



ENG2602

ASSIGNMENT 1

Unique number: 599702


QUESTION 2:

Consider the two examples of dialogue below, Sample A and Sample B. Identify which of the two samples is an excerpt from a real life conversation and which is an excerpt from a play. Substantiate your answer in an essay in which you discuss the differences between a play and real life dialogue as illustrated in the two samples.


Student Number: XXXXXXXXXX

M C Combrinck


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A famous band once asked: "Is this the real life? Is this just fantasy?" (Queen, 1975), the ultimate question asked by everyone's favorite band, Queen; as well as UNISA's own Department of English Studies. The purpose of this essay is to identify which of the two samples is from the real world and which one is made up fantasy, as well as to substantiate using the differences between a play and real life dialogue. Firstly we are going to explore ¹ different definitions and then apply these definitions to the two texts to see which is which 

"A talk, especially an informal one, between two or more people, in which news and ideas are exchanged." (Merriam Webster, n.d.) That is the definition the Merriam Webster's Dictionary spits out for "Conversation". "An exciting, emotional, or unexpected event or circumstance," (Merriam Webster, n.d.) is the dictionary's definition of the word "drama". This is two definitions that makes it clear which Sample is a play and which is real life.


Simply by looking at Sample A, the use of the visual space and the style, you can already see that this piece is not of a literary nature (before you look at the reference ² used, that gives it away as a voice recording transcript of some kind of real life conversation 



Further analysis when reading through Sample A it becomes clear that the text is not literary (defined as: "concerning the writing, study, or content of literature, especially of the kind valued for quality of form." (Merriam Webster, n.d.), or dramatic. It has not been written to be performed. It's style is also classic notation of a voice recording. Line 6: "Hm:: moderate I'd say" has ":" which indicate pauses heard (symbolizes a comma in literally text). It is also typical of a conversation one might have during a doctor's visit. A medical question is asked, the patient answers. ("04 Doc: Alcohol use? / 05 (1.0) / 06: Hm:: moderately I'd say")

There is also no plot twists, no embellishments. Just plain, simple, boring colloquial speech being spoken by two average people, not constructed in a thought out way at all. It's all muddled and unclear. The patient is not funny, the doctor isn't trying to make a joke. It is following a simple form of question-answer and clearly not there for the theatrical value of it, The conversation is also not ³ leading up to something, it has not created intrigue or any special interest in the readers mind 

While Sample B, is clearly structured as a play (before you look at the reference used, that also gives away that it is in fact an excerpt out of Abnormal Loads by Junkets: Mowbray). To support this finding the text has other clear markings of a play. Sample A has stage directions in brackets hinting at when certain movements should be made. It also has a lot of exposition of what is happening that is silent ("The NURSE scribbles on a prescription pad, spelling out each letter."). The names "NURSE" and "VINCENT" are also capitalized, something often done in plays to draw the capitalized person's attention to something that they are supposed to be doing also to supply the names of the characters present on stage. In the example, it tells the nurse, that she is supposed to scribble on a paper. This text is livelier, there is a sense of drama building up, the questions follow up with mystery and suspense. Why is Vincent coming for an HIV test? He is not in a relationship, what is going on? What? He hasn't been sexually active in years? This is intriguing.... Why is he coming then? Clearly it has been written to be performed. It is purposefully structured to achieve an aim. To teach a lesson: The nurse prescribes the patient with a LIFE, which teaches a lesson as well as being ⁴ humorous, which lends its ear to a more theatre scene, rather than an everyday conversation 

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Our study guide mentions: “Ellipsis and exclamation marks are punctuation. They are aspects of language that the playwright is using to structure the dialogue. Using these grammatical structures, the playwright creates an interaction between the characters where what they say appears to be like normal speech between people in a real situation. But is it really ‘normal’?” Sample A has no ellipses or punctuation, as it has been written in an informational / factual manner, whereas Sample B’s dialogue has been structured perfectly. The timing after each question is perfect to create drama and suspense and adds to the literary value of the piece. “Vincent: You mean... “ The ellipses create a pause in which the Nurse then exclaims exactly what she means (This also adding to the humor of the text). Another very obvious pointer that Sample B is in fact a play, not a real-life conversation would be what the last part: “Nurse: L...I...F...E. It’s free, and fun when you get the hand of it! She smiles warmly, tears the prescription from the pad and hands it to VINCENT. He takes a deep breath, glances down at the paper and exits the scene.” A real nurse in a real-life situation would not prescribe “A life” to a patient. And if they do, a patient will definitely not respond to it kindly. This is also very clearly theatrical and not in any way or form realistic 

A study has been conducted on the two samples given in our tutorial letter and research has found that Sample A is an excerpt from a real life conversation between a patient and a doctor and Sample B  is an excerpt from a play, a pretend conversation between a pretend nurse and a pretend patient 

[954 words]




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References

Merriam Webster, n.d. *Merriam Webster*. [Online]

Available at: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/conversation>

[Accessed 15 March 2017].

Queen, M. F., 1975. *Bohemian Rhapsody*. London: Queen.

NAME: **Michaela C Combrinck**

STUDENT NO.: [REDACTED]

ASSIGNMENT TOPIC: **Conversation Essay**

ASSIGNMENT NO.: **1**

I declare that this assignment is my own original work. Where secondary material has been used

(either from a printed source or from the internet), this has been carefully acknowledged and referenced in accordance with departmental requirements. I have not allowed anyone else to borrow or copy my work. I understand what plagiarism is and have read the university's policy in this regard, available at:

http://www.unisa.ac.za/contents/colleges/col_grad_studies/docs/Policy_copyright_infringement_plagiarism_16November2005.pdf

Signature :...M C Combrinck

Date: 15 March 2017

RESULTS

Final Comments = 85

Total = 85 / 100 (85%)

COMMENTS

1	Good! Your introduction is sound and informative!
2	Good, but do not base your argument solely on these somewhat superficial factors.
3	Excellent! Insightful, very detailed and well-expressed.
4	Excellent again!
5	Also excellent!
6	This is a fair conclusion, as it sums up the major thrust of your argument.
7	Thank you for submitting this assignment. Your essay is excellent! It is detailed and insightful and clearly discusses and explains many of the technical aspects of the text you are analysing! Very well done! Study hard and good luck for the examinations! Marked by: Russell Goldman
8	Total /100: