

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-27734-1 - Shakespeare's Universe of Discourse: Language-Games in the
Comedies

Keir Elam

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Shakespeare's Universe of Discourse

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-27734-1 - Shakespeare's Universe of Discourse: Language-Games in the Comedies

Keir Elam

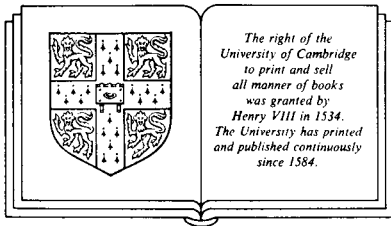
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Shakespeare's Universe of Discourse

Language-Games in the Comedies

KEIR ELAM



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge

New York New Rochelle

Melbourne Sydney

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-27734-1 - Shakespeare's Universe of Discourse: Language-Games in the Comedies

Keir Elam

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521277341

© Cambridge University Press 1984

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1984

Reprinted 1989

Re-issued in this digitally printed version 2009

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 83 - 18892

ISBN 978-0-521-22592-2 Hardback

ISBN 978-0-521-27734-1 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication, and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-27734-1 - Shakespeare's Universe of Discourse: Language-Games in the
Comedies

Keir Elam

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

To Silvana

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-27734-1 - Shakespeare's Universe of Discourse: Language-Games in the Comedies

Keir Elam

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

| | |
|--|---------|
| List of illustrations | page ix |
| Acknowledgments | x |
| List of abbreviations | xi |
| | |
| INTRODUCTION GAMES AND FRAMES | I |
| (i) 'Excellent discourse' | I |
| (ii) Shakespeare's language, Shakespeare's comedies, Shakespeare's critics | 2 |
| (iii) Language as action: the speech act | 6 |
| (iv) Language in action: the language-game | 10 |
| (v) Frames for the games | 18 |
| (vi) Shakespeare and the Elizabethan universe of discourse | 21 |
| (vii) The Shakespearean baroque: language <i>en abyme</i> | 23 |
| ONE PERFORMANCES | 33 |
| (i) Language between page and stage | 33 |
| (ii) Presentational frames: three and a half epilogues and one induction | 34 |
| (iii) Presentation framed, or the agonies of exposition | 40 |
| (iv) The presence of the voice | 46 |
| (v) Extra-linguistic relations: verbal indices | 50 |
| (vi) <i>Trompe l'oreille</i> : verbal icons | 57 |
| (vii) All the world's a dialogue: speaking as performance | 64 |
| (viii) 'Too long for a play': the work in progress | 70 |
| TWO UNIVERSES | 72 |
| (i) World-creating strategies: contexts and co-texts | 72 |
| (ii) 'The world's large tongue': universes of discourse | 83 |
| (iii) 'An appertinent title' | 85 |
| (iv) Beginnings | 89 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-27734-1 - Shakespeare's Universe of Discourse: Language-Games in the Comedies

Keir Elam

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|------------|
| (v) 'Something that hath a reference to my state': referring and predicating | 92 |
| (vi) 'I am your theme': on being an object of discourse | 101 |
| (vii) 'So much for the time when': the textuality of temporality | 104 |
| (viii) Endings | 112 |
| THREE SIGNS | 114 |
| (i) 'Signify, I pray you' | 114 |
| (ii) <i>Nomina sint numina</i> : the motivated sign | 118 |
| (iii) 'So sweet a style': pastoralism and the <i>lingua adamica</i> | 136 |
| (iv) 'The songs of Apollo': Orphic effects | 140 |
| (v) 'The words of Mercury': Hermetic mysteries | 148 |
| (vi) 'M.O.A.I.': on Malvolio's tetragrammaton (with a glance at Mistress Quickly's garter) | 159 |
| (vii) Syncretic magic, or the idea of the theatre | 164 |
| (viii) Foul words, foul wind | 166 |
| FOUR ACTS | 177 |
| (i) 'This needs must be a practice' | 177 |
| (ii) Conversations, situations | 178 |
| (iii) 'Thankful for good turns': fighting for the floor | 185 |
| (iv) 'Lawful meaning in a lawful act': illocutionary forces and interlocutory farces | 199 |
| (v) 'My words express my purpose': intention, expression, <i>ethos</i> | 212 |
| (vi) 'Make passionate my sense of hearing': per- suasions, perlocutions, <i>pathos</i> | 229 |
| FIVE FIGURES | 235 |
| (i) Figurations, configurations, disfigurations | 235 |
| (ii) 'Out of his five sentences': schemes and themes | 242 |
| (iii) Said saws | 275 |
| (iv) Taffeta phrases, three-pil'd hyperboles: the beyond-the-trope trope | 289 |
| <i>Glossary</i> | 309 |
| <i>References</i> | 318 |
| <i>Index</i> | 329 |
| viii | |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-27734-1 - Shakespeare's Universe of Discourse: Language-Games in the Comedies

Keir Elam

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Illustrations

| | | |
|--------|--|-----|
| Fig. 1 | 'D'un amore incurabile', emblem from Gabriele Symeone, <i>Le sententiose imprese</i> , Lyons, 1560, p. 33. | 61 |
| Fig. 2 | 'Angelica and Medoro', engraving by Giorgio Ghisi after Teodoro Ghisi (from R. W. Lee, <i>Names on Trees: Ariosto into Art</i> , Princeton University Press, 1977). | 138 |
| Fig. 3 | 'Festina lente', emblem from Gabriele Symeone, <i>Le sententiose imprese</i> , p. 11; also in Geoffrey Whitney, <i>A Choice of Emblemes and Other Devises</i> , London, 1586, p. 121 | 153 |
| Fig. 4 | 'Loco et tempore', emblem from Paolo Giovio, <i>Dialogo dell'imprese militari et amorose</i> , Rome, 1555, p. 80; also in Symeone, p. 68 | 154 |
| Fig. 5 | 'Maturandum', emblem from Andrea Alciati, <i>Emblemata</i> , Lyons, 1547, p. 26; also in Whitney, p. 188 | 155 |
| Fig. 6 | Divine eye, from Horapollo, <i>Hieroglyphica</i> , Paris, 1551, p. 222 | 157 |
| Fig. 7 | Hermes Trismegistus, from Achille Bocchi, <i>Symbolicae quaestiones</i> , Bologna, 1574, emblem lxiv | 159 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-27734-1 - Shakespeare's Universe of Discourse: Language-Games in the Comedies

Keir Elam

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank the following friends and colleagues who generously read and commented on this work, or on parts or earlier versions of it, during the various stages of its composition: Basil Greenslade, Terence Hawkes, Marcello Pagnini, Jane Roberts, Vivian Salmon, Alessandro Serpieri. Special thanks are due to Nicholas Brooke, whose sharp but patient reading helped remove at least some of the flaws. For the flaws that remain, of course, the responsibility is the author's alone.

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-27734-1 - Shakespeare's Universe of Discourse: Language-Games in the Comedies

Keir Elam

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations of the titles of Shakespeare's comedies have been adopted:

| | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>AWW</i> | <i>All's Well that Ends Well</i> |
| <i>AYLI</i> | <i>As You Like It</i> |
| <i>CE</i> | <i>The Comedy of Errors</i> |
| <i>LLL</i> | <i>Love's Labour's Lost</i> |
| <i>MA</i> | <i>Much Ado about Nothing</i> |
| <i>MM</i> | <i>Measure for Measure</i> |
| <i>MND</i> | <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> |
| <i>MV</i> | <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> |
| <i>MWW</i> | <i>The Merry Wives of Windsor</i> |
| <i>TG</i> | <i>The Two Gentlemen of Verona</i> |
| <i>TN</i> | <i>Twelfth Night</i> |
| <i>TS</i> | <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> |

Editions

Act, scene and line references are all to the respective Arden editions of the plays.