

two parties - one wall

In the context of our English advanced course, we got a script of a drama. It is called “Us and Them” and discusses the topic conflicts/ war and criticizes the handling of problems in a general way. Notable is the lack of indicated time, place, and individual characteristics.

There are two parties who arrive at the same place at the same time and try to claim the property for themselves. They negotiate a deal, which includes the division of the area. To reassure each other’s safety and privacy, they decide to build a wall. Mistrust, nosiness, and suspicion is leading them to the assumption that the other party plans to manipulate them. It peaks into a violent conflict, which leaves a total mess.

Our course had to rewrite the script to involve our own ideas. We, as a group of six people, started to collect some ideas.

They included such thoughts as a reference to digitalism, human age differences and moving the place on another planet. In the end we discarded these concepts and decided to arrange it as superficial as possible, so everyone might identify with the play.

To us it was also important to create the parties identically, because in our perception the clue of the play is that the characters are extremely similar and still fight each other.

An idea we kept was an advanced role of the recorder: he is supposed to be the puppeteer, who leads the people into misery for his own amusement. In our play we chose not to assign him a specific role. For example, you could perceive him as a gamer and the play takes place in a video game, or a dictator who manipulates his people for fun.

Coco, Evan, Anabel and Nina rewrote the script together, while Dina and Maya dealt with the creative part. Regularly, we discussed our achievements altogether. To arrange the play in a more creative way, we decided to paint the landscape on a sheer bedsheet. The wall is painted during the actual drama. Both parts of the area are created contrarily with different resources, to establish a certain dependency. To illustrate the different parties, our shirts have diverse colours, but all of us are wearing blue jeans and in the end, we change our T-shirts into grey ones to show our mutuality.

Positive aspects of our groupwork were that everyone was involved and contributed personal ideas. Everyone had an equal number of tasks. Something we could have optimized, was our time management. Also, the communication could have been better, but we partially had to deal with the absence of different group members which made the process more complicated. In the end we are satisfied with our work, and it was surprisingly fun to bring our own ideas and understandings into the drama.