

of Hope's regulars can bear to understand mourning, and therefore they resort to alcohol in order to anaesthetize the pain they choose to renounce in favour of self-delusion.

But what Hickey does not realize is that they are quite literally at Bedrock Bar, The End of the Line Café, and his attempt to revitalize these men would involve taking away the last thing that is keeping them from living: by preaching the rejection of alcohol to these men, he is, quite literally, **selling death without realising it** (Michael Manheim, 1998).

O'Neill is famous for leaving for leaving very little consolation: his plays **manifest a constant search for some redemptive element, but never the actual discovery** (Joseph O'Neill, 1963)

DRAMATIC TECHNIQUES

It is not only the intense and poignant sociological themes attached to O'Neill's plays that mark him out as one of America's most influential playwrights, but also his command of the mimetic artform, the dramatic methods which serve to intensify the poignancy of the characters suffering.

- Language: The language he uses lacks any lyrical beauty or rhetorical power, but it is the language of the People, speaking, as Hemingway would say, "true" - intensifies realism of his plays.

The very best dramatic dialogue reveals **not only the motives that determine what a character is to do but suggests his very appearance, his metaphysical being as well as the grosser material figure** (Hugo von Hofmannsthal, 1960) and considering this definition as a marker for characterization, O'Neill can be considered one of the masters.

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