



## Use of dramatic techniques in the play the importance of being earnest

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### Abstract

In this title is taken from the play, “*The Importance of Being a Earnest*” by the Oscar Wilde. In this play the author is deals with the name of the richness in the characters. The protagonist is expecting the name of “EARNEST” for marriage to her. At the same time the heroes are also got the name of earnest, but the author does not give the real name of the heroes in the middle of the play. This is the main concept in this play the author differently portrayed the situation of the characters. And he is a man of give the exciting theme of his play. And I would to present his whole dramatic technique in this play, throughout the novel he simply give the expectation of love and realism behind it and then his style and his humour sense of this play including with the technique of the author Oscar Wilde. These are the things which I like to present in the content below itself.

**Keywords:** protagonist, Oscar Wilde

### Introduction

Oscar Wilde is a brilliant conversationalist, an engaging short-story writer, a poet of no mean order, a novelist who had raised many an eyebrow, and a comic dramatist who amused his audience with his inimitable wit, infectious humour punctuated with pointed epigrams and punching paradoxes. It is his witty social comedies that established him firmly as a dramatist and it is for his brilliant comedies that Oscar Wilde is remembered today. This style reaches its finest expression in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. No inharmonious thoughts of life and morality intrude here, for the plot is given the same filigree grace as the language itself. The play wrought entirely out of the studied wit of the dialogue, which projects the society of upper-class leisure as an English world so emptied of earthiness and genuine emotional, moral, or physical reality. That it is pure style, a world where action exists in order to make possible the appropriate conversation and where the appropriate conversation is a ballet-like exchange of epigrams. It is not a profound art, if an extremely clever one, and it is not an art that could have any real influence.

### Technique

In his earlier plays Wilde had relied on the safe traditions of the theatre while seeking to establish the best manner in which to present his ideas dramatically. In ‘*The Importance of Being Earnest*’ he exhibited greater confidence in his own methods than had been apparent in some of his earlier work. As a result, the effect is much more satisfactory. In fact, ‘*The Importance of Being Earnest*’ is regarded as his best play.

### Plot

The plot of ‘*The Importance of Being Earnest*’ is slight and presents no difficulties. Wilde himself wrote of it, “The real

claim of the play. The plot is slight but I think adequate “yes, adequate for light-hearted entertainment. Wilde also said,” It is no doubt that Wilde achieved a spectacular success in making an amusing thing of it. His own estimation of the play was that the first act was *ingenious*, the second *beautiful*, and the third *abominably clever*.

### Characterization

‘*The Importance of Being Earnest*’ neither Jack nor Algernon speaks with the ebullient raciness of the stage “swell” or the slangy drawl of the dim theatrical youngest son. Wilde’s new play owes very little to popular comic cliché. The touches that identify Jack and Algernon as affluent bachelors are few: the consumption of champagne, the restaurant meals, the locations of their apartments, and the list of alternative amusements at the end of Act I.

They young women diverge from type in a similar way. Cecily is more knowing than the ingénues she is based on. Gwendolen is clever and independent-minded. But her fashionable elegance distinguishes her from the common image of the ‘modern’, intellectual woman as dowdy. Miss Prism and Dr. Chasuble are characterized by a few carefully selected details: their ecclesiastical and educational enthusiasms are suggestive of the mid-century years. Chasuble’s fussy precision of language is established in his first scene with Miss Prism and her pupil: even the commas are telling- ‘Miss Prism, you are, I trust, well?’

### Dialogue

The whole play sparkles with brilliant dialogue and wit, with sayings often wise and often entertaining. One critic said after its first performance, “The liveliness of the dialogue saved the piece, even rendered it successful.” One waits expectantly to hear what a character will say next! Sometimes Wilde seems

to be indulging in verbal acrobatics and attempting to discover what effect he will achieve by deliberately saying the opposite of what normally be expected, but his epigrams, his jewels of wit, gleam happily and delight the audience.

He evoked this style quite naturally, almost inevitably, from his cult of “art for art’s sake” and as a contrast to the crude melodrama of the preceding epoch it gained him enthusiastic applause from those who looked for some intellectual quality in the drama.

### **Realism**

It is interesting to see how much realism can be found in this play, composed at a time when “Realism” was becoming the dominant influence in the minds of leading dramatists. The scene is laid in Mayfair and on the country estate of an established gentleman. The plot is highly improbable and the characters are principally drawn from the upper classes, where love may, or may not depend on such a triviality as the name of Ernest. But the characters of ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ revealed a concentration of eccentricity which was highly improbable even in the heyday of late Victorian society.

He found no beauty in actuality. His characters had to act and speak in a mannered fashion which represented beauty to him. In his own words his comedies were “trivial comedies for thinking people”, a thin plot that might poke fun at the foibles of the day but presented in sparkling dialogue that would be appreciated by the sophisticated members of his audience.

### **Trick of ‘Expectation**

It has been pointed out by some critics that Wilde employs the trick of “expectation” in preference to “surprise” in this play. In this respect, he follows Sheridan. In Sheridan’s *‘The Rivals’* the audience are let into the secret that captain Jack Absolute and Ensign Beverley are the same individual, while fireworks ensue on the stage because of the ignorance of this vital fact by the characters. In ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ the audience likewise know the truth about Algernon and Bunbury and about JACK and ERNEST. Further, by learning of Algernon’s intention to go a Bunburying, they can guess from which quarter the trouble will arise next!

### **Humour**

Wilde’s humour ‘transmutes’ hackneyed incidents of plot into something new and individual’. The brilliant craftsmanship of Wilde coupled with his irresistible paradoxical humour makes walkley call him “an artist in sheer nonsense”. William Archer and A.B.Walkley consider the incident of Jack’s entrance ‘in deep mourning’ in Act II as *‘asupreme example of that rare thing, wit in action.’*

### **Conclusion**

Throughout the novel the author given the presentable theme of the love story contain it but in this dramatic technique is fully explains the whole part of the authors writing style about his humour, dialogue, realism, trick of expectation and about the background of the play and the plot constructions are deal with the authors knowledge and conclude with my own words

of the authors writing style is fully very differently, simply, and easy to understand the readers view point throughout the novel what he wants to present it and which is the best one to the audience in his view of writing. So these are the things given in the title.

### **Reference**

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