Notes

Notes:

- No meter in this scene - Flute: „Here, Peter Quince" - No iambic pentameter
- Easier Language - Simpler Vocab (l. 63, „That would hang us, every mother's son")
- Short sentences, in comparison to Scene. 1, makes it easier to understand
- „good Peter Quince,"

- „Is all our *company* here?" (Sentence 1.) - Multiple meanings - (*homolyte,*) *pun, play on words*
  - Sind alle companions da?
  - Sind alle Mitarbeitenden da?
  - Sind alle Soldaten da?

Jovial: spielerisch

Analysis

1   In the Act One, scene 2 of the play „A Midsummer night's Dream", by Shakespeare and published in 1595, characterize the „Mechanicals" as simple man through the manner of speaking.

---

2   The first thing that points out is the use of the meter. Although Shakespeare uses the iambic pentameter consistently in the first scene, it is completely missing out in the second one. The iambic pentameter elevates the language and wording, and so characterizes a more thoughtful use of language. A regular meter can portray a relaxed setting, an irregular meter could be used to characterize a more exited figure. The missing out of a meter at all portrays some one more simple, as they are *not paying attention* to their language as much. All those figures used a complex meter, the iambic pentameter, before. Shakespeare uses that to draw attention to their amateurish nature, when it comes to acting.

The Meter

3   The paratactic syntax (p. 9)[1], the short sentences, is another aspect of more simple language. Short sentences can be interpreted in many different ways. In general such language is used by some one how is not focussing on their speaking, this could be the case for someone who is exited, not interested in a topic, with their thoughts somewhere else or some one more „simple", not focussing on their wording in general.

Paratactic syntax

4   Right in the beginning of Scene 2, Quince asks if „is all our company here?" (p. 8 l. 1). At its most straightforward, „company" refers to the group of tradesmen and workmen who have gathered to rehearse their play. The message is simple: is the entire group present? However, Shakespeare's choice of the word „company" leaves room for richer interpretations.

"Company"

„company" can also be understood as fellowship or companionship, evoking a sense of camaraderie among the group. This interpretation focuses on the social and collective aspect of their meeting. They are not just the actors but companions united by a common purpose.

Additionally, the term „company" refers to a professional collective, pointing out their trades- and workmen identity. In this time it could also be used to describe guilds or associations of craftsmen. While this is not as straightforward, it underlines their everyday occupations, adding a contrast between their profession and effort as actors.

Finally, there is an theatrical layer to the word. „Company" can denote a troupe of actors, drawing attention to the play-within-a-play structure. By using the word „company", Quince elevates them to the status of professional performers, which, same as before, creates a humorous contrast to there actual profession. This usage blurs the lines between their „real life" and the roles they take on for the performance within the play.

This play on word by Shakespeare points out the different layer and meaning of this gathering. It opens multiple perspectives allowing for a dynamic interpretation. Shakespeare uses the ambiguity of the to highlight the group's multifaceted identity - as actors, companions, workers and participants in a broader theatrical experience.

---

5   In conclusion, Shakespeare uses various linguistic and structural techniques to highlight the „Mechanicals" humble nature, particularly through their speech patterns. The absence of a meter as well as the paratactic syntax, points out their lack of sophistication and attention. This also frames the entire scene, reinforcing the play-within-a-play structure.

Conclusion

---

[1] The references are probably wrong, I'm still using a different version of the book.

Rueckmeldung

- First sentence of paragraph is a introduction. No Quotes etc
- „l" for only line (l. 2) and „ll" for multiple (ll. 2-3)
- no short forms
- Use simple present (e.g. „Shakespeare usese…")
- Not „shows" always, use different synonymns
- workman vs workmen
- Not: „Lower … as" use „than"
- Shakespeare
- playful ≠ full