What lingers most in my mind is the dynamic Amy, and her mother had, where Amy would translate her mother's English into a more widely accepted and understandable English. It was fascinating to see how immediately the switch from Tan's mother's “broken” English to Tan's more formal version changed the listener's response, as with the stock broker or with the hospital staff.

In the paragraphs where Tan describes her early experiences with English as a subject, she uses a narrative to help the reader understand her thought process and how that affected her views of the world and English as a whole.

A moment with significant tension would be when Tan’s mother’s CAT scans were lost. At this moment, Tan’s mother’s life was potentially in danger, and their efforts to discover more about the cancer through the scans were supposedly hampered by the societal expectation of what English was and what the type of English spoken reflected about the person speaking it. It seemed as if the hospital staff only got agitated when Tan expressed her mother’s pleas in English they deemed as proper.

There are similarities in the way people are perceived in both texts based on their ability to speak proper English and properly express their thoughts and feeling, leading people to underestimate them.