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Puspa Shrestha

“Globalisation is a strategy of liberalisation that becomes an economic nightmare for the poor.” - *Anonymous*

Reading

What Lost Identity? The Diaspora and Globalisation

Before you read

- Why do you think people leave their home countries?
- Do they have their cultural identity in other countries?
- What happens when one's identity is lost?
- How is culture globalised?

Now read the following article about identity loss for the immigrants.

Most of the 5 million Palestinians are refugees. More than two million live in Western Europe and North America. They left Palestine and the refugee camps where they were denied basic human rights to find a better life and better economic opportunities. Most North African Arabs (Egyptians, Moroccans, Tunisians, and



Algerians) left their home countries to look for a better economic life. However, Syrian and Lebanese nationals left their countries not only to improve their economic situation but also to escape from the ravages of the ongoing conflicts there.

There are those who fear the loss of cultural identity when confronted with the process of cultural assimilation. Personally, I believe that no institution, government, group or people can clinically separate the young generations from the huge waves of technological advancement that shape and form this global culture, which is, after all, part of our new global identity. We are living in the 21st century where social media, street journalism and global trans-national corporations participate in providing a catalyst for the new dynamics of global culture formation, quite apart from the issue of

identity which can be defined in terms of religion, culture or language. This signifies that we should not confuse cultural identity with global culture.

However, moving from one side of the world to the other can be an economic challenge for newcomers and host nations alike in places like Western Europe and North America. When the immigrants arrive, the host country needs to integrate them into the labour market, with the prospect of achieving a better life for them and facilitating their contribution to the economy. This cannot happen in a one-step or one-shop integration programme; it needs time, starting from learning the language, integrating culturally with finally, integration into the labour market. Although in the short-term this strategy may prove costly for the government, in the long run, it will make a positive contribution to the economy. Immigrants, however, may find themselves ignored or isolated by society, even though society may see itself as open and immigrant-friendly. This can be seen in the housing situation where immigrants can rent only from housing agencies and in specific areas. Small enclaves in cities where immigrants are concentrated begin to spring up. Take Rosengard in Malmo, Sweden, for instance, where most immigrants can be found and the crime rate is among the highest in the country. Or Lavapiés, a central historic neighbourhood in Madrid, Spain now home to a high concentration of immigrants from China, Bangladesh and the Middle East. Enclaves such as these can be costly to the government and to the immigrants themselves as life in these neighbourhoods often runs parallel to official society and its culture, and integration is not truly achieved.

Many immigrants have started their own businesses in their new homes. Twenty years ago, you could hardly find Palestinian hummus or falafel in any European markets. Today, there are small entrepreneurs who have set up shops to sell Arabic, Hindi, African, Latin American foods and other products, and there is an increasing amount of trade between these countries. Spice exports from India to Saudi Arabia has increased the total sum of economic trade to 80 billion Saudi Riyals. This is not because of the sheer quality of Indian spices, but because of the numbers of Indians who live in Saudi Arabia- naturally for economic reasons. Trade between Turkey and Germany has reached the 25-billion-euro mark and the number of German tourists to Turkey is an estimated 4 million. This illustrates how the existence of immigrants can foster economics at different magnitudes of scale.

Personally, I had the chance to meet many immigrants who were all willing to integrate in the Swedish and Spanish societies where they live. Admittedly, there are many constraints at play, but these constraints are not related to any loss of identity. In fact,

Western societies' creation of immigrant enclaves enables neighbours to share similar identities, cultures, language and perhaps even religion. This, however, has a negative effect in the long run, and it will be the second generation and the government who in the end will pay dearly. Integration programmes do not fail because immigrants are unwilling to be part of the new society, but because society does not open its doors fully to allow them to integrate. Full integration could be costly at first, but at the end of the day, it is an investment in the future. Currently, many schools in Sweden are teaching Arabic as a second language for immigrants and provide students with *halal* food. Any argument about loss of identity in the West does not have a solid foundation.

Countless benefits come from integrating into society. It means that people will focus more on economic opportunities rather than concentrating their efforts on lamenting a so-called identity crisis. And it means they will become sensitised to the norms and standards of the new society – its garbage collection, its traffic lights, its highway code etc. – and start to adopt new ways of thinking. The new generation will have the opportunity of boarding the ship of civilisation and development that Arabs have lost a long time ago. They will have equal opportunities in learning, engagement and self-esteem. Afterwards, they can be a solid bridge between the two cultures or religions – of course, with mutual understanding. On the other hand, the receiving countries will enhance their economic opportunities where immigrants come from. The number of multinational corporations and businesses are increasing because of the increasing number of immigrants in the receiving countries. This will boost an economic, political and cultural interaction between the two sides. Governments of Europe and North America should start their integration programmes by encouraging newcomers to establish their own businesses that link them to their homeland. This will make it easier to understand, smoothly integrate and contribute to the economy.

Finally, we must admit that if we do not run in concordance with global culture, it will eventually usurp us without our even knowing it. The cost of isolation and non-convergence is higher and more damaging than integration. The fear of losing identity must be faced with positive interaction between newcomers and their hosting societies. In the end, most newcomers are guests and must leave a positive impression when they leave, or they are part of this society and they must adapt with it and build their future in conjunction with their new surroundings.

Abdalhadi Alijla

Ways with words

A. Choose the words from the box for the following meanings.

confront	refugee	ravage	assimilation	enclave	usurp
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- the severely damaging or destructive effects of something
- someone forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster
- to face a difficult situation
- take a position of power or importance illegally or by force
- the process of becoming a part of a group, country, society, etc.
- an area within a larger territory whose inhabitants are culturally or ethnically distinct

B. Collocation refers to words that are found together in spoken and written language. Collocations can be either fixed, where it is difficult to replace one of the words with an alternative, or freer, allowing for more choice of words. The most common types of collocation are:

Verb + noun	accept responsibility
Adjective + noun	firm determination
Verb + adjective + noun	make steady progress
Adverb + verb	strongly recommend
Adverb + adjective	completely useless
Adverb + adjective + noun	totally unacceptable behaviour
Adjective + preposition	accused of
Noun + noun	window frame

C. Fill in the gaps with the correct word from the brackets.

- I asked him if he was attending the ceremony and he his head 'no'.
(shook/moved/ nodded)
- They made a horrible decision which caused damage to our company.
(hopeless/ inflexible/irreparable)

- c. The leaders need to break down so as to create favorable environment in the nation. (barriers/obstacles/hindrances)
- d. You ought to talk to the manager tothe dispute. (solve/settle/clear up)
- e. Perhaps this issue will not get much media (security/examination/coverage)
- f. This week is the first week of Joan as an in-charge. Everything is running (smoothly/calmly/easily)
- g. I haven't read the text thoroughly, but given a ... glance. (fast/quick/rapid)

Comprehension

Answer the following questions.

- a. Why did millions of Palestinians leave their country?
- b. How is the global culture formed? Is cultural identity possible even in the global culture? Justify.
- c. Why can moving from one side of the world to the other be an economic challenge for newcomers?
- d. How can immigrants foster economy at different magnitudes of scale in their new homes?
- e. Can immigrants fully integrate in the new societies? Give reasons.
- f. Mention any two benefits of integrating into a new society for the immigrants.
- g. Why should the immigrants run in concordance with global culture?

Critical thinking

- a. Do you think that the local is globalised and the global is localised? Can there be the global culture as well? Give examples.
- b. What is globalisation? Discuss the effects of globalization on traditional cultures.
- c. Discuss the impacts of globalization on the process and progress of education in Nepal.

A. Look at the following news story.**PM Oli, Indian PM Modi Jointly Inaugurate
Cross-Border Petroleum Pipeline****RSS**

Kathmandu, Sept 10 : The much awaited interstate petroleum pipeline project has been inaugurated today. Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi jointly inaugurated the project from the respective countries.

A programme was organized at Singha Durbar for the PM Oli and at Hyderabad House for Indian PM Modi to switch on the project together as the inauguration via the video conference. With the inauguration, petroleum product has arrived in Amlekhgunj, Nepal from India's Motihari. The pipeline is the first cross border project in South Asia.

For the first phase, diesel is brought and petrol and kerosene later. The Amlekhgunj-Motihari stretch is 69.2 km long.

The pipeline supplies nearly 4,000 kl petroleum product every day, the project said. With the cross border project in place, more than Rs 2 billion is saved which was earlier spent on its transportation.

Similarly, as the import cost declined, the price of the petroleum products has been slashed by Nepal Oil Corporation.

The NOC cut the price of diesel, petrol and kerosene by Rs 2 per litre. Of the total diesel consumed in the country, 70 percent is supplied from Amlekhgunj.

A high level technical team including NOC Executive Director is at Amlekhgunj in course of the project inauguration. The NOC and Indian Oil Corporation had agreed in 2004 to construct the interstate pipeline project. It was however stalled for a decade on various reasons.

In August 2015, then Minister for Commerce and Supply, Sunil Bahadur Thapa, and his Indian counterpart Dharmendra Pradhan had signed for the construction of the project. Both Nepal and India had special interest on completion of the project.

Similarly, PM Oli and the Indian PM Modi had jointly laid the foundation stone to the pipeline in New Delhi during Oli's visit to India.

The project cost is 2.75 billion Indian currencies.

The programme organized to inaugurate the project at Singha Durbar was attended by Cabinet members, secretaries of various ministries and high level officials of the government.

(The Rising Nepal, 10 September 2019)

B. Have you identified the following parts in the above news story?

- Headline:** title of the news report
- Byline:** who wrote the news article
- Dateline:** where and when the report is written
- Lead paragraph:** expansion of the headline in one or two sentences, usually answering the questions: who? what? where? when? why? how?
- Body paragraphs:** greater detail of the event in chronological order, often in one, two or three paragraphs

C. Write a news story to be published in a newspaper about a local festival/fair you have witnessed.

Grammar

Infinitive and gerund

A. Study the following examples.

It didn't stop raining all day yesterday.

She promised to take me there.

It started raining. or It started to rain.

She stopped smoking three years ago.

It was hot, so we stopped to have a drink.

Verbs usually followed by -ing	verbs that are usually followed by the infinitive.	Verbs followed by either form
stop, finish, imagine, suggest, recommend, avoid, mind, miss, risk, enjoy	decide, hope, offer, fail, agree, forget, manage, learn, afford, arrange, ask, expect, plan, promise, want, invite	start, begin, continue, bother

B. Complete each sentence using *what/how/where/whether* + one of these verbs:

apply get do ride use go

- a. Do you know to Rama's house?
- b. I don't know for the job or not.

- c. Have you decided for your picnic?
- d. Can you show me this camera?
- e. Ask Hari. He'll tell you a bicycle.
- f. I was really astonished. I didn't know on the horse.

C. Paraphrase the following sentences using the verb in brackets as in the example.

Example: She has lost her weight. (seem)
She seems to have lost her weight.

- a. Mahesh forgets closing the windows. (tend)
- b. Your car has broken down. (appear)
- c. Ashika is worried about her exam. (seem)
- d. They have developed the theory. (claim)
- e. He's enjoying his new job. (pretend)

Listening

A. Look at the picture and guess answers to these questions.

- a. Where are the people going? Why?
- b. Why do people go abroad?
- c. What are the effects of globalization?



B. Listen to the recording and complete the following text with correct words.

Globalisation is not an topic to talk about. Development in have made transport and communication easier. This way people and countries can exchange things with each other in a way that is less When two companies produce the same things, they have with each other. Globalisation has contributed to enable a company to sell its products at a because the products were produced for less. There is not only the exchange of products but also the exchange of services, knowledge, cultural goods and too. One of the disadvantages of globalization is that people and the suffer due to the intense exchange of goods. At the same time, globalization helps to create job opportunities to people from countries when a company

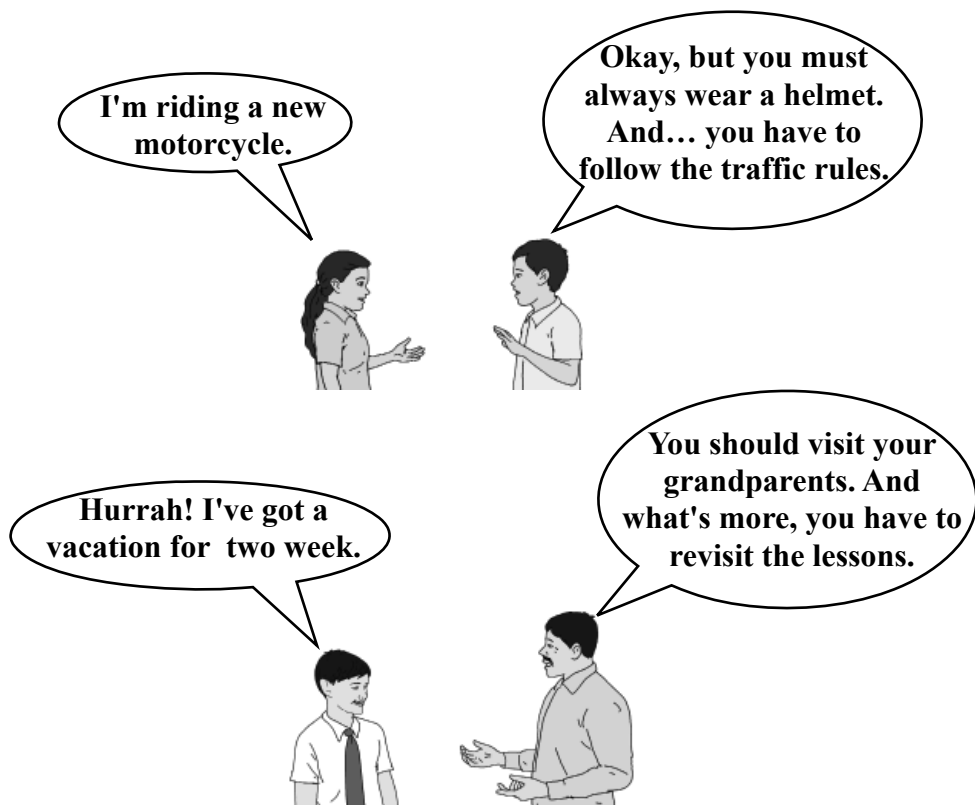
moves there. Another disadvantage is, the , one of the two ecological problems. Globalisation itself is neither good nor bad. It depends on how people deal with new in the future.

C. How has globalization impacted the climate change in Nepal? Have a discussion with your friends.

Speaking

Expressing obligations

A. Look at the pictures below to see what the speakers are saying.



B. Now study these expressions. What function do they serve?

- I have to wear glasses for reading.
- Do you have to wear a uniform at your school?
- You must do more exercise.
- We ought to obey our parents.

- e. I'll have to pay my bills next week.
- f. It is necessary that you follow this guideline.
- g. You are supposed to finish the work by tomorrow.

C. What would you say in the following situations?

- a. You are a pillion rider on your friend's bike and s/he is driving very fast.
- b. You go to visit your friend and find he/she is suffering from fever.
- c. You are in a taxi. You see that the driver is not wearing the seatbelt.
- d. One of your friends is always careless and blames others for his/her failure.

Project Work

You might have heard about the Non-Resident Nepali Association (NRNA). Collect some information about it. How far has it been able to meet its expectations? Discussing with your friends, write a newspaper article on 'The role of NRNA in Nation Building'.