

Language and Power-Thinking Handout

Questions inspired by <http://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/english-language/language-and-power>.

As you consider the texts provided, please provide answers to the questions below.

1. Consider the word choice involved in the texts. Is the language formal or informal? Does that selection indicate the relative power held by the subject(s) of the text in any way?
2. What figurative language is used? How does the figurative language influence your perception of the subjects described in the texts?
3. What names are given to the subjects of the texts? Does that word choice impact your thinking? Consider use of first name versus use of last name and use of titles as is applicable.
4. What grammar is employed? Is it standard? Is it non-standard? How does that influence your thinking regarding the subjects of the texts?
5. How long are the sentences? Does sentence length persuade your thinking or create a power dynamic?
6. What rhetorical devices do you see? How do those devices influence your perception of the relative power held by the subjects of the texts?
7. When analyzing the texts, do you notice that some people groups 'talk' more than other people groups? What inferences can be made about their relative status because of that trend?