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Within this unit, I have learned different approaches when talking to an audience to enhance my credibility and way of approaching a text. This unit has taught me my methods of rhetorical writing, which are more toward Pathos, Ethos, and Logos. This first unit has also taught me how to decipher if a writer uses one of the three rhetorical approaches. The unit has taught me how to write in a different style effectively to get points across without coming off as too wordy or hard to read. Ethos is how writers can present themselves more effectively by enhancing their credibility and trustworthiness. Lastly, Logos is how they can make an argument more consistent and logical within their approach while finding evidence to best support it. This unit has also taught me rhetorical strategies and referencing other texts and authors. The techniques paired with the rhetorical triangle logical strategy can consist of statistical data, various kinds of separate data, and inductive plus deductive reasoning. Ethical methods have background information on writers' credentials and what good identified sources are. Who are good and trusted publishers, and where to look for them? Ethical strategies also helped me improve my tone, grammar, and peer/proofreading of my essays. This has helped me understand my writing from outer perspectives letting me know what I should add or Clarify.

“Mother Tongue” by Amy Tan Rhetorical Analysis.

In this essay, I will analyze “Mother Tongue” written by Amy Tan, briefly discussing the author, who grew up in California and Switzerland and later studied English and linguistics at San Jose State University. In addition to Berkeley University, the author was a creditable and successful freelance business writer in 1987. Amy Tan’s essay “Mother Tongue” was published in “Under Western Eyes” in the Threepenny Review in 1990. This text touches upon terms like “broken” or “standard” English and their effect on immigrants with discrimination in their everyday lives and how it is essential to take into account how capable as well as intelligent immigrants are who speak “broken” English. Taking a closer look at the text, we will see the author's use of being an influential writer using the rhetorical feature of Pathos, appealing to the reader through emotion or imagination. This essay touches upon themes in Tan’s writing, articulation not being a measurement of one's intelligence, forms of the English language, and discrimination against immigrants in America.

Tan appealed to her audience using Pathos by first discussing how accents do not measure the intelligence of others by using the personal experiences she has had with her mother, a Chinese immigrant. Within the text, you will see Tan using her mother as an example on the second to the third page of the text; she discusses her mother's intelligence by using examples of her mother's understanding of the English language through various resources such as magazines, books, newspaper articles, “You should know that my mother's expressive command of English belies how much she understands. She reads the Forbes report, listens to Wall Street Week, converses daily with her stockbroker, and reads all of Shirley. MacLaine’s books easily— all kinds of things I can't begin to understand.” (Page 419). Tan, perhaps is using the rhetorical strategy of pathos to appeal to her readers by trying to relate to her mother's education. Many immigrant parents can relate to this or feel

connected by understanding that they are just as bright by reading similar texts as those listed above as those who speak “standard” English. Asking yourself about these matters is firstly having to understand the stigma behind reading sources such as Forbes; the bias those carry of people who read these outlets of news is taken with the thought of wealth, a high level of intelligence to be able to understand the type of pieces Forbes produce which should have been reflected onto Tan’s Mother. Readers can feel frustrated with the stereotype that others bring upon them that they are less educated and therefore seen as unequal to others who speak fluent English. Readers can relate to their parents being underestimated due to language barriers. Readers can also say they have underestimated Tan’s Mother’s capabilities and those like her. Even though they are just as or even more educated than those who discriminate against them.

Tan continues within the text by discussing varieties of English and usage within different settings, such as with family or academic peers. Within the text, we can see Pathos being used to have the audience relate to Tan’s various forms of English, such as in the academic field. The format is used in a more social setting, contrasting how different they are from each other, thus appealing to readers' relatability to their conditions of English in different environments. In the first example, during an academic talk she held, Tan tells her readers, “All the forms of standard English that I had learned in school and through books, the forms of English I did not use at home with my mother” (page 418) while as later in the passage she states “Just last week, I was walking down the street with my mother, and I again found myself conscious of the English I was using, the English I do use with her. We were talking about the price of new and used furniture, and I heard myself saying this: “Not waste money that way” (page 418). The possible usage of this rhetorical strategy can stem from how many can connect with the idea of presenting themselves differently to family while presenting themselves in a professional setting. People find themselves conducting

themselves in different mannerisms, just as Tan stated. This connects to Tan's point of various forms of English within one's consciousness, creating the feeling of relatability through this empathy. Approach to the audience is vital to how close we all connect to this; many have had instances where they have realized the difference between them talking with family rather than their friend groups.

Tan uses the rhetorical strategy of pathos by possibly appealing to readers' empathetic sides by discussing the repercussions those like her mother face in society due to their "broken." English and how others perceive them. Using examples from the text, Tan's statement on the treatment her mother has faced by simply being a Chinese immigrant with what some might deem as "poor" articulation in English, "My mother has long realized the limitations of her English as well. When I was fifteen, she used to have me call people on the phone to pretend I was her. In guise, I was forced to ask for information or even to complain and yell at people who had been rude to her." (Page 419). Briefly summarising this quote, Tan discusses a point in her life where she would have to pretend to be her mother to receive good service in her mother's affairs. What the audience might sympathize with those who come from first-generation or second-generation immigrant families is the act of doing this; many, including myself, have had to step in for our guardians or parents to perform roles such as translator, or even just as Tan states the part of becoming the parent taking on their affairs to aid them. Many may feel like they have had to grow up fast due to these responsibilities. Which is what can cause this stemming emotion of sympathy gained from the audience.

Vital to the argument made due to discrimination amongst immigrants, it's known that the underlying racism within society against immigrants and their families is due to how they are simply perceived. Readers who are immigrants or belong to immigrant families can find this text influential in their own lives because they have also had to deal with this mistreatment; they have seen it, felt it, and lived through it in their everyday

lives. Tan points out this fact using this as an example to establish another connection with her readers sharing the bias those hold within themselves when serving those whom they perceive as non-English speakers.

In conclusion, concepts like "broken" or "standard" English and the impact on immigrants' daily lives, as well as how important it is to consider how capable and intelligent these people who speak "broken" English are. Readers can empathize with this text. Those who are immigrants and belong to immigrant families or simply are minorities in America can relate to the text. We all face discrimination in society in one way or another. Tan highlights this mistreatment with the repercussions brought upon immigrants and minorities simply by speaking or being perceived differently than others.

Citation

Tan, Amy, and Samuel Cohen. "Mother Tongue." 50 Essays: A Portable Anthology, Fourth ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, Boston, 2014, pp. 417–423