

CRITICAL REFLECTION ON READINGS

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Q1. Third Culture Kid

The topic sentence of first question is concerned with understanding certain conceptions of Third Culture Kid. According to Self-Exploration (2011), individuals about spending a prime portion of their living exterior to their origin are marked as Third Culture Kids. This is based on theory of Applied Sociology which streams from societal affairs and its implications on the same. Due to intervention of concept regarding 'world society' or homogeneity, society in its macrocosm, becomes a blend of a multitude of cultural amalgamation. Thus, in macro sociology, using stand-point theory has helped me to understand that my perspective is shaped by hypersensitivity to my surroundings. For example, when I was in Germany for my schooling, I acted like a German, but never belonged to that place. I always thrived on searching for my identity of an American.

Micro-sociological theory is an eye-opener to diversify affinity with different society and culture intertwined in close communion of framing identity of this concept. I get to know that relocation or change from one culture to another plays a pivotal instrument in pruning one's reassessment of surrounding environment, specification, and roles. Hence it can be understood that a third world kid is a result of an amalgamation of self-experience in surrounding he/she currently lives and where he/she had been. Changes of culture and place thus impacted on his changed behaviour, ideologies, and perceptions are struggle to fit into changed identities to socialise.

Q2. Knowledge Infrastructure

The topic sentence of second question is based on infrastructure of change in societal conditions. Theory of global collaboration, cooperation and networking and concept of cultural mobility is responsible for changes in infrastructure of national knowledge. Idea of knowledge infrastructure or culture memory is not stagnant. I understood that culture is always free-flowing because of a continuous interaction of other cultures. Thus, I traced that emergence of cultural diversity, a massive extension of freshly born new languages and minor communities due to cross-boundary. Thus, in knowledge infrastructure, I witnessed changes in culture, language, and ethnicity within European territory culture.

At the professional front, I have learnt that cultural diversity operates at two levels; corporeal and non-corporeal stages (Taipale, 2012). In professional field, top-bottom administration is there to promote culture wisdom through policymaking and cross-cultural training. In academic level EU becomes supported to promote exchange program for cross-national teaching, providing online material to influence infrastructure of European knowledge on culture fusion. In social level, EU members, Local governments are collaborating to promote centralised infrastructure of knowledge to uphold minor group's accessibility to knowledge. Social media plays a unique role in maintaining proximity of national and global synchronisation.

Q3. Stages of Cultural Awareness

The topic sentence of third question is based on different stages of cultural awareness. There are eventually four stages that unfold different types of cultural awareness.

Critical Reflection on Readings

- **Parochial stage:** I have seen that in this stage, a stringent acceptance of one's culture is dominant. Absolute ignorance of differences is noticed.
- **Ethnocentric stage:** In second stage, I have learnt that it is an ethnocentric type, where people of a particular culture denotes their individualistic perceptions by knowing cultural differences.
- **Synergistic stage:** I have noticed this is a two-way process, where people are aware of their deeds and how other people do things in a way propagating new ideas and substitutes (Quappe&Cantatore, 2005).
- **Participatory Third Culture Stage:** Here, I have learnt that culminating is final stage, where people of diverse cultural groups come in consideration with each other. They accept individuality and uniqueness resulting in a smooth amalgamation of cultural exchange.

I have learnt about requisites towards increment of cultural self-awareness, which are:

- Acknowledging Difference
- Generating Empathy
- Judgemental Suspension
- Recheck of Assumptions
- Celebration of Diversity
- Reassurance with Ambiguity

Q4. Cultural Intelligence

The topic sentence of fourth question is based on nature and characteristics of Cultural Intelligence. According to Brislin *et al.* (2006), cultural intelligence refers to behavioural patterns of elevated order used for treating cultural differences. It also denotes to quick adaptation of multiple cultures not thrusting pressure of individual traits and choices of people. Two types are closely knitted, offering space to another giving way to encounters suggesting cross-culturalism. For example, a situation for acquiring Cultural self-Awareness is discussed below:

- **Considering different behaviour:** As an American, while working in Japan, I understood importance of using business card.
- **Reasoning:** Business card is used to provide a brief of one's identity (Brislin *et al.* 2006).
- **Emotions:** Acceptance of one's business card is symbolic of showing respect towards the same.
- **Gaining cultural intelligence:** As Japan is a high Power Distant Culture, a sense of fear works while starting a conversation with unknown people. Here, business card plays role of silence-breaker and assures flexible communication.

Aspects of Cultural self-awareness:

- Emotional and Intelligence aspects of culture are considered the most important one.
- Disconfirmed Expectancy is a condition where expectations of an individual are minimally or partially met.

- Behavioural understanding of cultural differences is a fatal step towards cultural awareness.
- Acceptance of confusion in cultural variations is prime and real, which seeks consideration.

Table 1: Aspects of Cultural self-awareness

(Source: Brislin *et al.* 2006)

Q5. Stage of Culture Shock

The topic sentence of fifth question suggests an understanding of various stages of culture shock. Culture shock is typically a bang of exchange on cultural fusion. There are four stages of Cultural Shock, and they are as enumerated:

1. **Honeymoon Stage:** In this stage, I was happy with similarities in a different culture. However, in dissimilarities, I showed interest to learn new things and increase my culture intelligence (CI) level.
2. **Crisis Stage:** In this stage, I started facing difficulties while adjusting within a new culture and tried to reconcile. The healing process starts when a crisis is detected. A consideration of this stage is taken in accounts towards the synchronisation of Cultural Self Awareness with Cultural Intelligence (Flanja, 2009).
3. **Recovery or Adjustment Stage:** In this stage, I expressed signs of slow yet flexible adjustment. This enables me to acquire clear and absolute learning of Cultural Intelligence and Cultural Self-Awareness (CSA).

4. **Biculturalism:** In this stage, I have vividly noticed that biculturalism plays significant role. Biculturalism refers to acceptance of previous culture along with new. Biculturalism leads to a serene acknowledgement of Cultural Awareness, keeping hands with Cultural Intelligence at length.

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