

Multi-levelled Representations of Power in Harold Pinter's Plays

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Abstract

The concept of power disposes of multiple representations in Harold Pinter's plays: at the level of language, where characters evade communication, at the level of spatiality, where characters appropriate selectively and differently the scenic objects and space, at the level of memory, where subjectivity allows characters to isolate themselves and preserve their position, at the level of gender representations, where characters abuse the preconceived beliefs in order to impose their own values. Using all the vehicles that are at their disposal, discursive and non-discursive, characters engage in power-struggles, because they refuse to reveal their own identity and to be overwhelmed by fears and insecurities. When there is a menacing situation/ person threatening their apparent stable world, their anxieties and frustrations come to the surface.