

Contemporary Literature

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Good afternoon. So, we were talking about Tom Stoppard and his play *Dogs Hamlet*, *Cahoots*, *Macbeth*. Now, some of the salient features of these plays, one is of course, the obvious drawing on the intertextual reference to Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*. And we have also seen how Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead, that too is a spin on Shakespeare's *Hamlet* again. So, why does Stoppard keep going back to Shakespeare, that is the question. Now, why does he do that? To use the play within play structure and if you remember we were talking about the meta theater aspect of drama at one point.

So, play within play structure is Stoppard likes to play with that particular device. So, when he uses a well known dramatist like Shakespeare and his works, so it gives him plenty of freedom to use that particular structure. And then of course, another reason is that Shakespeare, what is he most famous for? One is the (Insert the) universality of his themes and then his language and playwrights like Tom Stoppard, they want to highlight the unstable nature of language. Therefore, who better than Shakespeare to play around with because as we have seen that most of the absurdist, they look at language something which can be played around with and also they try to devalue the language because which is such an integral part of the theater of the absurd as we had seen recently.

Dogs Hamlet, what is it about? So, we were talking the other day about Wittgenstein and his philosophical investigations where he talks about the unstable nature of language and how what if a particular word means something to a one particular community, it can mean something else to another set of people and that is the theme of *Dogs Hamlet*. So, we will begin from page 147 and the very first sentence, the introductory line in italics translation from dog language, do you get that into English is given in a square brackets where this seems necessary. Now, what is dogs language? Is there any language as dogs language? No, but people like Stoppard, they like to highlight the devaluation of language and therefore, this entire play. So, the comedy or the tragedy or the breakdown of communication between people, it arises from devaluation of language. Now, look at the very first direction empty stage, baker is a character brick and brick here means here, look at the meanings given in the square brackets.

So, brick here, a football is thrown from off stage left to off stage right, baker receiving ball, cube, cube is another word for thanks not just another word, but the only word for thanks in dogs language. Abel off stage throws satchel to stage left, Abel enters, he is a school boy wearing griffle, lanol shorts, blazers, school cap etcetera and carrying a satchel. He drops satchel center stage and collects the other which he places with his own, Abel exits stage right and he returns with microphone and his tense which he places down stage. The microphone has a switch, Abel into the microphone, breakfast, breakfast, sun, dog, trock, testing, testing, 1, 2, 3. So, how easily we understand something like 1, 2, 3, testing, testing is a very ordinary act of testing a mic, but breakfast, breakfast, breakfast, sun, dog, trock, some words do make sense right, breakfast.

We know what is breakfast, but to them breakfast is something else, what does it mean, testing, testing. So, look at the way Stoppard devalues the language, it is something it the same word which is acceptable, breakfast is an extremely acceptable word, but it may mean entire an entire different thing to one group of people. And it may not make any sense to another, so what is breakfast, breakfast, testing, testing. He realizes the microphone is dead, he tries the switch a couple of times and then speaks again into the microphone, sun, dog, trock, pan, slack, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. So, this is dogs numerals, sun, dog, trock, etcetera, etcetera, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

The microphone is still dead, Abel calls to someone off stage haddock priest the mic is dead. Now, priest we understand, but in dogs language priest means dead, the mic is dead, pause. Baker enters from the same direction, he is also a school boy similarly dressed, a haddock priest haddock priest, Baker goes to the microphone drops a satchel, center on his way, sun, rock, the mic is dead, Baker swears bicycles. Now, bicycles is a curse word here, it is like saying dam and it means something very ordinary, something very you know something very routine stuff for people like us, but they understand, but also notice the way this kind of language is understood for a particular set of people, both Abel and Baker are able to communicate using this entirely different set of language. Now, what does it tell about language, what does it say about language? Language is arbitrary, so completely arbitrary character of language, so language is what we make of it.

So, an entirely and a completely harmless word like bicycles can be used as a curse word in some other community, because they choose to use it that way. And what has Shakespeare got to do with it then, why dogs hamlet that is interesting. Now, slab means shouting off stage in distinctly slab, sun, dock, trock, slack fan, the mic is live Abel shouting to Baker with a thumbs up sign, slab is behind Abel. Charlie another school boy

enters backwards hopping about the visible half of a ball throwing game, Charlie is wearing a dress, but school boy shorts shoes and socks and no wig, brick brick here here, a ball is thrown to him from the wings, Abel dispossesses Charlie of the ball, cue thanks brick here, Charlie tries to get the ball, but Abel would not let him have it, square it means bastard, now square for us is something else, but to them is something else all together. Abel throws the ball to the unseen person in the wings not where Baker is, Daisy square mean bastard, afternoons gets stuffed.

what do they mean, what do these words mean to these people, vanilla square rotten bastard giving a v sign to Charlie afternoon. So, afternoon is gets stuffed, Abel hopping about calls for the ball from the wings, brick here, the ball is thrown to Abel over Charlie's head dog, the headmaster is mortar board and gown, in mortar board and gown enters from the opposite wing and as the ball is thrown to Abel, dog dispossesses Abel. So, we meet dog for the first time and who is dog, the headmaster. So, all these boys Charlie and Baker and Abel, they are school boys, dog happens to be the headmaster of the school. Cube, thank you, baa, loud, dog gives Abel a clip over the year and starts to march of carrying the ball, respectfully to dog, cretinus get.

Now, what is cretin and cretinus, mentally retarded stupid guy, but here cretinus is something very respectable word, very respectable word. So, the boy calls after his headmaster cretinus, that means, thank you, what time is it sir, what time is it sir, get is another word for is a word for sir turning around, cretinus pig faced get, have you got the time, please sir. Look at, so respectful, cretinus pig faced get and completely acceptable in their society, dog takes a watch out of his waistcoat pocket and examines it, trock poxie half past three, cube get, thank you sir. Upside, article almost a lemmington spa, have you seen the lorry from lemmington spa, may be lemmington spa is a company or a place and have you seen the lorry. Article get lorry sir, lemmington spa get, lemmington spa so upside, have you seen it, knit get, no sir, knit get, no sir, useless, useless is good day.

And then you see when somebody who speaks English the way we speak and then what happens when such a person comes into contact with these people who speak the dog language. Charlie, useless get, good day sir, dog exits with the ball, baker enters, he looks at his wrist watch, trock poxie half past three. There are now three satchels on the ground center stage, baker goes to one and extracts a packet of sandwiches, Abel and Charlie do the same, the three boys settle down and start to examine the sandwiches. Abel looking in his sandwiches, pelican crash, so this is the variety, cream cheese to baker, even ran, what have you got, looking at his in his sandwich, hollyhocks ham, even ran, what have you got, mouse hole, so mouse hole is egg, I got egg, undertake sun, pelican crash, frankly sun, mouse hole, chop you one cream cheese for one egg, slab. So,

a very routine, very ordinary activity taking place in a very ordinary school among very ordinary school boys, but it is the language that sets them apart.

Undertake sun, hollyhocks, frankly sun, pelican crash, hollyhocks, knit, square, afternoons, you know what is square, you know what is afternoons. Baker fans himself with his cap and makes a comment about the heat, afternoons puke, cycle wrecks, hardly butter fag ants, comment about heat, fag ants likely butter consequential, very true, very true means need salt. Now, very true is another an extremely ordinary kind of exchange between a, you know for us, but very true means need salt for them, very true. Charlie takes a salt cellar out of his satchel, Charlie passes Abel the salt, cube thank you, he sprinkles salt on his sandwich and then offers salt to baker, very true, cube thank you, baker uses the salt and puts it down next to him, Charlie puts his hand out towards baker. Brick here, baker passes Charlie, his salt cellar, they eat the sandwiches.

The explanation for the next passage of dialogue is that Abel and baker who are due shortly to participate in a school play performed in its original language English start rehearsing some of their lines. So, now, now that explains the inclusion of hamlet in the title, they are going to, this is a school, they are going to perform a play which in its original language that is English. So, may be you know English used to be the language of some barbarian and they are going to play you know thus play in its original language that is English. So, they are rehearsing now, now suddenly you will find these people talking in ordinary normal English, why are they doing it, they are rehearsing hamlet. Now, however the uniqueness of this particular section is that they are absolutely detached from this language, Shakespeare is supposedly one of the best users of the English language, and these people remain unmoved.

They are supposed to perform a play in some extinct language English and they go about it in extremely mechanical way. So, now, look at the way, who is there? Nay, answer me, long live the king, get thee to bed, for this relief much thanks. What, has this thing appeared again tonight? Peace, break thee off, look where it comes again, looks it is not like the king, they are not acting these lines at all, merely uttering them tonelessly. Now, what does it tell you, this is not the way Shakespeare should be done, they are absolutely listless, toneless and they are not acting at all, because they are not interested in this language which is extremely bizarre and weird for them. But what lines are these, hamlet and the you know the exposition part, where the guards in the in the castle, they sight hamlets father's ghost.

So, they are talking about it, by having a charge these peak, seer pointing stage left, it is there pointing stage right, the arms crossing awkwardly, it is gone, but look the russet mantle is gone wrong, clad walks Abel and Baker do not always structure that sentences

correctly, bicycles, Baker produces from his pocket his script, he looks through it and finds where he has gone wrong. The morn, the morn in russet mantle clad, walks over the dew of you of yon high eastern hill. Let us impart, what we have seen tonight into indicating hamlet is just above waist height with his hand, young hamlet slam block next knit, Charlie for no reason is singing to the tune of my way, you know the song my way. Now, he is singing the song my way, he does not know all the words in the third line, Baker joins in on the fourth line in the close harmony and this is my way, who is the singer, Frank Sinatra's my way and this is these are the lines according to these you know speakers of dog language. Engage, congratulate, moreover you can just imagine the tune state, abysmal fair ground, bigot, perambulate, this aerodrome, chocolate, eclair found, morine again, diddum, diddada, ultimately cry the eggs, dinosaurs rely, indoors if satisfied eggs.

Now, every word individually has a meaning, but together it is senseless for us, but for them it is, for them it means something, it means that this they are singing, they actually believe they are singing Frank Sinatra's my way and this is their way. Abel blows a raspberry by way of judgment as the song dies away, a lorry is heard arriving, the three boys get up and put away their sandwich papers etcetera and look expectantly in the direction of the lorry, the lorry comes. Baker goes forward looking out into the wings and starts directing the lorry, which is apparently backing towards him with expressive gestures, cauliflower cauliflower hardly onyx hardly, left left right right hand down, tissue tissue slab straight straight, so they are giving direction in their language. The lorry driver easy, his name is easy is heard slamming the cap door and he enters, he is dressed in a white boiler suit and cloth cap and he is carrying a rolled up red carpet and a box of small flags on sticks, he puts them down. Buxton's blocks and that, Buxton's deliveries of Lamington spa, I got a load of blocks and that I will need a bit of a hand.

Now, he is speaking in English the way it is normally understood and easy happens to be the only person around who speaks English or this particular language. The boys look at him blankly, baffled, now what happens when a person who speaks a language like this comes into contact with a dog speaker. I will need a bit of a hand being as I am on my own, seeing as my mate got struck down in a thunderstorm on the A412 near Rick Mansworth, a bizarre accident, a bolt from the blue zigzag right on the on to the perforated snout of his Mickey mouse gas mask. He was delivering five of them at the bacteriological research children's party entering into the spirit of it when jam, it was an electrifying moment left his nose looking more like a Donald Duck and his ears like they popped out of a toaster, he sounded like a cuckoo clock striking 12. Easy relates story with considerable gusto, but to his disappointment it falls flat being of course, not understood.

Right you are then lads, where do you want them? Another long pause, Baker takes a step towards easy, please with himself for having a good idea. Baker by heaven I charge these speak. Now, what is this? This is a line from Hamlet and Baker and other school kids they have been memorizing line from Hamlet and easy's language is something you know totally unfamiliar to them and they think that you know perhaps he is he is also reciting lines from some Shakespearean play. So, by having I charge these speak, who are you then? William Shakespeare, encouragingly he says. Crittin is he? Crittin as we understand Crittin, is he a mentally retarded guy? Baker looking at his wrist watch, trock taxi, you see for Crittin, Crittin for dog, what time is it? So, it is 3.

Where is the governor? Governor in cockney language, the head of the you know these affairs, dog enters briskly, useless afternoon, useless get afternoon serve. Afternoon is square, now this means in dog gets stuffed you bastard, dog grabs easy by the lapels in a threatening manner, how dare you insult me in front of my students that too. Marzipan clock, watch it, dog produces a piece of paper which is a plan of the construction which is to be made on the stage. So, see they are going to stage a performance of Hamlet and therefore, easy has been called, he is a lorry driver and he has brought some bricks and some construction material along and he supposed to construct a stage for this play. So, now this is quite a large piece of paper and the steps involved which are to be built are discernible on it.

Dog examines the paper briefly and then starts positioning the boys. Abel slap get, yes pontoon crumble slap get, Abel goes out towards the lorry, baker brick here, he positions baker next to the wing near the lorry, slap get, cube thank you, charlie slap get brick, he positions charlie in line with baker and the lorry, easy stands next charlie in the place where the steps are to be built. To baker and charlie plank ready, plank get ready sir, plank plank get, dog gives the piece of paper to easy who studies it verily, easy puts the paper in his pocket. Plank to easy surprise and relief a plank is thrown to baker who catches it, passes it to charlie, who passes it to easy, who places it on the stage, dog smiles, looks encouragingly at easy, easy uncertainly cause. Plank to his surprise and relief a second plank is thrown in and pass to him in the same way he places it, plank a third plank is thrown and positioned as before, dog leaves satisfied.

Easy is going to build a platform using planks, slabs, blocks and cubes so that the platform is stepped with the steps up stage confidently. Plank a block is thrown instead of a plank, when it reaches easy he passes it back to charlie, who passes it back to baker, who turns and places it on the floor up stage. While baker is up stage, easy has repeated his call, plank a second block is thrown straight into charlie's arms. Charlie passes it to easy, who passes it back to charlie, who takes it up stage to join the first block on the floor, easy shouts plank. A plank is thrown straight to him and he places it gratefully on

the floor next to the other three, easy takes another look at the plans and replaces them into his pocket, he shouts slab.

Baker and charlie have resumed their positions, a slab is thrown in, caught by baker, pass to charlie, pass to easy and who places it on top of the planks, easy shouts slab. A second slab is thrown in and pass to easy, who places it, a third slab likewise reaches easy, he shouts slab. What do you think is happening here? Now, look at the first, what you know when Stoppard introduces the play in introduction page 141, plank ready, slab ok, block next, cube thank you. So, whenever easy means ready, a plank is thrown at him, in spite of not having a common language, there is still able to function. So, what is what is Stoppard's question now? Why do we need language? In the beginning of this class, we were talking about the devaluation of language.

So, why do we stress so much or why do we emphasize so much on language, when just a few words would do and it is not exactly necessary to have the same language, when communication is anyway possible. So, it is not necessary to have and when in plays like the down waiter, we have seen that when the two characters speak the same language, there is a communication break down between them nevertheless. Then, what is so important about language? That is the question. So, it is not the, it is an absurdist play of course, it is saying a lot of thing, but the basic question that that rises here, that is important here is that what is language and what is the importance of language in our society, when without having a common language to we can communicate perfectly. Abel enters smiling, slap, knit, knit, git, slap.

Abel leaves and a moment later another block comes flying across to easy who catches it, throws it furiously at baker and Charlie and catch it, who catch it and puts it down. Easy walks off into the wings. From this satchel, Charlie produces a small transistor radio which he turns on. He is lucky enough to catch his favorite song half way through the first verse which we have already heard that is my way.

Charlie sings easy useless. Now, easy is quite frustrated with these people and useless. Abel politely off stage useless git. What is useless? Afternoon, almost like good afternoon. So, good afternoon sir, there is the sound of a slap and a sharp cry from Abel.

Easy reenters carrying a slap. Dog now reenters with a tray of button holes. He puts this down and picks up the box of flags calling off stage Abel, slap, git, brick. Abel enters holding his ear and glancing aggrievedly at easy. Dog starts handing out the flags starting with Abel who on receiving his flag goes back off stage. Dog hands flags to baker, Charlie and some of the audience counting the flags as he gives them out sun, dog, frog, slack, pan, sock, slide, bright, none, what, duns.

These are you know 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and this practice of handing flags to audience as well. This is all very brush in. We have seen this happening even in six degrees of separation where you have the actors, you know where we have one you know an extra carrying a dog painting and that Victorian ink, silver ink well and all that. So, it is quite you know breaking the fourth wall. So, while the actors are getting the flags, the audience are also getting.

Easy what? Dog takes this as a correction, duns, what, duns, what? Dog irritably does a recount 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and finds that he was right sun, dog, frog, slack, pan, etcetera, what, duns. So, it must be 10. Dog then turns his attention to the button holes, easy expects to be given one to easy in it. He gives a button hole to Charlie, cube get that is thanks sir block. Next, Baker comes forward and receives his button hole, cube get block Abel.

Abel comes on and receives his button hole. Abel is holding his ear in an agreed manner looking at easy. Cube get Abel retires back to the lorry. Dog looks expectantly at easy. Slap, block, slap, block, block, slap. He obviously, expects easy to carry on with the work.

Easy reexamines the plan, replaces it in his pocket and nervously calls out to Abel. Block, to his surprise and relief, a block is thrown in. By this time, Charlie who has guiltily turned off the radio as soon as dog entered has gone back to his receiving position as has Baker. The block is sent, is passed down the line to easy who places it on top of the slabs.

He calls out block. So, block is next for you know block for easy is block. For these people, it is next and surprisingly he gets a block and therefore, the work is resumed. Charlie, cretin is he? Cretin is he? Trock, taxi, marmalade.

Marmalade denotes pleasure and approval. Great off, get. This is followed by another cry of pain from Abel. Charlie has turned his radio on again. The radio emits the familiar pips of the time signal.

Baker checks his watch. Check mumble hardly out. Here are the football results. Charlie takes a pool coupon out of his satchel and starts checking it off. The rhythm of the language coming out of the radio is the familiar one. Appropriate to home wins, away wins and draws.

The following is a translation of the numbers. Nil, quiet, one sun, two dark, three trock,

four slag, five pen. In addition, clock and fog lamp correspond to city and united. Thus, the result had a clock, quiet, had a fog lamp, trock would be delivered with the inflections appropriate to say Manchester City, nil. Manchester united three and away win. The radio starts by saying oblong sun with the inflection of division one.

Oblong sun, dock trot quiet, flange dock, car bank dock, blanket clock quiet, tube clock dock, handbag dock, had a clock quiet, had a fog lamp, trock wonder, quiet picnicking pan. Charlie whistles at that a five nil away win. Meanwhile, EZ reenters carrying a tall load of blocks followed by Abel limping carrying a similar load. EZ puts his blocks down.

He notices the radio and Charlie checking his pools. EZ produces a pool coupon and a pencil before he realizes he cannot make head or tail of the radio. EZ be mused. Do you mind if I ask you something? What wavelength are you on? Now, this wavelength may, you know, it could have pun. It could be the brand width of the transistor and other meaning. Yeah, yeah, you know, the mental level, what kind of people are you? So, again when we were talking about Stoppard and his use of puns, so devaluation of language, use of puns, which is not as much obvious here in Dogs Hamlet, but extremely popular in his, in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead.

So, his use of some wavelength. So, meanwhile, Baker has started to make a neat wall out of the blocks and slabs, which have so far been assembled. It is apparent now that some of the blocks have gone apparently random letters printed on them. EZ having put away his pools coupons adds blocks to the steps. Abel has dumped his loads of blocks near Baker and now, limps off stage back to the lorry.

Dog enters. Moronic creep, this means maroon carpet. EZ grabs dog by the lay pillow. How dare you call me this? Watch it. Dog surprise disengages himself afterwards.

Moronic creep. Brigitte here sir. Dog cube. Thank you. Baker points at the carpet. Dog unrolls the red carpet to make a path from the microphone to the wings. What is happening here? So, they are not only constructing a stage, make shift stage for practice or for staging a hamlet. They are also doing all the right, you know, kinds of things which are done at such school plays, rolling out red carpets, giving around flowers and button holes to people.

So, the works. Charlie has turned off the radio on dogs entrance and now, Baker rejoins him in building the wall. EZ has completed that stage of the steps and the wall is complete. Baker and Charlie are nowhere to be seen because they build the wall from the back and it now conceals them. This leaves EZ apparently alone in front of the wall.

He has not yet noticed the letters which read maths old egg. EZ takes the plan out of his pocket and studies it again. Dog notices the wall.

He looks at EZ. EZ looks at the wall. EZ looks at dog. EZ smiles. Dog slaps EZ lightly on the cheek. EZ opens his mouth to protest. Dog coughs him heavily on the other cheek and knocks EZ through the wall which disintegrates. Dog takes the piece of paper out of EZ's pocket and looks at it carefully.

EZ picks himself up. Charlie and Baker go back into their receiving positions. Dog gives the paper back to EZ. Would you like to comment on the stage directions here? Anything peculiar which strikes you as something very peculiar here? Firstly, look at the sheer absence of a pronoun.

EZ does that. EZ does that. Charlie does that. Dog hits him. Dog calls him. Dog looks at him. You have no pronoun. So, definitely, Stoppard is telling us that this is not your usual play. It is not your usual language. Again, you know as we see that the play is all about how language is used in various contexts.

So, this is also you know why use pronoun at all. This is perhaps this is what Stoppard is hinting at.

Here, what is your game? Cube. Thank you. Cube. Then, he calls out to Abel. Cube. Abel, a cube is thrown into Baker, pass to Charlie, pass to EZ who puts it in place.

Dog to Charlie and Baker. Slab. Cube. Slab. Cube get with venom get. Dog is pleased and smiles. EZ is completely at a loss.

Dog leaves satisfied. Cube. Another cube follows the same route. Cube. A slab sails on and Baker and Charlie catch it together. They immediately take it up stage and place it down to form the base of a rebuilt wall. They start rebuilding the wall. Meanwhile, EZ walks off towards Abel and as soon as he is off stage, there is the sound of a thumb and a cry from Abel.

Abel walks on limping holding his ear and rubbing his backside. EZ off stage. Cube. A cube sails on over Abel's head. An Abel who is caught by surprise catches it and places it on the steps. This keeps happening again and again while Baker and Charlie rebuild the wall. Abel, however, makes a tower out of the cubes instead of laying them to make a new level. After 7 cubes in total, EZ enters and sees the tottering tower of cubes and just saves them from collapsing.

Baker and Charlie, meanwhile, have removed themselves from view by rebuilding the wall which now says Meg shot Gled. Earlier, it was Mass old egg. Now, it is Meg shot Gled. Do you think there is some kind of an anagram happening here? So, things that can be done with any language.

So, infinite possibilities of things of any language. Also, the fact that language can be the sole reason for aggression and violence. So, many a time we find that EZ gets slapped around, then Abel gets slapped around, then dog is held threat threateningly by EZ by his labels. All this because of lack of a common language. However, at the same time, Stoppard also tells us that familiarity with their basic minimum words is also possible and that can also help in communication.

So, then the completely unstable nature of language that is being hinted at. Dog enters carrying a small table with silver trophies covered with a velvet cloth. So, another staple feature of any school function. He walks to the microphone and stresses son dog trock 1, 2, 3.

The microphone is dead. Dog to Baker had a priest that means the microphone is dead. At a gate priest, Baker goes to the microphone and turns the switch on.

Son dog trock, gym shoes. Excellent. So, gym shoes means excellent. The microphone is live. Meanwhile, EZ has placed all the cubes correctly so that they make top layer to the steps. He is one cube short. However, Abel goes to the lorry. Cube short, brick, cube short, brick, cube.

A cube sails in from the lorry and EZ catches it and then the steps are complete. Dog turns to go sees the new wall with its message and looks at EZ. EZ looks at the wall.

He looks at dog. Pa, pa means loud. Dog knocks him through the wall which disintegrates. Dog leaves. Charlie and Baker start reassembling the components of the wall. EZ shouts after dog. Yob, flowers. Charlie, Baker and EZ are roughly in line by the carpet.

Dog reappears immediately with a bouquet which is wrapped in cellophane and tied with a red ribbon. It is important that it is distinctive because it appears in the second half of the play. He hands this to Charlie. March music is heard. Charlie gives the bouquet to Baker who gives it to EZ who thrusts into dogs hands as he exits.

Dog reenters furiously and gives flowers back to EZ who gives them to Abel as he

enters. Abel gives them to Charlie who loses them while rebuilding the wall. EZ exits and returns with lid for platform. Charlie and Baker now join by Abel to rebuild the wall.

Then take the little flags out of their pockets and start waving them. EZ joins in unhappily. A lady enters followed by a smirking dog. The music plays. The flags wave. The lady gets to the microphone. The music stops and she is ready to give her speech which is written on a neat postcard held in her gloved hands.

A lady nicely scabs, slob, yobs, yelts, picks, swaps. As one might say your grace ladies and gentlemen boys and girls. This is what the speech means. Sad facts, brats, pule, puke, crap, pot, stink, spit, grow up, dunces, crooks, rank, socks, dank, snort, wrecks, conquers, ticks, brick, crib, books, cocks, nooks, block, bogs, jack off, catch, pokes, pick, sports, pick, spots, scabs, padlocks, sees, kicks, kinks, slag, nick, swag, swig, coke, bank, kickbacks, frankly, can'ts, tick, kids, men's, sauna, in, cor, sauna, applause. Lady comes down from the platform held by dog.

So, obviously, it was a very graceful speech and it is received with the required of applause. They stand by the table. Dog lifts the cloth to reveal the school trophies. Dog presenting the school prizes reads, pen sticks, jammie, sunup, fox, major.

Fox enters from auditorium left, climbs steps to stage and collects his prize. He shakes hands with a beaming lady. Fox, cube, get, thank you, men. Fox exits into auditorium right. As Grimsby, primate, warts, sunup, fox, major, fox is still near the front of the auditorium turns and awkwardly squeezes in between two rows of seats. As he steps over the audience's legs, he apologetically exclaims cutlery, that is excuse me, reaches stage and receives prize as before. So, he is a favorite, I think, or one of the top pupils of this school and he is getting, you know, prizes repeatedly.

Cuff laces empty cross, crazy dogs, poodle fire, melon legs, arc lamps, pelvic wiggle, stamp, grinning, grape, suit, pergolas, fairly pricks, double, elegant, frantically plugs, fox, major. Dog has been placing all these, you know, so fox, major, fox gets the prize again, has been placing all these trophies on top of the velvet, which covered them earlier and which he has placed on the platform, easy built. Fox swoops up when he hears his name and rushes on to the stage as before, but picks up the table, which is, which is now quite bare and exits triumphantly stage left. Throughout this presentation Abel, Baker and Charlie have been waving their flags each time fox arise on stage, but their faces reveal their dissatisfaction and boredom.

Practically helmet, bed socks, Denmark and now helmet, prince of Denmark, misses dog correcting him, Hamlet. It is not helmet, but because see the language is new to them,

why it is not their fault for helmet and Hamlet interchangeable. Hamlet bed socks, Denmark, A T, William Shakespeare, you know, by William Shakespeare as I understand, yob, yob, yob. Frost, she looks to school boys who know nothing of their whereabouts, misses dog turns away and gives lady her button hole with a little courtesy to lady. Separating kidneys, freaks, cat boils, frankly gangrenous armpit dripping maggots, lady with energy and charm sought the pudding club.

Music, dog, misses dog and lady begin to exit past the wall. The lady notices the message on the wall, which says God slacked them. So, again she is taken aback, but bravely continues out. Dog looks daggers at easy as soon as the lady and misses dog have left the stage.

Dog does an about turn and marches back to easy. Easy looks at dog, dog looks at the wall. Easy dutifully hurls himself through the wall, they disintegrate. Dog leaves, easy picks himself up. He shouts furiously after dog, sting back, poxy, crank. Abel, baker and Charlie are also resentful about dog and all their succeeding lines as are easy's are insults referring to dog though not necessarily called out after him. Pax, quinces, car parks, canting, poncy, creep, daisy square, sadist, fishes, fishes afternoon, officious, bastard, lunatic, avocados, castle, sofa, dog have his guts for garter.

See if I do not. Avocados, castle, cigar, smoke, right. See if I do not. Kick his backside. Quinces, ice packs, right. Daisy square, slab get, knit get, three bags full get, crazy little squirt. Daisy vanilla, square, quanes bog, have his paw for car park.

So, help me dog. See, avocado, slab, moronic creep, slab, cretinus pick face, cretinus pick face, four ten. What? Dense, cube. Now, what do you think is going on here? They are all angry with Mr. Dog who runs the place. They are using their best or worst language to abuse him and they are doing a very good job of it. Although, they do not understand each other at all, but then they are using the language the way they understand.

What? Dense, cube. Page 163, easy. Hamlet, bed socks, Denmark, 80, William Shakespeare, the wall says, dogs Hamlet. Now, why dogs Hamlet? Why not Shakespeare's Hamlet? Even the title of the play dogs Hamlet. Hamlet as we all know is by William Shakespeare, but. Hamlet is now dressed to take his part in the 15 minute Hamlet. Now, what is 15 minute Hamlet? Hamlet actually runs for 3 to 4 hours or at least 2 and half hours. But, what is this 15 minute Hamlet? An abridged version, a school version, you know something that we have it in any common school.

Is not it very common, very ordinary, very tried to have abridged version of Shakespeare

everywhere? So, this is what? 15 minutes of Hamlet and I am very sure that they must have abridged and shortened and cut it out the way they want to. So, if this is 15 minutes of Hamlet, he goes to the platform from which he speaks the prologue of the Hamlet and then exits. This leaves the wall and the steps to be used as the walls and ramparts of Elsinore. Elsinore is that castle of Denmark castle in which the action takes place.

At the back of the stage, left and right are two folding screens. The stage left screen has a ball through the top which allows a cut out sun, moon and crown to be swung into vision from behind the screen. Prologue, enter Shakespeare bows. Now, we also have one Shakespeare coming here. Shakespeare, for this relief much thanks though I am native here and to the manner born, it is a custom more honored in the breach than in the observance.

Well, something is rotten in the state of Denmark. To be or not to be, that is the question. There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy. There is a divinity that shapes our ends. Rough you them, how we will.

Though this be madness, yet there is method in it. I must be cruel only to be kind, hold as it were the mirror up to nature. A countenance more in sorrow than in anger. Lady in our audience shouts marmalade, that is marmalade.

The lady doth protest too much. Cat will mew and dog will have his day. Bows and exits end of prologue. What do you understand by this? Are you familiar with these lines? See, this particular prologue is a collage of all the soliloquies from Hamlet. So, to be or not to be, there is method in this madness.

These are Polonius' lines. To be or not to be famous soliloquy, my Hamlet. Something is rotten in the state of Denmark. Another famous speech. It is a custom more honored in the breach than in the observance. Though I am native here and to the manner born, there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy. Hamlet tells this to says these lines to Horatio, his friend. So, this is the mixed mixture or a pastiche of all the memorable lines, you know which are so dear to the Shakespearean purists and how are they used here? Cut average because this is a fifteen minute Hamlet, you see.

So, this is. So, now, what is the question that Stoppard is asking here? See, Shakespeare can be reduced to absolutely, you know and if it is reduced to the basics, then how absurd it sounds and then what happens to all these ideas or all that talk about, you know the beauty of Shakespearean language or the Shakespearean plays and you know the language as the best feature of all Shakespearean plays. If this can be done and he is using everything from Shakespeare, but put together and little bit of mixing and

matching and how ridiculous it sounds. That is what he is talking about. So, many people say that Stoppard borrows heavily from Shakespeare is not so. He does not necessarily borrow, but he uses bits and parts and makes a nice collage and a pastiche of everything and then comes up with something which is very unique, very Stoppard. That is the idea. We will continue with it tomorrow. Thank you. Thank you.