



JOURNAL OF NARRATIVE AND STUDIES | ISSN: 2148-

Journal of Narrative and Language Studies – June 2018,

Railways, Ghosts and Charles Dickens' "The

Seda Coşar Çelik *

*Assist. Prof. Dr., Department of English Language Teaching, Abant İzzet
sedacosar@gmail.com*

APA Citation:

Coşar Çelik, Ş. (2018). Railways, Ghosts and Charles Dickens' "The Signalman". *Journal of Narrative and Language Studies*, 6(10), 124-132.

Abstract

As perhaps the leading symbol of industrialization, railway constructions changed different ways. Railways not only transformed British landscape geographically, but that of the Victorians towards developing transportation technologies. While the Victorian railway transformation, they were also traumatized because of tragic railway disasters. Issues of railway safety, including not only the safe travel of passengers but also safe working conditions for employees, were hot topics of discussion throughout the railway age. Being a railway enthusiast, Charles Dickens was well aware of the weight of the issue. In the form of a Christmas story, "The Signalman" (1866) directs attention to railway environments, working conditions, and their influence on the occurrence of railway accidents. This article thus intends to establish a relation to such discussions regarding the railway phenomenon in Victorian Britain. All of these elements, why the story combines rational and supernatural narratives through the voices of the signalman character and the narrator.

Key Words: The Railway Age, Industrialization, Charles Dickens, Staplehurst Rail C

1. Introduction

In early 1820s, the railways started to transform Britain geographi