

Portrait of Samuel Pepys



About the diary

- Samuel Pepys *kept a daily diary from 1660-1669.*
- This diary *entry in particular is dated for 2nd September, 1666.*
- The diary was *first published in the 19th century.*

GRAMPS

Genre: Diary

Register: Formal

Audience: (For a contemporary audience) history lovers, Pepys wrote at the time for himself and members of the public.

Mode: Written discourse - its archaic language shows its 15th century nature.

Purpose: To entertain and inform about the historical events (and language, somewhat)

Subject: Pepys talks, from first-hand event, about the Great Fire of London. He describes the event and his high status at the time.

Discourse

Discourse: (1) written or spoken communicate or debate. (2) speak or write authoritatively about a topic.

Narrative voice: First person

Follows the **schema of a typical diary** - shows the time and date.

As it is a **written piece**, it was **well-planned** and the **conventions are very complex** - this **reflects his level of education and high-status**.

Grammar

Minor sentences used: "2nd (Lords Day)."

Use of **complex declarative sentences:** "So, I rose, and slipped on my night gown, and went to her window; and thought it to be on the back side of Marke-Lane at the farthest, but being unused to such fires as followed..."

Use of **polysyndeton:** (Same example above), repeated use of "and".

Parenthesis: "(who it seems, are related to them)" - extends the knowledge of the reader.

Exclamative then interrogative sentence: "- Lord! What can I do?" - shows the shock/horror/fear of the writer.

Lexis and Semantics

Use of **archaic language:** "night-gown", "-staid"

Metaphor: "horrid malicious bloody flame"

Semantic field of fire and destruction: "malicious"/"flaming"/"cracking"

Pragmatics

Pragmatics: the branch of linguistics dealing with language in use and the contexts in which it is used, including such matters as deixis, the taking of turns in conversation, text organisation, presupposition, and implicature.

People in Samuel Pepy's life: "Sir J. Robinson", "Michell"/"Sarah"/"Lord Mayor"/"King and Duke of York" - shows the importance and/or wealth of Samuel Pepys.

Places where the fire broke out: "The bridge"/"St Manges Church"/"Steele-yard"

Phonology

Phonology: (1) the system of contrastive relationships among the speech sounds that constitute the fundamental components of a language. (2) the branch of linguistics that deals with systems of sounds (including or excluding phonetics) within a language or between different languages."

Fricative alliteration: "fine flame", "flakes of fire", - shows, through soft sounds, the movement of the flames.

Onomatopoeia: - "cracking" shows the way that the fire is destructing things.

Context

Samuel Pepys was a **member of Parliament for Tories** but was **most famous for his diary**. The Great Fire of London in 1666 was a *year after the Great Plague* in London that *killed over 75000 people, compared to the 6 that died in the fire*.