

WRITING IN DIALECT: WRITTEN REPRESENTATIONS OF SPEECH

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Abstract: *This paper¹ discusses different types of respellings (allegro speech, dialect respelling, eye-dialect, semi-phonetic respelling) used by different English authors. In some contexts dialect is usually used for humorous purposes, and sometimes even to promote negative character evaluations by the readers. The representation of dialect in writing draws mainly on stereotypes, using eye-dialect or semi-phonetic spelling to render some of the best-known features of a certain dialect or accent, including specific words or grammatical structures. The aim of this paper is to delve into the ways in which different English authors represent various dialects. The authors under consideration are William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, Irvine Welsh, Rudyard Kipling, and Robert Burns. The first four are included in what Beal (2006) calls 'literary dialect' while the latter in 'dialect literature.'*

Keywords: *literary dialect, semi-phonetic spelling, eye-dialect, dialect literature, allegro speech*

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