

Tracing the Past in Shakespeare's Hamlet and Pinter's Ashes to Ashes

Alina-Elena Roșca

Petroleum - Gas University of Ploiești, 39 Bvd. București, Ploiești

E-mail: alinarosca82@yahoo.com

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Abstract

The major aim of this paper is to analyse the way in which the act of repeating the past, as opposed to forgetfulness and amnesia, secures its immersion into the present, that is, what Heidegger called "the presence of the past". Submitted to the voice of the past, the characters of the two plays this article focuses on, succeed in transforming the absence of what has happened into a narrative of presence, which helps them to connect personal with collective memories.