

I'm not a robot



























Introducing a child to a whole new language and way of lifestyle, it abruptly impacts the child without any previous notice, is like throwing a newborn in a pool and expecting it to swim back to its mother, unreasonable and irrational. In Richard Rodriguez’s “Aria”, published in 1980, which previously appeared in the memoir Hunger to Memory, presents the genuine struggles that come in hand with adjusting to a new language and culture. It emphasizes not only the social aspects of a language barrier, but the emotional and physical facets of it as well. All these previously mentioned, are a great issue that affect many people no matter age or race, it is something that many have felt and gone through, at a point in their life, thus the importance ...show more content... The main idea of the passage was the struggles Rodriguez faced when he was younger, but more specifically his bilingual conflicts that arose when he moved to the states. He also discusses his heritage and how he coped or assimilated with the emerging conflicts. Which also included his explanation over the advantages and disadvantages of being able to speak two languages at a time, and also being expected to accustom to the american culture, but in his case it was more like it was being forced or imposed on him to learn and live by the american culture. This is proven when rodriguez states that due to an “accident of geography” he found himself in a predominantly white classroom with the children of wealthy and powerful people. He also goes on and states that while he was ecstatic or “astonished” to be in a new environment most of his classmates were “uneasy to find themselves apart from their families, in the first institution of their lives” (Rodriguez, ...show more content... Through his well written essay, Rodriguez clearly, and efficiently conveys his emotions and thoughts about the american culture, and english language, how they both impacted his life not only positively but negatively. He feels that the negative impacts overshadow the positive in regard to the way the situation at home changed drastically. Nonetheless Rodriguez’s appliances of rhetorical devices give an insight of the struggles and obstacles that many bilingual children go through, how their lives change and are never the same, after assimilating a new and different culture then, the one they are so accustomed to. This essay gives readers the possibility understand the message and emotions emitted by Rodriguez, to their own, and more strongly have a grasp of the concept and meaning of the essay. The result of analysing “Aria” leads to realization that the learning of two languages may better the future of a child, and that it will benefit the child academically and socially, when in reality the aftermath of having to adopt an entire new culture, and living by it will affect the child’s emotional Abu Jalloh Professor Murray Reading & Writing 29 October 2015 Anthony Rodriguez “Aria: Memoir of a Bilingual Childhood” Critique In the essay “Aria: A memoir of a Bilingual Childhood” by Richard Rodriguez, the reader learns about Rodriguez life that many have never experienced. He explains how he struggled understanding English throughout his childhood. He felt that speaking English would help him fit into society but with this he sacrifices his native language, his home life, and connection with his family, all to try to become a typical English-speaking student. Rodriguez argues the unnecessary ...show more content... Although it is necessary to learn the language of the region you are alien to, there’s a chance of losing one’s family background and heritage. People can maintain their own native culture with another. Many immigrants know the struggle Rodriguez is talking about, but they can say they’ve assimilated well without losing their family background or their culture. Immigrants like, Amy Tan author of “Mother Tongue” wrote in her essay that she liked math more than English because math had one answer but English, there are a lot more to it. Tan couldn’t speak English fluently. She was made fun of so, Tan wanted to learn English due to the stereotype said about Asians. She became an English major and eventually became a writer to prove that despite how she spoke, she could still master the English language. Tan believes that language spoken in immigrant families plays a huge role in creating a language for children and it will affect their lives in the future. Just like Rodriguez, Tan describes the language she spoke at home, which was “broken English” as a language of intimacy. She doesn’t notice when she is using it because it’s how she communicated with her mother and her family. Rodriguez felt like that with Spanish. He felt comfortable but as soon as he started being proficient in English he became distant. Tan writes her ability to both assimilate into the American culture but at the same time being able to communicate with the language at In his essay, “Aria: Memoir of a Bilingual Childhood” by Richard Rodriguez, goes into detail about the struggles he is faced with growing up as a Bilingual Hispanic in America. He was an immigrant living amongst upper class American’s with his family. Strictly speaking Spanish gave him a sense of safety and comfort. In school, he would not feel comfortable speaking and was not sure where he belonged. When he first started school, he was a part of the bilingual program up until his parents were informed if would be better for him and his family to learn English. Rodriguez struggled at first with the battle of losing the closeness he had with his family. Feeling like he had lost his cultural background and let his father down. Explaining the struggles, he overcame to become who he is today. There are two Educational philosophies that Rodriguez had utilized in his younger years. The philosophy of supporting Bilingual Education was to help Students acquire the skills of a classroom crucial for public success. Supporters would report that children miss out a great deal by not being taught in their family’s language. “They say that children who use their family language in school will retain a sense of their individuality- their ethnic heritage and cultural ties” (Kindle 6236-6237). Supporters would also say that children will have a sense of individuality that retains their family’s language. Giving children something to feel different and have something special. “But then there was Spanish. Español: my family’s language. Español: the language that seemed to be a private language.” (Kindle 5982-5983). Rodriguez shared how it was hard fighting between assimilating to American culture and keeping his connection and heritage alive within him. Rodriguez gave many reasons why one would not be a supporter of bilingual education. By giving examples from his life. What he lived and went through, finding himself and his voice. By only speaking Hispanic, Rodriguez had a hard time learning, and transitioning into American Culture. Rodriguez felt held back, not able to learn to the full potential. “I considered Spanish to be a private language. What I needed to learn in school was that I had the right and the obligation – In Richard Rodriguez’s essay, “Aria: A Memoir of a Bilingual Childhood” he writes about how he struggled as a child who only spoke Spanish language but lives in a society where the “public” language is English. He believes that speaking proper English will somehow help him fit into society and find his “true” identity. Throughout the essay he contrast the Spanish language identity and English language identity. As a young boy, Rodriguez finds consolation and safety in his home where they only speak Spanish. He feels that he only has a true identity when he is at home surrounded by those who speak the same language as him. On the contrary, he becomes trapped and disoriented when not being able to speak / understand the English language. He feels as if he is not part of “their world” and has no identity in society. By comparing and contrasting Spanish language identity and English language identity. Rodriguez’s essay is an example that speaking different languages should not make anyone choose an identity. In fact being able to speak and understand multiple languages in his case Spanish and English makes the language a part of his identity, but with two different sides. Richards essay describes how he has to “trade” his Spanish language identity to find his “public” language identity. He remembers his parents trying their best to speak more English in their home to help their kids fit into society. He talks about how the fact that he lost one identity was worth the gain of the other identity he so longed for. “At last, seven years old, I came to believe what had been technically true since my birth: I was an American citizen” (454-455). It was at that moment that he knew for a fact that his whole life he was already an American citizen. To him beign an American citizen meant having an English language identity and being able to speak the public language. As a boy Rodriguez was able to only speak and understand the Spanish language. To him it was the only real identity he ever had growing up. He also discussed that because the Spanish language identity is developed among his family members. That the language is somehow responsible for how they were able to identify themselves Immigration, an ever-present aspect of America, contributes heavily to day-to-day life. Everything from current American gastronomy to language traveled on the straining backs of immigrants since before America began as a nation. This duality of cultures in an individual reflected itself onto a duality of languages in many schools across the country. Like many other topics, bilingualism in educational institutions incites passionate debate and stirring controversies. To answer such a complex dilemma, one must dive deep into ones’ own emotions and draw out the truth, as Richard Rodriguez did in “Aria: A Memoir of a Bilingual Childhood” from Hunger of Memory. Don’t use plagiarized sources. Get your custom essay on “Analysis of “Aria: A Memoir of a Bilingual Childhood” by Richard Rodriguez “ Get custom paper NEW! smart matching with writer In his essay, Rodriguez establishes his opinion concerning bilingual education. As Rodriguez tells the tale of his childhood, he promotes the cessation of bilingual education. Rodriguez aimed to appeal to bilingual people with an open mind concerning education. In his memoir, Rodriguez presents an emotional case in opposition to bilingual education. Using many methods of appeal such as comparison and contrast, narrative and persuasion, Rodriguez shares his belief that bilingual education removes the intimacy inherent in the private tongue. At a young age, Rodriguez felt intimidated by the English language and people who spoke English fluently; because even his parents disliked speaking the language, he adopted the feeling of discomfort when speaking or hearing English. Thus, Rodriguez effectively ostracized himself from society. He would seek refuge and solace in what the Spanish language meant to him: family union, love, privacy, patience, and much more. When Rodriguez entered school, however, the nuns in charge of instruction in the classroom found that he refused to speak English. To encourage the young boy, the nuns convinced his parents to forsake Spanish in the privacy of their home. Left no other recourse, Rodriguez finally attempts to develop his English. Once he does, he realizes that he could not consider himself an American citizen until he mastered the English language. Rodriguez, finally a part of society, reflects on the loss of the private connection with his family due to bilingualism. If a person read “Aria” merely for the sake of entertainment, they would feel satisfied with the quantity of food for thought and the reliability of the article. However, if one read for the purpose of finding an argumentative quality in “Aria”, this person would feel sorely disappointed. Rodriguez focuses excessively on the emotional appeals of his argument while providing little factual evidence and showcasing the most extreme case of the effects of bilingual education in schools. Although very interesting, Rodriguez fixated primarily on emotions and personal experiences, the pathos appeal, in his essay. This removes the efficacy of his argument against bilingualism in school systems. Richard’s use of anecdotes provides reasons as to why bilingualism should not be used for him or people like him, instead of enforcing the point that bilingualism should not be instituted throughout the nation. This personal account simply provides the conviction behind the decision that bilingualism has negative impacts on a person, which serves to imply authority. However, if this essay had more concrete facts based on studies or perhaps a wider range of the effects of bilingualism on other individuals, then it would be more convincing than it is now. In addition, Rodriguez implements a style much like what is seen in a casual conversation. Although effective in certain cases, going off track to explain a certain aspect of a story muddles the mind of the reader. The reader’s mind may not be able to easily transition from the actual story to the points the author wants to emphasize. Confusing the reader is not the same thing as convincing them. In fact, this method alienates the reader from the very opinion the author wants to impart. As a former student of a bilingual program, I can tell why the author thinks that a bilingual education removes the private connection with the home language. However, this only happens if a person allows that to happen. Dialects and tones exist in all languages, making a particular language familiar when commonly used. Therefore, in an educational setting, academic language should be used. In the private comforts of home, a person may use a more relaxed version of the primary language in order to maintain fluency and distinct separation of two languages: one for public interaction and another for private use. Doing so will maintain the private and public language mindset in clear contrast. In some cases, bilingual education equates successful integration into society. With the boom in technology (in the form of television programs for children and the internet’s vast supply of knowledge) and an increased diversity in our world as well as people’s willingness to learn new things, children have an increased awareness of the importance of learning more than one language. Whether young people want to learn to sing along to Elmo’s theme song or be able to communicate with their neighbors, the importance attributed to bilingualism will be taught by the world at a natural pace rather than forced upon the child. Bilingualism will be taught in the school of life, with real life applications that will be immediately evident to the child and the parent, making the learning process more enjoyable for both groups. Events such as these happen more commonly in society than this essay would lead the reader to believe. Though well-written, Rodriguez’s essay does not fit the persuasion bill. Too much focus on a rhetorical appeal will send the reader reeling in an unintended direction. Of course, some people may see the benefits of this angle of vision and enjoy it. Others would not concur. Also, this emphasis on anecdotes causes the reader to believe this particular case of bilingualism goes beyond the normal scope of experiences most others have undergone. However, the connections between ideas presented as side-notes ring true when the reader considers them. All in all, Rodriguez has summarized what many people feel when forced to learn a language while experiencing deprivation of the more familiar tongue. Remember! This is just a sample. You can get a custom paper by one of our expert writers. Get your custom essay Helping students since 2015 Immigration, an ever-present aspect of America, contributes heavily to day-to-day life. Everything from current American gastronomy to language traveled on the straining backs of immigrants since before America began as a nation. This duality of cultures in an individual reflected itself onto a duality of languages in many schools across the country. Like many other topics, bilingualism in educational institutions incites passionate debate and stirring controversies. 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However, the connections between ideas presented as side-notes ring true when the reader considers them. All in all, Rodriguez has summarized what many people feel when forced to learn a language while experiencing deprivation of the more familiar tongue. Remember! This is just a sample. You can get a custom paper by one of our expert writers. Get your custom essay Helping students since 2015 This essay is both interesting and deep. It starts with a very easy to read anecdote, details are very vivid: “always together, speaking Spanish”, “mysterious books”, “wrapped in brown shopping-bag paper” (this one appeared again later) and “closed firmly behind them”. Naturally I had the feeling when I finished the first paragraph: tell me more! Why do these details sound so mysterious? Also these words are those kind of details that a child would notice. I was attracted by this essay right away. Later the author went to elementary school. On the first day, he saw his mother’s face “dissolve in a watery blur behind the pebbled-glass door”. After I read the whole essay and went back, I quickly realized that later, a similar scene with different emotions attached appeared. Finally after the anecdote, family background comes in. “A few neighbors would smile and wave at us. We waved back.” A short sentence creates a sense of silence. “Conveyed through those sounds was the pleasing, smoothing, consoling reminder that one was at home.” Adjectives in a row strengthen the feeling. “At six years of age, I knew just enough words for my mother to trust me on errands to stores one block away - but no more.” The “just” and “but no more” are used really good. The author talks about how he was a listening child. True. I can understand the feeling of being a sensitive kid. The author can even notice this kind of detail as a child as how “listeners would usually lower their heads to hear better what I was trying to say” (the detail reappeared later), and how the sound in their house changed when the door opened because English came in. He and his brothers and sisters were isolated to be outsiders of the American society because they could not speak fluent English. The author, thus, found the difference between public sound and private sound. Furthermore, public individuality and private individuality. The description of the classroom memory is really impressive: “Richard, stand up. Don’t look at the floor. Speak up. Speak to the entire class, not just to me!” But I couldn’t believe English could be my language to use. (In part, i did not want to believe it.) I continued to mumble. I resisted the teacher’s demand. (Did I somehow suspect that once I learned this public language my family life would be changed?) Silent, waiting for the bell to sound, I remained dazed, different, afraid.” Like before, here three adjectives are used in a row. Language, or rather, sound and the author’s childhood memory are closely linked together in his mind. From his own experiences and feelings, he disagrees with bilingual supporters’ opinion that the family language can help achieve his individuality. Contrarily, he felt the separateness more strongly. These bilingual educators also hold the point that their home gives them individuality. But he does not think so. He argues there are two types of individuality. One is public, one is intimate (private). Individuality can only be achieved through achieving public individuality. It is a very interesting point. However, later in this essay he says that after he could finally speak fluent English, strangely, he couldn’t speak Spanish fluently. And then he was mocked by his family members. And in some way, he lost his private individuality. Does he really agree with himself? It seems that the inability to speak fluent Spanish made him suffered. And maybe, he felt bad about achieving the so-called public individuality. As he says in the essay: “For my part, I felt that by learning English I had somehow committed a sin of betrayal... Rather, I felt I had betrayed my immediate family.” Maybe that’s why the tone is strong (at least to me) when arguing about public individuality. It reminds me of how one would try to prove something or persuade others particularly when they actually have doubts about it and are trying to make themselves believe it too. It looks like some kind of compensation to the author to think that public individuality is the most important and without which he couldn’t have achieved individuality, so that he wouldn’t feel so bad about losing private individuality to some extend. Interestingly, some repetitions occurred. The schoolbooks covered with brown shopping-bag paper and people lowering their heads to listen to the author speaking Spanish (instead of English). Later he had the new discovery: the intimacy is not created by language itself, but the intimates. “I would dishonor our intimacy by holding on to a particular language an calling it my family language. Intimacy cannot be trapped within words; it passes through words. It passes. Intimacy leave the room. Door closed. Faces move away from the window. Time passes, and voices recede into the dark. Death finally quiets the voice. There is no way to deny it, no way to stand in the crowd claiming to utter ones’ family language.” It makes me think of how some international students become especially patriotic after they go abroad. They post how they miss home and wish they can go back. But why? Maybe they map their feelings towards their dear friends, family or even food onto their home country. Isn’t it strange? What they love is actually just memory. At the end of this essay, the author, when looking at the photo of his dear grandmother in her funeral, did not see the familiar face, but a “public” face, the face she had when “the clerk at Safeway asked her some question and I would need to respond”. Aye, that’s what he means by “death finally quiets the voice”.