





her from immediate or direct intimacy" (Miller 10). These speakers, not always Dickinson herself, acted as proxies, speaking of how he/she felt confused and his/her "... Mind was going numb -" (Dickinson 8).

Ultimately, this serves to translate Dickinson's ideas in her poems to a more universal scale.

Dickinson's unconventional punctuation testifies to another aspect of Modernism. The first editions of her poetry, published posthumously, had the original punctuation stringently edited out (Denman 23). But in doing so, editors lost a vital component of Dickinson's poetry; she used punctuation to "disrupt conventional grammatical patterns and create new relationships between words... to create musical and rhythmical effects; and to affirm the silent and the nonverbal" (Denman 24). For example, "Kept beating - beating - till I thought / my mind was going numb" (Dickinson 7-8), emphasizes the word 'beating' and its onomatopoeia-like effect. Since then, efforts have been taken to correct these missteps, and her works now appear with the original manuscript punctuation. Most significantly, Dickinson preferred the dash as her "primary form of punctuation" (Crumbley, 9); by disjoining the lines and the speaker, the self develops, "[emerging] rather than language... normal oppositions between self and other, inner and outer... are impossible to maintain" (Crumbley, 10). She used the dash so prolifically, in "I felt a Funeral, in my Brain", it appears 12 times throughout the 20 lines, and at the final line, ending with "And Finished knowing - then -" (Dickinson 4).

Posthumous publication affected Dickinson's word choice to an equal, or even greater, extent than her punctuation. Endeavoring for economy of words, "there

significance of the alternative words, 'plunge' versus 'crash', lies in their meaning; both have a metaphorical meaning of death, whereas the former means a fall or dive, as well as a difficulty, while the latter means a shock or upheaval (Hallen). This stems from Dickinson "spend the day in the water" (1844 editg m

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