TRANSFER EXAM
Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literature, NTHU, July 10, 2019

Read the two passages below and answer the following essay questions.

<u>PASSAGE ONE</u>

"Warming Her Pearls"
By Carol Ann Duffy

Next to my own skin, her pearls. My mistress
bids me wear them, warm them, until evening
when I'll brush her hair. At six, I place them
round her cool, white throat. All day I think of her,

resting in the Yellow Room, contemplating silk
or taffeta, which gown tonight? She fans herself
whilst I work willingly, my slow heat entering
each pearl. Slack on my neck, her rope.

She's beautiful. I dream about her
in my attic bed; picture her dancing
with tall men, puzzled by my faint, persistent scent
beneath her French perfume, her milky stones.

I dust her shoulders with a rabbit's foot,
watch the soft blush seep through her skin
like an indolent sigh. In her looking-glass
my red lips part as though I want to speak.

Full moon. Her carriage brings her home. I see
her every movement in my head.... Undressing,
taking off her jewels, her slim hand reaching
for the case, slipping naked into bed, the way

she always does.... And I lie here awake,
knowing the pearls are cooling even now
in the room where my mistress sleeps. All night
I feel their absence and I burn.

QUESTIONS
1. In a 150-word essay, answer the following questions by referring to and explicating specific elements of the passage. Use your analysis of the passage to support your argument.

2. What is the gender of the poem's speaker? How can you tell? What can you tell us about the poem's speaker? Describe the speaker based on your reading of the poem. (50%)

PASSAGE TWO

[This passage is extracted from the article entitled "**Speech technology cannot truly replace reading, researchers argue",** published on the website <Engineering & Technology> on May 14, 2019.]

Approximately one in five people could be considered to have poor levels of literacy, either due to limited learning opportunities or learning difficulties such as dyslexia. This puts these people at a severe disadvantage in most walks of life, although speech technologies such as voice recognition and screen readers have been pushed as a solution for low literacy.

However, researchers from the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics at Radboud University have argued in an article in *Trends in Cognitive Sciences* that speech technology should never replacing learning to read, as being literate has many benefits, including better understanding of speech.

"It is very relevant and timely to look at the advantages of reading on speech, especially as people tend to read less and in different ways than they used to," said Professor Falk Huettig. "Contemporary social media writing and reading habits, for example, are quite different from traditional print media. Information that people used to get from written sources, such as novels, newspapers, public notices or even recipe books, they get more and more from YouTube videos, podcasts or audiobooks."

The researchers acknowledge that reaping information from a wider range of sources is not a bad thing, particularly as many of these methods still augment vocabulary, improve short-term memory and increase knowledge about the world. However, the physical act of reading is apparently crucially important for developing skills such as word prediction: a skill which allows even very young children to predict upcoming information in sentences. Word prediction comes much more naturally to experienced readers, as they encounter millions of words every year and build large networks of words and associations between them. In turn, word prediction allows people to read faster.

People with limited literacy may struggle to grasp the concept of a 'word', which has less meaning for those unfamiliar with written language. For instance, young children and illiterate people asked to repeat the last word of a spoken sentence tend to repeat the entire sentence. Storing both the spoken and written forms of a word in memory helps make spoken words more salient, the researchers argue.

QUESTIONS
1. What are the authors trying to say in this passage? Using your own words, summarize the passage in 150 words (20%)

2. Do you agree or disagree with the authors' arguments? Why? Please explain your position in around 250~300 words. (30%)