

Thou/you switching

In the examples below, there may, of course, be other interpretations of the reasons for the pronoun change.

In *Macbeth* (1.7.35, 39)

Lady Macbeth treats her husband as an equal: 'Was the hope drunk / Wherein you dressed yourself?'

Lady Macbeth expresses her contempt of him: 'Art thou afeard...'

In *Othello* (3.4.52, 53)

Othello assumes a friendly demeanour, asking Desdemona for her special handkerchief: 'Lend me thy handkerchief.'

After Desdemona offers a different one, he becomes more abrupt: 'That which I gave you.'

In *King Lear* (4.5.19, 21)

Regan asks her steward Oswald why Gonerill should have sent Edmund a letter: 'Might not you / Transport her purposes by word?'

Regan turns her charm on Oswald: 'I'll love thee much – / Let me unseal the letter.'

In *Much Ado About Nothing* (4.1.321, 326)

Benedick opens his heart to Beatrice: 'By this hand, I love thee.'

Benedick becomes business-like: 'I will kiss your hand, and so I leave you.'

In *Hamlet* (1.1.7, 10)

Barnardo is being friendly: 'Get thee to bed, Francisco.'

Barnardo is being a soldier: 'Have you had quiet guard?'

(3.1.129, 130)

Hamlet is angry at Ophelia: 'Go thy ways to a nunnery.'

Hamlet is suddenly suspicious: 'Where's your father?'

In *The Merchant of Venice* (2.2.81, 86)

Gobbo isn't sure Lancelot is his son: 'I cannot think you are my son.'

Gobbo realises he is: 'thou art mine own flesh and blood.'

In *The Comedy of Errors* (1.2.91, 92)

Antipholus of Syracuse speaks to Dromio of Ephesus: 'Where is the thousand marks thou hadst of me?'

Antipholus gets angry and beats Dromio: 'There, take you that, sir knave.'

In *Henry IV Part 1* (2.2.429, 431)

Prince Hal (playing the part of his father) addresses Falstaff (playing the part of Hal): 'Now Harry, whence come you?'

Hal (playing the part of his father) starts to tell him off: 'The complaints I hear of thee are grievous.'

In *Richard III* (1.2.131, 196)

Anne expresses her hatred for Richard: 'Black night o'ershade thy day, and death thy life.'

Anne is eventually persuaded by Richard: 'Well, well, put up your sword.'