**HUMS1006 Presentation Skills**

2018 Summer Term

Assessment 2 - Part 2

Tutorial: 1 - 3 pm, Robert Webster 335

Student: Shan Wang z5119666

I am impressed by Amal Kassir’s 'The Muslim on the aeroplane' not only by her full prepared transcript but also her speaking techniques. She was like an architect who built her speech with emotional, humorous and strong words. Moreover, she decorated it with her body language, eye contact and various facial expression. She used several stories, jokes and examples to make her point, which is people prefer to judge others through their appearance without acknowledging more information even their names. Furthermore, in recent years, this bias occurs more and more often among Muslim people due to some terrorist are Muslim and refugees. Kassir was trying to create a relaxing environment in order to stimulate audience’s interests on this serious topic in an entertaining way. She shared her experience to show the theme and also to gain credibility. Furthermore, her humour way of presenting gave the audience a message that the purpose was aiming to show a fact instead of blaming anyone or showing the anger on behalf of the Muslim people. Her friendly gesture like arm opening out through the speech and her continuous eye contact with the audience and her sweet laughter made her friendly and charming. These behaviours showed the audience that Kassir is an attractive and outgoing person who represents the Muslim people. Kassir’s presentation is aiming to change people’s prejudice on the Muslim people and herself is a strong evidence. The content of the speech also supports her opinion by giving typical examples of a tragedy caused by prejudice and her own experience led the audience to relax instead of stressing the severity.

Kassir used storytelling strategy to give examples. The story is her experience on a flight that people give the Muslim trust when she shares the mint. She used a simple story to lead to the topic that people have prejudice on the Muslim. About 30 seconds story not only shows the theme of the speech but also relaxed the audience. Moreover, the story represents the altitude of Kassir on this issue is not extreme. And she also mentioned a tragedy that a white man killed 3 people only because their race was Muslim. She described the race of both murderer and victim to make a contrast. She also mentioned asking people’s name can make a huge difference. Her mother and she both wear hijab, but unlike her, because her mother’s nickname, her mother no longer be suspected. She made the point clear with these stories. Kassir’s body language helped her to shorten the distance between her and the audience. For example, she stood still but like the centre of power. She never stopped making eye contact. She liked to open her arms to show that she is open to the audience and there’s no need to hide anything. When comes to serious and uncomfortable part, she crossed her hands without facial expression to let the audience think and feel.