Sample Essay #6

Accent exists all over the world, no matter you are a new immigrant or you are a person who was born in your native country. American have American accents. After reading an article "The Perfect Voice" by Carl Elliot and another article "When Accent Becomes an Issue" by Raymond Hernandez, I realized that a person's accent has become a big problem in society. It affects a person's perceptions of class and social status.

The article, 'The Perfect Voice" by Carl Elliot begins with a story. The story tells about an Englishman, Hawking, lost his voice. Several years later, a computer specialist called Equalizer, gave him a voice synthesizer with an American accent. Hawking was pleased with the voice synthesizer, but he wrote in a 1993 essay, "I would feel I had become a different person.' It describes the different voice between natural and the artificial. Hawking lost his natural voice. Instead, He used artificial voice. That made him felt uncomfortable because he was an English man, but he used the artificial voice with American assent that made he felt he was not an English. He felt he was not his own. In this article, the author, Carl Elliot said, "An accent is not a part of the self that sits silently in a room. It is a part of the self that is presented to others. By identifying so closely with his accent, Hawking is identifying less with his solitary self than with his self-presentation. It says that accent identified your identity when you presented it. Carl Elliott used Hawking's example to explain that the voice is a good place for people to know or to think about out identity. In fact, we are not changing our accent, but we can reduce it by learning.

Another article, "When Accent Becomes an Issue" by Raymond Hernandez, uses many examples to tell about how does the accent become an issue. This article mostly tells about new immigrants. As I know, new immigrants have thick accents when they speak English, such as Spanish. When Spanish speak English, I usually don't understand what are they talking about.
sounds like a tongue twister. However, accents are an impediment for new immigrants that gives them a lot of trouble, such as discrimination. "Saying they face ridicule, condescension or hostility, many immigrants go to great lengths to reduce their accents and speak like natives, often seeking speech therapists and tutors for help," Raymond Hernandez says. It says that even though new immigrants get troubles, they try to reduce their voice. "But I think when you have an accent it gives you a certain originality, something that is singular, something that is yours."

Here it says that accent is already existence that only belongs to you. It is the same meaning as Carl Elliott says that the voice (accent) is for people to know or to think about your identity. For example, Chinese have Chinese accents. They cannot speak English like natives, but they learn, such as a little baby who is Chinese, but was born in America. Even though he is Chinese, he speaks English like natives because he is learning. He is reducing his voice.