English Test 8/5-2015

# Task 1a

The first language feature I want to bring up is actually the last sentence. It is almost like a slogan which tries to make us feel like this is our turn to strike and that we need to do it now. The second, and maybe the most obvious language feature is the fact that the text is written in a formal way in the beginning, or the first paragraph. This is when the text is introducing the reader to the topic and delivering facts to back the arguments coming later. By writing in a formal way, the company seem more professional and more likely to be taken seriously. You can see the formal writing in the long Latin words like extravaganza, narcissism and overindulgence to name a few. The formality is also uncovering itself in the extremely long sentences as we can see already in the second sentence: “Billions and billions of dollars have been spent on this just two-week long extravaganza, a good but brief advertisement for Russia, no doubt, but at what lasting value, we must ask.” (Utdanningsdirektoratet, 2014).

The second paragraph, or the end, is written in a more informal way because it is written to convince you to join the cause. By writing in an informal way they seem more passionate with the cause and the part seem more engaging and less tiring. Especially the short fragment sentences give away the informal writing. Examples of these sentences are “No.” and “Stop spending so much money on the Games.” (Utdanningsdirektoratet, 2014). We also have a contracted form in the last sentence and we have an exclamation mark ending the previous sentence. The exclamation mark is the only one in the text and it used in the end of a command which also is a fragment sentence.

In the matter of literary devices, the text also have quite a few of those. We find a lot of repetition in both the first and the second paragraph. The longest use of repetition is the poor, repeated five times, but the answers, yes and no are also used two times each in either the same sentence, or two very close to each other. Stop is the last one used three times, almost in the end of the text. “Stop spending so much money […]”, “Stop the abuse […]” and “Stop treating local inhabitants […]” (Utdanningsdirektoratet, 2014). There are three alliterations in the text as well: “terrible trend”, “capitalistic commercial interest” and “nationalistic narcissist” (Utdanningsdirektoratet, 2014). One might also consider one other alliteration, “five far nobler goals” (Utdanningsdirektoratet, 2014), but I am not sure because it is not something you could have written in another way, but it still make us more interested in the next piece of the sentence which is important.

# Task 1b

The English-language medium which I would recommend is CNN, because it is both an international TV channel and an internet page where many people get their news from. The fact that CNN is both on the internet and on TV increases the amount of people who get to see the promotion, and since this is where many of those who actually watch and care about the sports and the Olympic Games get their news from, you get the bonus of having the right people watching or reading your promotion as well. CNN is also a serious news channel, unlike many others, who does not write as much about celebrity scandals. The CNN is has however been known to overreact a bit to some of their causes, but not more than most other news distributers. Another disadvantage is that by choosing such a big medium, the chance of your article to be overlooked in the masses of other articles is raised a little, but this also mean there are more people browsing this page or watching this news-report, so as long as you make your promotion interesting this is not a problem.

# Task 2

As wars and terrorism are common things to hear about on the news, we tend to focus on what is happening with soldiers and often times our own as well, but we must not forget the people who dedicate their life to stopping this madness. These people are imprisoned and tortured for information, but an even bigger reason for the torture is to break their spirits and drive them crazy. This is what the song Wallflower, by Peter Gabriel, is about.

The song tells us about the experience of being locked up with nothing to do, but it also describe an interview or an interrogation. This interrogation is obviously not a pleasant experience and further points us in the direction of oppressed freedom fighters. This is not as obvious of a sign as the chorus is, which says it directly, “Let you spirit stay unbroken, may you never be deterred” (kevver, 2014).

The message of the song is for those imprisoned for their own thoughts and opinions to stay strong and never give up, no matter what happens. This will probably always be relevant because we will probably never be able to make everyone agree with one thing and there will always be someone who go too far in controlling others opinions. Today, we have terrorists in Nigeria, kidnapping children who go to school because they think school is against their religion. These children, and their family, are probably not agreeing with the terrorists, but they are kept imprisoned for their belief. This situation may maybe not seem like it is equal to what is described in the lyrics, but the message is equally as relevant.

Maybe the first thing one might think about when hearing this song is Nelson Mandela, and the first word, shutters, in the second sentence made me think about Shutter island and him. This imprisonment which the lyrics are describing is probably exactly how Mandela’s 27 years were, and what the authorities did with him. He is probably the example that Gabriel wants other political prisoners to follow, when he wrote Wallflower. Mandela stayed in prison for a long time, was probably tortured and denied food for parts of his stay, but he never gave in and when he came out he finally got what he wanted. This is to me what Gabriel thinks about when writing “Hold on” (kevver, 2014), in the chorus.

A wallflower is a family of flower, growing all over the world, which is found both in gardens and out in the wild (Wikipedia, 2015). This plant is probably not what Gabriel I thinking about when he titled his song, because wallflower also has another meaning. A wallflower might also be an introvert or shy person whom often is really interesting and smart, but never say anything and thus no one pay any attention to (flower, 2004) (Wikipedia, 2015). This makes sense with the rest of the message, because most people imprisoned for their opinions have to remain silent and not promote themselves, to not be punished, but they are still some of the smartest and braves people for having these thoughts and standing up for them. He may also refer to the plant when thinking about the second to last paragraph. “Though you may disappear, you’re not forgotten here” (kevver, 2014), tells me he may be saying that though you may disappear like a wallflower, I will always remember you and what you stood for. This meaning that even though you die, your thoughts and dreams will live on.

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