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PROGRAMMANUS

Producent:

Pamela Taivassalo

Speakers' Corner

Baroness Margaret Thatcher

Kristina Leon:

In the programme today: Baroness Margaret Thatcher and her speech *The Lady is not for turning*. Our specialist and political rhetoric Doctor Nick Turnbull from Manchester University. Meet Amina Jamil and Daniel Edmundson from the Debating Society at Parrs Wood High School. This is Speaker's Corner.

Dr Nick Turnbull:

I'm Doctor Nick Turnbull and today we are going to talk about Margaret Thatcher.

Baroness Margaret Thatcher:

The lady's not for turning.

Dr Nick Turnbull:

Thatcher was and remains a deeply controversial figure and the first and only female Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. She's mentioned all the time here in Britain and overseas as well I think. Her government was responsible for massive changes to British economy and society in the 1980's, in fact some which still take place today. She was a very forceful personality, she was known as the Iron Lady because of a very forceful personality. As a woman in politics, especially then when it was rarer than it is now, it was very difficult to get to the top. Women weren't as respected by their male counterparts so they had to fight harder, so perhaps this is where she developed her strength of will. She was very determined, she was fairly critical of others and she wanted to get to the top and so she did.



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Baroness Margaret Thatcher:

Without a healthy economy we cannot have a healthy society. Without a healthy society the economy will not stay healthy for long.

But it is not the State that creates a healthy society. When the State grows too powerful people feel that they count for less and less.

Dr Nick Turnbull:

In 1980 she was pressured to turn back from economic policies she had begun, and whether you agree with them or not, they were very controversial. There was a lot of pressure for her to make a U-turn otherwise to go back and go back to the previous policies of the previous government. And in that speech she said to her opponents "You turn if you want to, the lady is not for turning". And I mean this is a great phrase because by speaking about herself in the third person she objectifies her opinions. She makes a distance from her subjective idea and says: well this is a fact, it's not going to change, she's never going to change her mind on the economy or on Europe and then she became known as this Iron Lady, the immovable will. And she went on to stay in power for a very long time and she was untouchable for a long time.

Baroness Margaret Thatcher:

To those waiting with bated breath for that favourite media catchphrase, the "U" turn, I have only one thing to say. You turn if you want to. The lady's not for turning.

Dr Nick Turnbull:

She has such a remarkable accent. She has this very upper-middle class accent, very patient, very careful, very dignified. It infuriated many people I think because she really gave the impression that she wasn't going to listen to anyone else's views. But at the time of social and economic upheaval in Britain, she provided leadership that people felt they needed even if they didn't always agree with her, that ethos that she projected of this iron will was accepted and designed by a large chunk of the public at that time.



Kristina Leon:

Ethos, Pathos, Logos.

Dr Nick Turnbull:

So we think three honours of a speech and this comes from Aristotle's thousands of years ago.

Kristina Leon:

Ethos.

Dr Nick Turnbull:

The Ethos is the speaker, the character of the speaker. A way of persuading by projecting a personality. It's actually the most important. It shouldn't always be but in public speaking it's the key. If you can reveal your personality in some way or create a personality for the audience, then they can trust what you say simply because of who you are.

Kristina Leon:

Logos

Dr Nick Turnbull:

Logos is the arguments, the reasons.

Kristina Leon:

Pathos.

Dr Nick Turnbull:

Pathos is the emotions, the passions. Talking to the public you have to appeal to their emotions, as you say you feel the hair standing up on the back of your neck or you feel moved to tears by a great speech. That's how you win people over it's through these three honours, if you address all three you've got a great speech.

Kristina Leon:

In Parris Wood High School in Manchester the Debating Society gathers every Tuesday. Our reporter Pamela Taivassalo paid them a visit.



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Pamela Taivassalo:

This is Sex Pistols with Pretty Vacant, a tune from the Thatcher era one could say. I'm here in Manchester at Parrs Wood High School with Daniel and Amina and we're talking about their Debating Society.

Daniel Edmundson:

The way we have, our format of British Parliament, on each side you'd have in a competition, two sides of the proposition and two sides of the opposition and there will be two people on each team. And a chairperson who directs the debate. And depending on where you are on the table obviously you have to argue differently and sometimes you won't be able to argue for your own side, whereas in public speaking you get to choose what side you argue. So there are a lot of differences but fundamentally it's all about how well you can speech.

Pamela Taivassalo:

Can it sometimes be as lively as in the House of Commons?

Daniel Edmundson:

Oh yes definitely, there's a bit of a local legend at Parrs Wood that someone slapped somebody who gave a point of information in a debate, so it all gets very heated especially with strangers because you know you've never met them before you don't know what their style is, and quite often they can be quite heated and they can be very passionate about their speeches and you know people really get into it when it's in debating so yes, it is very lively.

Pamela Taivassalo:

How would you describe your style?

Amina Jamil:

Powerful, because when it's a subject that I'm passionate about I kind of do take the role very seriously and I kind of do get a bit too involved to what I'm trying to say and then when someone else tries to get up and say something against me I'm like No, you're absolutely wrong, I'm right,



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I'm the only one you should be listening to. But it's good in a way.

Pamela Taivassalo:

You don't give others space then?

Amina Jamil:

No, I had one today in History when I was debating pro-Thatcherism, and I'm actually against Thatcherism but my History teacher said Okay you be pro, give a different side. So I went up there and I was just like in my character and I just did it. And then someone tried to stand up and say something like against my point and I was like No, wouldn't even let them finish I was just interrupting them like No, I'm right, this is why you're wrong and stuff. So...

Pamela Taivassalo:

Do you think that Baroness Thatcher would have been proud of you?

Amina Jamil:

Yes, probably. My History teacher said that there's a Thatcher in the making right there. Not something I really want to be known as but...

Kristina Leon:

And now, Doctor Nick Turnbull on a few tips on how to give a great speech.

Dr Nick Turnbull:

Timing is key. Again when we speak in ordinary conversation we speak very quickly. It's not essential to be so slow and to be so clear because the other person is involved as well. But when you're speaking to an audience, the audience is passive. They're listening and you have to carry them along. So therefore you'll find that most great speakers leave long pauses in between the clauses of their sentences and in between the sentences. You would never speak like this normally - it would be too formal and very odd. But it's very important to leave a gap, to allow the audience to catch up with your ideas. To bring them along, allow the ideas to sink in and to emphasise different parts of the speech that you wish to emphasise, by varying the tempo as we go.



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Kristina Leon:

In Speaker's Corner today you've heard; Doctor Nick Turnbull, Daniel Edmundson, Amina Jamil and Baroness Margaret Thatcher.

This programme was produced by Pamela Taivassalo, Ingela Håkansson was our sound engineer and my name is Kristina Leon.

For more on Margaret Thatcher:

<http://www.margaretthatcher.org/>

From the Conservative Party conference speech "*the lady's not for turning*" in Brighton, October 10th 1980:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQ-M0KEFm9I&feature=related>