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by J N

Submission date: 20-Jul-2021 07:03AM (UTC-0400)

Submission ID: 1621941911

File name: The_Theme_of_Identity_Development.edited.docx (14.26K)

Word count: 769

Character count: 4494

The Theme of Identity Development

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The Theme of Identity Development

Question One

Peoples' ethnic identity development starts at infancy and progresses until it emerges in the teenage years. It has been found that the key goal of many teenagers is to establish a unique identity to prevent misunderstanding in their adult lives. The ethnic identity changes the most in adolescence years and transitions to adult years, but it remains stable later in life. But then again, as grownups establish new identities as family, employees, and married couples, the significance of ethnic identity often diminishes (Pew Research Center, 2020). Ethnic identity development among immigrants follows diverse paths of self-identity. In addition to that, whereas most immigrants define in national and hyphenated terms in most of their lives, by midlife, they are far more inclined than their American - born compatriots to change to pan-ethnic personas, enabling them to understand their real identities.

I agree with the authors' arguments on ethnic identity development for immigrants. According to Feliciano and Rumbaut (2019), immigrants in America assume self-identity tags in mid-adult life. In addition to that, as they age, immigrants tend to discard their ethnic identities grounded on their countries of origin while leaning towards viewing ethnic identity as unimportant. Both archaic relationships and exterior designations levied by American society contribute to the development of ethnic identity. According to Waters (1994), those who affirm personalities based on their origin countries are more likely to arrive from close-knit households and retain local dialects and links to their homeland. Except for American-identified teenage immigrant families, the few children of immigrants in midlife defined as "plain" Americans reject United States racial identity pressures. Regardless, Zhou and Gonzales (2019) suggest that

adult immigrant families are more likely to feel constricted by a racial structure in the United States that inhibits their ethnic identity decisions.

Question Two

My 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.

Question Three

The new subsequent age group, which involves equally native and foreign infants of migrant families, has matured in huge figures since the 1990s and is now an essential element of the United States' settler community. Children below eighteen living with at least one migrant's family member constituted more than a quarter (70 million) of the U.S. populace in 2016 (Zhou & Gonzales, 2019). Despite these figures, contextual factors are affecting the experiences of these immigrants. For instance, one interviewee is comfortable speaking English and Spanish and has maintained close contact with his family back home. They visit the family annually. Despite migrating to the United States, this person has a strong bond with his native country, driving his identity. In addition to that, this person might be driven by the reasons for migrating to the United States, which can be a better economic opportunity or education.

For the second respondent, the case is different, just like that of other immigrant children who never go back to their parent's native countries. This group of immigrants settle in the United States and adopt the identity of the country. In addition to that, this respondent has no

direct link with his native country and cannot speak Spanish, which is the national language in the Dominican Republic. This interviewee has adopted the American culture and might find it difficult to embrace the Dominican culture. In the case of the second interviewee, BUDIMAN (2020) suggests that diversity obstacles and barriers in American culture, loss of familial ties back home, lack of social consistency, and an incapacity to get the "best of the two worlds" all posed challenges to ethnic identity preservation.

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