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Real Horrorshow: The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis and the Use of Nadsat in *A Clockwork Orange*

One of the most striking features of Anthony Burgess's dystopian novel *A Clockwork Orange* is the use of Nadsat, a distinctive linguistic style used primarily by its teenaged characters and the novel's main protagonist, Alex. However, few studies have gone into its fascinating sociolinguistic implications. In this paper, I intend to use the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis of linguistic relativity to analyze Nadsat. The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, in a nutshell, posits that language not only expresses worldview but also influences it. In this paper, I will explore how the use of Nadsat reveals insights into Alex's unique worldview, as well as how Nadsat itself influences Alex's perspective and behavior.

Amber Rollins has taught English and eaten sushi in four different countries, none of them Japan. She holds a BA in English and an MA in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). She is also the author of An Irritating and Dangerous Game.



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