

Multiple contexts in drama: Henry V

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We develop an analysis of how multiple contexts interact in literary dialogue, as we witness it in drama. Minimally, an internal context in which the characters of the play interact has to be considered as well as an external context in which the hearer in the context is the play's audience. Pragmatic mechanisms like presupposition, anti-presupposition and implicature, as we find them in Shakespeare's Henry V, are shown to exploit the multiple contexts involved, in such a way as to inform the literary interpretation of the play.