

The first part of scene two of act one is mostly devoted to Claudius, and through the analysis of his speech it is clear that Claudius is aware of the situation of the country, but he doesn't want to acknowledge that as he is afraid of his position as a king. He gives the impression of being a not so powerful leader, almost afraid of his own nation. The diction he uses in his speech to refer to himself, such as "we" and "our" (1.ii.14 and 18) supports this impression of him as being weak, as in his own speech he has the need to make himself look more majestic, as to make sure that everyone is aware of his current royal position. He also uses a lot of contrasting ideas that do not go well together, a fact that adds to his image of being unsure and not having much influence.

In act one Shakespeare establishes the way in which the character of Claudius develops. The reader gets an impression of Claudius being a weak leader, cautious and unsure of his position as a leader. By the end of act one this impression is even deepened.

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