



## **HAROLD PINTER**

Pinter is representative of neo-naturalist, or post-war drama and Absurd Drama.

Time: They have a sense of time

Setting: A realistic setting, true to life, a closed room with two people and a door which opens outside.

Language: realistic language, current English.

Structure: plays have an end although they don't have a beginning or middle. Gives us a true picture of Mafia men in England.

Characters: Representatives of the working class. Realistic characters. They are not like V & E. Ben is immobile (reads newspaper), Gus is too mobile (asks questions). They are opposites. Ben represents the obedient part of the system and Gus represents protesting part of the system. Ben obeys the mechanism, Gus revolts against the mechanism. So the mechanism is repaired (Gus , who causes the problem is thrown out of the system).

Everything is based on repetition, which leads to automation, and the characters not being able to control their life.

Concrete mechanical elements: Lavatory not flushing, gas meter, dumb waiter.

Mechanical elements: They lead an automatic life, Ben reads the newspaper, hits the newspaper twice on the bed. This mechanism has been imposed on the characters by their job-get in a room at night, kill and leave. Then wait for the 'call'

Movement in play

- i. Characters move from harmony to disharmony
- ii. Narrowing down of communication
- iii. Increase of pressure on Ben and Gus
- iv. Increase of tension
- v. Conflict between Ben and Gus reaching to utmost limit.
- vi. It is one of "the insider" in this case Gus, who destroys the illusion
- vii. Dialogue is based on interrogation

Nazism: during the WWII, Nazism gave lower-class people superiority.

The outside forces are unknown, dangerous.

Pinter has been influenced by Kafka, Beckett, Hitchcock kind of suspense. The door opens and an intruder comes in.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE: The outside is always dangerous. It involves unknown forces (and it is dark at night). Unknown forces coming from the outside. A closed room whose comfort and safety is compared with dangers of the world and the stage outside.

- viii. outside=dangerous/reality
- ix. inside= safe/illusion
- x. Door=opening to outside

- xi. Intruder=something that disturbs the safety of the inside e.g.Dumb waiter, matches, Gus.Inside is an illusion. Ben thinks that he has a proper job, and Gus shares in the illusion.
- xii. The illusion of the inside is destroyed and the danger, which is the reality of the outside comes in.