

Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress.

pages 122-124

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***'Three incisors protruded from blackened
inflamed gums like flakes of prehistoric
basalt'***

The use of the word 'prehistoric' give us an imagery of old, decayed and dirty teeth. Also, the use of the word 'basalt', which is chunks of black rocks, give us an image of his teeth being disgusting and unclean. 'Inflamed' give us the impression of painful and untreated teeth.

'The perambulations of this slimy tongue were interrupted by a thick steel sewing machine needle...'

The use of the word 'perambulation' suggests that his tongue moves in an almost human disgusting way.

"The Headman's teeth resembled a jagged mountain range."

Dai Sijie compared the headman's teeth to a mountain range giving the reader an image that his teeth are dirty and stained implying the headman is unhygienic.

"The troublesome tooth was all the way at the back of his jaw..."

The use of personification, "troublesome tooth" implies that his tooth is annoying.

"Try again", the headman said resolutely'

This phrase tells us a lot about the headman's personality. The use of the word 'resolutely' tells us that the headman is really determined to do something and motivated to do difficult things no matter how painful or dangerous they are.