

Words and phrases that are to do with sex in literary and spoken English - Responses to offending language from the eighteenth and nineteenth century



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WORDS AND PHRASES THAT ARE TO DO WITH SEX IN LITERARY AND SPOKEN ENGLISH - RESPONSES TO OFFENDING LANGUAGE FROM THE EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURY



GRIN Verlag Nov 2013, 2013. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x2 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2001 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Linguistics, grade: 1,0, Bielefeld University, 12 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: In his book 'Dr. Bowdler's Legacy' Noel Perrin tells us in the first chapter that a big change of morality took place with the turn of the nineteenth century in England. He puts it as follows: 'the first new generation of the nineteenth century (grew) up more strait-laced, inhibited, and conventional than its parents, so that sons discussed their fathers' wild oaths, and daughters worried about their mothers' loose sexual behaviour.' According to Perrin one of the cornerstones of this new way of thinking was that the people began to acquire a more reserved attitude towards sexuality. The chief cause of this tendency was what can be called the rise of the idea of delicacy, or 'the new prudery'. From the middle of the eighteenth century onwards, delicacy came to be regarded as a special and precious characteristic - especially among women. Basically, it means that people felt offended as soon as they were confronted with sexuality in whatever form. Blushing and fainting were outward indicators of this new propriety. Another consequence was that people began to keep away from anything that might be a burden on their conscience. An important result of this trend was the emergence of the idea of expurgation in literature. That is people simply started to remove 'words or scenes that were considered likely to offend or shock'. The pioneering work in this field was Dr. Bowdler's 'Family Shakespeare', which was published in 1807. Dr. Bowdler's aim was - according to the fashion...



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