**SPEEC-1100**

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**Listen review about Obama’s State of The Union 2012**

Honestly, President Obama has few peers when it comes to delivering a powerful speech. So, there is no doubt that his Union address was a success one. According my statistics, this speech was received applauses more than 80 times. Even me, I couldn’t help applauding loudly for his some good words.

The main point of the speech was that Obama and his government did a lot of things last year and wanted to do something next year to solve American crisis and rebuild an economy that works for all Americans. The main point was obvious and two-thirds of the address focused on it. After the open remarks, Obama outlined a handful economic proposal, as well as an "*economic blueprint*" for the country grounded in giving all Americans a "*fair shot*." And he cited the four pillars on this “*blueprint*”: American manufacturing, American energy, skills for American workers and a renewal of American values. Meantime, he used a keyword: “*competitiveness*”. In order to improve American competitiveness and rebuild the economy, offer more jobs for American, Obama proposed to pay more attention on education, innovation and infrastructure.

The structure of this address is good. At beginning, Obama used an analogy which soldiers from oversees returned home and called on both Republicans and Democrats to work together. This was an excellent way to start his speech and to show the American people that there are ways to work together to reach a common goal. On his closing Remarks, Obama did the same thing to appeal to unity. In the middle part of his speech, Obama used bullet pointed messages. As we know, there are certainly always many points to cover in a speech like this. Using these, the speech did not find any logical confusion and Obama had enough time to flesh out the theme. As for unnecessary parts of this speech, I think is the parts which blamed the Republican side by insinuation, such that Mitt Romney has reluctantly released his tax returns and called for “*ending the notion*” of two parties.

Obama is an excellent orator. First, in order to be understood by the common people, he used common and simple words which tailored toward the intended audience. For example, he used a simplest sentence pattern four times that “*Send me …, and I will sign …right away*.” This impressed me because it showed his ability as a president that he could challenge the Congress to put specific bills on the table for him to sign. Second, in the speech, he spoke at right place. Sometimes, to emphasize something, he stressed related words. Third, Obama used many minor gestures, such as turning his head to look at the all audience, waving his hands limited to a small area, pointing his left second figure or shanking his left fist when he mentioned some important parts. All of these actions added to the general speech because they can draw audience’s attention and engage them. I think no one can forget the scene that Obama said, “*America is back*.” That means Obama used his emotion in the speech. If he not, he will not use so many gestures. Another point which can prove Obama used his emotion was the scene when he said, “*We got rid of one rule from 40 years ago that could have forced some dairy farmers to spend $10,000 a year proving that they could contain a spill -- because milk was somehow classified as an oil. With a rule like that, I guess it was worth crying over spilled milk.*” Of course, after hearing it, everyone laughed including Obama.

Finally, I would like to talk about some defects of Obama’s address. One of them is visuals which added to the speech. It was PowerPoint. It included pictures and some information which tried to explain some sentences in the speech. Unfortunately, some information was beyond of the speech. For example, when Obama said, “*Last month, I went to Andrews Air Force Base and welcomed home some of our last troops to serve in Iraq,*” the screen showed the picture which Obama visited Andrews Air Force Base and some words that “*more than 1 million American troops served in Iraq between 2003- 2011*”. So these words did not match the information of the speech. That means the PowerPoint gave the audience more information than the speech. I think some audience who is not familiar with the news will distract with them. Another one is the noise which Obama knocked the desk. Sometimes, when he waved his hands, the hands would touch the desk. It really interfered with the speech. Furthermore, some applause affected the speech. Sometimes, Obama was still talking and the applause rose.

Anyway, Obama’s Union address is an excellent one. He spent a good portion of the speech outlining the themes and issues that he and his aids were rebuilding American economy. The structure of the speech was logically organized. He used emotion, rich charm speak and many gestures to modify the speech. Although the speech had some defects, Obama showed his unique communication skills.