Amy Tan is a novelist, author of “The Joy Luck Club,” and in the article called Mother Tongue, she writes about her unawareness of different forms of English she uses with her mother to other people. Her mother is an immigrant from China and English is not a language she is fluent in. When Tan was younger, she felt ashamed of her mother’s English and it was as if her “limited” English reflected the quality of what her mother had to say. As Tan grow up, she embraced her mother’s “limited” English and started envisioning a reader for her stories, and that came to be her mother. She succeeded in her writing as her mother was able to read the story and reply with, “so easy to read” (Tan, 2006).

In the Fourth paragraph Tan states: “recently, I was made keenly aware of the different Englishes I do use.” She was giving a speech to a large group of people and amongst those people was her mother. In the same paragraph, Tan states about her mother: “And perhaps it was the first time she ever heard me giving a lengthy speech, using the kind of English I never used with her.” Tan also states in paragraph five: “just last week, as I was walking down the street with her, I again found myself conscious of the English I was using, the English I was using with her” (Tan, 2006).

When Tan was younger, she used to be ashamed of the way her mother spoke English, her mother did not speak fluent English as she immigrated from China to America and Chinese is her native language. Her mother’s English is as described as “limited” and Tan believed that limitation reflected the quality of what her mother had to say. Her mother realized her limitations in the English language and would have Tan pretend to be her mother on the phone to her stockbroker. Also, when in stores and restaurants Tan would have to speak as her mother didn’t know how to say the words in English.

As Tan grew up, she embraced her mother’s “limited” English as it does not reflect on her mother’s intelligence, it shows her passion and her nature of the thoughts in which matter the most. She started to write stories where she would picture a reader to them. And she decided it would be her mother. Despite what others say about her writing, she knew she succeeded where in mattered the most as her mother read her story and her mother replied with, “so easy to read” (Tan, 2006).

In conclusion, Tan was able to not just write stories but also write them envisioning who the reader is going to be. She shows how as she was younger; she was ashamed in her mother’s “limited” English and how Tan wanted to perfect the English language. As she grew up, she realized that by using too complex of words in her stories, that the people she wanted to read her stories would not be able to understand it. Putting her mother in mind as she is a Chinese immigrate that is not fluent in English, Tan started to write stories in simpler English text. What I learned from my analysis on the article is how to write to a target audience. If my target audience doesn’t speak English well, I will use simpler English and grammar to ensure my audience understands the message I am trying to convey.

**Citations**

Tan, A. (2006). Mother Tongue. *The Joy Luck Club, 56*(4), 20-23. <https://web-b-ebscohost-com.ezproxy.snhu.edu/ehost/pdfviewer/pdfviewer?vid=2&sid=08af07ee-42ed-48da-a034-5aa081fc843c%40pdc-v-sessmgr01>