Drama

Fourth year- the second semester

The 10th lecture: د.ليلى باطوق

Have you prepared the opening of the play? How does **John Osborne** open his play? We have something about the setting and we have something about characters. He tells description of the setting. We have description of Jimmy that he is about 25. What is so peculiar about his description? What you feel is important about the details that he mentioned? >>> physical description plus emotional and behavior description. So, how is he described? He is a person who acts like a child. He is an adult. His age is about 25 but he acts as a child. Give me the description of Jimmy. How would you comment on this description? This is mentioned in the scene. What is your opinion about such a person; a person who is described is such a way? You as readers/ as audience, how would you react to such a character? What is you impression about this person?

The description is given in the lines but what is behind this description is what you feel towards that person.

A student: Jimmy is a typical character of the age>

The doctor: how do you know that? You feel that the things that he is reading everyday about people of his age are the same. That is why you are saying that he is typical of the age. Again what is your reaction towards such a character? You as a reader feel that you want to know more about that character; you are interested in that character. So, one reaction here is interest in that character. What is your interest is based in your impression? Your reaction to the characters>> it means how do you feel towards that character? Do you sympathize with the character? Do you like that character or dislike that character? This is what is meant of the reaction of the audience to the description given. Before the opening of the play, you have an impression about the characters through the detailed description of them whether the behavior description or the physical description. You imagine that character and you have a feeling towards that character. So, from the given description of Jimmy, what is your feeling towards that character? >>> usually like or dislike/ usually a positive impression or a negative impression. This is your comment on the thing. You comment on the impression that you get about that character. is it a positive impression or a negative impression. What impression is given about Jimmy at the opening of the play?

A student: I think he is nervous character when he is smoking and when he through the papers. I think he is nervous and worries about something.

The doctor: you get an impression that he is a nervous character. I just want you to concentrate and focus on the opening description. Forget about the events in the play. So, is your impression negative or positive? It is a negative character because everything that has been given about him is negative although it gave some positive insights about him. For example, he is a reader. It means that maybe he has certain wisdom through knowing about everything and reading about his environment and everything around him.

(He is a disconcerting mixture of sincerity and cheerful malice, of tenderness and freebooting cruelty; restless, importunate, full of pride, a combination which alienates the sensitive and insensitive alike.)

Although the negative impression is a negative one, but there are certain words in the description that gives some positive insight about him, for example, tenderness. He is vulgar and rude but there is a sense of tenderness and freebooting cruelty; restless, importunate. So, there is tenderness (kindness) in him. It means that he is not wholly negative; there are some positive aspects in his character. What is the significance of this? The playwright here in the opening gives you the detailed description of the characters and gives you the general impression but he also gives you like important hints that you should focus on and in indirect way he is as if telling you that all what you are going to encounter about this character is not bad. He has good examples in the play. So, maybe he is like drawing your attention of how to anticipate the action. Your general anticipation of the action is that this person is a rude, a vulgar and a cruel person. So, he might hurt people around him. But still you would expect that he might do something good through the positive description that is given about his character. What other character is described in the opening? It is Cliff. What’s about Cliff character? What is your impression about this character? He is extremely different from Jimmy? As the description says, he is natural counterpoint to Jimmy. He is the opposite. You can expect a person who would act differently from the first character. He is very kind with Alison the wife of Jimmy and he is very patient with Jimmy. Why would the playwright say that he is patient with Jimmy? The playwright has given us the typical characteristics of Jimmy. Who is going to endure that person? His friend is going to be patient with him. Again this description makes you anticipate what kind of relationship encounter the two characters here. What else is described? You are saying that the setting is described. What is very important about the setting that makes you anticipate the nature of the play? The furniture/ the setting itself/ the place itself is described in detail. What impression do you get from that description of the furniture as you are saying? What kind of people are you going to meet? Simple people. How was setting/ the furniture/ the place itself was described? Is it a house? It is not a house; it is only the attic of the house. It is the roof of the house. How would meet in the attic of the house? We would expect the working class person or a lower-middle-class person. So, the description of the setting/ the furniture of the place of the characters make you focus or draw you attention to what kind of life you are going to see. Is it an aristocratic one? No, it is the life of working people/ poor people. So, what does this make you anticipate? What kind of themes you might see? What would you expect the major themes about these characters?

A student: Social discrepancies or class distinction again.

The doctor: would you expect that you will see a happy life, entertainment or joy? No. Would you expect that the play is going to be about suffering? Yes. So, the description whether of a place or whether of a character makes you as audience or as reader anticipate what kind of play you are going to watch or to read. From the beginning, you are prepared to meet suffering/ distress because of the situation discussed. What about the time? Although it is mentioned that it is April, but at the end >>>> (The only sound is the occasional

thud of ALISON'S iron on the board. It is one of those chilly Spring evenings, all cloud and shadows.)

What is the significant word you see here? It is spring. What is your impression about spring season? >>> life. So, it is something positive. How would you describe nature in a spring season? >>> Colorful flowers, green trees. In spring, there is no cloud. It is supposed to be shiny but in a good way, not very hot; it is not like in summer. So, this is related to spring, especially to English writings. From Wordsworth or other romantic writers, how would you describe spring? Is it something related to joy, color, and to greenness? But here he says it is chilly. It is very cold plus all cloud and shadows. The atmosphere is all clouds and it is not shiny. It is not joyful atmosphere. It is very dark even during daylight. So, the atmosphere is a gloomy one. Even the description of the time itself, the playwright is drawing your attention that the whole atmosphere of the play is like the description here. It is going to be a gloomy.

**John Osborne** is not wasting the time of the audience or the reader in writing two pages of description. Usually this description or this direction is very significant because it focuses the attention of the reader to the coming action plus there is a theatrical significance of the description. What we have talked about is the thematic significance that the description makes you anticipate that the theme, the plot and the events. What about the theatrical significance of the description? From the word theatrical, what does it mean? >>> related to the theater. What is the significance that is related to theater here? Why is this description important for the theater?

Would not find such a description in the 17th century or the 19th century? Maybe yes. So, it is not represent that age or the dramatic movement of his time, but it has a relation to do with the theater. What is the significance of the theater to have such a description? What is the function of the play? Is the play supposed to be read? No, it is supposed to be watched. How would it be enacted in the best way without all this description? So, it is meant for the theater meaning that when Osborne is giving all these detailed descriptions, he is giving it also to the theater people. The actor, for example, who is going to do the role of Jimmy, how would that actor act? According to the description, he would act like a person who is restless and angry all the time. What about the description? It is for the producer. The producer would be able to know how to do the setting. For the play that is enacted at the time of Shakespeare, for example, there is no need to give detailed description of the setting in such a way. Description of the setting in 18th century play is very short. But in modern plays, we see that we have detailed description of the setting because it is like a key for the producers to be able to know what to put on the stage because the setting is a realistic one. So, the audience would expect to see an attic on the stage. You see the descriptions that are given that on the left there is this and on the right there is this, the cupboard is there, etc. It is very detailed description. These details are very significant because some of the description of even the place of the furniture (what is near what)/ and some important events that will take place in act one or in act two would be easily understood if you know the description of the setting. If you are an audience in the theater, you will not have a problem in that because you are going to see everything. So, when the action takes place, it will appear reasonable. But as reader, you need to imagine, for example, one important event that takes place is when Cliff and Jimmy quarreled which each other. They are physically very violent. They push each other/ they quarreled. They fight even in a sense of a joke sometimes. In one of their quarrels, Jimmy pushes Cliff. He did it intentionally as he is going to admit in the play. He pushes him, what does this push result in? When he pushed him, he hurt his wife. His wife was standing on the iron board and she was ironing the clothes. When he pushed him, he fell on the board and the iron burnt her on her arm. So, Osborne is giving you detailed description so that when this action takes place, you will not say that how is it that. You can imagine that the place is so close to each other that this push would really affect the setting itself. So, these two pages of description are very significant. The opening of the play is a detailed description and it has a real significance whether to the theater people, t the reader, the audience or to the actors himself or herself.

After this description, you have the impression about the characters. You have the impression about Jimmy and now when the dialogue takes place, you will understand more about the relationship between these characters. Why are they living in one apartment? What is the relationship here? Friendship. We have a husband and a wife living in an apartment and a male friend is sharing them the same apartment. It is odd/ strange. If this is happening for one month or one week, it would be acceptable, but he is living with them for a long time since their marriage. So, even this relationship is strange a little bit. Not only we as eastern audience or readers do not understand this but even the characters in the play find it strange. For example, when Helena the friend of Alison comes to them in act two to their house/ their apartment, she asked Alison about this strange existence of this man Cliff. She found it strange that he is living with them or that they are all three sharing the same apartment. Now what are the characters doing? Alison is ironing the clothes and the two men are reading newspapers. Are they discussing what they are reading? No. How would you explain the atmosphere? There is one room, a woman is ironing and two men are reading. The whole setting is like this. What kind of interaction is taking place at that moment? What do you feel about the atmosphere at that room? Is everybody is happy in the room? You can feel that there is tension among the three characters. They are not at ease at all.

What I am trying to focus is to draw your attention of how to analyze the play/ of how to look at the relationship between the characters.

So, the atmosphere as a whole is not a joyful one. It is exactly as what has been described in the opening of the play; it is a gloomy one.

He is now tempered and restless. He is trying to provoke his friend and his wife to do what? He is all the time talking about being bored. It is boring. It is repeated. It is another Sunday. Sunday means it is holyday; they do not have work and that is why they all sitting and spending their time by reading newspapers. He is saying that it is another Sunday. It means that every Sunday it is like this. He feels bored; he does not have anything to do. And he wants some enthusiasm. He is repeating that word. He wants something to change the atmosphere. He is even bored with the new papers that he is reading. He finishes one newspaper and he takes the other one. It is very boring for him.

When we said at the beginning that he is rude with everybody, this appears, especially when he talks about the event of the newspaper. He asks them about something. His wife does not respond to any conversation that he propose and only says that even if you read it, you are not going to understand it. You are useless. You are of no use at all. His friend again tries to provoke him. What is important in the event of reading the newspapers and what they are doing is that Jimmy Porter was very offensive in this act to his friend and to his wife also. Offensive means abusive. He was not kind at all in talking to them. He was calling them boring although he was describing his life as a boring one in general. So, what he is trying to do is to provoke their intention/ provoke their interest to talk with him. He wants to talk about something. They are not responding. It seem that when we listen to him and watch him and watch their reaction, we feel that they consider him as a boring person and they know that he is provoking them to talk only to quarrel with them. He is not even doing it to raise a joyful atmosphere. We feel that he wants to quarrel. He insults his wife a lot in the scene and he also insults his friend. Go to page 3 as an example.

JIMMY: Well, she can talk, can't she? You can talk, can't you? You can express an opinion. Or does the White Woman's Burden make it impossible to think?

This is related to imperialism. What is significant about this play is that you will see a lot of literary reference in the play. And this is one of them. What do I mean by literary references in the play? It is something related to literature. There is reference to post-colonial literature in which you find a superior figure and an inferior figure. Usually if it is a man and a woman, women are inferior to men and men are dominating women and women have burden. So, what he is saying here is that he is provoking her to talk but she does not respond to him. So, he says cannot you talk? Or is it because you have this women burden and that is why you cannot talk. You are so much oppressed with burden that you cannot talk. What is significant here as I am saying is that the play is full of references to literary works and to literary ideas. So, here in this quotation in specific, he is referring to the idea of imperialism. One of the themes in the play is that John Osborne is trying to focus on life of British people after imperialism. What is mean by historical imperialism? You know the 20th century idea of colonization? It is the loss of power of the British Empire. In the 19th century the British Empire was so powerful. Its position in India itself was so powerful that when it lost its power, the consequence is that it lost many of its financial resources. That is why the play is discussing the difficulties of life in England after the loss of the British Empire in England. So, you will have lots of references to these ideas in the play.

Both of the characters Cliff and Alison ignore him but he keeps all the time provoking them and offending them.

Page 7: When Jimmy stresses on his wife, Cliff said to her:

CLIFF: Don't take any notice of him. He's being offensive. And it's so easy for him.

Alison and Cliff know that he is offensive and he is trying to be offensive to them.

Page 8: JIMMY: God, how I hate Sundays! It's always so depressing, always the same. We never seem to get any further, do we? Always the same ritual. Reading the papers, drinking tea, ironing, A few more hours, and another week gone. Our youth is slipping away. Do you know that?

He is a bored person. And this is an example of the boring atmosphere in his life. He says life is very boring. Every Sunday is boring because it is the same. They are going the same thing; nothing is new. He says that our youth is slipping away. They are young people and their youth is slipping away/ just passing the time without doing anything useful. Actually is he happy about the situation? No, he feels sorry for his youth as well as the youth of Alison and Cliff and in this way he is representing all the youth in Britain. He is representative of his age because he is representing the boredom of youth in Britain.

What are the s solutions that he gives? How would Cliff change this routine of boring life, by doing what? By going to the cinema. He says let’s go to the movie. You are so bored, why do not you go out, let’s go to the movie. What else? By eating, drinking tea or going to a bar drinking. This is a habit or a custom among the British people. On weekends they will go to the bar to drink and just to pass the time. He is trying to give him solutions but he would not accept them.

JIMMY: And have my enjoyment ruined by the Sunday night yobs in the front row?

Here he is responding to the suggestion of going to the cinema. He says what will get when I go to the cinema. I have just set in the front row or whatever row and again I am wasting my Sunday in going there. So, he refuses to go to the cinema.

(Pause.) Did you read Priestley's piece this week?

Again there is a literary reference here. All the time you get literary references to explain something.

He is asking them and then he says >>>> Why on earth I ask, I don't know. >>> I am just wasting myself with you.

I know damned well you haven't. Why do I spend ninepence on that damned paper every week? Nobody reads it except me. Nobody can be bothered. No one can raise themselves out of their delicious sloth. You two will drive me round the bend soon—I know it, as sure as I'm sitting here. I know

you're going to drive me mad.

He is nervous at them. You are going to drive me mad. You can imagine his temper/ his anger that might as he says make him crazy or mad.

Oh heavens, how I long for a little ordinary human enthusiasm.

He wants to provoke them to be enthusiastic to change the mood of their life.

Just enthusiasm —that's all. I want to hear a warm, thrilling voice cry out Hallelujah!

He wants reaction. He wants people to have dialogue with him/ to talk with him about certain things. In this way, he feels that he is going to change his boring life.

He keeps abusing them throughout the scene saying that you are not enthusiastic, you are lacking enthusiastic, and you are very boring people.

Page 10: again he keeps offending them.

Even the atmosphere of the room is cloudy because they are smoking. Cliff wants to have cigarette. Alison and Jimmy try to say to him that he was prevented by the doctor from having cigarettes that might affect his health. Jimmy tries to prevent him but he does not respond but Jimmy says:

JIMMY: All right. They're your ulcers.

You want cigarettes, okay take them and your disease is going to increase.

Go ahead, and have a bellyache, if that's what you want. I give up. I give up.

I try to prevent you but you would not listen to me. So, have your cigarettes and this will give you pain.

I'm sick of doing things for people. And all for what? Alison gives Cliff a cigarette. They both light up, and she goes on with her ironing.

He thinks that he is doing good things for other people but that people are not appreciating him. This is important about his character. He always has a feeling that he is doing good to Alison but she is not appreciating that. He is doing good to Cliff but he is not appreciating that. So, he does not see himself as guilty. He does not see himself as mistaken. This is very bad in a character. When a character does not realize that there is something wrong with his attitudes with others, he feels that he is trying to do his best with others but others are not appreciating him.

Nobody thinks, nobody cares. No beliefs, no convictions and no enthusiasm. Just another Sunday evening.

He is bored. He keeps saying that he needs enthusiasm. He needs something to change the routine of Sundays.

Why is he talking? Are they responding to him? He is talking and they are doing other things. For example, Cliff asks for a cigarette, Jimmy is criticizing him for having cigarettes, Alison gives cigarette to Cliff. They are acting while he is continuing talking. He is talking to them. They are not responding verbally. They are doing something else. You can see that his quotations are very long. This quotation we are reading now >>> you can see how long it is. He moves from one topic to another as if he is waiting for some response. But they are not responding to him.

Is there any example of monologue here?

What is the meaning of a monologue? >>> a long speech said by one character. So, it is not dialogue. No other character is responding or talking with him. He is expressing his thoughts? But is he addressing the audience? No. In all quotations, he is not alone on the stage. It is a soliloquy. A soliloquy is when the character is alone on the stage. In all his speeches, he is not alone; he is talking with others but others are not responding to him. So, as if it is a monologue. The whole of act one is almost the speeches of Jimmy and this one, for example, is an example of monologue although he is addressing other characters but it is as if he is speaking monologue. There is no response to him at all. He feels he is alone because no one is understanding him but he is not alone. This dialogue is an example of the monologue that you are supposed to discuss in the play.

Perhaps there's a concert on. (Picks up Radio Times) Ah. (Nudges Cliff with his foot.) Make some more tea.

He is trying to pass the time finding solution for this boredom. Cliff told him about the cinema and he refuses to go to the cinema. What is his suggestion here? His suggestion is to open the radio and there is a concert on. it is like music ceremony on the radio.

Oh, yes. There's a Vaughan Williams. Well, that's something, anyway.

When he opened the radio, there was a concert played by Vaughan Williams. >>> a very famous English musician in early 20th century. He though that this might be something amusing.

Something strong, something simple, something English.

This is an example of typical English music.

I suppose people like me aren't supposed to be very patriotic. Somebody said—what was it— we get our cooking from Paris (that's a laugh), our politics from Moscow, and our morals from Port Said. Something like that, anyway.

Now he has started to talk politically. He is like criticizing the political issues of the time. When he felt happy that when he heard the sound of Vaughan Williams, it reminds him of something good/ something very typical of English people and English life. But then he says nothing is typical of English life. Even our politics is like Russians and our food is French. It is not typical English any more as if he is regretting the loss of the typical English life. This is a very important theme in the play. He is Regretting the loss of a past. When a person is regretting the loss of something, this means it is something precious and valuable. He is hinting at the past valuable life/ a standard life of the British when they were in Empire and when they had their certain power in the past and when English man would be very patriotic/ very proud of his nation and his life and of everything about his country.

Who was it? (Pause.) Well, you wouldn't know anyway. I hate to admit it, but I think I can

understand how her Daddy must have felt when he came back from India, after all those years away.

Whose daddy? >>>Alison’s daddy. He is talking about Alison now. He says I can understand the feeling of her father when he came back from India after all these years away. What is his feeling? >>>> regretting the loss of the past. He is hinting at her father saying that I am sure that her father also regrets the past. What past? When he came back from India, why did he come back from India? >>> The end of the British Empire in India resulted in all British people coming back to Britain losing all their wealth there. So, would not they regret the fortune that they have lost? So, this quotation here is significant because it talks about the sense of regret among the British people for losing an admirable past that does not exist anymore. So, he is regretting all these good years of success and power. The whole speech here is called nostalgia >>> longing for the good past. This theme is very significant one in the play (the nostalgia, the regret of losing a good past).

The old Edwardian brigade do make their brief little world look pretty tempting.

The end of the Edwardian period at the beginning of the 20th century >>>( this period in between the loss of the British Empire at the beginning of the 20th century) that period was twilight for some. It is the period that they still have some of the remaining of that great power but in the 20th century, they have lost all that because the consequences of the loss started to appear in the 20th century. The loss of that power resulted in financial problems in the country and it started to appear in the 20th century.

All homemade cakes and croquet, bright ideas, bright uniforms. Always the same picture: high summer, the long days in the sun, slim volumes of verse, crisp linen, the smell of starch. What a romantic picture. Phoney too, of course. It must have rained sometimes. Still, even I regret it somehow, phoney or not.

This is very significant here. This is the conclusion that he comes to. He says: >>>> If you've no world of your own, it's rather pleasant to regret the passing of someone else's.

He is representing the youth of his age. How do young men feel at that time of life in the 20th century of Britain? How do they feel? >>> depressed, frustrated, why? This reminds us of what he says about Alison’s father. Alison’s father lived the time of prosperity. Then he lost that prosperity and he is regretting that life. What about him? You will feel throughout the play that he envies the old generation because at least they have experienced prosperity. They have seen good life at one period of their life. Now when they regret it, they at least have something to be proud of and to remember and to have this nostalgia of something that they have lost. What is his suggestion for the new generation? He says that we do not have anything but it does not mean we will just stay like this. We will try to adopt the life of another person (the old generation) and we will continue regretting that loss. From the beginning of the play, he is talking about the boredom of their life. They do not have anything to regret. But they can at least regret the prosperity or the good life that their fathers and grandfathers have experienced to regret not having that kind of life like them for example. That is what he means when he says still even I regret

Still, even I regret it somehow, phoney or not. If you've no world of your own, it's rather pleasant to regret the passing of someone else's.

It will give you some kind of pleasant feeling to regret a past that your fathers and grandfathers have experienced a good kind of life.

I must be getting sentimental.

It seems I am starting to become a sentimental person. Sometimes when people keep talking about themselves as great people, for example, and when some writers keep talking about the old Islamic civilization and forgetting about the current issues and the current situations basing everything they are doing now on a prosperity that vanished but still they are talking as if they own this prosperity. Sometimes people comment on them saying >>> يبكي على الأطلال . When this expression is mentioned, you have to be realistic that this has ended and now you have to base your life on new experiments and new things that happen in your life. So, the nostalgia theme here gives him a sense of pleasure but still this will not change the situation of them. I must begetting sentimental. >>>>> I am trying to be very emotional. I am trying to be proud of something that happen in the past.

But I must say it's pretty dreary living in the American Age—unless you're an American of course.

Perhaps all our children will be Americans. That's a thought isn't it?

Why is he talking about America here? >>>> Because now Britain is not an Empire in itself. It is not that powerful. The new power today is America. So, he says that maybe our new generation will adopt the American way of life. He thought of adopting the old happy British life but then he realized that he is being very sentimental/ very emotional. This will not five him power. It will not change his position because thinking happily of the old prosperity will not give him a chance for a good job, for example. It will just give him a temporary feeling of happiness and that’s all. So, all through the play you feel that Jimmy who is representing of the young people in Britain at that time, they are all regretting the loss of a past that was so secure/ that they do not have at that time.

Then he keeps assaulting his wife in particular and abusing her and he gives references from classical literature. When they talk about her friend (he was named Webster), he described him saying he is like a female Emily Bronte (page 13). Although he was describing a man but he compares him to Emily Bronte who was a female. Actually he was saying that he was a homosexual man. This is another theme in the play but what I mean to focus on that? The literary references that he quotes all the time have certain significance. What is the use of the literary references? He is quoting certain examples of certain literature focusing on the role of women in particular. In act two there is a quotation that will identify the significance of using the literary references that he uses in the play have a common idea/ a common theme/ a common issue that he wanted to emphasize. Think about it.

Page 14: he is trying to provoke her but although he admits that he would not be able to provoke her.

In one part of his long speeches, he starts talking about her brother. He mentions her brother whose name was Nigel. He also talks about her mother. How does he feel towards her mother? He hates her/ he dislikes her mother. What does he believe about her? How does she treat him? She is belittling him, but does he say it frankly? He hates her mannered way of talking. He says that she talks in a very polite way. She is n upper class of course and she is very polite. But he says I know what is deep inside this politeness. He knows that she belittles him that she considers him inferior. When he was criticizing her mother, he was criticizing the upper-class people in general. What is important in his confession of hating her mother is something reference to his relationship to his own mother. He hates his own mother and he respects and remembers well his own father. Maybe her mother reminds him of his mother.

Page 21: in this page you could find the incident when they were quarreling and when Jimmy pushed Cliff and Alison was hurt by the iron. What does Alison comment on their way of dealing with each other?

ALISON: Look out, for heaven's sake! Oh, it's more like a zoo every day!

She is comparing them to animals. She says as if we are living in a zoo. These two animals all the time are struggling with each other.

Page 23: when she was hurt, how did Jimmy react? He immediately apologizes. When a person apologizes, what is your impression about that person? You would respect that person. He did not beat her. He just pushed his friend and the iron board fell and she was hurt by the iron. When he saw her feeling pain, what is the feature that he focused on in the opening description of him? tenderness appeared only here. It is the first time that we see tenderness on behalf of Jimmy. When he saw Alison hurt, he felt sorry for her and he apologized. He really did not like it when she was hurt. So, he appeared as a tender person/ kind person. For the first time we see Jimmy as a tender character. She was hurt. She did not want to talk to him. When he tried to get close to her, she pushed him; she did not want him to come near to her. So, he leaves and she is alone with Cliff.

Page 23: Alison is addressing Cliff.

ALISON: I don't feel very brave.

He is trying to cure her. He is trying to release her from pain. He is saying to her you are brave woman that you are enduring that pain. But she says >> I do not feel very brave.

*(Tears harshening her voice)*

She is almost crying that her voice is very weak.

I really don't, Cliff. I don't think I can take much more. (*Turns her head away*.) I think I feel rather sick.

It seems that she is thinking now of breaking this relationship. She says I do not think I can take much more. I cannot endure this life anymore. Maybe she is trying to change her life.

Page 24: CLIFF: I'm wondering how much longer I can go on watching you two tearing the insides out of each other. It looks pretty ugly sometimes.

This is his function in the play. What is Cliff’s role in the life of Jimmy and Alison? How does he act in their life? Positively or negatively? He acts positively because when they are quarrelling, he is the one who is reconciling them every time. He is the one who is trying to make their life go on. But she says I cannot endure that anymore. And he himself says that even for me it is difficult. I am fed up of living between you all the time and reconciling your relation all the time. But she tells his of a secret that is bothering her that she is pregnant. She says that my decision is difficult because I am pregnant and she did not tell her husband. So, he advises her to tell him.

They are quarreling all the time as husband and wife. So, he is the one who is reconciling them. He is the one who is like the pillar of their house. He is the one who reconciling their relation. So, he says I am fed up of being between you all the time.

So, he is advising her of telling him about her pregnancy.

When Jimmy comes, again we feel this sense of tenderness is his character when he talks to Alison.

When she was talking to Cliff and when he entered, they just stop talking. He felt that there is something because Cliff was telling her >>> do not forget telling him. When he entered he heard this (do not forget).

Page 31: JIMMY: What did he mean by "don't forget"?

ALISON: Something I've been meaning to tell you.

He is reminding you of telling you.

JIMMY: He's the only friend I seem to have left now.

He is talking about his relationship with Cliff. It seems that he has lots of friends but they all disappeared maybe because of his bad temper. This emphasizes again the early description in the opening of the play of Cliff as a patient friend. He is the only patient friend who could endure this raged Jimmy.

People go away. You never see them again. I can remember

lots of names—men and women.

He used to have lots of friends, males and females. And now he calls their names.

When I was at school—Watson, Roberts, Davies. Jenny, Madeline, Hugh... (Pause.)

And there's Hugh's mum, of course. I'd almost forgotten her.

It seems that this is an important character in his life. Hugh is his friend and he is talking about his mother.

She's been a good friend to us, if you like. She's even letting me buy the sweet-stall off her in my own time. She only bought it for us, anyway. She's so fond of you. I can never understand why you're so—distant with her.

He is talking in a good way about the mother of his friend. What did this mother do for him? She helped him to get a job. He has a candy store. He is selling sweet. She almost bought that shop for him in order to be able to earn his living with his wife. What kind of relationship is between Alison and Hugh’s mother? We understand that a good relationship between Jimmy and Hugh’s mother. He loves her and respects her and he appreciates her service to him. What about Alison? Does she appreciate that? Does she like Hugh’s mother? No, she dislikes her. And he is saying to her I do not know why you do not like her and you keep her at distance although she loved you so much. Dramatically speaking, what do we call this? This is exposition. So, we are still exposed to new characters in the play although they are not present but we know about we know about them and how significant they are for the life of Jimmy. This woman is the woman who helped him to earn a living in life. What is important here is that Alison now is attempting to tell her husband that she is pregnant. She is about to tell him that. What happens? Cliff comes and tells her that there is a phone call for her. And he forgot the name >>> CLIFF: Helena something.

Who did not like that news? Jimmy did not like the news. He was making sure>>>> JIMMY: (to Cliff). Helena Charles?

Cliff says yes, that’s the name. From the beginning, we understand that he is not happy for that. Alison is happy. She goes to answer the phone. Cliff now is excited to know who that lady is?! Why are not you happy for hearing her name?

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CLIFF: Who is this Helena?

JIMMY: One of her old friends. And one of my natural enemies. You're sitting on my chair.

He is very frank that I do not like that woman. Because he is angry that he has heard about her, now he is offending him and trying to quarrel with him. Alison comes back and Jimmy inquires >> what does she want? She is telling him >>> ALISON: She's at the station. She's—coming over. She has to play to act in the theater. She does not have a place to stay in, so I invited her to come and stay with us. This is not good news for him. Go to the last page of act one.

JIMMY: Oh, my dear wife, you've got so much to learn. I only hope you learn it one day.

He is not happy with her decision to bring Helena to their house. He says that you are stupid lady. You do not know what will happen to you that you need something very drastic to happen to you, so that you wake up from your sensibility and your simple thinking. Oh, my dear wife, you've got so much to learn. >>> You have no experience in life.

I only hope you learn it one day.

I really wish that one day will come and you will learn.

If only something—something would happen to you, and wake you out of your beauty sleep!

As if you are sleeping. I wish that something very strong happens to you to awake you from your sleep.

(Coming in close to her.) If you could have a child, and it would die. Let it grow, let a recognisable human face emerge from that little mass of indiarufaber and wrinkles. (She retreats away from him.)

She was almost about to tell him that she is pregnant. Now she wants to tell him. He says to her that you need something very serious to happen to you to wake up and to realize life around you.

What example does he quote? He says I wish you will be pregnant and this child grows in your body and this child will die. In this way, you will feel the pain of life. As if he all the time describes his wife as a cold person who does not realize his temper and his emotions. As a result he feels sad for that. So, he says that I wish you will be pregnant and you will lose the child because at that time you will feel pain. He wants her to feel painful thinking that this will wake her up and make her realize the seriousness of life.

Even the example he quotes is a rude one/ cruel one. She does not like it and she keeps distance from him.

The play ends here with the news of the coming of Helena and we as audience are very excited to know who this Helena is that he dislikes that much to the extent that she raised his sense of ruthlessness to his own wife. You see he is very rude in talking regardless the feelings of others. This would be to appear very ironic.