Speech features in the play

_A Streetcar Named Desire_ by Tennessee Williams


**Representing speech features**

If you were writing a play, how would you represent

- hesitation .................................................................
- shouting ........................................................................
- repair ...........................................................................
- accent? ........................................................................

**Graphology in the play**

How does Williams use graphology to represent real speech features such as:

- turn taking (interruptions and overlaps)
- non-fluency features (pauses, false starts, repairs)
- prosody (stress, pitch, volume, intonation)?

Complete the table below with your ideas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quotation</th>
<th>Type of graphology</th>
<th>Effect of speech feature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Negro woman: ... she says St Barnabas would send out his dog to lick her and when he did she’d feel an icy cold wave all up an’ down her. Well, that night when—</td>
<td>Ellipsis and hyphen</td>
<td>Ellipsis shows the character is in the middle of a story. This makes the audience feel as if we are suddenly in the middle of everyday life in Elysian Fields. The dash shows she is interrupted. This conveys a busy, vibrant atmosphere with lots of noise and sound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendor: Re-e-ed h-o-o-t!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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As you read and analyse the rest of Act 1 Scene 1, look out for the ways in which Williams uses graphology to convey features of speech. Analyse the significance of the feature and what effect it has. (AO1 and AO2)