

Assignment brief

Learning Outcomes and Assessment Criteria 2018-19

Sample number: 1

Unit Title: English Language Studies – FN2/3/AA/06G

Overview of assessment task

You will be given a choice of four types of written discourse, from which you must choose two to analyse.

You must write any essay which analyses the different types of written discourse you have chosen. You must discuss the content and intended audience of each piece of written discourse. You must also make reference to and compare the use of language, syntax and register discussing how they differ.

(1500 Words +/- 10%)

Learning outcomes and assessment criteria

Learning Outcomes	Assessment Criteria
2. Understand the features of written discourse	2.1. Examine different types of written discourse 2.2. Analyse the content of and intended audience of two contrasting types of written material 2.3. Analyse the use of language, register and syntax in two contrasting types of written material

Grading Descriptors and Components 2018-19

Sample number: 1

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GD 1: Understanding of the subject

Merit	Distinction
<p>The student, student's work or performance:</p> <p>a. demonstrates a very good grasp of the relevant knowledge base</p>	<p>The student, student's work or performance:</p> <p>a. demonstrates an excellent grasp of the relevant knowledge base</p>

GD 2: Application of knowledge

Merit	Distinction
<p>The student, student's work or performance:</p> <p>a. makes use of relevant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ideas • facts <p>and</p> <p>c. very good levels of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analysis 	<p>The student, student's work or performance:</p> <p>a. makes use of relevant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ideas • facts <p>and</p> <p>c. excellent levels of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • analysis

GD 7: Quality

Merit	Distinction
<p>The student, student's work or performance:</p> <p>b. puts forward arguments or ideas which are generally unambiguous but which are in a minor way limited or incomplete</p>	<p>The student, student's work or performance:</p> <p>b. puts forward arguments or ideas which are consistently unambiguous and cogent</p>

Sample number: 1 (Resubmission)
Unit title: English Language Studies –
FN2/3/AA/06G

Assignment 1 – English Language Studies

Introduction

In this assignment I will be analysing two different types of written discourse; an extract from Scott's diary by R. Scott and "Nineteen Eighty-Four" by George Orwell. The genre of the diary extract seems to start out with poetic diary entries, although it changes throughout. As time goes on, the entries are more informative of the events that had happened. The audience of the diary would be people who are interested in reading what had happened on the expedition, also family and friends. The purpose of the diary was to inform about the events that took place and also to advise family members of the team, about how their lives ended. The genre of "Nineteen Eighty-Four" is fiction, with set in a dystopian world, with a more science fiction setting. The audience for this novel are people who are interested in dystopian novels, but also I think that the target audience was for a lot of people as the purpose of this novel was to give an insight into what was happening in the world, as when published, WW2 had not long finished. The purpose was to give an understanding into what could happen with dictators and socialism in the world we live in.

Main Body

In the extract "Nineteen Eighty-Four" the writer has used a mix of sentence structures, which mainly were informative sentences and have given an effect to the reader. For example, we can see that the use of "Only the Thought Police mattered" gives off a dramatic effect to the reader as it makes a memorable point and makes the reader want to know more about what is going on. On the other hand, in the extract from Scott's diary, there are numerous sentence structures, however the simple sentences used have given a big effect to the reader as well. "The wind blown furrows", "The seductive folds of the sleeping-bag" and "The patter of dog pads" which is an incomplete sentence, all give the reader a dramatic effect so that they get a feel of where he is and to understand how the writer wants the reader to perceive what it is like on this expedition.

In the extract from Scott's diary, the writer has used more syntax at the beginning of the extract, the word structure has been used to give attention to what the writer is saying and seems more poetic than the rest of the extract. For example "The sun blurred image peeping shyly through the wreathing drift giving pale shadowless light." is used so that the reader can understand what he is trying to interpret. By using the words "sun blurred image" this means that where he is, the sun is not out and he is remembering what the sun felt like as it now feels like a distant memory. . The writer has specifically used adjectives before the nouns 'light' and 'sun' to give the reader a better understanding of how he actually felt being on the expedition. The writer may have wanted the reader to see that he was writing this diary to make himself happy or for something to look forward to doing while on his expedition (Sample, 2009).

Sample number: 1 (Resubmission)
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FN2/3/AA/06G

In the extract “Nineteen Eighty-Four” we can see that the register used is formal, being a ‘dystopian’ novel this is written in the third person. However, in the extract from Scott’s diary, we can see that the register used is also formal, but is written in first person tense.

In the extract “Nineteen Eighty-Four” the writer uses metaphors and similes such as these specific words ‘boiled cabbage’ and ‘old rag mats’ are chosen by the writer to imply that Winston Smith’s life is boring and unpleasant. This is effective because it gives the reader an insight into how it actually smelt and looked, which makes it easier to imagine the way of life. These specific words that the writer has used are semantics and have given the reader a better understanding of what he is interpreting with the use of the words ‘boiled cabbage’ and ‘old rag mats’. Also this can be linked to the phrase used by the writer “the voice sank of somewhat, though the words were still distinguishable’. One suggested interpretation of this could mean that there is always a message played into the minds of these people no matter what. And ‘the voice sank’, which is a metaphor, could imply that there is no way of getting away from the message they want everyone to listen to. The effect of this on the reader is that they can understand how powerless the people are in this ‘dictated world’, the technique used in these phrases of the extract is to persuade the reader to read on and see what will happen. Additionally, in the extract from Scott’s diary there is also a strong use of similes such as ‘The eternal silence of the great white desert’, the writer has used this to give the reader an understanding of how he felt, by using the specific words ‘great white desert’ he is implying that this expedition is so great and important to him and that the white desert is interpreted to be pure as he wanted to be the first person to set upon this land which contributes to the overall tone and reading of this passage as he is very eager to succeed on the expedition (Levy. 2010).

In the extract in Scott’s diary, the lexis used ‘the act of a brave man and an English gentleman’ gives the reader an understanding of Captain Scott’s background, and tone used to indicate how hard they worked to get this far. The specific word ‘gentleman’ implies that he was a very well educated man and was a well-known citizen to many (Thefamouspeople, 2017). The writer’s viewpoint is revealed by his use of his RP language and not specifically using any slang words. He was indicating how they may have felt annoyed that they were not the first people to get to the South Pole. The word ‘companions’ suggests that, not only is he well educated, but that he also has a lot of respect for the men who have joined him on the expedition. The writer has used this specific word as it gives an understanding of the importance of the expedition. Likewise, in the extract ‘Nineteen Eighty-Four’ the writer has used an interesting language technique of alliteration ‘flapped fitfully in the wind’ to indicate that the poster of the man is powerful ‘flapped fitfully’, similarities like a dictator who is strong and overpowering, or somebody who is fit and strong. Whereas the writer uses the phrase to describe Winston Smith ‘went slowly, resting several times on the way’ to let the reader understand that he was weak and powerless. The effect of these repeated descriptions of Winston Smith and of the man in the posters is to make the reader empathize that Winston Smith was an

Sample number: 1 (Resubmission)
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FN2/3/AA/06G

ordinary, powerless person in the dystopian world, and the poster of the man was the 'powerful dictator', who watched their every sight 'The black-mustachioed face gazed down from every commanding corner', which is another use of alliteration, is used to indicate the reader that he was above all of the citizens and was the powerful dictator of the dystopian world.

In the extract from Scott's diary, the writer used a specific negative connotation 'unendingly cheerful' to imply that there is a hidden meaning behind these words. The writer is interpreting that they are at their wits end with being 'cheerful' as they are slowly watching each other die and are not coming to the point of realization that their time is nearly up. The effect of this on the reader is that the reader will understand that they are 'unendingly' waiting for their turn to die. However, in the extract 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' there is also a negative connotation used 'Only the Thought Police mattered' there is a hidden message in the words chosen by the writer. The writer wants the reader to understand the police are usually known to protect people (Cambridge, 2018). Whereas, in this extract Winston Smith fears the 'Thought Police'. This is used to show the reader that this Dystopian world that Winston lives in, is a place of fear and not protection and there is only one way of living which he must follow and obey. The reader can see again that the writer is implying that Winston is very powerless and lives in fear and must keep on the lookout for the 'Thought Police' as they may be able to read people's thoughts. In the context of the whole passage, this word takes on a wider meaning that Winston is powerless and hopeless in this dystopian world and that the man in the poster is the powerful dictator (Quora, 2014).

Conclusion

In both of these extracts I have analysed the language, register and syntax to reveal the hidden meanings of each discourse and to show what the reader may have thought and interpreted from the writer's choice of language techniques. I have given a fair, balanced view and interpretation of some chosen phrases and specific words which I think stood out and showed what the writer was implying.

Word Count: 1396

Bibliography

- Cambridge (2018) Meaning of 'police' in the English Dictionary. Available at: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/police> [Accessed: 17 March 2018].
- Levy, A (2010) Last diary from Scott's doomed South Pole expedition reveals horseplay and jokes before trip turned into disaster. Available at: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1283678/Last-diary-Scotts-doomed-South-Pole-expedition-reveals-horseplay-jokes-trip-turned-disaster.html> [Accessed: 17 March 2018].

Student Work 2018-19



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FN2/3/AA/06G

- Sample, I (2009) Keeping a diary makes you happier. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2009/feb/15/psychology-usa> [Accessed: 17 March 2018].
- The famous people (2017) Robert Falcon Scott Biography. Available at: <https://www.thefamouspeople.com/profiles/robert-falcon-scott-6395.php> [Accessed: 17 March 2018]
- Quora (2014) How does George Orwell show that totalitarian governments do not work in Nineteen Eighty-Four. Available at: <https://www.quora.com/How-does-George-Orwell-show-that-totalitarian-governments-do-not-work-in-Nineteen-Eighty-Four> [Accessed: 17 March 2018].

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In the extract "Nineteen Eighty-Four" the writer has used a mix of sentence structures, although the use of simple sentences, which mainly were informative sentences, have given an effect to the reader. For example, we can see that the use of "Only the Thought Police mattered." gives off a dramatic effect to the reader as it makes a memorable point and makes the reader want to know more about what is going on. However, in the extract from Scott's diary, there are numerous sentence structures, however the simple sentences used have given a big effect to the reader as well. "The wind blown furrows." "The seductive folds of the sleeping-bag." and "The patter of dog pads." which is an incomplete sentence, all give the reader a dramatic effect so that they get a feel of where he is and to understand how the writer wants the reader to perceive what it is like on this expedition.

In the extract from Scott's diary, the writer has used more syntax at the beginning of the extract the word structure has been used to give attention to what the writer is saying and seems more poetic than the rest of the extract. For example "The sun blurred image peeping shyly through the wreathing drift giving pale shadowless light." is used so that the reader can understand that he is saying that where he is, the sun is not out much as it is like a 'blurred image'. The writer may have wanted the reader to see that he was writing this diary to make himself happy or for something to look forward to doing while on his expedition (Sample, 2009).

In the extract "Nineteen Eighty-Four" we can see that the register used is formal, although being a 'dystopian' novel this is written in a third person tense. However, in

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FN2/3/AA/06G**

the extract from Scott's diary, we can see that the register used is also formal, but is written in first person tense.

In the extract "Nineteen Eighty-Four" the writer uses the words 'boiled cabbage' and 'old rag mats' to imply that Winston Smith's life is boring and unpleasant. This is effective because it gives the reader an insight into how it actually smelt and looked, which makes it easier to imagine the way of life. These specific words that the writer has used are semantics and have a bigger meaning, this also is linked to the phrase used by the writer "the voice sank of somewhat, though the words were still distinguishable" one suggested interpretations of this could mean that there is always a message played into the minds of these people no matter what. And 'the voice sank', which is a metaphor, could imply that there is no way of getting away from the message they want everyone to listen to. The effect of this on the reader is that they can understand how powerless the people are in this 'dictated world', the technique used in these phrases of the extract is to persuade the reader to read on and see what will happen. Additionally, in the extract from Scott's diary there is also a strong use of similes such as 'The eternal silence of the great white desert', the writer has used this to give the reader an understanding of how he felt, by using the specific words 'great white desert' he is implying that this expedition is so great and important to him and that the white desert is interpreted to be pure as he wanted to be the first person to set upon this land. This contributes to the overall tone and reading of this passage as he is very eager to succeed on the expedition (Levy. 2010).

In the extract in Scott's diary, by using the phrase 'the act of a brave man and an English gentleman' gives the reader an understanding of his background, and tone used to indicate how hard they worked to get this far. The specific word 'gentleman' implies that he was a very well educated man and was a well-known citizen to many (Thefamouspeople, 2017). This would imply that he used received pronunciation. The writer's viewpoint is revealed by his use of RP language and not specifically using any slang words as he was indicating how may have felt ashamed that they were not the first people to get to the South Pole. Also, the writer has used the words 'companions' and 'cheerful' to signify his respect to his fellow expeditioners, but also his well educated background, as the words chosen gives the reader a bigger effect to understand the importance of the expedition. Likewise, in the extract 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' the writer used an interesting language technique of alliteration 'flapped fitfully in the wind' to indicate that the poster of the man in power 'flapped fitfully', is like a dictator who is strong and overpowering, whereas the writer uses the phrase to describe Winston Smith 'went slowly' resting several times on the way' to let the reader understand that he was weak and powerless. The effect of these repeated descriptions of Winston Smith and of the man in the posters is to make the reader empathize that Winston Smith was an ordinary, powerless person in the dystopian world, and the poster of the man in power, who looked at their every sight 'The black-mustachioed face gazed down from every commanding corner', which is another use of alliteration, is used to indicate the reader that he was above all of the citizens and was the powerful dictator of the dystopian world.

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In the extract from Scott's diary, the writer used a specific negative connotation 'unendingly cheerful' to imply that there is a hidden meaning that they feel disappointed and are coming to the point of realization that their time is nearly up. The effect of this on the reader is that the reader will understand that they are 'unendingly' waiting to die. However, in the extract 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' there is also a negative connotation used 'Only the Thought Police mattered' the hidden message is that people are usually known to protect people (Cambridge, 2018). Whereas in this extract the word 'police' is meaning fear which is a hidden meaning. This is effective because the reader can see again that the writer is implying that Winston is very powerless and lives in fear and must keep on the lookout for the 'Thought Police' as they may be able to read people's thoughts. In the context of the whole passage, this word takes on a wider meaning that Winston is powerless and hopeless in this dystopian world and that the man in the poster is the powerful dictator (Quora, 2014).

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- Quora (2014) How does George Orwell show that totalitarian governments do not work in Nineteen Eighty-Four. Available at: <https://www.quora.com/How-does-George-Orwell-show-that-totalitairan-governments-do-not-work-in-Nineteen-Eighty-Four> [Accessed: 17 March 2018].