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.

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