Pg 1

Erik Arfvidson

Dr. Wilkens3

SMS to Prose

* SMS:

“Listen my man. I think we’re headin to west to grab a bite. Lets catch a bus in like 15. Is that straight? Im trying to holla at some girls after. so lets roll!

* Prose :

Hey Erik, I want to get something to eat soon, at the west dining commons. Is it alright if we try to meet at the bus station in the next fifteen minutes? I’m looking forward to meet up with some girls after dinner, so let’s hurry up!

* Analysis:

Coming from an international country, I prefer prose because I have not yet grown accustomed to the slang and expression used in the colloquial American culture. Even though El Salvador is highly influenced by the American way of life, I have discovered that there is still a significant difference of expression which I have not yet grasped.

I believe that prose is better because you cannot infer more of what is written. Sometimes this can lead to misunderstanding of the message that is trying to be conveyed. When my roommate George sent me text message in the week of my arrival I

Pg 2

completely misunderstood what he was trying to tell me. When he said “Listen my man” the first thing that came up to mind was “is he trying to tell me something very important.” Later on I learned that he was actually trying to say “Hey buddy, let’s do this”. This can also imply that we have a mutual trust with each other. I was also confused by the phrase “grab a bite”, this expression made me completely dazzled because taking literally doesn’t make any sense at all. In El Salvador we would simply say “Ey, vamos a comer” which can be translate to “hey, lets go eat”.

Also words in SMS can have meanings which are oblivious to me. I have never heard the use of the word “straight” in a context where it means something like, “are you okay on doing this.” Further, “holla” was a the most confusing word of the text to me at first I thought that he was trying to say “hi” which means “hola” in Spanish. Then I learned that word “holla” which comes from the word “holler” which means to say something very loudly or to shout.

As a new international college student I’m expecting to learn a lot of American slang or expressions through SMS. Since SMS is widely used to communicate in the US. Yet, I prefer prose because I am more comfortable to the things that I am used to. However I hope to keep in mind that learning to text is part of my college experience. As the year continues it is vital for me to distinguish what is appropriate for my prose writing. I want to encourage my roommate continue to use slang around me so I am able to learn but more importantly I hope to learn prose in a classroom environment.