Term 2, Week 1- Fraulein Else

Group 3: Analyse Aschenbach as a writer at the beginning and end of the text- has anything changed in what he writes?

* aggressive? Conscious of external?
* No identification- personal alienation from reaction
* Victim of social expectations
* Self-obsessed/ struggle
* Form- intense? Difficult to follow? Contradictions
* Reception of other people- dynamic
* Prewar days from post war perspective
* Jewel monarchy= Austria and Hungary
* Key ideas that shaped post war Austrian society eg. Role of women, class, norms, expectations.
* ‘Viennese modernism’- movement interested in the make up of the human psyche and its relationship to the external world. Urbanization/ technological change. Ernst q unity of the self. Freud changes how we think about the human psyche. Change in literature- what it means to be modern? What it means to inhabit the modern world?
* Mastery of internal monologues
* Psychoanalysis is in early development
* At a time where authors are questioning modernity, changes and patterns
* Subjective feeling of being in the world- **differentiate from naturalism**
* Reduce to a mathematical formula
* Impressionists at other end of spectrum- interplay of light and environment
* Literary impressionism- subjective experience of world by individual, q unity of our consciousness
* Narrative technique: emerges in intellectual context that undermined the unity of the self and the idea that we have stable identity
* **Freud: mind is an iceberg w 3 layers: conscience- thoughts and perception; sub-conscience- not currently aware of but can be recalled eg. Memory and stored knowledge; unconscious- not reachable, fear, desires etc.**
* **Freuds view: dreams a form of wish fulfilment, attempts by unconscious to resolve something**
* Verdichtung- symbolic representation through metaphoric images
* Verdrangung- hysteria
* **Monologue- unfiltered access to thought processes, equate to contradictions, able to see the slips and mistakes.**

Location and its impact on the story

* Tennis court- bourgeois setting, dealing with leisure class
* International cosmopolitan but everyone is united by their class
* Else not part of the cosmopolitan, Aunt is financially supporting everything
* Hotel- dislocating place, no one is at home, semi- public space but at times also very intimate private spaces.
* Isolated as a place- middle of nowhere, social rules get ignored to an extent. Schein/ Sein- morality vs indecency. Space where everyone is watching; erotic capital, self-presentation, marriage material- on show at all times.
* Else fantasizing but does she act on them? Not able to cope with contradictions, she’s a virgin as well, she is the ‘buyer’ in this context- different idea of sexuality compared to Dorsay. Men in her fantasy portrayed as bad boys? Shaped by influence of father. She doesn’t mind displaying herself- significance is she is deciding to display herself.
* She’s contradictory- father as a gambler, not impressed by her fathers’ actions. Perhaps she naïve to think her father will change. She knows her father is a gambler and knows her parents have put her in that position, but she tries to make excuses and justify their actions. MARLENE POINT
* Else has been educated into marriage, sacrificing herself and is proud of being a trophy wife.
* French book- about woman who refuses to be owned.
* Who’s is Dorsday- Art dealer who wants to see Else naked. Capitalist icon. Art as a commodity- price on beautiful things. Else is a piece of art to ‘be sold’.
* 2 different value system between D and E. for D looking at something does not defile it. Her value system consists of choice and her choice to show. Can be controlled by exploding the structure- no longer the object but become the agent.
* She’s resolving the devaluation of herself
* Is she hysteric? Narcissistic? Is she mad or normal? Aunt thinks she’s hysterical, she does think of the reception of her acts. The way she engages with herself, talks to herself. Moment of union, to not be split but to be one, fantasy of unity? Appreciation of female form? Male gaze?
* She’s struggling, she will be devalued by giving in to Dorsday demand because it will devalue her marriage value.
* Nietzsche view- kind of thoughts everyone has means you can’t really trust anyone.
* Interior monologue: v short time span, access to unfiltered thoughts. We the reader also have access to her unconscious thoughts, which we need.
* She responds to her environment
* Leitmotifs- money; objectifies her, Death- she stages her death in her head, wishful fulfilment?