Medst 255

April 30, 2019

Response to Group 3

Response to question 3: Poor image may lose its quality, but has it become richer in meaning and content?

I believe poor image has become richer both in meaning and in content. For instance, older photographs or pictures do have much lower quality image and lower resolution. However, would that make that picture less in meaning and value? I do not think so. Rather, I believe it has more value and meaning compared to the digitalized pictures of today.

My grandparents have kept every picture of when they were younger. Although they are black-and-white and really low in resolution, they are very precious to my grandparents and brings back memories of their past in the Korean War. Through these poor images, my grandparents have a greater appreciation of today. Poor images have their own charm as well. There are even some photoshop applications where modern, high-resolution photos can be changed into low resolution “old” feel. I picture old images as antiques. The older and “poorer” they are, the better. Lot of people love old and retro stuff such as old cars, tools, machines, buildings, and so forth. The value of these things tend to be much higher than those of good imagery and high quality.

In the presentation, visual bonds was mentioned, quoting Dziga Vertoz who believed circulation of poor images would link workers with each other all over the world. I find this to be in decline in today’s world. Although poor image has linked workers with each other globally, now with new technology, everyone has access to rich images. Now high resolution images are everywhere and used to link with each other using social mediums such as Instagram and Snapchat. The meaning of poor image has changed completely due to social media, creating different conversations.

Besides of an image having good quality or not, I believe every image has meaning behind it, but at the same time, have different values. Poor images that have been “remixed” is now understood in terms of stories and have different interpretations. I think the function of poor or good quality is now blurred in terms of value; each of meaning and content. Based on one’s interpretation of an image, it could have meaning and determine value. I believe in terms of memory and personal value, old images have become richer in meaning and in content. In terms of interconnection and sharing, I believe rich images also enrich the meaning and content of the imagery in a different interpretation and story to tell.