, "Contexts of Antonymous Adjectives," *Applied Psycholinguistics* 10, no. 3 (1989): 357–75.

⁶ John S Justeson and Slava M Katz, "Co-Occurrences of Antonymous Adjectives and Their Contexts," *Computational Linguistics* 17, no. 1 (1991): 1–20.

⁷ Christiane Fellbaum, "Co-Occurrence and Antonymy," *International Journal of Lexicography* 8, no. 4 (1995): 281–303, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ijl/8.4.281>.

All these studies established the status of antonymy in syntax and paradigmatically. Later studies on antonymy concentrated on discourse functions. Mettinger and Jones are all cases in point.⁸ Mettinger used a small corpus of modern fiction.⁹ However, Jones, using a much larger corpus of newspaper data, classified and quantified the functions.¹⁰ Other studies conducted subsequently include those by Jones and Murphy, Murphy and Jones, Murphy, Paradis, Willners and Jones, Kostić and Steffens.¹¹ All these studies, more or less, relied on Jones.¹² Murphy *et al.* was more advanced.¹³ They did a cross-linguistic study of the discourse functions of antonymy in Swedish and in English. These interesting studies on antonymy, as far as the researchers are aware, have mainly been done elsewhere. In Ghana, very little on antonymy has been done. As far as the authors are aware, the only study is Ameka, which is a semantic analysis of two verbs in Ewe (Gbe), a Kwa language of West Africa.¹⁴ In the work, he argues that the sense of the verbs involves directional opposition. This study tells a little about antonymy in Educated Ghanaian English. It is against this backdrop that the present study explores the discourse functions of antonymy in Amma Darko's *Faceless*, a novel that tells the story of street children in contemporary Accra or in Ghana.

The study complements the others on antonymy that have drawn conclusions from corpora and seeks to identify antonym co-occurrence in *Faceless*; a study which pairs are more prevalent and explore their nature in terms of the word classes; explore the principles that govern the order of antonyms in *Faceless*; exemplify and quantify the discourse functions of antonyms in the novel; and show how the discourse functions highlight some of the themes in the novel. The rest of the paper is organised as follows. It first gives a brief background of the Novelist Amma Darko and discusses the English language used in *Faceless*. The next section presents the theoretical framework upon which the study is based. It briefly considers antonymy and provides an overview of Jones' categories of the discourse functions of antonyms and his principles that govern the order of antonyms.¹⁵ It then presents the methodology and the analysis. Finally, the conclusions drawn are also presented.

Faceless and the English Language in Faceless

Amma Darko is a novelist who has a number of published works to her credit. These include *Beyond the Horizon*, *The Housemaid*, *Faceless* and *Not Without Flowers*.¹⁶ Her literary prowess and creativity earned her a scholarship in 1998 from the *Akademie Schloss Solitude*. The Ghanaian Literary Authority also conferred on her in 2008, the Ghana Book Award, the highest literary honour in the country, in recognition of her creativity. This novel was chosen because the authors found the story interesting and educative. It is about a menace, "streetism", and the plight of street children in Ghana. This is one of the social problems Ghana and most African countries have to grapple with. As Amma Darko narrates the story of children left to roam on the streets, she highlights some of the bad things that can

⁸ Arthur Mettinger, *Aspects of Semantic Opposition in English* (Oxford University Press, 1994); Steven Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach* (London: Routledge, 2002).

⁹ Mettinger, *Aspects of Semantic Opposition in English*.

¹⁰ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach*.

¹¹ Steven Jones and M Lynne Murphy, "Using Corpora to Investigate Antonym Acquisition," *International Journal of Corpus Linguistics* 10, no. 3 (2005): 401–22; M Lynne Murphy and Steven Jones, "Antonyms in Children's and Child-Directed Speech," *First Language* 28, no. 4 (2008): 403–30; M. Lynne Murphy et al., "Discourse Functions of Antonymy: A Cross-Linguistic Investigation of Swedish and English," *Journal of Pragmatics* 41, no. 11 (November 2009): 2159–84, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pragma.2008.09.040>; Nataša Kostić, "Antonym Sequence in Written Discourse: A Corpus-Based Study," *Language Sciences* 47 (January 2015): 18–31, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.langsci.2014.07.013>; Marie Steffens, "Antonymic Discourse Functions and Manipulation: A Corpus Analysis of Present-Day French," *Corpus Pragmatics* 2, no. 3 (September 9, 2018): 313–32, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41701-018-0036-0>.

¹² Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach*.

¹³ Murphy et al., "Discourse Functions of Antonymy: A Cross-Linguistic Investigation of Swedish and English."

¹⁴ Felix K. Ameka, "Meaning between Algebra and Culture," in *Crossroads Semantics* (Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishing Company, 2017), 227–48, <https://doi.org/10.1075/z.210.14ame>.

¹⁵ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach*.

¹⁶ Amma Darko, *Beyond the Horizon* (London: Heinemann, 1995); Amma Darko, *The Housemaid* (Oxford: Heinemann, 1998); Amma Darko, *Faceless* (Accra: Sub-Saharan Publishers, 2003); Amma Darko, *Not Without Flowers* (Accra: Sub-Saharan Publishers, 2007).

happen to street children who take their fate into their own hands. These include poverty, child abuse and neglect, rape and defilement, child prostitution, single parenthood, and child labour. The purpose is to study the discourse functions of antonymy in the novel and to show how the discourse functions highlight some of the themes in the novel.

According to Dakubu, Ghana has about fifty (50) languages, the major ones being Akan, Ewe, Ga, Nzema Dagaare and Dagbani.¹⁷ Although the English language is a second language, it is the official language in Ghana. Adika reports that since its implantation in Ghana, the then Gold Coast, in the early part of the 16th century to date, “English in Ghana has been expanding against the backdrop of an intensely multilingual environment.”¹⁸ The Ghana Living Standard Survey (GLSS) (2008) report indicates that on literacy, about fifty-one percent (51%) of adults in Ghana can read and write in English or a local language, with about thirty-seven percent (37%) of adults being literate in both English and Ghanaian languages. Adika argues that “the English language has rapidly grown to become a formidable force in social and community interaction, cross-ethnic communication, and in the dialogues relating to democratic practice and governance, as well as a source of debate among academics, policymakers, and politicians in its usage as the medium of instruction in early primary school.”¹⁹

In the literature, it has already been noted that the English language, as a result of language contact, has undergone some form of indigenization or nativisation with the Ghanaian languages. This variety has been described as *Ghanaian English*.²⁰ Sey observes a correlation between the level of one’s education and the type of English used in Ghana.²¹ He argues that there are four levels, ranging from that which is close to Standard British English and used by the well-educated, Educated Ghanaian English (EGE), to Pidgin English or the Ghanaian Pidgin English (GhPE). Amma Darko is not a native speaker of English; she was born, raised and educated in Ghana. Since she is well-educated, the position of the authors is that her novels can be said to have been written in the Educated Ghanaian English variety. Since this variety is not Standard British English, but one close to it, a study of the discourse functions of antonyms in such a variety will complement the others on antonymy in the English language.

Theoretical Considerations – Antonymy

According to Jones, the word antonymy was coined by C. J. Smith in 1867 as the opposite of “synonymy”.²² Since then, numerous attempts have been made to define it semantically as “oppositeness of meaning,”²³ and lexically as a lexical relation.²⁴ However, Jones has argued that any definition of antonymy must be lexical as well as semantic.²⁵ Antonym relations have long been classified based on their logical properties such as contradiction, contrariety, and converseness by semanticists.²⁶ It was only recently that attention has been turned to antonyms in discourse. Mettinger (1994) initially outlined the functions, using a small corpus of modern fiction.²⁷ However, Jones, using

¹⁷ Mary Esther Kropp Dakubu, *Language and Community: The View from Accra* (Ghana Universities Press, 1996).

¹⁸ Gordon Senanu Kwame Adika, “English in Ghana: Growth, Tensions, and Trends,” *International Journal of Language, Translation and Intercultural Communication* 1 (January 1, 2012): 151, <https://doi.org/10.12681/ijltic.17>.

¹⁹ Adika, “English in Ghana: Growth, Tensions, and Trends.”

²⁰ Kofi Abakah Sey, *Ghanaian English: An Exploratory Survey* (Macmillan, 1973).

²¹ Sey, *Ghanaian English: An Exploratory Survey*.

²² Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach*, 28.

²³ Frank Robert Palmer, *Semantics* (Cambridge university press, 1976); Jack C. Richards, John Talbot Platt, and Heidi Weber, *Longman Dictionary of Applied Linguistics* (Essex: Longman, 1985); David Crystal, *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics* (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 1985); Howard Jackson, *Words and Their Meaning* (London: Longman, 1988).

²⁴ Justeson and Katz, “Co-Occurrences of Antonymous Adjectives and Their Contexts”; Fellbaum, “Co-Occurrence and Antonymy”; V Muehleisen, “Antonymy and Semantic Range in English,” *Dissertation* (V. Muehleisen.–Northwestern University, 1997).

²⁵ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach*, 30.

²⁶ Leech, *Semantics*; Palmer, *Semantics*; Lyons, *Semantics*; Cruse, *Lexical Semantics*.

²⁷ Mettinger, *Aspects of Semantic Opposition in English*.

a much larger corpus of newspaper data, classified and quantified the functions.²⁸ Consequently, the study adopts that framework to analyse the antonym pairs in *Faceless*. The sections that follow, present Jones' functional categories.²⁹

Jones' Functional Categories of Antonymy

The main functional categories identified by Jones are *ancillary*, *coordinated*, *comparative*, *distinguished*, *transitional*, *negated*, *extreme* and *idiomatic*.

Ancillary Antonym Pairs

According to Jones, ancillary antonym pairs "contribute to a larger contrast ... are responsible for signalling a more important opposition between another pair of words, phrases or clauses."³⁰ In the words of Murphy *et al.*, they are used "in order to create or highlight a secondary contrast within a sentence or discourse."³¹ Jones has noted that they also have a parallel syntactic structure. Some examples from Jones have been cited in (1) below.³² In the examples, the antonym pairs in bold are in a contrast relation. They have a parallel syntactic structure.

- (1) a. *I **love** to cook but **hate** the dishes – so I'd have a dishwasher or family of gypsies to do the washing up.*
 b. *It is meeting **public** need, not private **greed**.* Jones.³³

Coordinated Antonym Pairs

Coordinated antonym pairs, according to Jones, "signal inclusiveness or exhaustiveness of scale."³⁴ He further notes that they are often conjoined by either *and* or, *or*. Murphy *et al.* have also noted that with coordinated antonym pairs, the distinction between the two opposites is neutralised.³⁵ In the examples in (2) below, Jones explains that *rich* and *poor* reaffirm the inclusiveness of everyone and identifies the scale, which is wealth, by which the inclusiveness is measured.³⁶ Similarly, in (2b), the idea of inclusiveness is expressed in both *public* and *private* standards. Again, in both examples, the distinction between the two pairs is neutralised.

- (2) a. *While pensions will not be abolished, the government will encourage everyone, **rich** and **poor**, to rely for their retirement mainly on money they invest in private pension funds.*
 b. *Today, the pressure to make hay while the sun fitfully shines has led to a massive slump in both **public** and **private** standards.*³⁷

Comparative Antonymy

Jones defines comparative antonymy as when "the co-occurrence of an antonymous pair within a framework places those words in a comparative context or measures one antonym against the other."³⁸ Simply put, in comparative antonymy, one antonym is measured against the other. Jones further indicates that the frameworks for this functional type are more *X than Y*, *X is more [adj] than Y* and *X rather than Y*.³⁹ Some examples from Jones have been provided in (3) below. In (3a), *light crude* is compared to *heavy crude* in terms of the ease with which it may be broken down.⁴⁰ In (3b) *long term*

²⁸ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach*.

²⁹ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach*.

³⁰ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 45.

³¹ Murphy et al., "Discourse Functions of Antonymy: A Cross-Linguistic Investigation of Swedish and English," 2160.

³² Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach*, 45.

³³ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 45.

³⁴ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 61.

³⁵ Murphy et al., "Discourse Functions of Antonymy: A Cross-Linguistic Investigation of Swedish and English," 2160.

³⁶ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 61.

³⁷ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 61.

³⁸ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 76.

³⁹ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 76.

⁴⁰ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 76.

is compared to *the short*, in terms of answering a given question. Whereas (3a) takes the form of an *X is more [adj] than Y*, (3b) takes the framework of *X rather than Y*.

(3) a. However, **light crude** is more easily broken down than **heavy crude** from the Middle East, making it less damaging environmentally.

b. The question is perhaps easier to answer for the **long** term than the **short**.⁴¹

Distinguished Antonymy

According to Jones, distinguished antonymy occurs when the antonymous pair in a construction “alludes to the inherent semantic dissimilarity of those words.”⁴² Jones has also noted that the typical frameworks for this function are *the difference between X and Y*, *separating X and Y* and *a gap between X and Y*.⁴³ Two examples from Jones have been provided in (4) below for illustration. Both examples refer to the difference between the antonym pairs and also illustrate the framework *between X and Y*.

(4) a. But far from that, Mortimer’s father had not given him even a basic moral education, such that today he still doesn’t know the difference between **right** and **wrong**, or so he said.

b. But it made the point that the division between **gay** and **straight** is one of many rifts in our society.⁴⁴

Transitional Antonymy

Transitional antonymy, according to Jones, is “the co-occurrence of an antonymous pair within a framework that expresses a movement or change from one location or state to another.”⁴⁵ The typical frameworks for this function, he further explains, are *from X to Y*, *turning X into Y* and *X gives way to Y*. In (5), “from success to failure” in (5a), and “from optimism to pessimism” in (5b) are both transitional antonyms with the form *from X to Y*.

(5) a. Her film career similarly has lurched from **success** to **failure**, with enormous periods out of work.

b. The atmosphere of the negotiations was tense, discussion uneven, the mood in both camps swung from **optimism** to **pessimism**.⁴⁶

Negated Antonymy

Negated Antonymy has been defined by Jones as “the co-occurrence of an antonymous pair within a framework that negates one antonym as a device to augment the other.”⁴⁷ Murphy *et al* explain that this function emphasizes one member pair by using it with the negation of the other member.⁴⁸ The typical frameworks, according to Jones, are *X not Y*, *X instead of Y* and *X as opposed to Y*. In (6a), the negated antonym pairs are *pessimism*, not *optimism*, and in (6b) they are *war*, not *peace*. Both examples also have *X not Y* framework.

(6) a. In my opinion, the public has cause for **pessimism**, not **optimism**, about the Government’s plans for a radical reorganisation of arts funding.

b. Well, without the combination of an arms race and a network of treaties designed for **war**, not **peace**, it would not have started.⁴⁹

⁴¹ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 76.

⁴² Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 81.

⁴³ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 81.

⁴⁴ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 81.

⁴⁵ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 85.

⁴⁶ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 85.

⁴⁷ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 88.

⁴⁸ Murphy et al., “Discourse Functions of Antonymy: A Cross-Linguistic Investigation of Swedish and English,” 2161.

⁴⁹ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 88.

Extreme Antonymy

According to Jones, Extreme Antonymy occurs when the antonymous pair within a framework unites the outer-most areas of their given semantic scale.⁵⁰ Murphy *et al.* have also explained that they are like Coordinated Antonymies in neutralising the differences between the two antonyms. Unlike Coordinated Antonymy, Murphy *et al.* have noted that Extreme Antonymy unites the extremes of a scale.⁵¹ The typical frameworks, according to Jones are: *the very X and the very Y, either too X or too Y and deeply X and deeply Y*. In (7a) *young* and *old* functions are extreme antonymous pairs, while in (7b) *rich* and *poor* function as such.

(7) a. *It is often considered a safer and gentler form of treatment, especially valuable to the very **young** and the very **old**, being less toxic and having fewer side effects.*

b. *No one can afford to go to law except the very **rich** and the very **poor** and it can't possibly get any worse.*⁵²

Idiomatic Category

Jones defines this category as “the occurrence of an antonymous pair that would be recognised as a familiar idiom, proverb or cliché.”⁵³ Some examples include those in (8)

(8) a. pennywise and pound foolish

b. easy come, easy go

c. through thick and thin

Jones principles that govern the order of antonyms

Jones analysed the ordering of antonyms within the patterns of antonym co-occurrence in a sentence. He found out that the majority of the pairs favoured one sequence over the other. The sequence rules that he identified are *morphology*, *positivity*, *magnitude*, *chronology*, *gender* and *idiomaticity*. Morphology is when the root antonym precedes the derived one as in *correct/incorrect*. Positivity is when a more positive antonym precedes the negative one as in *good/bad*. By magnitude, he means the antonym denoting more of a quantity precedes the one denoting less as in *large/small*. Chronology refers to antonyms denoting temporal sequence in the real world reflecting this sequence in the sentence as in *begin/end*. Gender here refers to situations where *males* precede *females* and *masculine* precedes *feminine*. With phonology, the shorter antonym tends to precede the longer one. Idiomaticity is when one antonym precedes the other in a phrase, which has a semi-idiomatic status. Using Jones' approach, the authors also studied the principles that govern the order of the antonyms identified in faceless.

METHODOLOGY

It has been noted, by Jones for example, that there is no single definition of antonymy that has been accepted universally. This makes sampling of antonym pairs problematic. This is because the question will remain whether the identified or selected are genuine or not. However, some attempts at the sampling of antonym pairs have been made in the literature. Deese, for example, using psycholinguistic elicitation tests as data, identified forty (40) antonymous pairs, which he considered the most fundamental in English.⁵⁴ In addition to what native speakers could pass for ‘good opposites’, Deese also identified those “which are less grained in the mental lexicon.”⁵⁵ This made Deese broaden his

⁵⁰ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 91.

⁵¹ Murphy et al., “Discourse Functions of Antonymy: A Cross-Linguistic Investigation of Swedish and English,” 2161.

⁵² Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 91-92.

⁵³ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach I*, 92.

⁵⁴ James Deese, “The Associative Structure of Some Common English Adjectives,” *Journal of Verbal Learning and Verbal Behavior* 3, no. 5 (1964): 347–57.

⁵⁵ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach*, 27; Deese, “The Associative Structure of Some Common English Adjectives.”

criteria although this has been criticised. Deese also analysed adjective pairs only. He thus did not study pairs belonging to the other word classes.

Another attempt at cataloguing antonymous pairs is *Roget's Thesaurus*. As Jones has also noted, the thesaurus is relevant to a study of antonyms because Roget chose to present the ideas in opposition to one another.⁵⁶ In the original introduction to the thesaurus, Roget states:

For the purpose of exhibiting with greater distinctness the relations between words expressing opposite and correlative ideas, I have, whenever the subject admitted of such an arrangement, placed them in two parallel columns on the same page, so that each group of expressions may be readily contrasted with those which occupy the adjacent column, and constitutes antithesis. *Roget's Thesaurus*.⁵⁷

Mettinger, analysed a corpus of forty-three (43) novels and isolated ten (10) syntactic frames within which antonyms are found.⁵⁸ Mettinger used *Roget's Thesaurus* as a primary source of antonymous pairs. He however acknowledged that they “contain a number of lexical items that are hardly used in contemporary English.”⁵⁹ In the study, Mettinger argues that there are two kinds of antonyms.⁶⁰ These are “systemic opposites” and “non-systemic opposites”. According to him, systemic opposites have meaning relations in strictly semantic terms whereas non-systemic opposites require contextual and encyclopaedic knowledge for an interpretation.

For a theoretical framework within which antonymous pairs would be treated in this study, the researchers found it difficult to focus on one. Therefore, for the purposes of this study, the overriding criterion for the selection of the pairs was personal intuitions as near-native speakers of English. The pairs identified are those the researchers felt would be widely accepted as ‘good pairs’, especially in the contexts in which they have been used. The data was collected from *Faceless*.⁶¹ The novel was thoroughly read by all the researchers and the antonymous pairs identified in all the sentences were noted for analysis. All the extracted sentences by each author were coded. All the sentences were discounted in which the word pair had not been used contrastively. Where there was a disagreement on the word pair, those sentences were also discounted. The pairs were examined carefully and their ordering was also identified.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

In all, the researchers identified one hundred and forty-three (143) constructions, which they considered contained antonymous pairs and were analysed for their discourse functions (See Appendix A). Of these, about 48% involved nouns, 13% verbs, 27% adjectives and 9% adverbs. This reveals that antonymous pairs often co-occur within one word class. However, there was one instance where it occurred across a one-word class. This supports Fellbaum's findings that antonyms occur across as well as within word classes.⁶² The number of noun pairs being high supports Lobanova's study, which found the largest number of opposites expressed by nouns as opposed to adjectival pairs of opposites.⁶³

Nature of the Word Classes

Table 1 below shows the nature of the antonymous pairs and their frequencies in the novel.

⁵⁶ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach*, 28.

⁵⁷ *Roget's Thesaurus* (London: Sphere Books, 1952), 545.

⁵⁸ Mettinger, *Aspects of Semantic Opposition in English*, 94.

⁵⁹ Mettinger, *Aspects of Semantic Opposition in English*, 94.

⁶⁰ Mettinger, *Aspects of Semantic Opposition in English*, 94.

⁶¹ Darko, *Faceless*.

⁶² Fellbaum, “Co-Occurrence and Antonymy.”

⁶³ Ganna Volodymyrivna Lobanova, *The Anatomy of Antonymy: A Corpus-Driven Approach* (University of Groningen Groningen, The Netherlands, 2012).

Table 1 – Nature of Antonymy pairs

Nature of Antonym Pair	Frequency	Percentage %
NP-NP	69	48.25%
VP-VP	18	12.58%
ADJP-ADJP	39	27.27%
ADVP-ADVP	14	9.79%
PP-PP	2	1.39%
ADJP-NP	1	.72%
TOTAL	143	100%

The Noun Phrase Pairs

The NP Pairs were categorised into two (See Appendix B for the noun pairs). The first category includes head nouns in noun phrases. Some of these occurred with or without determiners and had no modifiers. Some also occurred with either pre or post modifiers. Some examples of those that belonged to the first category include those in (9) below. In (9), the pairs are “a boy” and “a girl”, “her hand” and “legs”, “softness” and “bones”, “sheep” and “goats” and “ghosts” and “human beings”. Whereas the pairs in (9a), (9b) and (9c) are concrete nouns, the pairs in (9d) and (9e) consist of abstract nouns “softness” and “ghost”, and concrete nouns “bones” and “human beings”.

- (9) a. **A boy and a girl** of about Fofu’s age ...⁶⁴
 b. Fofu let out a big cry and began to kick her **hands and legs** wildly ...⁶⁵
 c. Fofu could have been one of the numerous screaming children, scrambling with the **sheep** and **goats** and chicken for space to play.⁶⁶
 d. Her fist bashed and banged into facial organs hitting both **softness** and **bones**.⁶⁷
 e. Bumping into more **ghosts** than **human beings** during market days ...⁶⁸

The second category includes those nouns that occurred in prepositional phrases and function as complements to the prepositions. The prepositional phrases occurred in simple sentences as the examples in (10a), (10b) and (10c) illustrate. (10d) is a compound-complex sentence and the pairs in (10d) occurred in two different sentences. In (10a), the noun pairs functioning as complements to the prepositions are “dream” and “reality”. In (10b) and (10c), they are “head” and “toe”. In (10d) and (10e), they are “night” and “morning”, and “dream” and “real life” respectively.

- (10) a. Slowly, she began her descent **from dream to reality**.⁶⁹
 b. It engulfed her from **head** to **toe**.⁷⁰
 c. The woman had bleached her skin from **head** to **toe**.⁷¹
 d. Kpakpo was desirous to retire to bed with her at **night** and woke up with her in the **morning**.⁷²
 e. **In the dream**, she simply entered the toilet with a roof and did her thing. No war as it was many times when she had to do it **in real life**.⁷³

The Verb Phrase (VP) Pairs

The VP Pairs identified are twenty-two (22). These occurred in one sentence, often in a compound sentence as shown in (11) below. The VPs or the clauses in (11a) and (11c) are conjoined with the

⁶⁴ Darko, *Faceless*, 25.

⁶⁵ Darko, *Faceless*, 29.

⁶⁶ Darko, *Faceless*, 42.

⁶⁷ Darko, *Faceless*, 29.

⁶⁸ Darko, *Faceless*, 69.

⁶⁹ Darko, *Faceless*, 27.

⁷⁰ Darko, *Faceless*, 87.

⁷¹ Darko, *Faceless*, 87.

⁷² Darko, *Faceless*, 160.

⁷³ Darko, *Faceless*, 27.

coordinate conjunction “or” whereas those in (11b), (11d) and (11e) are conjoined with the conjunction “and”.

- (11) a. With whatever money they had begged for or **stolen** or **earned** the previous day.⁷⁴
 b. Is this something you can **start** doing and **stop** midway?⁷⁵
 c. ... you either **took charge** of it or it would **gain total control** of you.⁷⁶
 d. ... a distraught woman who **had sprinkled** charcoal ash on her head and **smear**ed some on her arms and feet ...⁷⁷
 e. Kpakpo was desirous **to retire** to bed with her at night and **woke up** with her in the morning.⁷⁸

Sometimes, the VP pairs occurred in two sentences as exemplified in (12) below.

- (12) a. And when she did, it was with her hands behind her and her **head bowed** as a sign of respect. Her children, nowadays, sometimes **looked straight into her face** and bowed out replies.⁷⁹
 b. You **winc**ed. And then you **smiled**.⁸⁰
 c. Maa Tsuru **frown**ed and then **smiled**.⁸¹

The Adjective Phrase (ADJP) Pairs

The ADJP Pairs identified can also be categorised into two - those that function as pre-modifiers of nouns and those that function as complements of verbs and occurred in predicates (See Appendix B for the adjective pairs). The examples in (13) and (14) illustrate this. In (13a), the noun head “leg” has been pre-modified with the adjective pairs “right” and “left” which are antonymous. Similarly in (13b), the noun head “demands” has been pre-modified with the antonymous adjectival pair “financial” and “material”. In (13c) and (13d), the adjectival modifiers used as the elements of the opposition are “human” and “vehicular”, and “boy” and “girl” respectively. In (13e), “tea”, “sugar” and “butter” are the adjectives modifying the head noun “bread”.

- (13) a. Her **right leg** struck at flesh. Her **left leg** kicked with muscle.⁸²
 b. Especially when it came to some of the methods and timings of Essie’s **financial** and **material demands**.⁸³
 c. Agbobloshie’s **human** and **vehicular** traffic was heavy as usual.⁸⁴
 d. How many **boy thieves** out there are actually **girl thieves**?⁸⁵
 e. No **tea bread**, no **sugar bread**, no **butter bread**.⁸⁶

As has already been indicated, some of the antonymous adjective pairs function as complements of verbs and thus occurred in the predicates of sentences. Some examples from the text have been provided in (14) below. In (14a), “good” and “bad” complement the verb “were” which is a copula or a linking verb. Similarly in (14b) “real” or “imagined” the conjoined adjective pairs complement the verb “were”. In (14c) below, the adjective pairs occur in two different sentences. In (14c), the adjective “smart” has been used as a pre-modifier of the noun “guy”. However, it contrasts with “not smart” an

⁷⁴ Darko, *Faceless*, 27.

⁷⁵ Darko, *Faceless*, 31.

⁷⁶ Darko, *Faceless*, 130.

⁷⁷ Darko, *Faceless*, 147.

⁷⁸ Darko, *Faceless*, 160.

⁷⁹ Darko, *Faceless*, 79.

⁸⁰ Darko, *Faceless*, 121.

⁸¹ Darko, *Faceless*, 164

⁸² Darko, *Faceless*, 29.

⁸³ Darko, *Faceless*, 35.

⁸⁴ Darko, *Faceless*, 66.

⁸⁵ Darko, *Faceless*, 75.

⁸⁶ Darko, *Faceless*, 102.

adjective phrase that functions as a complement of the verb “be” or “are”. The examples in (13) and (14) support Fellbaum’s (1995) position that antonyms co-occur within word class.

- (14) a. And others that were neither **good** nor **bad**.⁸⁷
 b. Sometimes she wasn’t sure which of the stories I told her were **real** or **imagined**.⁸⁸
 c. You talk a lot on the radio like you are a **smart** guy but you are **not smart** at all, are you?⁸⁹

Sometimes the adjective modifiers are more than one as in the case in (15a) where the items or the adjectives pre-modifying the noun head are three (3). They are “pure”, “white” and “home bred”, and “pure”, “black” and “home bred”. In (15a), the adjectival pairs in opposition are “white” and “black”. The example in (15b) also contains more than one modifier. Interestingly, here, the elements of opposition involve both the adjective pairs “single unmarried” and “childless married” and the noun heads “mother” and “woman”.

- (15) a. And a **pure white home bred** fowl fathered by a **pure black** home bred cock.⁹⁰
 b. The **single unmarried mother** or the **childless married woman**?⁹¹

The Adverb Phrase (ADVP) Pairs

The ADVP Pairs identified in the text were few and were mainly found in complex sentences as illustrated in (16a & b). Sometimes, they occurred in simple sentences (16c) and (16d) or in compound sentences (16e).

- (16) a. Odarley, Fofu’s friend, was fast asleep when she felt the tap on her arm; **gently** at first, then **harshly**.⁹²
 b. One generation to the other was sometimes like the horizon. So **far away** and yet so clear to see it seemed **so near**.⁹³
 c. Maa Tsuru’s aunt’s worst fears were confirmed **sooner** than **later**.
 e. **Here** and **there**, they encountered a lone man.⁹⁴
 f. We can pass **here** but not through **there**.⁹⁵

The Prepositional Phrase Pairs

The prepositional phrase pairs identified are four (4). Some examples have been provided in (17) below.

- (17) a. I have been witness to mothers who cane their children **into the classroom** and mothers who cane their children **out of** the classroom and onto the streets.⁹⁶
 b. It engulfed her **from head to toe**.⁹⁷

The principles that govern the order of antonyms in Faceless

For the noun pairs identified, the analysis revealed that the principle of idiomaticity, with a total of twenty-nine (29) was more. This is followed by the principle of gender. Interestingly, although for Jones (2002), male precedes female and masculine precedes feminine as far as this principle is concerned, in *Faceless*, the researchers identified instances, where female precedes male or feminine precedes masculine. For the purposes of this study, this was termed non-gender. These instances were even more. There were twelve (12) instances of chronology and five (5) instances of positivity. For

⁸⁷ Darko, *Faceless*, 114.

⁸⁸ Darko, *Faceless*, 202.

⁸⁹ Darko, *Faceless*, 204.

⁹⁰ Darko, *Faceless*, 215.

⁹¹ Darko, *Faceless*, 138.

⁹² Darko, *Faceless*, 29.

⁹³ Darko, *Faceless*, 98.

⁹⁴ Darko, *Faceless*, 112.

⁹⁵ Darko, *Faceless*, 161.

⁹⁶ Darko, *Faceless*, 117.

⁹⁷ Darko, *Faceless*, 63.

the adjective pairs, the principle of positivity is high with a total of fifteen (15) and idiomaticity of eleven (11). There are five (5) cases of chronology, three (3) of gender and two (2) each for morphology and magnitude. Interestingly, there were no cases of non-gender in the adjective pairs. As shown in the table, the adverb pairs and the verb pairs are cases of idiomaticity and positivity.

Table 3: The Order of Antonyms in *Faceless*

Jones' (2002) Sequence Rules	PAIRS				
	NP-NP	ADJP-ADJP	ADVP-ADVP	VP-VP	PP-PP
Morphology	0	2	0	-	-
Positivity	5	15	1	1	-
Magnitude	2	2	0	-	-
Chronology	12	5	0	-	-
Gender	9	3	0	-	-
Non Gender	12	-	0	-	-
Phonology	0	1	0	-	-
Idiomaticity	29	11	13	8	-
TOTAL	69	39	14	9	-

Discourse Functions of Antonymous Pairs in *Faceless*

In total, one hundred and forty-four examples were identified in the text. Table 2 below presents the raw frequencies and percentages of the discourse functions in the data.

Table 2 – Raw frequencies and percentages of the discourse functions in *Faceless*

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Ancillary	23	15.9%
Coordinated	20	13.7%
Comparative	6	4.2%
Distinguished	66	46.0%
Transitional	7	4.7%
Idiomatic	11	7.8%
Negated	9	6.3%
Extreme	1	0.7%
Total	143	100%

Ancillary Antonymy in *Faceless*

As shown in Table 2, the Ancillary Antonyms in the text are twenty-three (23). Some of them have been provided in (18) below. As Jones has noted, Ancillary Antonyms are responsible for signalling a more important opposition between another pair of words, phrases, or clauses. In (18a), the acts of bowing one’s head and looking straight into a face are linked to being respectful or disrespectful in the Ghanaian society. Similarly in (18b), “the child in the latter case” is linked to not being in the streets while “child in the former case” is linked to being in the streets.

- (18) a. And when she did, it was with her hands behind her and her **head bowed** as a show of respect. Her children, nowadays, sometimes **looked straight into her face** and bowed out replies.
- b. The child in the **latter case** may not necessarily end up in the streets to beg in order to survive, while the child in the **former case**, is likely to.⁹⁸

⁹⁸ Darko, *Faceless*, 137.

Co-ordinated Antonymy in *Faceless*

As shown in Table 2, about 14% of the antonymous pairs in *Faceless* are Co-ordinated Antonymy. This supports Jones's position that "Coordinated Antonymy is a widespread phenomenon in language."⁹⁹ Jones has noted several lexico-syntactic frames that are associated with Co-ordinated Antonymy in English. These include *X and Y*, (*either*) *X or Y*, and (*neither*) *X nor Y*.¹⁰⁰ Similar frames were found in *Faceless*. These have been discussed below.

'X and Y'

This was very high with about sixty-five occurrences. Some examples have been provided in (19) below.

- (19) a. A **boy and a girl** of about Fofu's age ...¹⁰¹
 b. Fofu let out a big cry and began to kick her **hands and legs** wildly ...¹⁰²
 c. **Boys and girls** slept together.¹⁰³
 d. Is this something you can **start** doing and **stop** midway? ¹⁰⁴
 e. ... a distraught woman who had **sprinkled** charcoal ash on her head and **smear**ed some on her arms and feet ...¹⁰⁵

Sometimes the coordinated pair occurred in two sentences as exemplified in (20) below.

- (20) You **winc**ed. And then you **smil**ed.¹⁰⁶

'Both X and Y'

The researchers also identified a coordinated antonymy with the frame '*Both X and Y*'. The example in (21) illustrates this. Interestingly, although the coordinated antonyms pairs in (21) are nouns, *softness*, is an abstract noun while *bone* is a concrete noun.

- (21) Her fist bashed and banged into facial organs hitting **both softness and bones**.¹⁰⁷

'X or Y'

Another lexico-syntactic frame identified in *Faceless* is the '*X or Y*' frame as illustrated in (22).

- (22) a. ... if they are **born bad or made bad** ¹⁰⁸
 b. Kabria wondered if that was by **design or chance** ¹⁰⁹
 c. The **single unmarried mother or the childless married woman**? ¹¹⁰

'Either X or Y'

Some other coordinated pairs (23) occurred in the '*Either X or Y*' frame.

- (23) a. ... you **either** took charge of it **or** it would gain total control of you.¹¹¹
 b. ... he answered all her questions with either a nod or a shake of the head ...¹¹²

Jones has noted that Coordinated antonyms can be joined by punctuation alone, such as the comma. In the data, some pairs such as those in (23) were found, which in the contexts of their use, can be described as Coordinated antonymous pairs. In (23a) the punctuation mark is the comma, while in (23b) it is the question mark.

⁹⁹ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach*, 74.

¹⁰⁰ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach*, 63-74.

¹⁰¹ Darko, *Faceless*, 25.

¹⁰² Darko, *Faceless*, 28.

¹⁰³ Darko, *Faceless*, 137.

¹⁰⁴ Darko, *Faceless*, 31.

¹⁰⁵ Darko, *Faceless*, 147.

¹⁰⁶ Darko, *Faceless*, 121.

¹⁰⁷ Darko, *Faceless*, 27.

¹⁰⁸ Darko, *Faceless*, 71.

¹⁰⁹ Darko, *Faceless*, 100.

¹¹⁰ Darko, *Faceless*, 106.

¹¹¹ Darko, *Faceless*, 95.

¹¹² Darko, *Faceless*, 111.

- (24) a. A **Blackman**, a **Whiteman**, a Yellow man.¹¹³
 b. **Normal people? Street people?**¹¹⁴

Sometimes the coordinated pair occurred in two sentences without any co-ordinate conjunction as exemplified in (25) below.

- (25) a. Do him **this!** Do him **that!**¹¹⁵
 b. **In the dream**, she simply entered the toilet with a roof and did her thing. No war as it was many times when she had to do it **in real life.**¹¹⁶
 c. The **first** two teeth in my mouth grew here. The **last** two would come off here.¹¹⁷

‘X is Y’

In the data, a frame which could be labelled as ‘X is Y’ was identified. In (26), “boy thieves” has been linked to “girl thieves” with the verb *be*

- (26) How many **boy thieves** out there are actually **girl thieves?**¹¹⁸

‘X then Y’

A pair with the frame ‘X then Y’ as shown in (27) below was also found.

- (27) Odarley, Fofu’s friend, was fast asleep when she felt the tap on her arm; **gently at first, then harshly.**¹¹⁹

Comparative Antonymy in *Faceless*

Comparative antonyms occur in sentences or constructions in which the things, events or situations described are evaluated as either being different or similar in some way. The researchers identified six (6) of these in the data and some are illustrated by the examples in (28). This involves the use of comparative morphology which takes the form of words like “as” and “like”. The lexico-grammatical frames are: ‘X as Y’ (28a) and (28b), and ‘Both like X and Y’ (28c). In (28a) the comparative antonymy has been used to show one strategy that street children use in their activities. Here, it is learnt that some girls dress as boys, that is, disguise themselves in order to engage in robbery. (28c) is interesting in the sense that the two noun phrase pairs have been used metaphorically in the context. In order for her to be accepted by the hairdresser, Kabria had to tell lies about her husband and betray him. Judas Iscariot is known to have betrayed Jesus. He is therefore considered a betrayer. Archimedes is also known to be a great mathematician, engineer and inventor, a genius.

- (28) a. A **girl** at the market who tried to rob someone while dressed as a **boy**...¹²⁰
 b. Kabria arrived at Agbobloshie around ten o’clock the **following** morning and parked creamy at the same place as the **previous** day.¹²¹
 c. Kabia took the seat, feeling **both like Judas Iscariot and Archimedes** rolled in one.¹²²

Negated Antonymy in *Faceless*

In the novel, nine (9) Negated Antonymous pairs were identified. Two (2) have the frame ‘X but Y’ (29a & b) while one (1) has the frame ‘X but not Y’ (29c). The other has the frame ‘neither X nor Y’ (29d). The examples have been provided in (29) below.

¹¹³ Darko, *Faceless*, 213.

¹¹⁴ Darko, *Faceless*, 68.

¹¹⁵ Darko, *Faceless*, 83.

¹¹⁶ Darko, *Faceless*, 26.

¹¹⁷ Darko, *Faceless*, 117.

¹¹⁸ Darko, *Faceless*, 75.

¹¹⁹ Darko, *Faceless*, 28.

¹²⁰ Darko, *Faceless*, 74.

¹²¹ Darko, *Faceless*, 85.

¹²² Darko, *Faceless*, 89.

- a. Kwesi was **gone**, but his loner and children **remained** together.
- b. He refused to **pay** for her services, but would **rob** her of her earnings too.
- c. You talk a lot on the radio like you are a **smart** guy but you are **not smart** at all, are you?¹²³
(p.215)
- d. ... And others that were neither **good** nor **bad**.

Transitional Antonymy in *Faceless*

According to Jones, Transitional Antonymy is “the co-occurrence of an antonymous pair within a framework that expresses a movement or change from one location or state to another. Frameworks that are typically associated with this function are ‘from X to Y’, ‘turning X into Y’ and ‘X gives way to Y’. In the text, five (5) frameworks were identified ‘from X to Y’, ‘from X until Y’ and ‘X turn Y’. The examples have been provided below.

‘from X to Y’

- (29) a. Slowly, she began her descent from **dream to reality**.¹²⁴
b. ... because from **dawn** to **dusk**.¹²⁵

‘from X until Y’

- (30) From her **infancy**, bearing every cost of her upbringing until she reached **puberty**.¹²⁶

‘X turn Y’

- (31) a. Her **tepid disposition** turned to one of **alarm**.¹²⁷
b. The Inspector’s **cynical grin** turned to a **wry smile**.¹²⁸

Discourse functions and some of the themes in the novel

It has already been indicated that the story is about a menace, “streetism” and the plight of street children in Ghana. Amma Darko narrates the story of children left to roam on the streets and highlights some of the bad things that can happen to street children who take their fate into their own hands. Thus, the themes include poverty, child abuse and neglect, rape and defilement, child prostitution, single parenthood and child labour. This section of the paper shows how some of the discourse functions identified in the text highlight some of the themes in the novel.

A critical study of the antonymous pairs shows that, among others, they are used to highlight some of the themes. On page 25, Amma Darko not only uses a Coordinated Antonymous Pair to introduce her protagonist Fofu, but also the menace of street children in Ghana. In (33a), “a boy and a girl” has been used to “signal inclusiveness or exhaustiveness of scale.”¹²⁹ Again in the words of Murphy *et al.*, “the distinction between the two opposites are neutralised” such that the author creates an image of a group of people all boys and girls of about Fofu’s age who have been abandoned on the streets.¹³⁰ In (33b), Amma Darko uses the antonymous pair to show the plight of the street children, where boys and girls sleep together.

- (32) a. **A boy and a girl** of about Fofu’s age and making a home on the streets of Accra like her ...
b. **Boys** and **girls** slept together.

In (34a) below, Amma Darko uses a Coordinated Antonymous Pair to indicate that some of the street children become thieves and one wonders if they were “born bad” or “made bad”. Again, she uses a

¹²³ Darko, *Faceless*, 215.

¹²⁴ Darko, *Faceless*, 27.

¹²⁵ Darko, *Faceless*, 34.

¹²⁶ Darko, *Faceless*, 76.

¹²⁷ Darko, *Faceless*, 44.

¹²⁸ Darko, *Faceless*, 110.

¹²⁹ Jones, *Antonymy: A Corpus-Based Approach*, 61.

¹³⁰ Murphy *et al.*, “Discourse Functions of Antonymy: A Cross-Linguistic Investigation of Swedish and English.”

Distinguished Antonymous pair to indicate that the phenomenon makes girls behave as boys (34b) and that some of the “boy thieves” actually turn out to be “girl thieves” (34c).

- (33) a. These thieves; I don’t know if they are **born** bad or **made** bad.¹³¹
 b. A **girl** at the market who tried to rob someone while dressed as a **boy**...
 c. How many **boy thieves** out there are actually **girl thieves**?¹³²

In the novel, Darko uses some of the antonymous pairs to highlight the nature of the phenomenon, some of the problems the street children encounter, and some causes and effects of the phenomenon. Darko uses a Distinguished Antonymous pair to show one of the causes of streetism - “... coupled with the consequences of the acts of some irresponsible **parents** which results in **children** leaving home.”¹³³ Again, she uses a Distinguished Antonymous pair to show that most children are from broken homes. Darko’s Naa Yomo states, “I can attest to marriages, the **proper** ones and the **cohabitations**.”¹³⁴ Maa Tsuru was not a married woman but was cohabiting. Darko uses another Distinguished Antonymous pair to point out that some fathers do not stay around to be with their mothers - “Many of them had **fathers** who didn’t stay around to be with them and their **mothers**.”¹³⁵ Darko uses an Ancillary Antonymous pair to highlight a marital problem where fathers leave their wives for other women and the wives also find other men.¹³⁶ She states “after Odarley’s father left her for **another woman** and she too found **another man**.”

Again, Darko uses an Ancillary Antonymous Pair to highlight the point that sometimes the phenomenon of street children occurs because of the behaviour of some mothers. Here, she uses the adverb phrase pairs “into” and “out of” in the sentence to express this. She indicates this on page 117 where she states “I have been witness to mothers who cane their children **into** the classroom and mothers who cane their children **out of** the classroom and onto the streets.” She uses a Distinguished Antonymous Pair to highlight situations where some fathers who earn adequate incomes refuse to care for their children because they no longer love their mothers. - “We came across situations where **fathers** were earning adequate incomes but were refusing to care for their children because they no longer loved their **mothers**.”¹³⁷

Darko uses a Distinguished Antonymous Pair to highlight some of the wishes or dreams of the street children. She goes to the extent of showing Fofu’s dream and compares it with what she does in real life.¹³⁸ This dream or wish is a need, a decent place of convenience that street children do not have – “**In the dream**, she simply entered the toilet with a roof and did her thing. No war as it was many times when she had to do it **in real life**.” Again, Darko uses a Distinguished Antonymous Pair to highlight a perception people have about street people. The perception is that street people are not considered normal people. She poses the question to distinguish street people from normal people – “**Normal people? Street people?**”¹³⁹

Darko again uses a Distinguished Antonymous Pair to highlight another cause of the phenomenon by drawing attention to the plight of barren women. In the text, it is read that they are frowned upon in society, while single mothers are preferred.

- (34) Who is frowned upon in this society? The **single unmarried mother** or the **childless married woman**? The latter, ...¹⁴⁰

¹³¹ Darko, *Faceless*, 71.

¹³² Darko, *Faceless*, 75.

¹³³ Darko, *Faceless*, 93.

¹³⁴ Darko, *Faceless*, 137.

¹³⁵ Darko, *Faceless*, 130.

¹³⁶ Darko, *Faceless*, 132.

¹³⁷ Darko, *Faceless*, 132.

¹³⁸ Darko, *Faceless*, 25.

¹³⁹ Darko, *Faceless*, 130.

¹⁴⁰ Darko, *Faceless*, 139.

SUMMARY

The study identified one hundred and forty-three (143) constructions considered antonymous pairs and were analysed for their discourse functions. Of these, about 48% involved nouns, 13% verbs, 27% adjectives and 9% adverbs. This reveals that antonymous pairs often co-occur within one word class. However, there were a few instances where they occurred across a one-word class. This supports Fellbaum's findings that antonyms occur across as well as within word classes. The NP Pairs constituted about 48% of the total. This shows that antonymous pairs in *Faceless* were mainly NP pairs. These were categorised into two.

The first category are head nouns in noun phrases and the second nouns that occurred in prepositional phrases and function as complements to the prepositions. The VP Pairs identified were twenty-one (21). These often occurred in compound sentences conjoined with the coordinate conjunctions “or” and “and”. Sometimes, the VP pairs occurred in two sentences. The ADJP Pairs identified were categorised into two - those that function as pre-modifiers of nouns and those that function as complements of verbs and occurred in predicates. It was also discovered that sometimes adjective modifiers are more than one. The ADVP Pairs identified in the text were few and were mainly found in complex sentences.

The study discovered twenty-three (23) Ancillary Antonymous pairs and twenty (20) Co-ordinated Antonymous pairs in *Faceless*. The lexico-syntactic frames that are associated with Co-ordinated Antonymy in *Faceless* are ‘X and Y’, ‘Both X and Y’, ‘X or Y’, and ‘Either X or Y’. Others were joined by punctuation, that is, the comma and the question mark. It also identified coordinated pairs that occurred in two sentences without any coordinate conjunction. The study also identified a frame, which labelled as ‘X is Y’. There is yet another, ‘X then Y’, which were identified. Six (6) Comparative antonymous pairs were identified in the data. Some involve the use of comparative morphology which takes the form of words like “as” and “like”. The lexico-grammatical frames distinguished are ‘X as Y’ and ‘Both like X and Y’. In the novel, nine (9) Negated Antonymous pairs were identified. Two (2) have the frame ‘X but Y’ while one (1) has the frame ‘X but not Y’. The other has the frame ‘neither X nor Y’. In the text, seven (7) Transitional Antonymous pairs with the frameworks ‘from X to Y’, ‘from X until Y’ and ‘X turn Y’, were also identified.

CONCLUSION

The study has explored the discourse functions of antonymy, and the principles that govern the order of antonymous pairs in Amma Darko’s *Faceless*. The analysis revealed that antonymous pairs often co-occur within one word class. The antonym pairs also function differently in texts and they are used to highlight some of the themes in texts. The argument that certain antonymous pairs tend to be used in a preferred sequence in sentences is also supported by the analysis. The author Amma Darko successfully uses antonymy to highlight her themes.

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APPENDIX A – Antonymous Pairs in Ama Darko’s *Faceless*

1)	Page No.	Construction in Novel	Nature of Pair (Word classes)
2)	25	A boy and a girl of about Fofu’s age ...	NP-NP
3)	26	In the dream , she simply entered the toilet with a roof and did her thing. No war as it was many times when she had to do it in real life .	PP-PP
4)	27	With whatever money that they had begged for or stolen or earned the previous day.	VP-VP
5)	27	Slowly, she began her descent from dream to reality .	NP-NP
6)	28	Fofu let out a big cry and began to kick her hands and legs wildly ...	NP-NP
7)	28	Her right leg struck at flesh. Her left leg kicked with muscle.	NP-NP
8)	28	Her fist bashed and banged into facial organs hitting both softness and bones .	NP-NP
9)	28	Odarley, Fofu’s friend, was fast asleep when she felt the tap on her arm; gently at first, then harshly .	ADVP-ADVP
10)	29	Boys and girls slept together.	NP-NP
11)	30	A handful of children and some few adults were already there and doing their own thing under the scrutinizing eyes of some early rising pigs and vultures.	NP-NP
12)	31	Is this something you can start doing and stop midway?	VP-VP
13)	34	events both in and outside the home	NP-NP
14)	34	... because from dawn to dusk	NP-NP
15)	34	their sometimes realistic and many times very unrealistic demands;	ADJP-ADJP
16)	35	Especially when it came to some of the methods and timings of Essie’s financial and material demands.	ADJP-ADJP
17)	16	He gave in to her stubbornness and determination to drive creamy in its tattooed state rather than have it sprayed any other colour than cream.	ADJP-VP
18)	41	Fofu could have been one of the numerous screaming children, scrambling with the sheep and goats and chicken for space to play.	NP-NP
19)	42	Shut your bigmouth! If you like, open it again.	VP-VP
20)	42	In the midst of angry mothers and screaming children and bleating goats and sheep,	ADJP-ADJP
21)	44	Her tepid disposition turned to one of alarm .	NP-NP
22)	52	I know its length and its breadth and its width.	NP-NP
23)	58	So parents and guardians must be ...	NP-NP
24)	???	It engulfed her from head to toe .	NP-NP
25)	66	Agbogboshie’s human and vehicular traffic was heavy as usual.	ADJP-ADJP
26)		But where just minutes ago, there had been a free flow of human traffic, a sea of spectators had now invaded a spot along it.	NP-VP
27)	68	Boundaries and areas of control	NP-NP
28)	68	Big muscles, tiny brains.	ADJP-ADJP
29)	68	Normal people? Street people?	ADJP-ADJP
30)	69	Bumping into more ghosts than human beings during market days ...	NP-NP
31)	69	Her handbag was slung on her left shoulder with the plastic bag of fresh tomatoes in her right hand.	ADPJ-ADJP
32)	70	Anxious hands plunged into pockets and bags .	NP-NP
33)	71	A man holding him by one arm jostled him to and fro .	ADVP-ADVP
34)	71	The man seized her up and down .	ADVP-ADVP
35)	71	.. before someone changes his or her mind	ADPJ-ADJP
36)	71	... if they are born bad or made bad	VP-VP
37)	74	A girl at the market who tried to rob someone while dressed as a boy ...	NP-NP
38)	75	How many boy thieves out there are actually girl thieves?	ADJP-ADJP
39)	75	... let go of his or her child on the streets.	ADJP-ADJP
40)	76	From her infancy , bearing every cost of her upbringing until she reached puberty .	NP-NP
41)	79	And when she did, it was with her hands behind her and her head bowed as a show of respect. Her children, nowadays, sometimes looked straight into her face and bowled out replies.	VP-VP

42)	79	So what her mother could not do with her as a growing daughter, she had no option but to do with her growing daughter .	NP-NP
43)	83	Do him this! Do him that!	NP-NP
44)	85	Kabria arrived at Agbobloshie around ten o'clock the following morning and parked creamy at the same place as the previous day.	ADJP-ADJP
45)	86	And for the heads bopping up and down to the beat	ADVP-ADVP
46)	86	.. day in and day out	PP-PP
47)		She was both a puzzle and a challenge	NP-NP
48)		If by the time I leave here to go back to the car she is still not there , I'll hang around till noon.	ADVP-ADVP
49)	87	The woman had bleached her skin from head to toe .	PP-PP
50)	87	Her perfume clashed with the odour of the skin.	NP-NP
51)	88	Do you live here in Accra ? Or maybe you have somebody abroad remitting for you regularly?	NP-NP
52)	89	Kabria took the seat, feeling both like Judas Iscariot and Archimedes rolled in one.	NP-NP
53)	90	...were seated on benches and in chairs	NP-NP
54)	93	Thus begun the gradual settlement of squatters in the area on the eastern bank of the lagoon and west of Abossey-Okai	ADJP-NP
55)	93	It is coupled with the consequences of the acts of some irresponsible parents which results in children leaving home.	NP-NP
56)	93	It results in children leaving home to live on the streets .	NP-NP
57)	98	One generation to the other was sometimes like the horizon. So far away and yet so clear to see it seemed so near .	ADVP-ADVP
58)	99/102	But why should mum and dad do that?	NP-NP
59)	102	No tea bread, no sugar bread, no butter bread.	ADJP-ADJP
60)	110	The Inspector's cynical grin turned to a wry smile .	NP-NP
61)	112	Here and there , they encountered a lone man	NP-NP
62)	114	... And others that were neither good nor bad .	ADJP-ADJP
63)	114	The children and animals in the compound ...	NP-NP
64)	117	The first two teeth in my mouth grew here. The last two would come off here.	ADJP-ADJP
65)	117	Day in and day out	PP-PP
66)	117	I have observed transactions, good and bad .	ADJP-ADJP
67)	117	I can attest to marriages, the proper ones and the cohabitations .	ADJP-ADJP
68)	117	I have been witness to mothers who cane their children into the classroom and mothers who cane their children out of the classroom and onto the streets.	PP-PP
69)	119	The children had all stopped playing and were watching them. The adults pretended to be busy.	NP-NP
70)	120	When Tsuru's mother picked seed with her, the young man responsible, that was Tsuru's father , denied the pregnancy.	NP-NP
71)	120	These days , puberty rites are considered nothing much. In those days , they were.	NP-NP
72)	121	Kabria wincing . Naa Yomo paused. Then Kabria smiled .	VP-VP
73)	122	The child with no mother and whose father and his lineage had just been cursed.	NP-NP
74)	123	We must not create a new problem in the process of trying to solve an old one .	ADJP-ADJP
75)	125	Something that had never happened before, was going to happen .	VP-VP
76)	125	Mum always got home before Dad.	NP-NP
77)	125	The children are used to dad always coming home to meet mum .	NP-NP
78)	125	But what if dad wants something that mum has always been doing for him?	NP-NP
79)	125	Who would pretend to be mum and do it for dad ?	NP-NP
80)	127	She can seem like a child one moment and look like a full blown woman the next .	NP-NP
81)	129	I was always going out to beg on the streets, but I always returned home to mother in the evening.	VP-VP
82)	130	Many of them had fathers who didn't stay around to be with them and their mothers .	NP-NP

83)	130	... you either took charge of it or it would gain total control of you	VP-VP
84)	131	Do I know? To heaven ? To hell ?	NP-NP
85)	130	... through any means possible. Fair of foul.	ADJP-ADJP
86)	132	... after Odarley's father left her for another woman and she too found another man .	NP-NP
87)	134	Kabria wondered if that was by design or chance ,	NP-NP
88)		The fun balanced the discomforts .	NP-NP
89)	137	There are some poor parents we encountered, who in spite of their situation were not allowing their children out into the streets.	NP-NP
90)	137	The child in the latter case may not necessarily end up in the streets to beg in order to survive, while the child in the former case , is likely to.	ADJP-ADJP
91)		And if women who should act mature do not, can you imagine what is going on out there with all the immature, but sexually active girls ?	NP-NP
92)	138	And if women who should act mature do not, can you imagine what is going on out there with all the immature but sexually active girls?	ADVP-ADJP
93)	138	The single unmarried mother or the childless married woman ?	ADJP-ADJP and NP-NP
94)	139	We came across situations where fathers were earning adequate incomes but were refusing to care for their children because they no longer loved their mothers .	NP-NP
95)	140	Our vision is to target our awareness campaign at those women and girls of our society.	NP-NP
96)	140	Her physical and emotional detachment from her children	ADJP-ADJP
97)	141	The physical and psychological effect of the detachment	ADJP-ADJP
98)	144	... he answered all her questions with either a nod or a shake of the head ...	NP-NP
99)	147	... a distraught woman who had sprinkled charcoal ash on her head and smear ed some on her arms and feet ..	
100)	152	... from head to toe ...	PP-PP
101)	153	He pounded Maa Tsuru with his fists, landing the blows anywhere and everywhere ...	ADVP-ADVP
102)	156	Over fertility , even in a society where infertility was a curse of curses, could be as bad an omen as infertility .	NP-NP
103)	156	Kwesi was gone , but his loner and children remained together.	VP-VP
104)	157	The young and the old all called him Onko.	NP-NP
105)	158	... she only contended herself with odd jobs now and then	ADVP-ADVP
106)	158	It wasn't living , but they were surviving fairly well	VP-VP
107)	158	Some big white people have come from Europe and America ...	NP-NP
108)	160	Kpakpo was desirous to retire to bed with her at night and woke up with her in the morning.	VP-VP
109)	160	Kpakpo was desirous to retire to bed with her at night and woke up with her in the morning .	NP-NP
110)	160	... Maa Tsuru divided the room into a chamber and a ' hall '	NP-NP
111)	161	Accra was overflowing with desperate single men and women looking for cheap accommodation ...	NP-NP
112)	161	Maa Tsuru's aunt's worst fears were confirmed sooner than later .	ADVP-ADVP
113)	161	Others moved in with him, stayed briefly, gave up and moved out .	VP-VP
114)	164	Maa Tsum frowned and then smiled .	VP-VP
115)	170	The evening of that early morning that Maa Tsuru paid Mama Abidjan the surprise visit.	NP-NP
116)	180	You lock yourself in here and come out only after you have peeped through your keyhole...	ADVP-ADVP
117)	180	... every living soul there was directly or indirectly related to the one significant common denominator.	ADJP-ADJP
118)	180	With her children and grandchildren out of the house ...	NP-NP
119)	182	Not the sleek-new type . The age-old type .	NP-NP
120)	183	Life begins here in the night and ends at dawn .	VP-VP
121)	183	When the rest of Accra is sleeping ; that is when Sodom and Gomorrah and its real inhabitants wake up .	VP-VP

122)	183	... women and children ...	NP-NP
123)	184	We can pass here but not through there .	ADVP-ADVP
124)	187	He desired to retire to bed with me and wake up with me.	VP-VP
125)	191	Kabria couldn't take the risk of putting it off and restart it .	VP-VP
126)	183	A woman would rather maintain an unworthy man in her life than be seen as a woman with no man in her life.	ADJP-ADJP
127)	190	Sometimes she wasn't sure which of the stories I told here were real or imagined .	ADJP-ADJP
128)	193	They were on their way home from school .	NP-NP
129)	193	The girl transferred her bright blue lunchbox from her right hand to the left .	NP-NP
130)	201	First, she washed her hands with perfumed soap ... and rewashed it with an odorless washy soap.	ADJP-ADJP
131)	204	You talk a lot on the radio like you are a smart guy but you are not smart at all, are you?	ADJP-ADJP
132)	210	Naa Yomo showed no pity even to a man now turned ghost .	NP-NP
133)	211	What money we make on the streets, and give to our mother to run the house, our father bullies out of her to waste on booze.	NP-NP
134)	213	A Blackman , a Whiteman , a Yellow man.	
135)	214	...appease Baby T's soul inside her violated body .	NP-NP
136)	215	...a mix up of Onko's good blood with that of Baby T's polluted and cursed blood .	ADJP-ADJP
137)	216	Black fowls fathered by white cocks .	ADJP-ADJP
138)	220	...seasoned middle aged woman takes on the young girls ...	ADJP-ADJP and NP-NP
139)	220	The master carpenter can say of an apprentice ...	ADJP-ADJP
140)	222	Its first customer of the day had been Kpakpo. He was also the last man to leave.	ADJP-ADJP
141)	223	He refused to pay for her services, but would rob her of her earnings too.	VP-VP
142)	225	... rain or shine .	NP-NP
143)	225	... as the men prefer her young taut body to that of the older flabby madam.	ADJP-ADJP

APPENDIX B - WORD CLASS PAIRS

	Page No.	Pairs in Novel	Nature of Pair (Word classes)
1)	25	boy - girl	NP-NP
2)	27	dream -reality	NP-NP
3)	27	Dream – real	NP- NP
4)	28	hands - legs	NP-NP
5)	28	softness - bones	NP-NP
6)	29	boys - girls	NP-NP
7)	30	children -adults	NP-NP
8)	33	conversation - argument	NP-NP
9)	34	dawn - dusk	NP-NP
10)	41	sheep - goats	NP-NP
11)	52	length - breadth	NP-NP
12)	58	parents - guardians	NP-NP
13)	???	head - toe	NP-NP
14)	69	ghosts -human beings	NP-NP
15)	70	pockets -bags	NP-NP
16)	74	girl - boy	NP-NP
17)	76	Infancy - puberty	NP-NP
18)	79	mother - daughter	NP-NP
19)	83	This-that	NP-NP
20)	87	head -toe	NP-NP
21)	89	Judas Iscariot - Archimedes	NP-NP

22)	90	benches- chairs	NP-NP
23)	93	parents - children	NP-NP
24)	93	home - streets	NP-NP
25)	101	Ghana - other parts of the world	NP-NP
26)	101	Mum - Dad	NP-NP
27)	102	future -present	NP-NP
28)	102	mum - dad	NP-NP
29)	110	grin - smile	NP-NP
30)	112	here –there	NP-NP
31)	114	children - animals	NP-NP
32)	119	children -adults	NP-NP
33)	120	mother – father	NP-NP
34)	122	father - mother	NP-NP
35)	125	mum - dad	NP-NP
36)	125	dad - mum	NP-NP
37)	125	dad- mum	NP-NP
38)	125	mum - dad	NP-NP
39)	127	child - woman	NP-NP
40)	130	fathers - mothers	NP-NP
41)	131	heaven - hell	NP-NP
42)	132	woman - man	NP-NP
43)	134	design or chance	NP-NP
44)	135	fun - discomforts	NP-NP
45)	137	parents - children	NP-NP
46)	138	women - girls	NP-NP
47)	139	fathers - mothers	NP-NP
48)	140	women - girls	NP-NP
49)	144	nod - shake	NP-NP
50)	152	head - toe	NP-NP
51)	156	over fertility - infertility	NP-NP
52)	157	young - old	NP-NP
53)	158	Europe - America	NP-NP
54)	160	night - morning	NP-NP
55)	160	chamber – hall	NP-NP
56)	161	men - women	NP-NP
57)	170	evening - morning	NP-NP
58)	180	children - grandchildren	NP-NP
59)	183	women - children	NP-NP
60)	186	night - morning	NP-NP
61)	193	home - school	NP-NP
62)	210	a man - ghost	NP-NP
63)	210	God - jujuman	NP-NP
64)	211	mother - father	NP-NP
65)	213	Blackman – Whiteman or Yellow man	NP-NP
66)		soul - body	NP-NP
67)	216	cock - hen	NP-NP
68)	220	woman - girls	NP-NP
69)	225	rain or shine	NP-NP
		ADJP-ADJP	
70)	28	right -left	ADJP-ADJP

71)	34	realistic - unrealistic	ADJP-ADJP
72)	35	financial -material	ADJP-ADJP
73)	44	tepid - alarm	ADJP-NP
74)	66	human - vehicular	ADJP-ADJP
75)	68	Big - tiny	ADJP-ADJP
76)	68	Normal - Street	ADJP-ADJP
77)	69	left - right	ADPJ-ADJP
78)	71	his – her	ADPJ-ADJP
79)	75	boy -girl	ADJP-ADJP
80)	75	his -her	ADJP-ADJP
81)	85	Following - previous	ADJP-ADJP
82)	93	eastern -west	ADJP-NP
83)	102	Tea - sugar - butter	ADJP-ADJP
84)	114	good - bad	ADJP-ADJP
85)	117	first - last	ADJP-ADJP
86)	117	good - bad	ADJP-ADJP
87)	117	Marriages - cohabitations	ADJP-ADJP
88)	120	These - those	ADJP-ADJP
89)	123	new - old	ADJP-ADJP
90)	130	Fair - foul	ADJP-ADJP
91)	137	Latter - former	ADJP-ADJP
92)	138	unmarried - married	ADJP-ADJP
93)	140	physical - emotional	ADJP-ADJP
94)	141	Physical - psychological	ADJP-ADJP
95)	180	directly - indirectly	ADJP-ADJP
96)	182	new - old	ADJP-ADJP
97)	183	unworthy man - no man	ADJP-ADJP
98)	190	real - imagined	ADJP-ADJP
99)	193	right - left	ADJP-ADJP
100)	201	perfumed - odorless	ADJP-ADJP
101)	204	smart - not smart	ADJP-ADJP
102)	215	good - cursed	ADJP-ADJP
103)	215	white - black	ADJP-ADJP
104)	216	Black - white	ADJP-ADJP
105)	220	aged - young	ADJP-ADJP
106)	220	Master - apprentice	ADJP-ADJP
107)	222	first - last	ADJP-ADJP
108)	220	young - older	ADJP-ADJP
109)	28	gently - harshly	ADVP-ADVP
110)	34	in - outside	ADVP-ADVP
111)	71	to - fro	ADVP-ADVP
112)	71	up - down	ADVP-ADVP
113)	85	here – there	ADVP-ADVP
114)	86	up - down	ADVP-ADVP
115)	86	in -out	ADVP-ADVP
116)	98	far - near	ADVP-ADVP
117)	117	in- out	ADVP-ADVP
118)	158	now - then	ADVP-ADVP
119)	160	sooner - later.	ADVP-ADVP
120)	161	in - out	ADVP-ADVP
121)	180	in - out	ADVP-ADVP

122)	184	here - there.	ADVP-ADVP
123)	27	stolen - earned	VP-VP
124)	31	start -stop	VP-VP
125)	42	shut - open	VP-VP
126)	71	born - made	VP-VP
127)	79	bowed- looked straight	VP-VP
128)	121	Wincing - smiling.	VP-VP
129)	125	happened - going to happen.	VP-VP
130)	129	going out - returned	VP-VP
131)	130	took charge - gain control	VP-VP
132)	147	Sprinkled - smeared	VP-VP
133)	156	gone - remained	VP-VP
134)	158	Living - surviving	VP-VP
135)	160	Retire- woke up	VP-VP
136)	164	frowned – smiled	VP-VP
137)	183	Sleeping- wake up.	VP-VP
138)	183	Begins - ends	VP-VP
139)	191	putting it off - restart it.	VP-VP
140)	223	pay - rob	VP-VP
141)	34	from - to	PP-PP
142)	117	Into – out of	PP-PP
143)	93	eastern -west	ADJP-NP

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