B3 Seminar #11: Cofer and Tannen

Presenter: Michael Shaffer and Jacob Orkwis

Orkwis: Began with her ethos; Jacob deems her an American writer.

Shaffer: Style—based on anecdotes about her experiences. Extra stereotypes resulting from racism, sexism. Men singing songs to her. Inappropriateness of singing… Cofer = offended, even though others find it funny.

Orkwis: Resentment versus explanation… no claim? Explains the nature of these stereotypes… customs versus chromosomes. Defending customs, depictions of Latinas.

Shaffer: Quick ideas… allusions. Maria from *West Side Story*. Also, a generalized idea of race based on culture, allusions. Uses jargon / Spanish terms to build her ethos…

Orkwis: Went to Tannen’s ethos… professor of linguistics who studies gender. Utilizes humor and scientific evidence... anecdotal evidence…

Shaffer: Explained the “marked womanhood.” Michael gave a quote about her views on women…

Orkwis: She comes off as a bit biased… when she’s describing her experiences about men, she groups them together as one object with no uniqueness. She uses a lot of bias when making this point.

Shaffer: Interesting to note what is her title. There is no unmarked woman = double negative… form fitting function.

Shaffer: Went to anaphora… synthesis…

**Shaffer wrote his questions.**

1. In references to Tannen, does a double standard exist in her writing? What “marks” exist for men?

Shaffer: Shared the anecdote at the end about the man claiming that she’s male-bashing. Does a double-standard exist for men in her eyes in her writing?

* Chandler Wheat: Guys don’t have their own style. That’s BS. We’re all dressed the same here. Cultural implications. There is a different standard.
* Pappalardo: There are different stereotypes.
* Chandler Wheat: She looks at each differently. Guys…
* Paul Hanna: Before we jump on her being a male-basher, she says that the guys in the room chose not to have any special ways.
* Schumacher: A man *can* choose to mark himself. Her point is that it’s easier for men to dress in a nondescript way.
* Reed: Shared a Homecoming anecdote / generalization. Women = hairstyles are different.
* Henry Myers: I notice what the guys wear, too. Guys can mark themselves, but they can also be unmarked. Women are always marked… girls wearing the same type of clothes. To me, they’re unmarked…
* Schumacher: The point = the way you think about someone… we men can present ourselves in a way that demonstrates that we want to blend in.
* Eble asked for clarification about standard clothes…
* Schumacher clarified. More about “standard wares”
* Shaffer: So men can escape?
* Orkwis: Shared anecdote about the way that clothes look.
* Chandler Wheat: The girlfriend dragged me off shopping. What is so appealing about looking for something to waste money on… I don’t get it…
* Eble: Where does this come from?
* Bonn: Shared discussion with Davis about noticing freshmen. We aren’t always intentionally marked.

Shaffer: Any marks outside of fashion? Genetic marker…

* Henry: On that… the little tail…
* Hanna: Clarification—there can be female, asexual…
* Henry: The mark = the extra tail…
* Shaffer: The X that exists…
* Henry: The double-Y means nothing.
* Orkwis: Reaching with that point?
* Henry: Men unmarked in language, but in genetics, women are unmarked.
* Wheat: What’s the purpose?
* Schumacher: Points about language = ridiculous… some dead guy said so…
* Eble: Overturning stereotypes = part of feminism…
* Schumacher: Physics…
* Eble: False analogy?
* Strotman: To apply that analogy… as guys, we don’t question why we refer to boats as “she”
* Eble: So…it’s not that injurious?
* Strotman: Other areas of actual inequality…
* Paz: Someone must be marked…
* Hanna: Keep it “they”—plural—all of the time.
* Orkwis: “Hey guys…”
* Shaffer: Demetri Martin—anything you say can be made more creepy by adding ladies…
* Eble: Tried to tie up ideas, bring the conversation somewhere else…
* Pappalardo: Creationists = problematic… man came first…
* Kunkel: Spoke of the actor /actress dichotomy… (**referenced the text specifically)**
* Schumacher: Male nurse… male secretary… professions associated with one gender.
* Kunkel / Strotman:
* Shaffer: Doctor versus doctorette… both parents are referred to as doctors. Keeping, adding last name. Men don’t have to give up names…

Orkwis: Problem = no solution… sometimes, viable problems are worth bringing up, but the reader is put in a bind by only pointing out problems. But she’s not saying that the prefixes of words should be changed. Thus…what is her claim?

* Eble: No claim of policy, only claim of value…
* Pappalardo: Upset, complaint…
* Orkwis: This would be a monumental change. Every culture goes through shifts.
* Kunkel: Trying to draw attention to this…
* Rumsey: Why would you name something … (needed to clarify)…
* Hanna: Clarified for Eble: Title of greater work alienates audience?
* Orkwis: “We” for women…
* Eble: So… asked questions… is she alienating? Interesting title… opening…
* Schumacher: The biological part seems argumentative… she’s trying to prove a point…

Shaffer: Other two questions… presentation = Cofer condemns stereotypes, but also explains them. Thus, what’s her overall point? To explain the source, or to condemn them? Other question: Stereotypes coming from somewhere? (Orkwis: Broader)

* Hanna: Latino women, wearing bright clothing—heat… Latinas aren’t dressing in this way to be promiscuous, but it’s just the way that women dress.
* Schumacher: Not holding people culpable, too. The guy who took her to the dance. Not bad people for understanding her as a part of a stereotype…
* Orkwis: Stereotype is not wrong… where is she trying to find the truth in these stereotypes? Where do stereotypes come from?
* Schumacher: Assumptions as a result…
* Eble: So… art… allusions…
* Shaffer: That ties in with Mammy from *Gone With the Wind*… Chicken or egg?
* Eble: Art as a reflection of reality… what happens when that reflection becomes reality?
* Schumacher: White people in black face…
* Pappalardo: Black people in *Mister Smith Goes to Washington*… belittled by movies…
* Paz: In no more than a few seconds…
* Orkwis: Mom pointed out that idea in *North by Northwest*… art perpetuating stereotypes. Humor does it. Chappelle does this based on stereotypes…
* Hanna: On that note of groups mocking their own stereotypes. 101.1 played a parody… “F’in Problem”
* Eble: “Accidental Racist”…

Shaffer: Shared a story from the urban plunge from the summer. Breaking down stereotypes… discussed the problems associated with comedy…

* Zach Bonn: Tosh.o = it’s not a stereotype if it isn’t true…
* Orkwis: *8 Mile*… the last rap battle… *Scary Movie 3*… racial indifference between a redneck and a bunch of rappers.
* Shaffer: Building off that… stereotypes about Moeller. Do you tend to defend, or do you agree with the stereotypes? How do you combat?
* Zach Bonn: Rogerian argument = perception of Moeller being a day care…
* Nick Reed: I fight fire with fire…
* Strotman: Assimilate… make it your own. You’re jealous…
* Hanna: There’s definitely a double standard. MND girls… Moeller is automatically a daycare. Girls get defensive…
* Eble: On the gender front… ?
* Bonn: Shared an anecdote about a girl getting lost in Montgomery…
* Hanna: Max Hoderlein… gets lost all the time…
* Orkwis: Mock gender stereotypes all the time. Driving, shopping…
* Schumacher: I’m with you there, though… black friends…
* Eble: Context is everything…
* Orkwis: Basketball games… Middletown / Trotwood…
* Wheat: Zimmerman / discussion with Middletown?
* Strotman: No! That’s me… that was me with Wayne…
* Eble: Blather about something…
* Wick: “God loves us for free”
* Nick Reed:
* Orkwis: Four years ago, state final… people dressed like Jesus…
* Wheat: Gave background with Colerain / St. X…

Eble: Back to Cofer… were her reactions warranted?

* Shaffer: Warranted. Shared an anecdote about Innocent… If someone is going to be ignorant, you can respond in a sharp, but loving tone. Referenced the text… Danny Ablen made a comment about Mexicans… thinks it’s a joke… I’m not personally offended…
* Zac Paz: One of the things I noticed… criticizing American culture. It’s understood that a Puerto Rican understood what she was wearing. In America, the stereotype of sexuality is problematic…
* Rumsey: So… where does this animosity come from?
* Shaffer: In Spain… I asked what Americans are like, according to Spaniards… people acting upon stereotypes…
* Nick Reed: To go off that… telling juniors about various service trips. The New Mexico trip…
* Shaffer: Do we sing songs like in *High School Musical*…
* Schumacher: We can laugh about this here… Peru was the same. But in the position of living in that place, and those perceptions coloring people’s view of you…
* Rumsey: Ignorance versus joking…
* Orkwis: I didn’t understand the concept of singing out of nowhere…
* Booze… decision-making = impaired…

Eble: Anything else?

* Shaffer: Mom’s experience… part-Mexican. On a train in Chicago.