

Student Essay on Citizen Kane - Breakfast Scene Analysis

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Essay

In the scene, "Life with Emily," Orson Wells uses a combination of dialogue, facial expressions and clothing to represent a troubled marriage all in the course of a breakfast. As the scene progresses the appearance of Emily changes. Initially, she is wearing a revealing dress, representing her youthful love and naivety, but every scene after she covers herself bit by bit until the final scene, when we find her in a dress that gives off a dull and secretive appearance. In addition to clothing, the dialogue of the conversations also changes throughout the course of the breakfast. In the beginning, Kane and Emily converse like any two lovers would, and exchange compliments and casually discuss events. However, as the time passes, the conversations become more and more argumentative, colder and less passionate until the final scene when they reach the point of silence. Throughout their discussion, their facial expressions change with their emotions, and depict the troubled marriage as the time goes on. When they are first married they would always talk with eye contact, and they would kiss and smile, and in general, look happy. As time passed, they lost their precious eye contact, and barely looked at each other at all. They stopped smiling and laughing, and they stopped kissing. The last shot in the scene, the most body language shown is a quick glance at each other and then continuing what they are doing. All of these actions show a marriage that is losing the passion and love that it was founded on. All forms of expression- through wardrobe and body language are seen to depict this and their paradise-breakfast turns into a business deal, missing all emotion and taking on a more formal nature.