

3E: Observe & Analyze I

Paulette Oke, MA, Lecturer, English [00:00:00] Okay, so you will first read the quote, okay, and then jot down your thoughts about the quote, namely why it's important and how it connects to the other assigned reading. When done, we're going to get, we'll come back together and you will share. I will ask that you read aloud the quote and then share two things: why it's important to the reading and how this reading connects to the other assigned reading.

Paulette Oke, MA [00:00:28] Please raise your hand if done. I'll wait a few minutes and then start. Who would like to share first? Lily?

Lily, Student [00:00:41] Yeah, okay, I got the quote, "Language incontestably reveals the speaker" from the Baldwin article. I was happy I got this one because I also highlighted it while I was reading. You know, I find it interesting because I often find myself thinking about someone's background, whether I overhear them talking or they're talking directly to me. I find myself putting together, like, this story of their history, their background, where they're from, those kinds of things.

Paulette Oke, MA [00:01:07] That's a good point. Baldwin later states in the paper, in his essay, that language reveals the private identity, connects one with or divorces one from the larger public communal identity. So I imagine that when you're listening to someone who speaks differently than you, you're probably either feeling closer to them or less closer to them. You're probably even, you know, thinking about their educational class, their social class, how smart you think they are, those kinds of things. Is there anyone with the same quote who would like to comment? Yes, Elizabeth?

Elizabeth, Student [00:01:41] Yeah, I had a slightly different take on the quote. I saw it more as connecting to the Tan article and how people understand the different Englishes that Amy and her mother speak.

Paulette Oke, MA [00:01:50] Well, I'm glad you see it that way in that both Baldwin and Amy Tan, they both fo, they both focus on the functioning uses of language. It may speak of the educational class of someone. In another context, it may speak of their social class. In another context, it may speak of the type of audience they attract. We see that in Tan's article. She uses language to move in and out of different spaces in her life. For example, she uses one type of language when, when she's in an educational arena, when she's communicating with her peers. In another context, she uses language differently when she's with her mother and her husband. That would be a more intimate use of language. And in another context she uses language as a guise for her mother.

Lily, Student [00:02:31] I agree. That's just what I was saying. You make assumptions about people based on the language they use.

Paulette Oke, MA [00:02:37] Okay, I think there's one other person who has the same quote I'd like to hear from. Taniya?

Taniya, Student [00:02:44] I'd just like to say I agree.

Paulette Oke, MA [00:02:48] Okay.