

## WS 9: Language in the play – Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night*

1. Copy and fill out the following table. Make use of the info box above. The table explores how Sir Toby and Fabian address Sir Andrew in this scene (as *thou* or *you*). Examine the difference. Explain the intention or effect behind the use.

character	you/thou quotation	line reference	effect/intention
Fabian	“You must needs yield your reason”	3	Polite address to social superior
Sir Toby	“Did she see thee, old boy?”	6	In combination with ‘old boy’, Sir Toby uses this to express familiarity with Sir Andrew (seemingly)
Fabian	“toward you”	8	Polite address to social superior, at the same time Fabian helps Sit Toby to mislead Sir Andrew
Fabian	“in your sight only to exasperate you, to awake your dormouse valour, to put fire in your heart, and brimstone in your liver [...]”	14 - 23	Fabian still uses the polite address to a social superior as Sir Andrew to not raise suspicion. At the same time, he tries to antagonize Viola-Cesario against Sir Andrew, going along with Sir Toby.
Sir Toby	“build me thy fortunes upon the basis of valour [...]”	26 - 30	Sir Toby leads Sir Andrew to believe that he is talking to him from the position of a friend, still it becomes clear that he antagonizes Viola-Cesario against Sir Andrew for his own entertainment.
Sir Toby	“If thou ‘thou’st’ him some thrice, it shall not be amiss, [...] Let there be gall enough in thy ink; though thou write with a goose-pen [...]”	33 - 39	Sit Toby advises that ‘thou’ can be used insultingly, at the same time he uses it in this way to address Sir Andrew who does not notice it. The sentence “Though thou write with a goose-pen, no matter.” hints that he ridicules Sir Andrew.

2. Consider what you know about the usage of second person singular and plural pronouns in the German language as an index of social relations. Apply your knowledge to the following quote from Act 1, Scene 5 and give reasons why Olivia changes pronoun usage during her short monologue.

In German, there are two pronouns in usage to refer to second person singular ‘you’. There is the polite and formal pronoun ‘Sie’ which is used for example in business situations. There is also the informal and more personal pronoun ‘Du’ which is used when in conversation with friends or family.

In the dialogue Viola, disguised as a man, goes to woo Olivia on Duke Orsino’s behalf. Olivia is lovestruck by Viola-Cesario but still, as a noble woman uses the formal pronoun ‘you’. When Viola leaves the scene, Olivia realizes that she already has feelings for the young messenger. When she monologues about the conversation which has just ended, these feelings are shown through her usage of the more personal pronoun ‘thou’.

