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PSYCHOLOGICAL GESTURE -  
CHARACTERIZATION  
RHYTHMICAL LINE

ADVENTURES OF SAMUEL PICKWICK, ESQ.

PSYCHOLOGICAL GESTURE - CHARACTERIZATION:

Scene I:

Imagine the scene with the feeling of the whole. The hero speaks before the crowd - Pickwick speaks as a leader. A certain part of the life of the Pickwickians has been accomplished and a new period is about to begin. The hero speaks, announcing that he is going to explore the world in a new way. Appreciate the contrast between this open gesture of Pickwick and the closed, sly peeping business in Mrs. Bardell's room. The one is expanding, the other contracting. Take these conditions as gestures.

In addition, Mrs. Bardell's gesture is to quietly accept her destiny. Mrs. Cluppins is like tissue paper through which everything is conveyed to Mrs. Bardell, who accepts everything in a melting way. Mrs. Cluppins contracts everything and everyone. Tommy has a gesture of kicking at everything. When Mrs. Bardell is listening to what is going on in the other room in the early part of the scene, it is like listening to a sermon about heaven for her, while in the latter part it is like something about hell. Tommy copies everything he sees and hears.

Mrs. Cluppins' objective is, "I want to make everyone understand me," and when she speaks everyone and everything must be pushed aside. For Pickwick, add the condition that this is a most unusual day - like a birthday or a very happy celebration or

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a great event. Mrs. Cluppins is psychologically always moving somewhere to attack something or someone. She is not a quiet person - she moves constantly psychologically. She is a dangerous person who is always searching for victims - always an inner movement. It is a psychological condition but it will affect her physically - she will become a funny character but it must be very serious first.

Tupman bows as if he is ticklish. Winkle bows as if he is naked. Mrs. Bardell has a movement like waves - like a boat - soaring, gliding - coming down she is accepting everything and going up she is embracing everything. Quick psychological power moving very slowly. Tommy has always, as it were, psychological obstacles in his way - when he walks he kicks everything around him psychologically. Fogg is a very strong figure.

The psychological gesture of Mrs. Bardell is "to receive everything," while Pickwick's atmosphere is that of a birthday or festive occasion.

After Mrs. Bardell has received the blow from Pickwick, she falls into a bottomless abyss into which she goes deeper and deeper. Mrs. Cluppins's gesture is to contract everything - the tea drinking is not tea drinking - she is really not in the room but in the room with Mr. Pickwick. She is outraged with his behaviour.

Mrs. Bardell & Pickwick:

He speaks to her at first in the same "birthday" manner in which he has been addressing the members of the Pickwick Club.

Mrs. Bardell begins very innocently and ends passionately - she forms her words like little dumplings, little tasty things.

Mrs. Cluppins is like a lobster or a crab - she

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catches Mrs. Bardell with her claws - she is like a buzz saw, she goes on saying things just as she wants to, without regard to anyone else.

Mrs. Bardell & Mr. Pickwick:

He is alone in his thoughts and is hardly aware of her - his psychology at the moment is "I am Pickwick, and everyone else is either a disciple or a servant." He is alone in hightoughts creating certain things. Psychologically he is a very charming boy.

Mrs. Bardell has always guessed that he will propose - inspired by Mrs. Cluppins - but she must not realize it too soon - she is not yet sure. Only when she faints in his arms and feels them about her is she sure. She is always hoping and hoping. She is very quick in her spirit and slow in her body. She swoons when she hears Tommy cry out. She only becomes passionate at the end.

Pickwick has a very fine flexible face - every emotion plays over it and he cannot hide anything. A very charming flexible face on his little round figure. When he smiles he does so with all his teeth - fully.

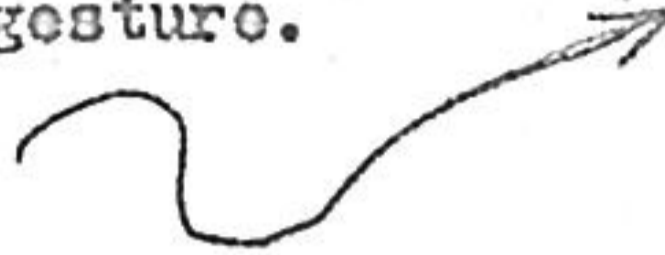
The atmosphere is that of a light sunny day - everything is gay - sunshine coming through the windows. Pickwick is celebrating. This is a very strong and important note for the whole performance. There is no break in Pickwick's psychology from the moment when he is standing on the chair addressing the Pickwickians. The first cloud in the sky is when Mrs. Bardell advances towards him.

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## RHYTHMICAL LINE:

The gesture or rhythmical line for the characters is as follows: Pickwick is flying up and then down and again up. A very simply rhythmical gesture.



Mrs. Bardell - a line of being normal and then going down.



Sam -

In comedy the character and events are much more important than in drama. All the events are fascinating in comedy, and if you discard them you will not have comedy at all. The characters are also essential. Try to understand the events by means of the rhythmical line we have chosen - this going up and down is a psychological event.

Pickwick has a tremendous power of radiation - each glance, each movement would fill Carnegie Hall - a figure which shows off in the best sense.

Mrs. Bardell is radiating but in another way - she is flowing like a liquid - "liquidating" rather than radiating. She is always giving herself to everything and everyone and every sound - when she is listening she is flowing - everything is enveloped in this watery flowing. Don't make the liquid too thick - it is liquid, not porridge.

Tommy must go on developing the sounds which are somehow right for the character. Explore the style of moving, stopping and

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moving.

Mrs. Cluppins is contracting everything - a gesture to contract everything around her and herself.

Pickwick loves to hear himself speak. There is a certain buoyancy in him - don't speak the words too cleverly. He loves to make forms and shapes in his speech - he is like a small ball with so many red spots. He is showing off with his voice, his figure and everything. He has a certain kind of activity when he is walking and running - the same thing is true of his speech. He knows that everyone notices him - he has the psychology of a famous person. He knows how charming he is, how well dressed. It may be hidden by many charming masks but every famous person has this psychology - but in Pickwick's case there is no mask - a marvelous naivety. This is his charm. He has the quality of lifting himself up like a bouncing ball.

Pickwick with the members of his Club:

Quality of showing off - shakes hands with pleasure - big outward gestures.

Mrs. Bardell does not look at him in the first part of the scene but occasionally glances at him when there is a silence.