ABSTRACT: This paper tackles the syntactic, semantic and discursive characterization of English Left Dislocation in Late Modern English. To this end, the empirical research is based on a corpus of British literary texts from the eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries, which includes the work of thirty major authors from each century, with samples from over sixty literary productions totalling over one million words.

Once the definition of LD as a syntax-discourse interface structure is made explicit, the analysis concentrates on proposing specific discourse functions for LD. The article proposes eight different discourse functions for English LD, supported with respective examples. In this research, the reader will find, introduction, fore fronting, acknowledge, attributive, contrastive, narrowing, summarizing, and correction LDs. These functions grow out of variables such as dislocate referentiality (especially), internal semantics of the LD construction or the interactional context (turn-taking or speaker stance). Last, the relationship between LD’s topicality scope and the discourse functions proposed adds up to the discussion.