**LCXX61: Narrative Thinking**

**CA2 – Telling Impactful Stories (50%) • Individual Assessment**

**Semester 2, AY2021/22**

**CA2 Script Template**

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| **Reg. No.:** | **Name: Soh Kai Meng Leonard** | | **Admin No.: 2006264** | | **Class: DISM/1B/05** |
| **Scenario (check the relevant box):** | | | | | |
| Motivational/Inspirational Pitch | | Advocacy/Activism Pitch | | Professional/Academic Pitch | |
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| **Pitch Title**: Don’t neglect your mother tongue. Become Bilingual. | | | | | |
| **Purpose**:  With the growing trend of heritage language proficiencies have significantly declined over the years, more people in Singapore will become monolingual. I hope to persuade fellow students with this pitch about the to not neglect their mother tongue and become bilingual. | | | | | |
| **Audience:**  My fellow classmates from SP, from all diploma courses and years | | | | | |
| **Context:**  A pitch held in lecture theatre 8 at block 19 as a series of talks for “Preserving cultural heritage in Singapore” by School of Communication, Arts & Social Science | | | | | |

1. **Type your speech content in the space below. Ensure that you have applied the relevant narrative elements and impactful delivery skills to enhance your pitch. Refer to the CA2 Brief for further information on the pitch requirements.**

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| *Consider applying the NAT Narrative Framework to your impactful story. Refer to the CA2 Brainstorming Guide below for a detailed checklist, along with your CA2 rubric:*  **Introduction**  My fellow classmates from SP, from all diploma courses and years, thank you for taking your time to hear me pitch at this lecture theatre 8 at block 19.  My name is Leonard, I am a first-year student from DISM/1B/05. Firstly, I would like to thank SP’s School of Communication, Arts & Social Science for organising their “Preserving cultural heritage in Singapore“ series of talks and kindly inviting me as one of their speakers. Today, I am here to persuade you all to continue learning your mother tongue with my pitch “Don’t neglect your mother tongue. Become Bilingual”.  I am sure for most of us that English is our 1st language, and we can all converse comfortably in it with our peers. But how many of you can do so in our mother tongue?  Over the years, there is a worrying trend across all ethnic groups in Singapore. It is reported that heritage language proficiencies have significantly declined over the past five years. For example, in 2013, 71 percent of Chinese respondents reported the ability to speak their parents’ heritage language “well” or very “well”. This figure dropped to 57 percent in 2018 (Mathews , et al., 2020). This suggests that in the future, more people in Singapore will become monolingual.  Now, let me share with you my personal experience with mother tongue.  **What is the Trigger Event?**  Being raised in a family that primarily speaks in English, I faced many challenges mastering my own mother tongue. Up to a certain age during my primary school years, I began to struggle learning and keeping up with the classes for my own mother tongue, Chinese. This made me very unmotivated to continue pursuing and learning it ever since and before I knew it, it became a common occurrence to see failing grades on my Chinese exams. The feeling of disappointment each time overwhelmed me and before I knew it, I started to hate Chinese.  While growing up, I commonly hear this remark tossed by Chinese teachers and my relatives: “**为什么你是华人, 但不可以讲华语”**. For those who are not Chinese, this means: why can’t a Chinese person speak their own mother tongue. These words cut deeper than a knife for me as someone who continuously ran away from Chinese and only added fuel to my already burning hatred for Chinese.  This hatred however slowly died down when I was 15 and was blessed with a Chinese teacher who was very patient and understanding. She knew of my problems in Chinese: How I had difficulty keeping up with the curriculum or how I showed difficulty communicating in it. Hence, she gave me extra lessons, once a week, during her free time to properly tutor me and improve my foundation of Chinese by using English, a language which I was proficient in. As the months went by, I definitely saw an improvement for my foundation in Chinese and no longer wanted to disappoint her for my future exams.  **What is the Transformation?**  When I finally saw a pass grade on my Chinese paper after a long time, thoughts ran through my head:  When did I suddenly lose interest in learning my mother tongue? What made me discouraged from learning it? I realised the answers to these questions were because of how little I used Chinese in my daily life ever since I was young.  When I was younger, I was weighed down by numerous other subjects I had to take, and I treated Chinese like a pebble among those huge boulders. I painfully realised how long I had been neglecting my mother tongue, and I had to change my perception of Chinese being a pebble to being a huge boulder like the rest. From then on, I started picking up and conversing in my mother tongue again at the age of 15.  **What is the Life Lesson/Message?**  It has been almost 4 years since I picked up Chinese again. In the past, aunties would laugh at my broken Chinese. Now, I can properly converse with them in Chinese with no difficulty at all. Through this, I learnt to appreciate the language and culture more as it became a part of my life much more than I had anticipated it to be. I learnt that just using English to communicate is not sufficient. On the other hand, having the ability to speak your native mother tongue together with English will broaden the scope of people you can share your thoughts with.  Hence, it is important not to toss your mother tongue away just because you are already proficient in English.  **How will your audience benefit from the story?**  As fellow Singaporeans, some of you might share a similar experience with me where you have neglected your mother tongue all these years. I am assuring you that it is not too late to change for the better just like me. By being bilingual, you will be able to connect and develop social bonds with wider communities across Asia and the world (MOE, 2021).  Furthermore, another benefit of being bilingual is knowing the local language of large economies such as China, India or neighbouring countries such as Malaysia. This will definitely boost your job prospects in Singapore as Singapore boasts large links to these countries (Yong, 2019).  **What is your Call to Action?**  Finally, my fellow course mates, I urge all of you to continue learning your mother tongue to become bilingual. Do not neglect it just because of past failures from it. Instead, learn from your previous mistakes and look at it from a different angle. I know from experience that mastering a second language is no simple task and that one faces many difficulties starting again. However, by the end of it all, you will greatly benefit from having mastered your mother tongue and becoming bilingual.  With this, I will end this pitch with a quote by Ludwig Wittgenstein. "The limits of my language mean the limits of my world" (British Study Centres , 2015). Thank you for your kind attention. |

1. **References for CA2** (in Harvard citation format)

List the research done for CA2 here.

Example:

Cheng, K., 2018. S’pore to be worst hit by job displacement as tech disrupts region’s labour markets: Study [online]. Today Online. Available from: https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/spore-be-worst-hit-job-displacement-skills-mismatch-tech-disrupts-regions-labour-markets [Accessed 19 June 2019]

# References

British Study Centres , 2015. *Inspirational Quotes for Language Learners.* [Online]   
Available at: https://www.british-study.com/en/blog/inspirational-quotes-for-language-learners  
[Accessed 2 2 2022].

Mathews , M., Tay, M., Shanthini, S. & Tan, Z. H., 2020. *Language Proficiency, Identity & Management - Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.* [Online]   
Available at: https://lkyspp.nus.edu.sg/docs/default-source/ips/ips-exchange-series-15.pdf  
[Accessed 2 2 2022].

MOE, 2021. *Learning a Mother Tongue Language in primary school.* [Online]   
Available at: https://www.moe.gov.sg/primary/curriculum/mother-tongue-languages/learning-in-school  
[Accessed 2 2 2022].

Yong, J., 2019. *In English-speaking Singapore, children face huge challenges in mastering mother tongue.* [Online]   
Available at: https://www.channelnewsasia.com/commentary/mother-tongue-language-bilingual-education-parenting-learning-1313646  
[Accessed 2 2 2022].