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Mr. Leo

English 10: Block H

3 October 2016

*Which rhetorical strategies make Mussolini's speech effective and how do they produce their effects?*

Thesis: To persuade the audience of what Mussolini was trying to say, several techniques make the speech more effective, including the use of imperatives, parallelism, and statistics.

As the speech begins to unravel itself, it is clear why it is one of the most effective speeches known because of certain techniques such as parallelism which has a great effect on the speech. Parallelism can be seen throughout the speech, but in particular, when Mussolini demanding what the people should do in certain situations saying, "To economic sanctions, we shall answer with our discipline, our spirit of sacrifice, our obedience. To military sanctions, we shall answer with military measures."(489). The use of parallelism is effective by making the reader want to know what is next in the speech as the repetition is continued. While there are multiple techniques used in one sentence, parallelism is the most striking as it has a stronger effect to persuade the audience.

In addition to the parallelism strategy, Mussolini carefully incorporated another strategy known as imperatives to grab the audience's attention. One of the ways in which Mussolini uses this strategy in the most effective way was towards the end of his speech when he says, "The Italy of the black shirt revolution, rise to your feet, let the cry of your determination rise to the skies and reach our soldiers in East Africa." (489). Once again, Mussolini uses two strategies in this sentence, however imperatives are more effective as it gives commands which makes the

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**Comment:** The thesis, which is clearly labeled, offers a complete C→E claim: that imperatives, parallelism, and statistics (causes) make the speech persuasive (effect).

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**Comment:** Note that the ¶TSs offer complete C→E claims about the ways in which elements of the text produce effects.

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**Comment:** Textual evidence has been incorporated into the writer's own sentences.

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people want to rush into action. The overall addition of imperatives makes the speech manipulative and persuades the people to do something that they might not want to do.

Arguably one of the most successful tactic in the famous speech was Mussolini's use of (official) statistics. When leaders or candidates want to get the audience's attention, they use the strategy of statistics, however, leaders like Mussolini use false statistics such as, "Twenty Million Italians are at this moment gathered in the squares of all Italy." (488). Using this disinformation makes the audience believe that he is so influential that "Twenty Million Italians" are at the Square listening to him. This technique is very effective to catch the audience's attention as it surprises them when hearing big numbers which Mussolini knows no one would bother to correct him.

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