

Scene from the series "The Crown" (S01E10) based on the biography of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom.

Context: Queen Elizabeth's sister, Margaret, wants to marry a divorced man but the church and the Cabinet don't allow her to do it so the Queen tries to convince the Prime Minister to grant Margaret an exception so that she can get married.

Transcription:

/p sɪns ɑː lɑːst miːtɪŋ/r aɪv bi:n θɪŋkɪŋ ə greɪt diːəl/p əbaʊt sʌmθɪŋ ðət maɪ fɑːðə sed/p tə prɪsəs mɑːgrət ən maɪself/r + ət ðə taɪm əv ði æbdɪkeɪʃn/p hi meɪd əs sweə/r əz sɪstəz/r + nevə tə put eniθɪŋ/r + ɔːr eniwʌn/p bɪfɔː wʌn ənlæðə/p ɪn ðə weɪ ðət hi felt ɪz brʌðə hæd/r ɪts ən əʊθ ðət wi bəʊθ meɪd /p ən ðət/r wi ɪntend/r + tə kiːp/p bət aɪ kɑːnt siː haʊ aɪm tu ɒnər ɪt/p ɪt ɪz maɪ dʒuːtɪ/p əz kwiːn/p tə rɪfjuːz mɑːgrət mæɪrɪdʒ tu ə divɔːs mæn/p evriwʌn/p ədvaɪsɪz mi səʊ/r + ən jet aɪ wɪl bi breɪkɪŋ ə prɒmɪs/p nɒt əʊnli/p tə maɪ sɪstə/p bət ɔːlsəʊ tə maɪ leit fɑːðə/r ən ðə wʌn bɒdi/r əv piːpəl/r huː maɪt meɪk ɪt pɒsɪbl fə mi tə kiːp maɪ prɒmɪs/p ɪz kæbɪnət/r ə gruːp huːm aɪv lɜːnt kɑʊnt nəʊ fjuːə ðən fɔː divɔːs men/p ɪn ðeə nʌmbə/

Comprehension exercise:

- 1) What did their father make them swear?
- 2) Does Queen Elizabeth agree that her sister marries a divorced man? What about the Church?
- 3) Which group of people would be able to help the queen? Is there any divorced man in that group?

- 1) /p sɪns α: lɑ:st mi:tɪŋ/
 P tone. A P tone is presented with a progressive loop because what is said constitutes a movement towards the information flow - a movement towards greater convergence. "last" is selective from an existential paradigm as opposed to "first" or "second"
- 2) /r+ ət ðə taɪm əv ðə æbdɪkɛɪn/
 R+ tone. By using an R+ tone, the speaker shows her/his dominance. That is where we can identify "Discourse control 1", where the speaker shows her/his intention not to be interrupted. An R+ tone means that the speaker wants to keep talking, so that creates togetherness as the speaker draws attention to a distinction that both (speaker and hearer) know to be relevant.
- 3) /r əz sɪstəz/
 R tone. Tells the hearer nothing that she/he doesn't already know because an R tone constitutes an excursion into the common ground, the information is referred to both participants as they are in the same state of convergence. (the Prime Minister already knows that Queen Elizabeth has a sister)
 "Sisters" is selective from an existential paradigm as opposed to any other relationship that might be possible for Elizabeth and Margaret.
- 4) /r+ tə ki:p/
 R+ tone. Here we can find again a dominant speaker (discourse control 1). Queen Elizabeth wants to keep talking and explaining to the prime minister how important it is for her to keep the promise.
 "Keep" is selective from an existential paradigm as opposed to "discard" or "break"
- 5) /p ɪt ɪz maɪ dju:ti/
 P tone. By using a P tone, the speaker creates separateness: the speaker locates him/herself outside the area of convergence and presents an independent viewpoint. Elizabeth knows that, as queen, she is the one that has to reject Margaret's marriage.
 "My" is selective from an existential paradigm as opposed to his-her-our duty.
- 6) /r+ ən jət aɪ wɪl bi breɪkɪŋ ə prəmɪs/
 R+ tone. Queen Elizabeth shows herself as the dominant speaker. She wants to continue explaining how important it is for her to keep the promise she made with her sister and how many people would be affected if she breaks that promise.
 Speaker meaning: I'm the one who's breaking a promise.
 "Break" is selective from an existential paradigm as opposed to "keep."
- 7) /p ɪz kæbɪnət/
 P tone. The speaker uses a P tone as a step forward in the information flow. After saying "cabinet", Elizabeth continues explaining what is the cabinet and how it is comprised.
 "Cabinet" is selective from an existential paradigm as opposed to any other body of people in a political context.