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*by* J N

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## **Results of Interview Research**

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## Results of Interview Research

In part one of this assignment, I selected the theme of identity development. The process of identity development commences at infancy and advances until it emerges in the youth stage. Many teenagers establish unique identities to deal with the issue of perceived differences that lead to misunderstandings. According to Waters (1994), this identity is bound to change as one becomes older, and priorities become starting families, among others. In this research, the two interviewees are both second-generation entities. Their relatives are from the Dominican Republic. One interviewee visits their home country once a year and maintains connections with family there. They speak English and Spanish fluently. My other participant, on the other hand, has never traveled beyond the United States. As a result, they have no close communication with their Dominican relatives. This participant is proficient in English but struggles to speak fluent Spanish.

My interviewee's experiences are similar to those discussed in sociological literature in different ways. For instance, both C.P and E.P have adapted to the new way of life and are second-generation immigrants. Though they are in an Alien country, Feliciano and Rumbaut (2019) argue that these immigrants still have attachments to their native roots. C.P says that being Hispanic or Latino has positively impacted his life since he is bilingual. He can communicate with individuals who do not speak English and assists them when in need. He is also able to do things that English speakers cannot do. Being Hispanic also assists E.P in his profession. Though he is not fluent in English, E.P can still provide clients with the services they require. The issue here is adapting to the tenets of living in a different country. In addition to that, Zhou and Gonzales (2019) suggest that an environment where one grows up shapes behavior, character, and identity development, as suggested earlier. Identity development

commences at infancy and transforms in the youth and adult stages of life. C.P grew up in Manhattan, New York, surrounded by white people with whom he interacted. He says that being around the whites helped shape his identity, but his ethnic background also shaped his identity. "I grew up in Manhattan, New York. The majority of the people there were White. Being surrounded by them daily helped shape my identity. However, at home, I only spoke Spanish because my parents were not fluent in English." E.P grew up in Brooklyn, in an African-American environment that helped shape his identity.

In analyzing the responses of the two interviewees in terms of the theme of identity development, C.P identifies herself as white, Hispanic, or Latino. However, E.P identifies himself as a Black Hispanic or Latino person. In identity development, individuals are conscious of their ethnicity, race, or color. In addition to that, as earlier discussed, both interviewees' lives have been positively impacted due to their identities. C.P can communicate with individuals who do not speak English and assist them. E.P uses his Hispanic identity to assist clients at work. Second-generation immigrants like E.P and C.P are generally more successful than their parents in different ways. According to Ngai (2003), first-generation immigrants found the going tough. Their time was characterized by harsh economic conditions, entrenched racism, and deportation, among other issues. They fought and toiled to ensure that the second-generation immigrants would experience better fortunes. That is why C.P can stay at home and still rely on her husband to take care of the family. Back then, both parents had to work in an environment hostile to immigrants to make ends meet. In the case of E.P, he has had to work hard but has accessed better opportunities than his father, a first-generation immigrant. E.P could have probably accessed better education and training, making him earn more than his father even though they are both working. The second generation of American immigrants has realized some level of

progress than their first-generation parents. According to C.P, she is still conscious of his ethnic roots and has maintained a special attachment to her native home, the Dominican Republic. She also visits the Dominican Republic annually.

On the contrary, E.P does not know his native country. He is yet to visit the Dominican Republic and has no linkage with his family there. Also, both E.P and C.P agree that there is a common perception among many that they are privileged compared to the first generation of immigrants to arrive in America. However, like any other American, immigrants must work hard to live a comfortable life, whether first or second generation.

To sum it up, the main takeaway from this research is that identity development is a complex process that is not shaped by a single factor but a myriad of elements that act together in an immigrant's life. The environment, ethnic background, and interaction among different races as one grows up are just a few of the factors in play. In addition to that, though most immigrants have been assimilated into the American culture, a majority is still conscious of their native countries. Those who no longer have familial ties in their native countries are bound to forget about their ethnic backgrounds as time passes. An alternative way of thinking about identity development or assimilation is traced to religiosity. Conscientious non-Western newcomers, in particular, have a difficult time adjusting to the primarily orthodox American society. Complying with the anti-metaphysical ideology that inherently advises daily life in the Western World is problematic for immigrants from cultures characterized by man's relationship with God, even if the national religion is not theirs. Assimilation would necessitate the loss of a defining element of their individual and social personas that they are unwilling to relinquish.

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