Sample Essay #3

In the essay by Carl Elliot "The Perfect Voice," and the article "When Accent Becomes and Issue" by Raymond Hernandez, both authors discuss the ways that one's accent can be perceived in society and how one's accent is part of one's identity.

In the essay the "The Perfect Voice," Carl Elliot, shares his experience and those of others with southern accent, he points out that an accent is part of a person and the reflection of where one comes from. According to Elliot people form the south work on their accents because they do not want to sound bad when speaking, but he is concern that by a person trying to change their accent they could be changing themselves and their own identity inside, he states "what worried me most was the sense that by trying to change your accent, you are rejecting something of who you are." showing that something can be let go from the person.

During a conversation between the author and Lilli Ambro a owner of a accent-reduction clinic Elliot fund that the drive to these to these types of clinics is to help their clients sound well spoken by reducing their accents or totally changing it if necesary.

According to Elliot people from the South have "complicated relationships" with their accents where it can let them to feel bad about themselves or ashamed when speaking in public. Many Southerner feel they need to speak like someone from the north to be able to be taken seriously or to get a good job. For southerners to speak standard American is very important to fit in society and to achieve goals that they feel are not possible to achieve if they speak with a southern accent.

Elliot points out that an accent is part of a person therefore part of a person identity. he say "Southernes, of course, usually understand the connections between accent and identity." is
clear to him that an accent reveal your origen and part of who you are. He shows that most people attend to clinics and accent reduction class looking for a better way of communication.

The author also states the relationship between a person's status and social class and the accent, the better one speaks is perceived to be from a better social status than someone who has an accent. In his research at the clinic The Perfect Voice he found the relationship that links the people who seek to reduce their accent and the "inner life" these people are looking for a way to feel more confident about themselves by communicating in a better way.

In a similar way Raymond Hernandez in his article "When and Accent becomes an Issue," he shows the situations that especially immigrants go through in our society because of their accents.

Raymond and Elliot both show how people in order to maintain or get a good job have to attend to clinics or accent reduction class.

According to Raymond "accents are still an impediment, even a stigma, for millions of people in school, at work and in social settings." many people seek the ability to communicate better so others can take them seriously.

According to Raymond for many immigrants it is a goal to "speak like a native" to avoid criticism and to be accepted in society. Both authors agree that social life play a huge part in these immigrants life, it could be for many the main reason to change or reduce their accent.

Raymond also shows the discrimination that some Latin American immigrants are subject to because of their accents, "at work, schools and society".

Both authors also are concerned with the identity change that can be cause by the accent reduction technologies. Raymond and Elliot perceive the accent as part of a persons' culture and origen.
Raymond also shows that for many immigrants who have a strong accent they feel insecure and ashamed of the way they speak, which is another reason why they look for ways to eliminate their accent, other people do it because they want to achieve better positions at work. Both authors agree that one of the main reasons why people try to change their speech is because they want to fit well in society he wrote "they feel their choice is between speech lessons or exclusion."

I can identify with the accent problems presented by especially Raymond Hernandez, as an immigrant my English is not perfect and I often find myself trying hard not to make mistakes when I speak. Sometimes I feel ashamed and not good enough because of my lack of English. I try to do the best I can because one day I want to speak well but I don't want to lose my accent and that is a big dilemma I have but I will work hard to better myself. I believe that my accent is part of me and that no one should be discriminated because of one's accent.