

Erwartungshorizont “Forgotten underclass”

I.

- schooling - run-up - scores - previous - peers - average – ethnicity - striking - deterioration - impact

II. Text Comprehension

1.

- Fifty years ago, Dagenham’s inhabitants were exclusively white – over the last decades lots of immigrants have moved in – so a lot of Dagenham’s white inhabitants think of moving away.
- The whites blame the immigrants for anything that happens in their neighbourhood that they do not like - e.g. crimes or being rejected when applying for public housing)
- When politicians talk about social problems in communities such as Dagenham, they prefer to mention Muslim immigrants who fail to integrate into British society - or black boys that do not perform satisfactorily at school.
- This shows that politicians generally fail to recognize the group that is, according to recent research, most in trouble: British-born white 16-year-olds.

2.

- The crucial stage that seems to decide on the poor white children’s results at the GCSE examinations is between 14 and 16.
- It is in these years that poor children from ethnic minorities outdistance white children most markedly – it looks as if poor white children at that age do not think that there is any link between their performance at school and future career opportunities.
- Their parents and grandparents may partly be held responsible for this attitude - they themselves shared it when they were at the same age.
- That difference is that those generations knew they could find work in factories anyway, so they didn’t think it was necessary to achieve good results at school.

3.

- The present-day job-market sets great store by qualification.

- Even if white people may have a slight advantage over immigrants as long as they have the same qualifications, this changes as soon as the immigrants dispose of a ever so slightly better education or training.
- Also, the number of jobs in factories has been dropping for a long time, so nowadays there are just not enough of them for the white “underclass”.

4.

- Immigrants that came to Britain not too long time ago tend to believe in their opportunity in their new homeland.
- Many of them were denied better living standards in their original home countries for social, political or economic reasons.
- Now, they believe they can achieve some improvement both for them and their children as long as they fight for it.
- Their children usually adopt the same view, struggling to attain good results at school. So both parents and children believe in the basic value of education.

5.

- first of all, it makes the article very concrete: Tony Perry is a real person who has lived in Dagenham for a long time.
- The readers learn about the changes straight from sb. who experienced them.
- Secondly, Tony Perry serves as a witness.
- It is not the author who talks to us, but Tony Perry, so the author makes his point through an eyewitness.

6.

- From lines 8 – 10 the author makes use of two different stylistic devices in the same two sentences.
- First of all, he starts two subsequent sentences with the same word (When). This stylistic device is called anaphora.
- Furthermore, the overall structure of the two sentences is the same, which is called parallelism.
- The effect of these devices is to give the two sentences a definite pattern by way of symmetry.
- Moreover, it emphasizes the author’s point.