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Rhetorical Analysis Essay : Amy Tan , Robert MacNeil

Preface/Cover letter Reflection Assignment

This unit gave me a lot of lessons and I learned new tricks and new ways for me to use to write an essay and sound more convincing and persuasive. Also we understood the importance of using rhetoric in our essays as it gives out more details and thoroughly explains the main points and ideas of a text.

The concept of author audience text has helped me a lot as before i used to overlook their background but when you get into it through details you get a better and more clear information on what the author is trying to say as how you know more about the background of the things.

Also the argument and evidence played a good role as how it lenghtens your essay with important stuff that gives more meaning in a small amount of words.

The assignments throughout the course have helped me massively on developing strategies for reading, drafting, revising, editing, and self-assessment as how before i was not as careful and didnt pay that much attention but now i'm more better at the structure of an essay.

As well the development and engaging in the collaborative and social aspects of writing processes helped me as how when a peer checked my work and pointed out something was off it helped me rebuild and strengthen my essay.

Broken English and how people view people who are not as skilled in English negatively impacts immigrants on a daily basis. A great example of this impact is shown through "Mother Tongue" by Amy Tan. Tan's parents came to America, they had trouble fitting in with Americans. Tan, on the other hand, had a less difficult time adapting to American Culture because she was born in America. In Mother Tongue, Tan begins the passage by explaining how powerful language is and how you are viewed differently if you lack language then continues on to tell stories that help prove her point. Tan speaks about the different forms of English she uses through life experiences with her mother. To her, the kind of English she spoke with her mother and to a larger extent, her husband made perfect sense and brought in some kind of intimacy that only her family could perfectly understand. Some of the people in her circle claim to understand only a small fraction of whatever her mother speaks. Others would not simply understand anything and looked at her mum as if she spoke in pure Chinese. Her mum is seen to face a lot of challenges and prejudice from the people around her.

Tan then describes her clear understanding with no challenge of her mother's dialect, concluding that her mother, does not speak "broken" or "limited" English as others refer to as Tan says,

" But to me, my mother's English is perfectly clear, perfectly natural. It's my mother tongue.

Her language, as I hear it, is vivid, direct, and full of observation and imagery. That was the language that helped shape the way I saw things, expressed things, made sense of the world"

By explaining the main point she has about embracing one's "mother tongue" through encounters with her friends, we get a better emotional understanding of the argument she is making..

Another example of how she successfully portrays the essential theme is in her scene describing the negligence and arrogance of the hospital that her mother had tests performed at. Tan's mother had a scan done at a hospital to retrieve further knowledge of her status, only to find that the hospital wanted to make little effort to retrieve her test results because they thought she might just go away or come back with someone whose English was "proper". Tan says, "(And when the doctor finally called her daughter, me, who spoke perfect English-language and behold- we had assurances the scan would be found, promises that a conference call on Monday would be held, and apologies for any suffering my mother had gone through for a most regrettable mistake") The use of emotion intrigues the reader by discussing a very upsetting event where the lack of speaking English properly risked the well being of her mother. If the mother hadn't had anyone to call and speak English properly for her, her sickness would potentially progress and no one would know about it because of the neglect and little care the hospital had for her. By using this anecdote to agree with the appeal, Amy Tan creates sympathy for the individuals that have dealt with and are dealing with situations like these. Ultimately reinforcing the idea that people need to look past an individual's "Mother Tongue" and give the same treatment that English speakers receive. English speakers do not have to struggle to receive medical attention nor do they get ridiculed for their language deficiency. Simply demonstrating how non-speaking English people struggle with finding their identity in different territories not of their descent.

Towards the beginning of the argument, Tan seems ashamed of her mother. Tan recognizes the difficulties and challenges that she was faced with for her mother's different vernacular. As Tan said, "I know this for a fact, because when I was growing up, my mother's limited English limited my perception of her. I was ashamed of her English. I believed that her English reflected the quality of what she had to say). By using an abashed tone when discussing the struggles her mother's English created for her, Tan demonstrates the full

magnitude of the issue not only for her mother but for all non-English speaking residents and the ways in which she embraced the language her mother spoke. This gives the idea that people shouldn't stereotype but judge on the work the person has. An example is, "I wanted to capture what language ability tests can never reveal: her intent, her passion, her imagery, the rhythms of her speech and the nature of her thoughts" (Tan 768). Here Tan puts in question the concept between "proper English" and her mother's English essentially. She does this so the reader can see how meaningful as well as powerful one's native language is. The native language is filled with passion and emotion because the language comes so naturally and one doesn't really have to think if anyone will understand the actual words but how the words are spoken. Overall Amy Tan wants to inform and persuade the audience to take another look at the immigrants like her and her mother, have to deal with not having spoken the native language of the new land, and be much more considerate and tolerant of ethnic differences.

From this we learn that it's already hard on people not knowing the language to fit in but they are capable of doing work and have the same ideas as us. This way by not comforting them we are pushing them more away from learning and lack development. The idea we need to take is that to give people a chance and be nice to them as how we are all human in the end of the day and shouldn't choose race language to separate us, we need to be working together to get better and improve.

