

There is a clear difference in the way the Handkerchief in 'Material' is presented compared to the objects in 'The Chainsaw Versus the Pampas Grass'. From the title 'Chainsaw versus pampas grass' the phrase 'versus' immediately gives the readers the impression that there is an ongoing conflict between both objects although it is clear that the brutality of the chainsaw is no match for the fragility of the pampas grass, whereas the title 'Material' suggest something soft and something that can be used to create other things. As well as referring to the actual material the hanky is made out of it also refers to the way although the Material itself is already useful it can use the qualities and attributes it possesses to create other things that can then have even more of a meaning and more of a use to society itself.

The way in which the speaker speaks of the chainsaw convinces the audience that the idea of the chainsaw is that it is suppose to be masculine and possess masculine qualities such as violence, aggression and a short temper. As modern reader we understand that these are stereotypical views of gender, so Simon Armitage uses these objects to present the problems with the power structure and gender. In 'Material' the speaker's use of extended metaphor "My mother was the hanky queen, when hanky meant a thing of cloth" allows the reader to understand how the speaker feels that her mother was a constant figure in her life unlike tissues which are disposable hankies are around for a long time.

Both poems employed the use of personification; 'The chainsaw versus the pampas grass' to portray the stereotypical aspects of masculinity such as inability to refuse a challenge, violent temper "No gearing up or getting up to speed just instant rage" a chainsaw wasn't needed for a pampas grass, it wasn't something that a sharp blade couldn't cut but by using a chainsaw it enabled the writer to demonstrate the extent of an anger fuelled by nothing. The phrase "instant rage" inferred that it wasn't necessarily caused by something and that it was just there just like it's expected to be present in all male. The use of personification in 'The Chainsaw and the pampas grass' is also used to portray the stereotypical aspects of femininity such as obsession with physical appearance and craving attention as the pampas grass was "taking the warmth and light ... stealing the show", which implies that the pampas grass will go to great lengths to be the centre of attention, and because warmth and light are crucial for other plants to survive and it was taking it, this gives the readers the impression that the pampas gras (women) will stop at no cost to get the attention that they craved. On the other hand, the use of personification in 'Material' to emphasis the idea that the persona's mother (or the hanky) wasn't the only one around, as if "dried-up hankies fell in love and mated, raising little squares" it was a time were hankies didn't seem so abnormal, when parents care for their children and do not use technology or any other temporary substitutes but when they then raised a new generations they raised "squares" things entirely different to hankies .

The tone in 'Material' is quite reminiscent and sad and criticizes society, and how changeable it's become whereas the tone in 'the chainsaw and the pampas grass' is extremely negative and creates a violent imagery although both poems raises the question that although society is somewhat modernised has it actually taken a step in the right direction?