

## INSTABILITY OF MOTHER-SON RELATIONSHIP IN CHARLES DICKENS' NOVEL DAVID COPPERFIELD

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Dealing with motherhood issue is considered a controversial one since building a child identity and preparing him/her to be a good and successful person depends mostly on the relationship between the child and the mother. Though different studies tackled toxic, good, stable etc. Mother-son relationships; still there is more can be carried out to explore instability in mother-son relationship. This article intends to investigate instability in mother-son relationship in Charles Dickens' novel "The Personal Life of David Copperfield". The data involves certain extracts representing David's relationship with his mother Clara Copperfield. The article aims to identify how David's instable relationship with his mother is portrayed and point out the difference emotional reflections drawn in David's mind concerning his mother. The data is analyzed qualitatively through a content analysis approach following Austin's (1962) and Searle's (1979) models of speech acts theory. The article concludes that Dickens relies on three types of speech acts including the representatives, directives and expressives to portray the instability of mother-son relationship in the novel. David has instable relationship with his mother due to her weak and irresponsible personality. Another point is that David's mother attitudes towards her son have changed completely after her marriage to Mr. Murdstone and this reflects the bad influence of her husband.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Instability, Motherhood, Mother-Son Relationship, Novel, Speech Acts*