

ÉIREANN LORSUNG

Telephone [1]

Up the telephone. Say *The letter was written
by a student.* Down the telephone.

A few days later transmission intercepted
by History. Say *Say something about the events*

in the train on the way to Frankfurt. Let
body equal crumple in an outsized coat

if air turns fair to foul as fast as Jew
turned to Jew along the eastbound

track. Say *Yours gratefully say this gentian
say I would be more than happy say*

Where are things leading with us. Up
the telephone. Say nothing to the no

one there. Say *And yet! Here!* Say
empty breath, wind on the line.

Down the telephone. Down the
telephone. Say *after all, say*

a second time. Since *body* has sense
before *ear*, lie next to rail;

say *for weeks.* Cover the ear
of the body as the train pounds by.

(Fragments in italics taken from the correspondence of Paul Celan and
Ingeborg Bachmann)