George Orwell's politically charged essay “Marrakech” uses a memorable style to highlight a number of important social and moral issues. Writing in 1939, in the shadow of oncoming World War II, Orwell uses word choice, vivid imagery, rhetorical questions and tone to expose the evils of colonialism, highlight the inhumane treatment of women in the Arab world and explore the deep Anti-Semitic feeling in Morocco. This essay sends important and powerful messages to the reader, and its main themes still appeal to the people of the modern world: that poverty, intolerance, racial discrimination and subjugation of a nation by force have severe consequences for the lives of ordinary people.

In the opening paragraph Orwell cleverly uses the stylistic technique of imagery to establish the unhygienic living conditions of Marrakech, one of the consequences of colonialism. “As the corpse went past the flies left the restaurant table in a cloud and rushed after it but they came back a few minutes later.” Orwell uses a metaphor to compare the flies to a cloud, highlighting the sheer volume of them. They follow the decaying dead body, yet they return to the restaurant as it is just as unsanitary as the dead body and provides them with the opportunity of food.

Orwell compares the burial of the dead body in Marrakech to the the type of burial he is used to viewing in Europe, his tone shows that he feels sympathy for those living and dying in Marrakech. “No gravestone, no name, no identifying mark of any kind.” His bleak and rather solemn tone is created via the repetition of “No”. The Moroccans receive “No” respect due to colonialism, they live and then they die. In they eyes of the French colonialists there is no “Identifying” factor to each native Moroccan individual, they are all the same and under colonialism they are all inferior.

Throughout “Marrakech” Orwell uses rhetorical questions as a stylistic technique. Orwell introduces the reader to the typical view of a stereotypical European during the French colonialism of Marrakech. “Are they really the same flesh as yourself? Do they really have names?” Orwell cleverly uses the rhetorical question to convey to the reader the idiocy of those who think these questions, in other words the French Colonialists who Orwell believes regard themselves as superior to the native Morrocans and that the natives of Morroco are not human beings.

The most common technique used by Orwell to create a memorable style throughout “Marrakech”, is word choice. Orwell uses word choice and anecdote to convey the poverty of the Jewish people throughout Morroco. He tells us of a “frenzied rush of Jews... all clamouring for a cigarette.” The word choice of “clamouring” and “frenzied” is highly effective as it shows how desperate they truly are and that they view a mere cigarette as a luxury. The fact that “Even a blind man... came crawling out, groping in the air with his hands.” truly highlights this. Moreover, Orwell's deception of the Jews reveals something of a much darker nature. Not only do the French colonialists look down on the Jewish Morrocans, the non-Jewish look down upon them as well. Orwell is showing that colonialism has a knock on effect and that the French bullying the Moroccans has led to the Moroccans bullying the Jews in essence.

Overall through “Marrakech” George Orwell seeks to persuade the user that Colonialism is truly wrong and that it has various terrible effects on all who it touches. Through “Marrakech” he is showing that Colonialism isn't simply a matter of French superiority but that Colonialism has caused divides between groups of Moroccans themselves such as the Jewish Moroccans being as even lesser beings than the already sub-human non-Jewish Moroccan.

In conclusion, George Orwells' non-fiction essay “Marrakech” highlights an extremely important social issue: the evils of Colonialism. He successfully conveys through; word choice, vivid imagery, rhetorical questions and tone that colonialism has a disastrous knock on effect on the lives of ordinary people. Although this essay was written a number of years ago, I still feel that it relates to modern society and that many lessons can be learned from “Marrakech”. We as human beings need
to realise that no matter what faith, skin colour or income that we are all equals in this world – there are no superior beings and there are no lower beings. We are the human race, one amazing race at that, if and only if, we can get past these nonsensical beliefs of superiority then the world would be a much brighter – and happier place. A place George Orwell would truly be proud of.

Word Count: 770