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Society vs. Language And Culture

America maybe one of the world's most diverse places on earth with thousands upon thousands of different languages and cultures learn everyday; with that being said many face the issue of language or cultures becoming a barrel with the way people communicate each and everyday including me when I was very young; my mother and I would go to the city and my mom would speak to people around her and because she didn't how to speak english people would ignore her. Therefore the novel "Mother Tongue" by Amy Tan demonstrates how she went through something that many people go through and she wrote about her experience which many people can relate with including me. When I was younger I was ashamed of the way of speaking spanish in front of people because my mom did not know english and I didn't like talking in spanish but after reading what Amy Tan wrote about I can relate with her.

The story "Mother Tongue" by Amy Tan the author states "and when the doctor finally called her daughter me, who spoke in perfect English lo and behold we had assurances the cat scan would be found"(Tan 11). Therefore what the author is trying to say in this quote is that because the doctor did not consider her mother's English to not be perfect he would not given her an explanation of what was happen. The doctor would only give an explanation to tan because the doctor felt like he could only speak to her because her English was up to standards not only

showing that the doctor was wrongly judging her mother but it also shows the language barrier and how communicating was made difficult but possible thanks to tan. Apart from that Tan ~~sister~~, "I started writing nonfiction as a freelancer the week after I was told by my former boss that writing was my worst skill and I should hone my talents toward account management"(Tan 13). This quote is showing how the culture barrier come into play because her must have assumed that because she is asian that she should have gone to math and not writing. Amy Tan broke away from that by writing her first nonfiction and proving her boss wrong and many others who may have had the same mindset as her boss and wrongfully stereotyping her; and shows that we as people can overcome anything because first with the doctor not wanting to help her mother and then with her boss putting a label in a sense that because she is asian she should do what asian are know for. Even with all that she overcame the language and cultural barrier and wrote her first book and helped her mom when she needed it.

Although I can relate with Tan I have also gone through something similar when I was younger. I come from spanish descent meaning my mom and dad were not born here but I was making me the only one who speaks English, so when I was younger anytime me and my mom would go to the city I would have translate for her and when ever I could not she would speak in the best english she knew how which I never saw anything wrong with it but I would always notice that people would look at us weird or talk among themselves. After I started to notice little things like that I would tell my mom to not speak so nobody would know that we were spanish i would sit away from her in the train so people would not know that we were spanish to the point that my mom started to notice. My mom never really said anything to me until one day she just told me being spanish and talking Spanish is not a crime and you should

feel proud to know that you come from a place full of wonder people food and culture. What my mom said got to me it left me thinking and then one day she said let's go to the city which I went with her and right there I asked her something in spanish and she looked at me and smiled and very happy she answered backed and I really did not care what anybody had to say or if people looked at us weird or if to them we were weird all that matter was that I made my mom happy and thanks to my mom until this day im very proud and happy to say I'm Spanish and to speak Spanish anywhere I go.

In conclusion, personal narratives are a good way to connect with somebody because there are times that we might feel like things only happen to us but then you read the stories of Amy Tan and then you realize that there are people out there that go through the same thing. Although using personal narratives are good things too great a connection these kinds of stories also have a downside being that people may not agree with the choices you may have made as a person in that time of struggle. I feel that Amy Tan really made a connection with me and what I have lived. I feel that when somebody writes about true events it makes the reading more powerful because it's something that may not have happened to you in your life but it's something that somebody you know may have gone through. However, in this case, Amy Tan did that but showing how society deals with language and culture barriers and how somebody can overcome them by sharing her personal stories in which so many people not only me can relate to.

(841 words)