Outcome #1

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**Outcome 1** focuses on being cognizant of audience, context, and stakes in order to compose a strong piece. There is a certain knowledge of rhetorical awareness to effectively convey claims and ideas through writing. Understanding these aspects are important because they strengthen an argument; without understanding the context of the situation and the intended audience, a piece can often fail to properly address the questions and concerns of the readers. Clarity and meaning are lost through the deliverance of the writer’s ideas. The importance of rhetorical awareness can be shown through Short Assignment 2 (SA2), which focused on the translation of Marjane Satrapi’s “The Vegetable” to a poem. In translating the poem, it is important to understand how the audience and context shape the creation of Satrapi’s piece, especially in a graphic novel format. A graphic novel allows Satrapi to convey her message through words and pictures. As a translator, I had to focus on not only the text but also the pictures and how they enhanced her message. I worked to uncover Satrapi’s main claims within her piece, so I could create a poem following those guidelines.

**Outcome 1.1** talks about understanding how the rhetorical elements may affect the production of a piece. It was necessary to understand the differing rhetorical elements between a poem and a graphic novel in order to properly translate the claims of “The Vegetable.” One of the main differences between a poem and a graphic novel is the expectations the readers/audience have when reading each genre. In graphic novel, the audience is expecting a more light-hearted piece often with bits of humor spread without the novel. In a poem, the audience is more primed for a deeper discussion on the emotions and feelings of the narrator. By understanding this difference, I was able to take advantage of it, shedding light on the destructiveness of hiding one’s nationality:

“I faked living

Lies spread like wildfire

I was in the middle

Suffocating, collapsing under the intensity of the heat” (23-26)

The evocative words within this stanza emphasize the feelings that result from hiding one’s nationality and identity. By using words such as “suffocating” and “collapsing,” I conveyed the struggles that were faced in “The Vegetable” when her true self was hid. I also used imagery to illustrate the dire situation. Because poems lack the ability to draw out ideas, actions and feelings, I used sensory details to create an image in the reader’s head. Understanding the weaknesses and strengths of poems compared to graphic novels allowed me to enhance the clarity of the main ideas.

**Outcome 1.2** focuses on being conscious about interacting with different rhetorical elements, understanding how each element alters the effectiveness of your piece. By knowing the rhetorical elements of a poem, I was able to enhance the meaning and clarity of the piece. I used parallel structure in order to connect ideas and make concepts easier to follow.

“As if clothes could cover skin

As if loud voice could change perceptions

As if screaming derail could convince the world

That I was nothing like that Iranian girl” (13-16)

The parallel format by maintaining the “As if” for the first three lines connects the three different actions and ideas. All three were attempts to be “nothing like that Iranian girl.” No matter what the narrator did, she could not lose who she was. Hiding and denying her nationality did not change her nationality. Her three attempts taught her that it is impossible to change who you are; it is impossible to change your Iranian background. The parallel structure amplified the gravity of the situation and the narrator’s actions and feelings.

**Outcome 1.3** mentions the assessment of reasoning for choices made in the piece. Through the composer’s memo, I explained my reasoning for making certain choices with the translation and the effect that those choices had on the overall meaning and success of my piece. The composer’s memo has explanations for rhetorical choices based on the new genre and audience. I also included rhetorical strategies and elements of poems that I used, which further enhanced my piece. I discussed how they added to the clarity and meaning of the poem. Understanding the reasoning for why I made my decisions is important because it allows for revisions that improve the effectiveness of the piece.

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