

Dickens's use of the (*be*) *surprised by* construction

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I. Introduction

Historical behavior of the (*be*) *surprised at/by* constructions has been clarified in my previous research:¹ *surprised by* occurred at a rate of a little over 20 percent (*at* approximately 75 percent) in late Modern English, whereas in Present-day English (PE) the rate has risen to nearly 50 percent (*at* has declined to around 50 percent or less) and the former appears to be increasing at such a rate as to be surpassing the latter. It was also shown that a number of great and popular writers (e.g. Jane Austen, Joseph Conrad, Charles Dickens, Samuel Johnson, Anthony Trollope and Virginia Woolf) utilized the (*be*) *surprised by* construction.

Among those writers Charles Dickens (1812-70) seems to be the one who particularly favored the (*be*) *surprised by* construction. The search of the Modern English Collection² (1999 version) showed more occurrences of *surprised by* than *surprised at* in Dickens's works. Dickens apparently put the (*be*) *surprised by* construction into more frequent use than its rival construction.

In an attempt to answer the questions as to how Dickens actually

used the *(be) surprised at/by* constructions and why he came to favor the latter, we utilized the computer concordance of Dickens.³ Although it would be essential to read texts and collect data, computer corpora are extremely useful and may even be indispensable in searching for words or phrases which appear only a few times in one volume. They can also perform the task within a short period of time and with flawless accuracy,⁴ which otherwise would take months or even years. (Of course this does not mean that any philological study can do without actual perusal of texts, so I made it a rule to read the surrounding context in order to see how the quotations are actually used.)

In this article I will first try to clarify the behavior of the *(be) surprised at/by* constructions in Dickens's novels. I will then argue that the innovative and unconventional prose style of the novelist may have to do with his favor for the employment of the *(be) surprised by* construction, which has become quite common in Present-day English but may have been considered an unestablished usage in Dickens's day.

II. Computer Concordance of Dickens

When this research was first begun, the concordance contained the following works of Dickens, arranged in chronological order of publication.⁵ Since then it has been updated to contain 55 works of Dickens, but the research was confined to the original corpus of 1999 because the works added later are minor and less well-known⁶ and many of them do not contain *(be) surprised at/by* sentences at all. Abbreviations for titles, mostly based on Brook (1970), are in parentheses, followed by the dates of publication.

| | |
|--|---------|
| <i>Sketches by Boz (SB)</i> | 1835-36 |
| <i>Pickwick Papers (PP)</i> | 1836-37 |
| <i>Oliver Twist (OT)</i> | 1837-38 |
| <i>Nicholas Nickleby (NN)</i> | 1838-39 |
| <i>The Old Curiosity Shop (OCS)</i> | 1840 |
| <i>Barnaby Rudge (BR)</i> | 1841 |
| <i>Martin Chuzzlewit (MC)</i> | 1843-44 |
| <i>The Cricket on the Hearth (CH)</i> | 1846 |
| <i>Dombey and Son (DS)</i> | 1846-48 |
| <i>David Copperfield (DC)</i> | 1849-50 |
| <i>Bleak House (BH)</i> | 1852-53 |
| <i>Hard Times (HT)</i> | 1854 |
| <i>Little Dorrit (LD)</i> | 1855-57 |
| <i>A Tale of Two Cities (TTC)</i> | 1859 |
| <i>Great Expectations (GE)</i> | 1861 |
| <i>Our Mutual Friend (OMF)</i> | 1864-65 |
| <i>The Mystery of Edwin Drood (ED)</i> | 1870 |

The concordance enables us to search for a certain word or phrase in each of Dickens's works. The procedure of a search is as follows: first, the book is to be specified and then the word or phrase is input for a search. The click of the 'go!' button retrieves quotations containing the desired word or phrase. Another click brings forth the surrounding context in which a quotation is used. The next step is to exclude unnecessary or inappropriate quotations. From *Oliver Twist*, for instance, 16 occurrences of sentences containing *surprised* are retrieved. The exclusion of quotations with no preposition or quotations of inappropriate collocation yields two *surprised at* quotations.

III. The frequencies of occurrence of *at* and *by* and complement types

The search found 40 occurrences of *surprised at* and 39 occurrences of *surprised by* (see Appendix for all the examples). As mentioned already, there was more than a 20 percent occurrence rate of *surprised by* in late Modern English, while in PE the rate has gone up to approximately 50 percent. It follows that Dickens's rate of *at* and *by* is very similar to that of PE. As Harry Stone (1959) says, "It is only after reading Dickens's contemporaries that one is able to understand how fresh and impressive his experiments were" (quoted in Sørensen 1985: 12), Dickens has often been referred to as a writer who is ahead of his time and whose English reveals trends common in current English.⁷ The occurrence rate of *at* and *by* seems to confirm such characterization of Dickens's English, which captures the features of current English.

The classification of the quotations according to the type of prepositional complement yields the results shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Types of prepositional complement and frequencies of *at* and *by*

| | <i>at</i> | <i>by</i> |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| abstract noun | 14 | 28 |
| other noun | 0 | 1 |
| pronoun | 12 | 3 |
| (<i>you</i>) | (5) | (0) |
| (<i>other</i>) | (7) | (3) |
| gerund | 14 | 6 |
| <i>what</i> | 0 | 1 |
| total | 40 | 39 |

Abstract nouns had a tendency to occur with *by*, as in PE,⁸ and the occurrence rate was roughly twice that of *at*. Pronouns occurred with *at* much more than with *by*; especially for *you* as in the near idiomatic expression *I am surprised at you*.⁹ Gerunds, which have been decreasing in PE,¹⁰ were abundant in Dickens and more likely to occur with *at*, the rate being more than twice that of *by*. The following are a couple of examples of gerunds used by Dickens.

- (1) a. You are surprised at my wishing to postpone it. (*PP*, ch.21)
- b. I was not surprised by Caddy's being in low spirits when we went downstairs. (*BH*, ch.23)

In Dickens's English, however, there is no *how*-clause after prepositions as in (2),¹¹ which has shown a drastic increase in PE.¹²

- (2) He was surprised at how crowded the cathedral was. (BNC, C86 4047)¹³

Although the ratio of *at* and *by* is similar to that of current English, the types of prepositional complement are somewhat dissimilar to those of PE and seem to retain the characteristics of 19th-century English. It may be summarized that Dickens's use of the *(be) surprised at/by* constructions partly shows the characteristics of 19th-century English in terms of the types of prepositional complement and partly envisages the characteristics of Present-day English in terms of the ratio between *at* and *by*.

IV. The shift from *at* to *by*

1. Stylistic variation

The frequencies of occurrence of (*be*) *surprised at/by* accompanied by complements in individual works of Dickens are shown in Table 2. What is most striking is the gradual shift from *surprised at* to *surprised by*. The table exhibits that Dickens used *surprised at* fairly frequently in his earlier novels, but gradually forsook it in later works. The novelist, on the other hand, put *surprised by* into only scanty use in earlier works but gave preference to it over *surprised at* in his later novels. The occurrence rate between *at* and *by* is reversed in *David Copperfield* and *by* became the predominant preposition thereafter. In fact, Dickens never used *surprised at* after *Little Dorrit*, giving the impression that *surprised at* was replaced by *surprised by*.

Table 2 Frequencies of (*be*) *surprised at* and *by* in each work of Dickens

| | SB | PP | OT | NN | OCS | BR | MC | CH | DS | DC | BH | HT | LD | TTC | GE | OMF | ED |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|----|
| <i>at</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| abs. n | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| other | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| pro. | 1 | - | - | 5 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| gerund | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | 4 | - | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| <i>what</i> | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| total | 4 | 2 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <i>by</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| abs. n | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - |
| other n | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| pro. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| gerund | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | - |
| <i>what</i> | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| total | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 |

abs.: abstract n.: noun pro.: pronoun -: no occurrence

This contrast seems to be too striking to be accidental. As the choice of different preposition entails the use of different complements as already seen in the previous section, it will be necessary to look into possible stylistic differentiations on Dickens's part. My previous investigation into the Cobuild Corpus indicates that 'UK Spoken English' contains more *surprised at* constructions (24 examples) than *by* constructions (9 examples).¹⁴ This suggests that *surprised at* is likely to occur in spoken English. In the same vein, in Dickens's English more occurrences of *surprised at* (21 examples) are observed in dialogue than *surprised by* (5 examples). The pseudo-idiomatic expression *I am surprised at you* (5 examples) particularly contributes toward this tendency. Table 3 illustrates how Dickens seems to have made a distinction between *at* and *by*, depending on the style. *Surprised at* occur both in dialogue and in written prose almost in equal numbers, whereas the majority of *surprised by* occurrences tend to appear in written prose. It may be said that Dickens differentiated the uses of *surprised at* and *surprised by* to a certain degree according to whether they are used in dialogue or prose.

Table 3 Occurrence of *at* and *by* according to register

| | <i>at</i> | <i>by</i> |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| dialogue | 21 | 5 |
| prose | 19 | 34 |

Allowing for this stylistic variation, however, the reason for the shift of preposition from *at* to *by* remains a puzzle. Two occurrences of *surprised by*, which could have been *surprised at*, in dialogue in the

later novels (*BH* and *ED*) are an eloquent witness. Questions then arise. How can this gradual shift of prepositions be explained? Why does *surprised at* not occur in his later works? Is it sheer coincidence? Why was *at* not used even in written prose in the later works, as it had been in his earlier works? We will attempt to answer these questions in the next section.

2. Dickens's innovation

First, it may be that the (*be*) *surprised by* construction was gaining currency at the time when Dickens was writing. The first citation of it in the *OED* is a 1786 quotation (s.v. *stay* v.17). It is antedated, however, some 30 years by Dr. Johnson's use of the construction in *the Rambler* (1750-52).¹⁵ The construction was utilized by Jane Austen (1775-1817), a novelist a generation earlier than Dickens.¹⁶ One of Dickens's contemporaries, Anthony Trollope (1815-82), used it and Virginia Woolf (1882-1941), a novelist half a century later, seems to have favored it over *surprised at*.¹⁷ It may be assumed that the construction was taking root and was establishing itself during the early 19th century when Dickens was in the prime of his writing career, although there were many writers who still deemed it illegitimate.¹⁸

Secondly but more importantly, the shift of prepositions may have to do with Dickens's innovative spirit, which was likely to induce the novelist to use the unconventional construction. Dickens is said to have been an innovative and even revolutionary novelist in his day. He employed a variety of unconventional usages and constructions in his novels (e.g. Sørensen 1985: Ch.III). Dickens's use of unconventional language is seen, for example, in his use of non-standard language. Blake (1981: 157) refers to Dickens as a writer who "introduced many

varieties of non-standard language into his writings”, especially in the form of the Cockney dialect. This is probably due to the fact that Dickens had been a court reporter and shorthand writer¹⁹ and “the continual recording of actual speech made him sensitive to the different varieties of English in use” (Blake, *ibid*).

Nowhere is Dickens's patronage of unconventional language more evident than in his use of substandard grammar. Sørensen (1985: 63) says, “There is no doubt that in some respects he tends to go beyond the limits of normal grammar.” Crystal's (1995: 191) following statement may summarize Dickens's attitude toward traditional grammar: “Charles Dickens pulls no punches when he finds an opportunity to satirize the grammatical tradition which held such power in British schools during the early 19th century.” It is apparent that Dickens did not pay as much respect to traditional grammar as had been exhibited by conservative writers of his time or later. In fact, examples of unconventional syntax used by Dickens are abundant as Brook allocates as many as 25 pages in his book *The Language of Dickens* (1970) to enumerate Dickens's “substandard grammar” (223-248).

It has been shown that Dickens was such an innovative and ingenious novelist that he took advantage of non-standard and unconventional language.²⁰ The *(be) surprised by* construction is an example. It was not an old established construction but a newcomer, unlike the *(be) surprised at* construction, which appeared for the first time in the 16th century.²¹ Although it is assumed to have been in the process of establishing itself, the *(be) surprised by* construction may have been considered unestablished in Dickens's time. Dickens, because of his innovative mind and experimental spirit, may have begun to favor this newly-arrived but still unestablished construction, rather than conven-

tional *(be) surprised at* sentences in the midst of his writing career.

V. Summary

Dickens was a writer who put the *(be) surprised by* construction, an unconventional usage in the 19th century, into relatively frequent use. Dickens's use of *(be) surprised at/by* was examined with the help of the computer concordance of Dickens. There are 40 occurrences of *surprised at* and 39 occurrences of *surprised by* in his some twenty well-known and popular novels. Although Dickens retained the characteristics of 19th century English in terms of prepositional complement, the ratio of *at* and *by* is very similar to that of Present-day English. This confirms the commonly-accepted image of Dickens as a novelist who is said to have looked toward the 20th century.

What strikes us most is the gradual shift of his use from *surprised at* to *surprised by* with the passage of years. Dickens put *surprised at* sentences into frequent use in his earlier works but gradually forsook the construction. The novelist gradually began to favor the *(be) surprised by* construction in his writing career and it predominated over the old rival after *David Copperfield*. One possible reason for this shift is that Dickens made a distinction between *at* in dialogue and *by* in written prose, and dialogue containing *surprised at* does not occur in his later works. Another reason may be that the construction gained currency while Dickens was engaged in writing.

The third and most important reason is that the shift from *at* to *by* may be assumed to have to do with Dickens's innovative spirit in writing novels. As Dickens has been referred to as a linguistic innovator who took advantage of unconventional usages, he may have begun to

favor the (*be*) *surprised by* construction, which was yet to be established, in the middle of his writing career. The choice of this construction may have been due to his spirit of linguistic innovation.

Notes

- 1 See Taketazu (1999b).
- 2 The website is: <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/moden.browse.html>
- 3 The website is: <http://www.concordance.com/dickens.htm>.
- 4 As Biber et al. (1998: 22) say, "Unlike human readers, who are likely to miss certain occurrences of a word ...", humans can err.
- 5 *A Christmas Carol* and *Master Humphrey's Clock*, which are in the concordance but contain no examples of (*be*) *surprised at* or *by*, are not on this list. *A Child's History of England* is not on the list either since a retrieved sample is not considered to be psychological use (Joan told her father that she had one day been surprised by a great unearthly light, and had afterwards heard a solemn voice).
- 6 These include *Battle of Life*, *Contributions to: All the Year Round*, *Doctor Marigold*, *George Silverman's Explanation*, *Holiday Romance* and so forth.
- 7 Sørensen (1985: 12) says, "many—if not most—of the constructions, idioms, lexical items, and special uses of words that he introduced are current today."
- 8 See Taketazu (1999a: 7-8)
- 9 See Taketazu (1999a: 8-9)
- 10 See Taketazu (2001: 77-79).
- 11 There is one example, however, in which *how* occurs immediately after *surprised* as in the following: You'll be surprised how those girls are stowed away. (*DC*, ch.59)
- 12 See Taketazu (1999a: 7-8)
- 13 The website is: <http://info.ox.ac.uk/bnc>
- 14 See Taketazu (1999a: 13).
- 15 See Taketazu (1999c: 10-13).
- 16 The search into The Modern English Collection (2002) shows that *surprised at* occurs 26 times and *surprised by* 16 times in Jane Austen's works. Considering the occurrence ratio of *at* and *by* (approximately 3 to 1) in Late Modern English, Austen was an unusual case for her period in utilizing *surprised by*, even if not to the extent that Dickens did. It must be noted, however, that

- some of the examples, especially those in her letters to her sisters, are interesting in showing a rudimentary stage of the construction being used in a psychological sense. For the development of psychological use, see Taketazu (1999c: 19).
- 17 In Woolf's *Night and Day*, 2 occurrences of *surprised at* and 6 occurrences of *surprised by* are found by a search into the Modern English Collection (2002). (Other works of Woolf in the corpus are, to our regret, restricted from non-University of Virginia users.) We can't draw a hasty conclusion, but it may reflect her rate of *at* and *by* to a certain degree.
 - 18 The following list includes writers who did not use the *(be) surprised by* construction at all: Lewis Carroll, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Henry James, Charles Darwin, Andrew Lang, Edgar Allan Poe, Mark Twain and so forth (Taketazu 1999b: 201).
 - 19 See also Bailey (1996: 68).
 - 20 Sørensen (1985: 63), however, states that "[Dickens] is not a syntactic innovator in the sense that he introduces a lot of new constructions. What he does in a number of cases is to exploit—and occasionally to over-exploit—the syntactic potential of English."
 - 21 See Taketazu (1999b: 207)

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Appendix Sentences containing (*be*) *surprised at* and *by* in Dickens's works in chronological order

at

- 1 "Naughty boy!" said his mamma, who appeared more surprised at his taking the liberty of falling down, than at anything else; (*SB*, Part IV, ch.3)
- 2 "for I have known you, long enough, not to be surprised at anything you do, and you might extend equal courtesy to me." (*SB*, Part IV, ch.8)
- 3 We were not much surprised at the discovery that it was our friend, (*SB*, Part IV, ch.12)
- 4 ... and that they were surprised at Mrs. Brown's allowing it, (*SB*, Part IV, ch. 12)
- 5 "Stay! No! The next day. You are surprised at my wishing to postpone it," (*PP*, ch.21)
- 6 "What business?" inquired Mr. Pickwick, surprised at Sam's confused manner. (*PP*, ch.43)
- 7 ... and a few made head upon her, and looked back, surprised at her undiminished speed, but they fell off one by one; (*OT*, ch.34)
- 8 Oliver walked into the window-recess to which Mr. Maylie beckoned him; much surprised at the mixture of sadness and boisterous spirits, which his whole behaviour displayed. (*OT*, ch.36)
- 9 Some considerable experience prevented the girl from being at all surprised at any outbreak of ill-temper on the part of Miss Squeers. (*NN*, ch.12)
- 10 "Kenwigs, my dear," returned his wife, "I am surprised at you. Would you

- begin without my uncle?" (*NN*, ch.14)
- 11 "Kenwigs!" said Mr Lillyvick, in a loud voice, "I'm surprised at you." (*NN*, ch.15)
- 12 If she had been surprised at the apparition of the footman, she was perfectly absorbed in amazement at the richness and splendour of the furniture. (*NN*, ch. 19)
- 13 "I am not surprised at that," said Nicholas; "she must be quite a natural genius." (*NN*, ch.23)
- 14 "Ah!" said Nicholas, a little surprised at these symptoms of ecstatic approbation. (*NN*, ch.25)
- 15 "Kate," interposed Mrs Nickleby with severe diginity, "I am surprised at you." (*NN*, ch.49)
- 16 "I am surprised at you," repeated Mrs Nickleby; (*NN*, ch.49)
- 17 "... and upon my word I am quite surprised at your being so very thoughtless" (*NN*, ch.55)
- 18 This made him ... feel a little surprised at having a companion in the room. (*OCS*, ch.64)
- 19 John was not at all surprised at this, either. (*BR*, ch.55)
- 20 "you'd be surprised at the total—quite amazed, you would ..." (*BR*, ch.59)
- 21 "I am not surprised, sir, at anything you have told me tonight ..." (*MC*, ch.3)
- 22 "You're not surprised at my having two names, I suppose?" (*MC*, ch.5)
- 23 Is any one surprised at Mr. Jonas making such a preference to such a book for such a purpose? (*MC*, ch.11)
- 24 Mr.Tapley was very much surprised at this admission, but protested, with great vehemence, (*MC*, ch.33)
- 25 He was not so much surprised at the man's being there, as at his having got close to him so quietly and swiftly; (*MC*, ch.40)
- 26 "... that I am not surprised at your being attached to the place; ..." (*MC*, ch. 51)
- 27 "... we can't do better than prepare ourselves to be surprised at hardly anything." (*CH*, ch.3)
- 28 "Really I'm surprised at them." (*DS*, ch.1)
- 29 The young woman seemed surprised at his appearance, and asked him where his mother was. (*DS*, ch.12)
- 30 I believe nobody will be surprised, either at its being required from you, or at your making it. (*DS*, ch.40)
- 31 "I'm surprised at you! Where's your feminine tenderness?" (*DS*, ch.52)

- 32 "You will not be surprised at my coming alone, or at John's not having told
you I was coming," said Harriet; (*DS*, ch.58)
- 33 He appeared surprised at this. (*DC*, ch.5)
- 34 ... but he seemed surprised at my not knowing that it was holiday-time. (*DC*,
ch.5)
- 35 I am not surprised ... at this peculiarity striking me as his chief one. (*DC*, 6)
- 36 "You'd be surprised at the number of people that looks in of a day to have
a chat ..." (*DC*, ch.51)
- 37 "I'm sure I'm surprised at that. I wonder you don't starve in your own way
also ..." (*BH*, ch.52)
- 38 "I'm surprised at the indiscreetness you commit ..." (*BH*, 54)
- 39 "I should be surprised at Tom Gradgrind's addressing such a remark to Josiah
Bounderby of Coketown ..." (*HT*, ch.3)
- 40 Both gentlemen glanced at him, and seemed surprised at his assurance. (*LD*,
Bk I, ch.10)

by

- 1 "... we were rather surprised by the sudden appearance of thirty-four of his
Kit-ma-gars ..." (*SB*, Part IV, ch.7)
- 2 "... when he was very much surprised by observing a most brilliant light glide
through the air ... and almost instantaneously vanish. (*PP*, ch.39)
- 3 In his secret heart, Daniel Quilp was both surprised and troubled by the flight
which had been made. (*OCS*, ch.13)
- 4 Scarcely less moved and surprised by the sight of the child than she had been
on recognizing him, (*OCS*, ch.46)
- 5 Mr. Haredale paused for a moment, and looked at her as if surprised by the
energy of her manner. (*BR*, ch.25)
- 6 "Oh, you're here, are you, sir?" said John, rather surprised by the quickness
with which he appeared. (*BR*, ch.29)
- 7 Indeed, I have, now and again, been more surprised by printed news that I
have read of myself ... (*MC*)
- 8 "Most strangers—and partick'larly Britishers—are much surprised by what
they see in the U-nited States," remarked Mrs Hominy. (*MC*, ch.22)
- 9 The man appeared surprised by his unexpected irritability, (*MC*, ch.47)
- 10 ... everybody present was so much surprised and embarrassed by the sight of
everybody else, that nobody ventured to speak. (*MC*, ch.52)
- 11 "Oh!" said the Carrier, surprised by the rapidity of this consent. (*CH*, ch.1)

- 12 The man who had been strolling carelessly towards her, seemed surprised by this reply, and looking attentively in her face, rejoined. (*DS*, ch.6)
- 13 ... she turned her head, and was surprised by the reflection of her thoughtful image in the chimney-glass. (*DS*, ch.29)
- 14 Miss Tox ... was so surprised by the amount of expression Mrs. Chick had conveyed into her face, (*DS*, ch.29)
- 15 I recollect being very much surprised by the feint everybody made, (*DC*, ch. 5)
- 16 I might have been surprised by the feeling tone in which he spoke, if I had given it a thought; (*DC*, ch.9)
- 17 I know enough of the world now, to have almost lost the capacity of being much surprised by anything; (*DC*, ch.11)
- 18 I was very much surprised by the inquiry; but could give no information on this point. (*DS*, ch.14)
- 19 I was not surprised by the suddenness of the proposal, and said: "Yes" (*DC*, ch.15)
- 20 "... I should be an affected woman if I made any pretence of being surprised by my son's inspiring such emotions ..." (*DC*, ch.20)
- 21 Mr. Tulkinghorn stops short, surprised by my Lady's animation and her unusual tone. (*BH*, ch.2)
- 22 I was not surprised by Caddy's being in low spirits when we went downstairs... (*BH*, ch.23)
- 23 "I am rather surprised by the course you have taken." (*BH*, ch.48)
- 24 She was not surprised by the result ... and her face beamed brightly. (*HT*, ch. 2)
- 25 "You have missed my letter!" exclaimed Mr. Gradgrind, surprised by the apparition. (*HT*, ch.3)
- 26 "... if I could be surprised by anything Tom Gradgrind did ..." (*HT*, ch.3)
- 27 ... nor was he at all surprised by the presence of two nieces instead of one, (*LD*, Bk. I, ch.20)
- 28 He was not surprised by the attentions he received from Mr. Chivery ... (*LD*, Bk. I, ch.22)
- 29 ...; surprised at first, no doubt, by her step upon the stairs, (*LD*, Bk. I, ch.35)
- 30 ...; surprised again, by seeing Arthur Clennam in her company. (*LD*, Bk. I, ch. 35)
- 31 Little Dorrit was rather surprised by Fanny's being at home at that hour, (*LD*, Bk. II, ch.14)

- 32 ... it never occurred to him to be surprised by their appearance until a long time afterwards, (*TTC*, Part III, ch.2)
- 33 "The usual noises," Mr. Cruncher replied; and looked surprised by the question and by her aspect. (*TTC*, Part III, ch.14)
- 34 I then rejoined Mr.Wemmick, and affecting to consult my watch and to be surprised by the information I had received, accepted his offer. (*GE*)
- 35 Much surprised by the request, I took the note. (*GE*)
- 36 His pupil was a little surprised by this striking in with so sudden and decided and emotional an objection, (*OMF*, Bk. II, ch.1)
- 37 Lady Tippins is so surprised by seeing her dear Mrs. Veneering so early... (*OMF*, Bk.II. ch.3)
- 38 This repudiation was not only an act of deliberate policy on Fledgeby's part, in case of his being surprised by any other caller, (*OMF*, Bk. III, ch.13)
- 39 "You would not be surprised by this, Mr. Dean, if you had seen Mr. Sapsea deal with him in his parlour, as I did." (*ED*, ch.12)