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6Course: COMM 1020  
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Assignment: Analysis Project  
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Topic: “I Have A Dream” analysis

General Purpose: To analyze

Specific Purpose: To analyze the speech, “I Have a Dream” by Martin Luther King.

Thesis Statement: Martin Luther King uses a lot of rhetorical style to make his speech “I Have A Dream” very memorable to the audience.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Background  
    A. “I have A Dream” is one of the most memorable public speeches I have ever heard. It was delivered by Martin Luther King on the afternoon of Wednesday, August 28, 1963, in which he called for an end to racism in the United States.   
    B. It delivered to over 250,000 civil rights supporters from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.
2. I have repeatedly listened to “I Have A Dream” more than 4 times and analyze it by focusing on how King uses different rhetorical style and technique to make this speech such successful an unforgettable.  
    A. He uses a lot of anaphora to create beautiful rhythm in the speech and he also uses many metaphors to create striking visual images to make the scene imaginable.
3. It is a very good example for us to learn the tools and techniques of how to make a nice speech by improving the language we use.

BODY:

1. King uses anaphora effectively to create a remarkable rhythm.  
   A. *A Pocket Guide to Public Speaking* tells anaphora is one form of repetition in a speech, meaning the speaker repeats a word or phrase at the beginning of successive phrases, clauses, or sentences.  
   B. King uses a lot of anaphora to make the speech very rhythmical and impressive. Examples are below:  
    1. “**Now is the time** to make real the promises of democracy. **Now is the time** to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. **Now is the time** to lift our nation from the quicksand’s of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. **Now is the time** to make justice a reality for all of God’s children.”  
    2. “In the process of gaining our rightful place, **we must** not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. **We must** forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. **We must** not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, **we must** rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force.”  
    3. “When will you be satisfied?” “**We can never be satisfied** as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. **We can never be satisfied** as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. **We cannot be satisfied** as long as the Negro’s basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. **We can never be satisfied** as long as our children are stripped of their self-hood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating: “For Whites Only.” **We cannot be satisfied** as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, no, **we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied** until “justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.”  
    4. “**Go back to** Mississippi, **go back to** Alabama, **go back to** South Carolina, **go back to** Georgia, **go back to** Louisiana, **go back to** the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed.”  
    5. “**I have a dream** that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed…**I have a dream** that one day on the red hills of Georgia… **I have a dream** that one day even the state of Mississippi… **I have a dream** that my four little children will one day live in a nation… **I have a dream** today! ... **I have a dream** that one day, down in Alabama… **I have a dream** today! ...**I have a dream** that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low…”  
    6.  “**With this faith**, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. **With this faith**, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. **With this faith**, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.”  
    7. “**Let freedom ring** from the mighty mountains of New York. **Let freedom ring** from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. **Let freedom ring** from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado. **Let freedom ring** from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that. **Let freedom ring** from Stone Mountain of Georgia. **Let freedom ring** from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. **Let freedom ring** from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, **let freedom ring**.”
2. King uses many metaphors to create beautiful visual images.  
   A. According to the textbook, *A Pocket Guide to Public Speaking*, a metaphor compares two things but does by describing one thing as actually being the other.  
   B. In “I Have A Dream”, King uses many metaphors to create striking visual images and let the audience understand or get the scene more easily and unforgettably.  
    1. “It came as a **joyous daybreak** to end the **long night of their captivity**.”  
    2. “One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a **lonely island of poverty**in the midst of a **vast ocean of material prosperity**.”  
    3. “Now is the time to rise from the **dark and desolate valley of segregation**   
   to the **sunlit path of racial justice**.”  
    4. “Now is the time to lift our nation from the **quicksand of racial injustice**   
   to the **solid rock of brotherhood**.”  
    5. “This**sweltering summer of the Negros legitimate discontent**will not pass until there is **an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality.”**  
    6. “The **whirlwinds of revolt** will continue to shake the **foundations of our nation** until the **bright day of justice**emerges.”  
    7. But there is something that I must say to my people **who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice**.  
    8. “Let us not seek to **satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred**.”  
    9. “With this faith, we will be able **to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope**.”  
    10. “With this faith, we will be ableto transform **the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood**.”

CONCLUSION: I. In conclusion,   
A. “I Have a Dream” is a very successful speech.  
 1. It is because it gives the audience a very deep and impressive memory.

B. King uses the rhetorical styles very effectively in this speech.   
 1. The speech has very good rhythm by the anaphora used by King.  
 2. King also uses a lot of metaphor to create striking visual images, making the scenes clearly and easily understandable and imaginable.  
C. King also uses other language technique to make the speech remarkable, such as Alliteration,  
 a. “With this faith, we will be able **to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together**, knowing that we will be free one day.”

D. “I Have A Dream” is a very good speech and I learn so many techniques for presenting a decent and nice speech from it.

Works Cited

American Rhetoric Top 100 Speeches (http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/mlkihaveadream.htm)