

## Matthew Arnold's 'Dover Beach' : A Lexical- Semantic Analysis

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### **Abstract:**

The Meaning – Text Model aids to analyze the text with regard to the semantic representation of the lexical items as well as the semantic relations among the lexical items in the text. The establishment of the semantic relations leads to the semantic analysis of the text . The Meaning-Text Model (MTM) will be adopted to introduce a lexical-semantic analysis of Matthew Arnold's 'Dover Beach' .

**Key words : Matthew Arnold , Meaning-Text Model , the Victorian era , Dover Beach , the religious faith .**

شاطئ دوفر للشاعر ماثيو أرنولد : تحليل مفرداتي - دلالي

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### **ملخص البحث:**

يُساعد نمط (المعنى - النص) في تحليل النص بالاعتماد على التمثيل الدلالي للمفردات في ذلك النص فضلاً عن العلاقات الدلالية التي ترتبط بها المفردات في النص . إن الوقوف على تلك العلاقات الدلالية يقود الى التحليل الدلالي للنص . و قد تبنى البحث نمط (المعنى - النص) لتقديم تحليل مفرداتي - دلالي لقصيدة (شاطئ دوفر) للشاعر الانجليزي ماثيو أرنولد .  
الكلمات المفتاحية : ماثيو أرنولد ، نمط (المعنى - النص) ، العهد الفيكتوري ، شاطئ دوفر ، الأيمان الديني .

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## Introduction

The present study intends to introduce a lexical-semantic analysis of Matthew Arnold's 'Dover Beach'. Meaning-Text Model of Igor Melcuk will be adopted. According to (MTM) the semantic analysis depends on the semantic representation and the semantic relations among the employed lexical items in the text. The lexical-semantic analysis is presented with the aid of Melcuk's (MTM). The paper ends with conclusions and a list of the cited works.

### 1. Matthew Arnold : A Literary Biography

Matthew Arnold is one of the poets who lived in the Victorian era (1822-1888). He is the eldest son of Penrose Arnold and Dr. Thomas Arnold. In his childhood, Matthew Arnold while was spending the summer holidays together with his family in 'Lake District', they have friendships with famous poets like Robert Southey and William Wordsworth (Kelly, 1998 : 52).

While he was still young, Matthew Arnold's first poem 'Alaric at Rome' was published. He graduated from Oxford University and worked as a teacher in Rugby. Through his service as a teacher there, Arnold kept writing poetry. What characterizes Matthew Arnold is the writing of few poems because his emphasis on writing prose instead. Through his life, Arnold was mainly engaged with the educational aspects in the schools till his death in 1888(ibid).

Arnold served as 'Foreign Assistant Commissioner' which enables him to visit different European countries like : France, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, and Piedmont. This matter gives Arnold the opportunity to establish relationships with recognized people especially in Paris like his relationships with Sainte-Beuve, Prosper Merimee, and Renan (Foerster, 1918 :V).

In addition to poetry, Arnold wrote criticism. The criticism that he presented can be divided into three main periods : in the first period he dealt with the writing of the introduction of the poems, translating poems, critical essays, and studying the Celtic literature. The second period concentrates on the political, educational, social, and religious affairs in the Victorian age. In the third period he returned back to write about literature (Mohammed, 2021 : 2). Arnold as a poet presented different poems like a collection of poems that is entitled 'The Strayed Reveller' and 'Empedocles on Etna' and some other poems (Foerster, 1918: Vi).

Matthew Arnold got married of Frances Lucy Wightman and he felt a domestic happiness and tranquility and a daily work that was described as being "never less than consciously performed" (Quiler-Couch, 1922 : V). Arnold's political ideology was described as being "conservative, passive authoritarianism, high culture and bourgeois hegemony, or more matter -of-fact, lacking standard of work and will" (Guy,2014:1).As a literary achievement, the poet presented different poems like 'The Strayed Reveller' and 'Empedocles on Etna' and some other poems.

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## 2. The Characteristic Features of Matthew Arnold's Poetry

Matthew Arnold is one of famous Victorian Age poets , his poetry is characterized with the following features :

1. According to the important role of both religion and philosophy , they are two sources of human knowledge . Religion is suggested to deal with facts while philosophy is the field of abstract notions. Religion and philosophy are included in the human knowledge and poetry is the basic channel through which they can be indicated . Hence, religion and philosophy are among the main themes that are conveyed in Matthew Arnold's poetry .

2. Arnold believes that “poetry is a criticism of life under the conditions fixed for such a criticism by the laws of poetic truth and poetic beauty” (Biswas , 2020: 2) . The consideration of poetry as a means of criticizing life is elaborated on by critics like the opinion of professor Garrod who considers poetry as a means of expressing the chaos that life witnesses . Oliver Elton states that ‘criticism of life’ “means poetry clarifies while it delights”(ibid) . The poetry of Arnold is a means to face the problems in life and to enable man to encounter the difficulties in life properly.

3. In both his writing and life, he observes and teaches the golden rule with a mind that was no less English and practical, even if he purposefully and almost stubbornly avoided that emphasis that Englishmen adore to a fault when expressing it. (Quiler-Couch , 1922:iV).

4. Arnold confines himself with particular poetic purposes like the narrative poetry and the dramatic monologue . He adopts the Aristotelian theory to convey the tragic themes . That is why it forms a significant part of his point of view. (Knickerbocker, 1925:441).

5. Arnold considers poetry as the crown of literature . Poetry , for Arnold , is the influential means to convey themes that can never be replaced and the most important theme that he would like to convey to the society is religion (Ranjan ,2020:2).

6. Arnold's point of view based on his own experience . Hence , the point of view that he issues are interwoven with his extra-ordinary historical experience and his good deal of knowledge about the dominating social tendencies . This feature is particular to Arnold to be recognized from the other contemporary poets . He has his own manner in dealing with the social and political affairs while he is still young (Knickerbocker , 1925: 442).

7. Arnold's poetry is powerful and what gains Arnold's poetry power and expressiveness is that : poetry should firstly contain a criticism to reform life . Secondly , to maintain the headlines for the individual's thoughts about his life , for finding the proper solutions to the problems , and to select the norm of life that is applicable to him . Thirdly , it should indicate gravity and enormity with regard to the content and the form . Finally , it should be conveyed in an elegant manner (Ranjan , 2020:3).

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8. Arnold's poetry is characterized with being lovely , lofty , and radiant . The reading of Arnold's poetry makes the reader adored to read more of it (Stoddard ,1888:625). Accordingly , Arnold's reputation is gained through the features that characterize his poetry . It is characterized with being “ an ironic and urban scholar chatting freely”, as it is stated by John Cowper Powys ([www.creativecommons.org](http://www.creativecommons.org) :12) .

9. According to Arnold “ without poetry , our science will appear incomplete ; and most of what now passes with us for religion and philosophy will be replaced by poetry” (Arnold as cited in [www.creativecommons.org](http://www.creativecommons.org) :12) . Arnold's point of view highlights the significant role of poetry to complete the role of religion as well as the function of philosophy .

10. Arnold's poetry contains the association between Romanticism on one hand and Modernism on the other hand . He employed nature symbolically to be considered as romantic while he presented the pessimistic visions which refer to Modernism in his poetry . Hence , “Arnold's poetry is the product of , as much as a distinctive contribution to a specific Victorian poetic consciousness which situates itself between reflections of Romantic idealizations of unity and a split modern consciousness, ...” (Kucukboyaci , 2019:4) .

### **3. The Main Themes in Matthew Arnold's Poetry**

A survey of the poems that have been written by Matthew Arnold illustrates the main themes that are contained in these poems . In his poetry , Arnold shows a reaction against modernization that the Victorian age witnesses . The struggle between modernization as a force and the religious faith as an anti-force is expressed in poems like ‘Bacchanalia’ . The dependence of Man on the human power and creativity through nature is regarded as a threat the religious faith ([www.gradsaver.com](http://www.gradsaver.com) , 2021) .

As a representative of the Victorian age , the poetry of Matthew Arnold contains themes that stand against different forces. It focuses on the challenges that are related to the religious , political , economic, and social affairs . Matthew Arnold's poetry includes a reaction against the ‘Darwinism’ as a clear rejection of such a role of science as it is fused with religion . Arnold like the other Victorian poets refuses the industrial development that causes the decay of nature and the resulted economic and social changes(Raheem, 2010 : 1). In defending nature , Arnold's poetry is described as enthusiasm though it is different from Wordsworth's consideration of nature . Arnold's poetry is characterized with being despair and a mixture of the ancient art and what belongs to the middle ages ([www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org) ) .

Matthew Arnold poetry aims at forming and emphasizing the religious dogma . His poetry contains attempts to enhance the religious beliefs and to stop the fade of faith . Arnold's poetry reflects as one of the themes , the struggle between the two wings , the first wing is represented by Keble , Newman , and Pusey .They believe

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that the remedy lies in the returning back to the original principles of the church . The second wing is led by Clough , Thomas Arnold , and Matthew Arnold who prefer to establish a compromise to strengthen the role of the church (Miles , 1965 :2).

Faith as a sublime value attends in the poems of Matthew Arnold. It is considered as a fundamental component of the individual's sole. According to the themes of Arnold's poems faith should be saved because it is the individual's means to obtain liberty and to come across the obstructions that he may encounter . He conveys faith as the main theme in poems like : 'Dover Beach' and 'East London' ( [www.gradsaver.com](http://www.gradsaver.com) , 2021) .

The significance of nature as a theme in Matthew Arnold's poetry is so clear . Nature represents clearness , beauty , and stability in the globe. Arnold emphasizes the impact of the pure nature on the human possibility to cope with the surrounding conditions . The of is presented in Arnold's poetry like his poem 'A Wish' (ibid).

Arnold's poetry is a reaction against the industrial revolution , the use of steam engine and the damage of the landscape because of the industry . In addition , the drowned society in neglecting of faith that is defeated by the alternative force of science with wide spread of Darwin's 'The Origin of Species' . The adaptation of such scientific theories causes a struggle between science on one hand and religion on the other hand . As it is expressed in Arnold's poetry , the spiritual values in the life of the Victorian society have disappeared while the materialistic desires eventually grew up (Singh ,2014:1).

Matthew Arnold's poetry contains 'love' as a theme . He introduces 'love' through the separation between the lover and the beloved and the vanishing love . Love is not so clear as a theme in Arnold's poetry but it is implied and interwoven with other themes of his poems. Moreover , 'time' is one of the themes in Arnold's poetry . Time plays a role as a force that affects the human possibility to overcome the obstructions that humanity encounters . Time as a force is presented as it is associated with nature in Arnold's poetry ([www.gradsaver.com](http://www.gradsaver.com) , 2021).

Arnold employs mythology in his poetry . The main purpose behind the employment of the ancient mythology is to shed light upon the struggle between the religious faith and liberty and Modernism . He also highlights the suffering of the workers as a social class and criticizes industry and the violation of nature as the representation of Modernism .

Through his life , Matthew Arnold wrote different works to criticize the social life , the cultural values , the neglect of the religious beliefs , and the educational system of the Victorian England (Giles , 2011:1) . The great Victorian poet , Matthew Arnold reflects the theme of chaos , loss of faith , pessimism , loneliness , and hopelessness in the society of his age . His poetry includes the religious loss because of the people's religious deviation that was dominating in the Victorian age like what has Arnold expressed in his 'Dover Beach' ( Sangwan & Hazarika, 2022 :1) .

#### **4. The Meaning-Text Model**

The Meaning – Text Model (MTM ) was presented by Igor Melcuk (2016) . According to this model the dependence is on three hypotheses

1. The described object should be determined .
2. The obtained outcomes of the description should be specified .
3. The relationship between the language and the suggested description should be maintained .

The Meaning –Text Model (MTM) introduces the representation in terms of four categories , they are “semantic , deep syntactic , surface –syntactic ,and deep morphological” (Khane , 2019:4) . The semantic representation is intended be focused on because it basically deals with meaning . The domain of the semantic representation is to determine the meaning of the synonymous lexical items . Then , meaning is considered as the same or close to the same meaning . The extent to which the similarity of the meaning is described as “a certain degree of approximation in the semantic is necessary , if we want to obtain linguistically interesting results” (Melcuk , 2001:15 as cited in Khane , 2019 :4).

The meaning of the words that compose the sentence is expressed by the semantic representation or the semantic representation or the semantic structure of the sentence . According to (MTM) whatever is meant by the semantic representation does not refer to the described world but the intended meaning itself (ibid:9).

The domain of the (MTM) is the semantic representation of the lexicon . It “ is a lexicon-centered dependency –based theory for the description of language using a holistic model that incorporates semantics , syntax , morphology , and lexis” (Wanner , 2007 :1). The (MTM) does the same role of the speaker of a language that to convey what he likes to the addressee . In doing so there is no room for deciding whether the produced sentences are grammatical or not . The (MTM) seems to translate “a given meaning into a corresponding text” (Melcuk , 2016: 32).

According to Melcuk (ibid:86) , adopting the (MTM) is to describe the real; language through lexical-semantics and the lexical-co-occurrence. The first one deals with the meaning of the individual lexical items while the second concerns itself with the meaning of a combination of lexical items and the semantic relations among them . Hence , it is important to focus on the role of the employed lexical items which is called ‘semantic decomposition’ . To interpret the text , the lexical functions can be determined through the semantic relations among the lexical items.

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## 5. Methodology

The Meaning-Text Model of Igor Melcuk associates between what is formal and what is symbolic to result a semantic representation . The (MTM) presents the interpretation of a particular text in terms of four categories which are : semantic , deep and surface syntactic , and morphological . The present study is limited to the semantic category . The (MTM) is adopted to analyze Matthew Arnold's 'Dover Beach' semantically . The obtained semantic analysis of the poem is through the highlighting of the co-occurred lexical items in the poem .

## 6. The Semantic Analysis of Matthew Arnold's 'Dover Beach'

Matthew Arnold presented his poem in 1867 . The poem was written while the poet was in honeymoon near the English Channel and particularly in Dover . In this poem the speaker laments the fading away of the religious faith among the people in the Victorian age because of the affection of different factors like the scientific development and the industrial revolution .The title of the poem 'Dover Beach' refers to a place that lies on the English channel that faces France . The speaker describes the sea as being calm and sees a light across the channel on the French coast what draws the reader's attention is the fading away of the light which refers to the fading away of the religious beliefs that the Victorian society witnessed .

The poem is considered as a dramatic monologue in which the speaker laments the absence if the faith in Christianity and criticizes the occupation of the scientific change which is represented by Darwin's theory 'The Origin of Species' .

In the first stanza of 'Dover Beach' , Arnold depicts the setting (i.e. the place and the time) . He looks at the sea from a window while he is in 'Dover' . Time is referred to throughout the description of 'night' . In the first stanza , the speaker describes the 'sea' at night , he intends to describe the Victorian age people's religious belief . The lexical items that are employed in the first stanza describes the reiteration of the religious faith of the Victorian society .

The speaker compares the 'sea' to the religious faith before and after the affection of certain factors upon the people of the Victorian age like the industrial revolution , the scientific development , and Darwin's theory . The employment of the lexical items suits the subject matter and that seems evident through the semantic relations among these lexical in the text . The 'sea' is described as 'calm' and the 'tide' is 'full' and the moon sends light upon the beach of Dover . Through the employment of these lexical items the poet is able to describe the life of the industry and science . The poet employs the lexical items that serve the conveying the intended subject matter . The first stanza can be divided into two parts , the first part consists of six lines , in these lines that the poet employs the lexical items through which the positive meaning is conveyed . The 'sea' which signifies faith is described as being calm and 'tide' is 'full', the 'night' is moony and sweet with nice breeze . The second part of the first stanza which consists of eight lines denotes a shift in the speaker's

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mood which expresses, in turn, the change that he would like to comment on in the poet's life. The poet employs lexical items that suit the thematic purpose which is 'change'. People started to miss the religious beliefs, that is why the speaker issues a threat through the employment of lexical items like 'listen' and 'hear' to draw the public's attention to the shrinking of the religious faith. The speaker continues to comment on the fluctuation of the people's religious faith through the use of lexical items like: 'sea' and 'land', 'pebbles' and 'waves', 'begin' and 'cease' to express the confusion and unsettlement.

The first stanza includes two parallel pictures that are clarified by a special way of employing the lexical items that are associated by particular semantic relations. The first picture shows the reader the life of the society before the affection of industry and science in the first part of the stanza while the second picture sheds light upon the life of the Mid-Victorian age society that looked confused with the regarding to the religious faith. The poet presents the second picture through the employment of lexical items like 'listen' and 'hear', 'pebbles' and 'waves', 'draw back', 'fling' and 'return', 'begin' and 'cease'.

The semantic analysis of the first stanza of Matthew Arnold's 'Dover Beach' introduces the taxonomy of the lexical items that the poet employs and appear in the stanza. The poet employs 'sea' as a 'metonymy' to represent faith, then 'sea' as a lexical item has a basic role beside the location that the poet mentioned in the title 'Dover Beach' which represents England. Hypernym which expresses the relationship between the part to the whole or the vice-versa is also employed. It is found in lexical items like 'sea' as the 'whole' and 'tide, spray, grating, roar, waves, and bay' as the part that is related semantically to the whole. The employment of these lexical items as hypernym aids to depict the 'motion' in the sea together with its elements to refer to the confusion in the people's religious life. Hypernym is frequently used in the first stanza. It seems clear through the employment of the 'coast' as a 'whole' and lexical items like: 'cliffs, land, and pebbles' as parts that are affected by the force of the waves of the sea. In other words, these lexical items refer to the people in the Mid-Victorian age who are effected by the various factors in life. Another hypernym seems to be used through lexical items like: 'fair, light, gleam, and glimmer' these lexical items are presented in such a semantic relation to represent the society in England before the nineteenth century in which people were faithful to their religion. The lexical items that are related to 'moon' participate to convey the theme of the necessity of faith that guides people in their life. Hypernym is found in 'night' as a whole and lexical items 'night-air and moon' as parts. In both lexical items the positive meaning is expressed while 'night-air' represents the harmony in the life of the society, the 'moon' represents the light of faith that guides people in the darkness of 'night'.



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Antonymy which refers to the oppositeness of the meaning is used in the first stanza to emphasize the meaning of the opposite pictures that are found side by side in the stanza. The lexical items 'French' and 'England' are employed respectively to signify the geographical fact that the coast of France can be seen from the beach of Dover, in addition, it highlights the religious difference between the Protestant England and the Catholic France as well as the emphasis of the fading away of the religious faith as it is mentioned by Arnold "the light / gleams and gone". The contrast between the two pictures that are presented in the first stanza enhances the theme of the contrast between life of people before and within the Victorian age. This contrast is represented by the antonymic lexical items 'sweet' and 'sadness' which signify the faith of society before and within the nineteenth century respectively. The semantic interpretation of the other antonymic lexical items like 'land' that expresses safety and 'sea' that refers to dismay, accordingly, land represents the role of religion in the life of the society while missing the religious faith means living in non-secure environment.

Moreover, Arnold resembles the member of the Victorian age society to the 'pebbles' that can be drawn back and flung by the waves in terms being affected the newly appeared ideological and scientific theories. The poet illustrates this theme through antonymic lexical items like 'pebbles' that belongs to the coast on a hand and 'waves' that belongs to the sea to express the oppositeness. The theme of the affection of the ideological and scientific streams is also illustrated through the employment of another antonymy. He employs a pair of lexical items 'begin' and 'cease' which creates the confused atmosphere. The oppositeness is denoted again between the 'coast' and the 'bay' to emphasize the oppositeness between the faithful society before the Mid-Victorian age that lacks for religious faithfulness. (See table 1).

Arnold's 'Dover Beach' includes lexical items that are employed as synonymous to each other (i.e. lexical items that carry the same meaning), these lexical items are employed to praise the role of religion in life. The poet employs lexical items like 'calm' and 'tranquil', 'fair' and 'light', 'draw back' and 'return', 'up' and 'high', 'gleam' and 'glimmer', 'cadence' and 'note', 'coast' and 'strand'. These lexical items are employed to highlight the faith in Christianity. This purpose is enhanced by the employment of lexical items like 'listen' and 'hear' to draw the reader's attention to the praised religion and to be an alarm to the followers of this religion, (see table 1).

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**Table (1) The Semantic Relations among the Lexical Items in the First Stanza**

Metonymy		Hypernym		Antonymy	Synonymy
object	representation	whole	part		
sea Dover	faith England	sea	tide spray grating roar waves bay strait cliffs land pebbles fair light gleam glimmer moon night- air	French x England sweet x sadness sea x land pebbles x waves begin x cease coast x bay	calm = tranquil fair = light draw back = return up = high gleam = glimmer listen = hear cadence = note coast = strand
		coast			

Arnold continues to describe the contrast between the present life and the life in the past to emphasize his anti-modernism . In the second stanza he employs lexical items as a flash-back to the ancient life in Greece . The poet uses lexical items like ‘Sophocles’ and ‘Aegean’ to be associated with ‘him’ , with tragedy and with the misery of life , and the reiteration of faith among the English people . Moreover , the poet emphasizes the theme of the confusion and the vagueness in the religious life of people through the employment of antonymy , he employs lexical items like ‘ebb’ and ‘flow’ to convey the theme of fluctuation and the lack of certitude . In the addition , the employment of synonymous lexical items should be elaborated on . The second stanza of Arnold’s poem includes lexical items that are related to each other semantically like , ‘heard’ and ‘sound’ , ‘thought’ and ‘mind’ . These synonymous lexical items that signify the perception of human misery in life and lament of humanity with the absence of their faith ,( see table 2) .

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**Table (2) The Semantic Relations among the Lexical Items in the Second Stanza**

Metonymy		Antonymy	Synonymy
object	Representation	ebb x flow	heard = sound thought = mind
Sophocles Aegean	tragedy misery of life		

The third stanza starts with a metonymic use of the 'sea' which is associated with 'faith'. The association between the two lexical items is for the sake of denoting the shrinking of the people's faith in Christianity and the contradiction between the people's faith before and through the Victorian era. The sea was 'full' while the speaker describes the sea as being 'down' and he discriminates between the faith in God and religion as it is related to safety like the 'shore' and the danger that threatens the life of people who lost their faith such a danger is represented by lexical item 'sea'. In addition, 'bright' and 'night' are lexical items that show the opposition in meaning or 'antonymy'. Thus, the use of the antonymic lexical items is to refer to the shift in people's mind towards religion.

Synonym is employed in the third stanza to emphasize the shriveling of faith in the peoples' minds. The poet employs lexical items like 'withdrawing' and 'retreating' to enhance the theme of the shrinkage of faith in Christianity in the English society. Synonym also appears in lexical items like 'melancholy' and 'drear' to describe the gloomy atmosphere through the absence of 'faith' in the human life. Faith is described as being related to the existence of the human beings through the synonymous lexical items like 'breath' and 'wind' which are described as being retreated, (see table 3).

**Table (3) The Semantic Relations among the Lexical Items in the Third Stanza**

Metonymy		Antonymy	Synonymy
object	representation		
sea	faith	sea x shore full x down bright x night	withdrawing = retreating wind = breath melancholy = drear

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The last stanza represents Arnold's lament of the society of the Victorian era through the contrast between the faith of people in the past and the lack of faith in the society of his days . The poet employs hypernym like 'various , beautiful , and new' to describe the variety , beauty , and newness of the society in the past since these lexical items are related to the whole which is the 'world' (i.e. the society in the past) .For the sake of expressing the difference between the two pictures the faith of the society in the past and the society of the Mid-Victorian era , the poet employs antonymic lexical items like 'land versus flight' to signify the sense of settlement and unsettlement respectively .

The last stanza contains lexical items that are employed synonymously whether directly or indirectly to emphasize the theme of the retreating of faith in the society that leads to an atmosphere of violence . The lexical items that aid to convey such a theme are 'struggle' , 'clash' and 'night', 'darkling' . The synonyms that are employed indirectly through the employment of negation emphasize certain theme . The synonyms like 'neither joy' , 'nor love' and 'nor light , 'nor certitude' and 'nor peace' , 'nor help' , the theme which is conveyed is that because of the absence of joy there is an absence of love and because of the absence of light of faith there is an absence of 'certitude' and the absence of 'peace' among people leads to the absence of help among them and the result will be violence and bloody wars , (see table 4).

**Table (4) The Semantic Relations among the Lexical Items in the Fourth Stanza**

Hypernym		Antonymy	Synonymy
whole	part		
world	various beautiful new	land x flight	struggle = clash night = darkling neither joy = nor love nor light = nor certitude nor peace = nor help

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## 7. Conclusions

The present paper ends with the following conclusions :

1. The Meaning – Text Model (MTM) appears helpful to present a lexical-semantic analysis of Matthew Arnold's 'Dover Beach' .The analysis depends on the semantic representation of the employed lexical items as well as the semantic relations among these lexical items .

2. Through the employment of the lexical items in 'Dover Beach' and according to the recurrence of these lexical items it seems that there is an intention to highlight the contrast between the faithful English society before the Mid-Victorian era and the retreated faith in through this era. The employment of the lexical items plays a significant role in conveying the theme of the poem .

3. The lexical items that are employed refer to the wide gap between the society before the Mid-Victorian era and the society of this era in terms of the religious faith . The employment of such lexical items is concentrated on in the first stanza of the poem .

4. The poem contains lexical items that refer to the poet's lament of the absence of the religious faith . The employed lexical items refer to the tragic life of the people.

5. The lexical items that are employed at the end of the poem denote the poet's pessimistic view and the loss of hope . He realizes that violence dominates while the land is supposed to be 'a land of dreams'.

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