

Diachronic variation in Balzac as a linguistic manifestation of History in literature

Mohamed BOURASSE

Abstract. This study is part of a larger project that examines the tripartite relationship between Language, Literature, and History. Through a contemporary perspective, it aims to be a sociolinguistic reflection on Balzac's literary language, exploring diachronic variation as a linguistic manifestation of History. Thus, upon reading his work *Illusions perdues*, the first observation that strikes the reader is the massive presence of diachronic variation. This variation occurs through recourse to diachronisms or archaisms. The aim of this article is to study this type of variation in Balzac's work as well as the linguistic aspects affected by this phenomenon. We will also examine its functions and its linguistic and literary implications in *Illusions perdues*.

Keywords: Linguistic desuetude, Balzac, *Illusions perdues*, Diachronic variation, Archaisms, diachronism, chronolect.