**Textual Analysis**

Never for a moment has the fire of war ceased around the world. Since the EU and US are cracking down on the refugees, many Middle Eastern migrants are fleeing to China for a better life. Focusing on this issue, the author Shanshan Chen wrote a commentary news article *Middle East Migrants Live Chinese Dream*, published on Sixth Tone in 2017. In the commentary, she carefully elaborates the current seemingly peaceful situation for Middle Eastern migrants in Yiwu, China, and emphasizes the unpredictable future for these migrants regardless of the years they have spent here due to the strict Chinese policies. With the targeting audience of refugees, Chinese citizens and the government, Chen aims to appeal to people to learn more about this group of people and persuade the government department concerned to further loosen the policies for the migrants. By employing the rhetorical appeals of ethos, logos and pathos throughout the article, Chen successfully depicts the real conditions for Middle Western migrants: living in peace albeit with uncertainty.

First, Chen builds her credibility with the use of formal diction, reputable sources, and real-life examples. Ethos is evident in that formal diction is created through the use of data and quotations to indicate the level of authority. Furthermore, various strong independent sources are referred to in order to strengthen the appeals of ethos, as well as build the argument for the worrying situation for migrants. These sources include the Chinese laws, a Yiwu government report, report by China Daily and Global Times, and also the words from immigration experts. The author continues to use real-life examples of two migrants, Abdulhussein from Iraq and Abaadani from Yemen. Words from them are heavily found in the article, like “it’s very safe in China, so I hope my children can settle down, finish their studies and find jobs” (Chen 5) by Abdulhusssein, and “I have lived more years in China than in Yemen, but I’m using a Yemeni passport. It’s really hard to get permanent residency.” (Chen 17) by Albaadani. These words imply their cozy life but also their insecurities. They are much more powerful than only those data and reports because they are the voice from migrants themselves. All these uses of ethos adds to Chen’s credibility and reliability.

Adding to ethos, strong appeals to logos are effectively used through various data and statistics and the logical organization of ideas. For instance, phrases like “an annual income of 600,000 yuan” “paying 120,000 yuan in yearly income tax” (Chen 18), and the contrast of numbers like “1.3 billion” Chinese citizens with “1,576” (Chen 20) approved migrants emphasize the difficulty for migrants to get permanent residency in China. These data are just few of many that logically support Chen’s claim for the difficult life for the migrants, and thus convince the readers that this issue is worth discussing. Moreover, the clear overall structure helps the readers to understand the article logically. The article is composed of two real examples of migrants living in Yiwu, China, and a summary of the cruel reality for their unpredictable future and call for an improvement. That kind of structure works logically and persuasively and makes the whole article easier to follow.

Though pathos is not applied intensively through the text, we can still find it in many places like the word choices, the images and the video. First, the very topic of “migration” is inherently emotional, and the choice of the word like “dream” implies the migrants’ eager to stay in China permanently, and that echoes with the action in the text that Abdulhussein adopted a Chinese name to help her fit in. That increases the acceptance from the readers. Similarly, the header image depicts an Arabic boy sitting among of a group of Chinese kids in a kindergarten. According to the text, this boy is Abdulhussein’s youngest son, 4-year-old Yousif, and along with the words from Abdulhussein saying that “I hope my children can settle down, finish their studies, and find jobs” (5), these mentioning of kids can successfully evoke strong emotion from the audience. Adding to that image is the 15-minute-long video. The video records the pitiful situation in those war-torn countries. What is more significant is that the video focuses a lot on the depiction of women and children forced to leave their countries, and also the motion topics of family, identity and belonging. For instance, the Arabic boy in the video keeps saying that he is Chinese just because he was born here and studies here. These uses of word choices, images and especially the video demonstrate the comfortable yet unpredictable life for migrants in China, and evoke the audience’s sympathy and persuading the government to improve the situation.

Through the employment of appeals to ethos, logos and pathos, Chen successfully demonstrates the life of Middle Eastern migrants in China, and appeals to the audience to pay more attention to Middle Eastern migrants and all other refugees around the world, and persuade the government concerned to do something for help.

Ruiyan Huang

12/4/2018

**Bibliography**

Chen, Shanshan. “Middle Eastern Migrants Live the Chinese Dream.” Sixth Tone, 6 June 2017, www.sixthtone.com/news/1000297/middle-eastern-migrants-live-the-chinese-dream.