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POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ADVANCES IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

Biotechnology advances have brought some progress in the society with controversies. Some are in support of the issues which are arising from the use of current biotechnology while other people strongly oppose to the applied technology (Qaim 126). The general changes cover human health, plants as well as animal production. Over the last few decades, various techniques and biotechnological tools have been used by the scientists to modify and improve plants, organisms as well as animals. In perspective to the controversies brought by the advances of biotechnology, it has significantly enhanced the condition of human health, living and livestock production leading to enough food supply but these as well come with some adverse effects.

Positive advances of biotechnology can be viewed in the field of genetic engineering based on decoding of DNA that has revolutionized ideas about life, and its functions. The biotechnological technique is currently used to clone farm animals and plants (Nicolia et al 79). It has been used to modify plants and animals to have their very own limited pests-resistant traits favoring production and protecting the environment from the harmful artificial pesticides used to control pests. Highly reliable, rapid and consistent have been created to add flavor, aid processing in the food processing industries and preserve the dairy products among others. Different diagnostic kits have also been invented for early detection of pest infestation for both plants and animals. Some human and animal diseases have also been prevented or cured successfully through the invention of vaccines which would otherwise be impossible without biotechnology. The Biotechnology is also used to solve crimes through forensic analysis, and also to probe patients' chromosomes for symptom detections or in the prevention of disease such as cancers.

On the other hand, negative advances of biotechnology can also be observed in genetically modified crops and animal products which both come as a result of agricultural biotechnology. Hormones used in animals such as artificial recombinant bovine growth hormone are capable of causing health problems and infections in some animals such as cows. While at the same time there are inclusive controversies which view these products as a major cause of cancer and other possible negative health impacts which are brought by the consumption of genetically modified organisms or food products derived from organisms treated with artificial hormones. Crops which are genetically engineered may as well lead to contamination or erosion of natural plants with their genetically engineered pollen and genes, and further creating new virus strains or weeds, disrupting the natural pest control and leading to soil contamination with toxins that may be harmful to natural food web and food chains.

The aspect of monoculture and genetically engineering of plants and animals tend to limit the natural biodiversity. In cases where there are fewer varieties or species in an ecosystem, the population becomes more vulnerable to a monoculture pest that could lead to extinction or wiping out of important staple in the food supply. Therefore there is a need for proper regulation when applying the biological techniques to control the use and transfer of such organisms to protect people and the entire environment (Moshelion & Arie 337).

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IS THE INCREASE USE OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS THE INTERNET AND CELL PHONES CAUSING PEOPLE TO BECOME MORE SOCIALLY CONNECTED OR SOCIALLY ISOLATED?

Two decades ago, the use of technology such as the internet and cell phones was not in the mainstream. However, the use of technology such as the internet and cell phones has been increasing in the past few years. It has without a doubt changed how people socialize in society. Many people prefer to use modern technology such as internet and cell phones as their primary source of communication to connect with the outside world. What most fail to realize is that it can also lead to social isolation.

Many people use modern technology such as the internet and cell phone as a way of communication rather than traditional face to face conversation. One of the positives is that interacting with people that live far becomes easier than it was twenty years ago when the use of internet and cell phones were not popular at that time. People can now interact with family, friends and other people in another part of the world via mobile phones or the internet. Without the help of modern technology, people would find it harder to reunite.

Although internet and cell phones help people to connect, many claim it imprisons them from engaging in interpersonal conversation. Tossell argued that many people bemoan the “decline of talk” (280). According to the surveys from firms such as Nielsen, “after peaking in 2007, the length of cell phone conversations has been shrinking” (Tossell 280). It is hard to believe that the increased use of modern technology such as internet and cell phones can lead to social isolation.

When attention is drawn away from conversations, it creates social disconnection. Teenagers and adults these days are very fascinated and consumed with the use of internet and cell phones so much more than the past. It has led to the decrease in interpersonal communicational traditional norms. People are more likely to use the internet and cell phones for texting, sending emails, shopping, taking and posting pictures and tweeting than the actual phone function (Tossell 280). According to Kimberly Young, "Internet addiction may not yet be clearly defined, but you know it when you see it" (Collier 274). It's startling that many teenagers are profoundly close to their smartphones. It is indisputable that spending too much time on the internet and cell phones alone can cause "[...] people [to be] more insulated and less social" (Tossell 280).

The new ways of communication have become a part of most people's lives unlikely to change soon. Many people depend on this technology. We may conclude that the increased use of modern technology such as the internet and cell phones contributes to a great deal of social isolation to some people. But most of the time not necessarily in a negative way because it has its pros and cons; yet if we deal with it appropriately, we may not complain about its cons.

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HAVE THE ROLES OF WOMEN AND MEN IN THE WORKPLACE BEEN REVERSED PERMANENTLY?

Today it is not uncommon to see more women involved in more challenging roles in the workplace. They are striving and pushing the limit to achieve their professional goals as equal as men. Now, it is prevalent that many women are working in the field that men usually do. As a result, roles of women and men in the workplace have been reversed. However, the argument that says this change is permanent cannot be justified by undeniable facts.

Women want to be acknowledged in the fields that are not only particular to women. They are now more involved in multidisciplinary professions. They tend to acquire a higher education that reflects in their qualifications for the jobs. It is true based on the fact that few numbers of men attending university while higher numbers of women attending university and earning BAs (Wente 261) which suggests that greater number of women will acquire elevated positions in the workplace. As a result, women who are working as managers or directors is not something new anymore.

Economic reasons push the women to work harder to aim for getting high paying jobs. Some women have become the primary provider for the family. They are forced to engage in more challenging roles which will enable them to earn more income. It includes trying a different kind of jobs that are traditionally associated with men. According to Norma Carr-Ruffino, "the change regarding women's participation in the workplace began in the 1970s when a single-income household could no longer support a comfortable, middle-class lifestyle"(Baig). It suggests that some women are forced to push themselves to compete with men to get a better position in the workplace.

However, women are still struggling to get opportunities that they are striving for in the workplace. Even though women are still attempting to breach the gap with men in term of position achievements, men are still dominating in their fields and earning better pay than women (Baig) and women are still holding positions that “have been traditionally oriented toward women”(Baig). According to Carr-Ruffino, “just because women were now in the workforce did not mean that all avenues were open to them”(Baig). The general perception that more women are becoming hired for high paying jobs leads people to think that women will take over the roles of men in the workplace permanently while in reality, women are still struggling to break the barrier in getting opportunities that they strive for in the workplace.

Despite the fact that women seem to be taking over men’s roles in the workplace, men still appear to overshadow women in the workplace. The proof that can be used to justified the argument of roles changes between women and men will stay permanent cannot be supported by substantial evidence.

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LEARNING METHODS THAT WORK - A SELF CASE STUDY

There are various learning methods that I use as a student to better understand the materials or subjects that I am studying. These methods include summarization, re-reading, highlighting, keyword mnemonic, and memorizing the short passage of information that I read. Although I often use these methods to help me with the exams, I find that these methods only work with my short term memory. It is difficult to recall the materials on exam day if I only study one day before that. Studies have shown that the methods that I am using above “ [...] were judged to be ineffective” (Roediger, 2013, p.2). I also try different learning methods. One of the learning methods that I use is distributing practice. So what I do is to study in small chunks of material in short time repeatedly over a period of time. This method is scientifically proven to be efficient and is “[...] known to be a powerful enhancement of learning” (Roediger, 2013, p.3). I find that this is the best method for me thus far. This essay evaluates the effectiveness of distributing practice as a learning tool, along with its challenges.

A study plan is paramount to my learning success. I find it easy to understand the materials if I organize and manage my study time well. For example, when I have four hours of free time, I use it to study for two hours, and then I take a break for two hours after that. Taking a break is important to allow the body to relax and boost performance. It does not only help to increase alertness but also allows “the brain to store new information into long-term memory,” said Maas (Greer, 2004). Maas added that “[our] alertness, energy, performance, thinking, productivity, creativity, safety, and health will be affected by how much [we] sleep” (Greer, 2004). I start using this method as early as four weeks before the final exams. This method is effective to maximize my learning experience and improve my memory retention.

Although distribution practice works best for me, I can not rely solely on this method. There is a time when I can't split the time between studying all the subjects and finishing assignments. To tackle the situation, I often divide the subjects into two categories. The first category is the difficult one. I use distribution practice to study the difficult subjects, and I start studying them a month before the final exam. The second one is the easiest one. I don't need to review them often. I often read them a day before final exam for one hour of study. This trick helps me in my hectic situation, and I can focus on what is more important.

I am a visual learner, and as a visual learner, I rely on visual aids such as using pictures, graph, and charts to illustrate and understand the concepts. Using visual aids along with distribution practice does enhance my learning process. However, using visual aids don't always work when I study in crowded place. According to Davis Means, "[v]isual learners often have trouble working while having a dialogue, even if the dialogue directly pertains to the subject matter" (Means, 2005, Visual learners section, Para.1). I often feel distracted if I have conversations with friends or family while studying. To help mitigate the shortcomings of my learning style, I use auditory learning techniques such as highlighting, keyword mnemonic, re-reading and summarizing out loud what I just read. This method is effective for me and helps me to remember materials for a short term.

These two methods of learning that I use for studying significantly positively impact my success. Following these practices allows me to meet the goals I have set for improving my skills and memory.

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WHAT NEEDS TO DO TO HELP STUDENTS CHOOSE THE RIGHT CAREER PATH

High students are leaders of tomorrow who should be oriented on both their life choices and career paths. After all, the reason students get enrolled in schools is to get both formal education and find the perfect career path that will lead to success and future happiness. Students, therefore, need guardians and counseling from their parents, mentors, and teachers so that they don't go astray when it comes to making appropriate decisions about their lives. However, it is better to orientate and not force students into particular careers. The reason is that students have minds of their own and they will hardly excel in a career they have outrightly declared a lack of interest. It is important to help students choose a particular career and decide a career goal. No matter how profitable a career is, a student needs to make up his mind to pursue it or else, he may not succeed in that path. The reasons why parents, high school teachers and mentors should orientate or give career guidance to students.

Teachers and parents can better evaluate student's skills and potentials. It is true that children are born with unique talents and potentials. However, people can acquire new skills accurately as long as they are interested. Most parents have lived long with their children to know the areas they excel well. Teachers too on the other hand deal with these students every day in high school and they know the potentials of each student. It is, therefore, wise for parents and teachers to counsel and orientate students on what career path to take because they have spent a lot of time with them to know their strengths and weaknesses in various disciplines.

Parents and teachers can predict the future job market. One of the biggest challenges to getting a job upon graduating is the fact that most students want into fields with saturated job markets. The reason is that while choosing their career options, they didn't consider the jobs that will sell in the long run. According to a 2013 CIBC World Market Report, "students aren't gravitating towards well-paying careers in a way that reflects the changing labor market"(Dubé). With that said, teachers and parents are knowledgeable and very informed about both the present and future economic trends. Teachers just like most parents can predict the career options that will be relevant for some years to come. Remember that students are being trained to have great careers in the future. Parents and teachers should, therefore, intervene to orientate these students on the careers that will still be relevant for a very long time. Such guidance will prevent them from frustrations over the inability to land a great job upon graduation from University.

Teachers and parents know the personalities of each student. The truth is that some jobs require a certain degree of commitment and concentration whereas other jobs are less demanding. Some jobs also require unique personalities and people lacking such personalities may not excel well in those careers. For instance, one needs to be bold and confident to pursue a career in Acting or Journalism. An introvert will rarely make a good journalist because he may not be able to put himself all out there to do investigations. Social skills and personality, as well as the ability to work in groups, can influence the choices of one's career. Parents and teachers are therefore in a better place to orientate students about career options because they understand the personality of each student concerning particular jobs.

Teachers and parents act as support and motivators. Sometimes, students want to pursue a particular career, but they tend to doubt themselves or lack the motivation to do so. However, parents and teachers are there to assure these students that they are good enough and equal to the task. Parents and teachers are there to motivate these children to become whatever they decide to be in the future.

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THE DANGER OF SMOKING

Smoking has been known to cause various health diseases in the body. It has also been informed through the information embedded on the cigarette packs. Still, many people are still unwilling to quit smoking. Smoking does not only affect the smokers themselves but also people around them that accidentally inhaling the cigarette smokes. The danger of smoking clearly causes health issues on people we see today, but its risk is often overlooked.

Smoking can kill and cause many health diseases though the effects may not be immediately seen. The common health disease risks are coronary heart such as heart failure or a heart attack and peripheral artery disease (P.A.D) which cause the problem with the arteries that carry blood to organs. The chemicals in tobacco can also contribute to inflammation, damage blood vessel walls, disturb normal heart rhythms, increase blood pressure, lower HDL cholesterol, raise LDL cholesterol, increase triglyceride level and make the blood difficult to carry oxygen (National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, 2016). People who smoke are at risk for certain types of cancers, lung and respiratory problems, fertility problems, menstrual problems, and premature death (Government of Canada, 2016). Pregnant women who smoke are also at risk for premature delivery and having a low birth weight baby (Government of Canada, 2016). With all these pieces of evidence shown that smoking has huge adverse effects on health that should be taken seriously.

People who don't smoke were also at risk of having health diseases when they exposed to second-hand smoke. Second-hand smoke is smoke that comes from the burning cigarettes or a smoke exhaled by a person who is smoking. Second-hand smoke can affect nonsmokers the same way as the people who smoke. It can cause heart problems, lung cancer, breathing problems, excessive coughing, throat irritation and premature death (Government of Canada, 2016). Children who inhale the second-hand smoke are at risk for respiratory illnesses, asthma attacks, ear infections, phlegm, wheezing, breathlessness, lung function (Government of Canada, 2016). Infants that are exposed to second-hand smoke are also at risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) (Government of Canada, 2016). According to American Heart Association, there is 34,000 premature heart disease deaths and 7,300 lung cancer that is caused by second-hand tobacco smoke (American Heart Association, 2015). The study also shows about 25-30 percent higher among people that are at risk of developing heart disease (American Heart Association, 2015). It clearly shows that second-hand smoke is as dangerous as smoking the cigarette itself.

Smoking is still common among people in spite of knowing the danger of smoking. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there are approximately 42.1 million people in America who are consistent smokers (Public Health, 2016) and about 2,100 youth and young adults turn into daily smokers after starting to smoke for some time (Public Health, 2016). It suggests that the biggest problem is not the lack of knowledge about the danger of smoking but the lack of awareness among smokers. The majority of smokers often understand and know the risk of smoking, yet they are still reluctant to stop smoking.

There is no doubt that smoking can cause various health diseases but many smokers still do not care about their health and the health of others. The government is expected to do more and take more action to ban the use of tobacco in public places, restrict the production of tobacco and regulate the consumers who want to buy the tobacco.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

The earth's climates continue changing and affect the life of humans and animals. Climate change is also known as global warming. It can be described as the gradual rise in the surface temperature of the earth. The earth's temperature requires a balance of the heat entering and leaving the planet system (The United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2017). Climate change can have serious impacts on people and animals on Earth. Climate change is not only a local but also a global issue, and humans are the primary cause of climate change.

It is undeniable that humans are the most contributors to climate change. Many scientists have done in-depth research on climate change. It is well-known that humans are the leading cause of climate change due to the use of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels cause a release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the air. The gases released trap the heat in the atmosphere, and this has a range of effects on ecosystems. The effects include rising sea levels, melting snow, and ice, more extreme heat events, severe and catastrophic weather events such as intense rainfall, storms and floods, and droughts that render landscapes susceptible to wildfires (The National Climate Assessment, 2014). Further studies by scientists show that "Earth's average temperature has risen by 1.5°F over the past century, and is projected to increase another 0.5 to 8.6°F over the next hundred years" (The United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2017, Basic Information). The study suggests that the increase will continue and in some cases, may accelerate and this poses a significant risk to human health, forests, agriculture, freshwater supplies and rising coastlines.

The primary cause of climate change is not only the burning of fossil fuels, such as coal and oil but also other factors. Natural factors include the variations of the sun's energy reaching the earth, the changes in the reflectivity of the earth's atmosphere and surface, and human activities such as deforestation and agriculture which help to contribute to the proliferation of greenhouse gases that cause climate change (The United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2017). Other climate forces include; Black carbon (BC) is a solid particle or aerosol, it is not a gas, but it contributes to the warming of the atmosphere, Sulfates, organic carbon, and other aerosols can cause cooling by reflecting sunlight (The United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2017). Warming and cooling aerosols impacts negatively on the atmosphere as it interacts with clouds, changing some of their attributes such as formation, dissipation, reflectivity, and precipitation rates (Environmental Protection Agency, 2017). Other natural factors that influence the climate change is the variations in the sun's energy towards Earth's system. When sunlight reaches the earth surface, it can be reflected or absorbed by the earth surface (The United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2017). If it is absorbed, the earth releases some of the energy back into the atmosphere as heat. The greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), Tropospheric ozone (O₃), Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) absorb the energy (the United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2017). And this slows the heat that is sent back to the atmosphere (the United States Environmental Protection Agency, 2017). Although the natural cause of climate change is not avoidable, it is nothing to compare what human activities did over the past century.

A small increase in the earth's temperature caused by climate change can have several effects on the lives in the land. The effects include rising sea levels due to the melting of the polar ice caps. It can cause a great storm when it rains. Other effects include warm ocean temperatures, frequent storms especially during severe weather events which lead to flooding and tsunamis. Also, the increase in weather causes severe wildfires that threaten to the lives on earth. We may not be able to reverse the problems. But at least we can do something about it to avoid making it worse.

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WHY LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE IS MORE BENEFICIAL

Undoubtedly, not everything we learn come from schools. Learning is a life long process. We continue acquiring knowledge from the time we born through out our lives time. Although schools are the medium for acquiring knowledge, experience teaches us more than just required skills but life.

First, not all learning takes place in a classroom. We need to study extensively outside the academic work to gain more knowledge which not taught in a classroom. For example, to study Greek culture, students need to visit Greece to learn more about the people and the culture. Another example will be studying biology subject. Students are required to observe the plants to get the sense of what the plants do. Also, not everything we can understand from a book. Ones cannot know how to swim without learning directly from an instructor. They need to practice to swim. They also need to continue practicing their swimming skills to be a better swimmer. Furthermore, people need to learn from other people experiences. Many successful people learn from other people experiences too. For example, a writer learns to be a better writer by adopting the writing style of a famous and experienced author. Learning is not limited to one way but many.

Another reason is that many jobs require more experience over education. Many high paying jobs are available to people who have many previous experiences. For example, to become a technical writer needs at least to have three years of expertise in the precise subject matter. Many people didn't complete their education but are successful becoming a well-known person such as Steve Jobs and Bill Gates because of substantial long-term experience. Also, some IT industries require their candidates to have relevant work experience before being considered for a job. The employers often prioritize practical skills over education. The employees need to demonstrate their IT skills. Furthermore, new entry level jobs also often require significant work experience. Many students often must gain work experience from volunteering before they graduate. Having enough experience is the first step to employment opportunities.

Finally, experience teaches individuals to be successful in life. Experience shows a person to be tougher facing the future. When people experience failure and difficulties, it serves as a learning tool and makes a person wiser. It allows a person to learn from mistakes and avoid making the same ones. Also, experience teaches a person to be more mature. We can't control everything. Life is complicated to predict, but our experience allows us to be more cautious of what might come forth in the future and be ready for any situations. Learning from observing other behaviors can be helpful too. When we see the following consequences from unwanted manners, we will refrain from that behaviors. Experience is the best teacher in life.

In conclusion, although students acquire theoretical skills in the classroom, it does not mean much without the experience that puts students into practice in the real world. Learning through experience is more beneficial to students than learning only from a classroom. It gives us practical experience over theoretical knowledge. Learning through experience is vital to students to achieve what life's all about and how to achieve the goals.

WHAT LEAVING HOMETOWN DOES TO A PERSON

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Another reason is that many job opportunities are opened when one has the courage to leave their hometown. Many professional jobs are only available in the big city. Big institutions such as real estate, banks, government and other financial institutions happen to be in a big city. Never leaving hometown prevents someone from getting this job. Also, jobs available in the city offer more perks to employees than working in one's hometown. They can get better health and dental plans. The jobs offered are mostly financially stable. Also, many excellent employment opportunities often require moving. For example, fewer people may take a position as marine biologists working in extreme weather conditions. So people may think twice to consider the job although the salary offered is quite high. Staying in one place may make one miss out on these great opportunities.

Finally, experiencing other places will make people appreciate their home. Many people take for granted what their hometown has to offer. For example, people may get a job in their local hometown easily without needing extra work. When they look for employment in another region, it may require more effort. It teaches the person to have high ambition and determination. Also, living in a different place trains a person how to survive. It is not easy to navigate life without the comfort of friends and family. But it teaches a person to be tougher to handle a whole different situation. Some special memories about hometown are always in one's mind. It is not replaceable. The farther one has traveled, the further one makes a person want to return. People never knew where their heart is until they get out of their comfort zone and experience other places.

In conclusion, leaving hometown may be difficult, but the benefits outweigh the risk. People should at least get out of their comfort world to gain a step closer to understanding the outside world, seek new opportunities, and make the experiences worth the effort of leaving.

THE ESSAY THAT BLEW IVY LEAGUE UNIVERSITIES AWAY

Meet Cassandra Hsiao, Malaysian born girl, who got accepted into eight ivy league universities. Hsiao got a 4.67 GPA and 1540 SATs score. On top of that, she was also an editor-in-chief of the school's magazine and active in her community. She was not only accepted to one but 8 Ivy League schools such as Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Dartmouth, Brown, Columbia, Cornell and Penn. While she is unique and exceptional, it was her essay that brought her into the spotlight.

The essay is well crafted in the portrayal of the common language barriers especially amongst non-English speaking and the immigrants learning English as a second language. The essay is fascinating to read.

The essay is taken from <http://afterschool.my/news/72793-2/>

Credit: <http://afterschool.my/news/72793-2/>

Read the essay below:

In our house, English is not English. Not in the phonetic sense, like short a is for apple, but rather in the pronunciation – in our house, snake is snack. Words do not roll off our tongues correctly – yet I, who was pulled out of class to meet with language specialists, and my mother from Malaysia, who pronounces film as flim, understand each other perfectly.

In our house, there is no difference between cast and cash, which was why at a church retreat, people made fun of me for “cashing out demons.” I did not realize the glaring difference between the two Englishes until my teacher corrected my pronunciations of hammock, ladle, and siphon. Classmates laughed because I pronounce accept as except, success as sussess. I was in the Creative Writing conservatory, and yet words failed me when I needed them most.

Suddenly, understanding flower is flour wasn't enough. I rejected the English that had never seemed broken before, a language that had raised me and taught me everything I knew. Everybody else's parents spoke with accents smarting of Ph.D.s and university teaching positions. So why couldn't mine?

My mother spread her sunbaked hands and said, “This is where I came from,” spinning a tale with the English she had taught herself.

When my mother moved from her village to a town in Malaysia, she had to learn a brand new language in middle school: English. In a time when humiliation was encouraged, my mother was defenseless against the cruel words spewing from the teacher, who criticized her paper in front of the class. When she began to cry, the class president stood up and said, “That's enough.”

“Be like that class president,” my mother said with tears in her eyes. The class president took her under her wing and patiently mended my mother's strands of language. “She stood up for the weak and used her words to fight back.”

We were both crying now. My mother asked me to teach her proper English so old white ladies at Target wouldn't laugh at her pronunciation. It has not been easy. There is a measure of guilt when I sew her letters together. Long vowels, double consonants — I am still learning myself. Sometimes I let the brokenness slide to spare her pride but perhaps I have hurt her more to spare mine.

As my mother's vocabulary began to grow, I mended my own English. Through performing poetry in front of 3000 at my school's Season Finale event, interviewing people from all walks of life, and writing stories for the stage, I stand against ignorance and become a voice for the homeless, the refugees, the ignored. With my words I fight against jeers pelted at an old Asian street performer on a New York subway. My mother's eyes are reflected in underprivileged ESL children who have so many stories to tell but do not know how. I fill them with words as they take needle and thread to make a tapestry.

In our house, there is beauty in the way we speak to each other. In our house, language is not broken but rather bursting with emotion. We have built a house out of words. There are friendly snakes in the cupboard and snacks in the tank. It is a crooked house. It is a little messy. But this is where we have made our home.

End