Final Paper Outline

1. Introduction: I am a Taiwanese Asian
   1. Talk About My Privilege (Coming from being categorized as Chinese)
      1. Rich (Upper-Class): Chinese people that are able to come to study abroad are considered as being rich
      2. Knowledgeable: People always think that Chinese people are nerd, which is smart
   2. Talk about world view of Taiwan & China (The reason why we are recognized as Chinese)
      1. Globally Taiwan is recognized as being part of China
         1. In Olympic games we have to bring a flag that is not our nation’s flag
         2. We cannot join UN because officially, they claim that same country cannot have two seats
      2. Because of this we are recognized as Chinese
         1. Same skin color
         2. Same language
         3. Similar history
2. BP1: Racial and Ethnic identity and how it affects privilege
   1. My racial identity: “Minority Racial Identity” (In White People’s world)
      1. This is a kind of Micro-invalidation
         1. White consider themselves majority
         2. The model is developed by white people
         3. Simply ignore my feelings of my group
            1. In my own country I am the majority
   2. Minority racial identity development
      1. Conformity Stage: Before I came to America
         1. Listen to English songs
         2. Watch English pronunciation movies only
         3. Buy a book called “How to speak American accent?”
      2. Dissonance Stage: first few week when I came to America
         1. I started to see the defect in American culture: people are too individualize (separate from people)
         2. I started to see the benefit of collectivistic culture: people help each other
      3. Resistance and Immersion Stage:
         1. I did not pass through this stage because I never felt any hatred toward dominant group
         2. I still love American culture
      4. Introspection Stage:
         1. I started to think if I should acquire both culture in me
            1. I love how American people talks and behaves
            2. However, in the mean time I love how Asian interact with people (collectivistic)
3. BP2: Social Construction
   1. Being a Man
      1. Power to manipulate
      2. Power to get a lot of information
      3. Power of being respect
         1. For example:
            1. When I go to a restaurant with my female friend, the waitress and waiter go for me first
            2. Positive affect: My word will be listen to more
   2. Being in between Upper and Middle class
      1. Power to manipulate
      2. Power to access many things
         1. For example:
            1. Every time when I go into a store the shop keeper will welcome me passionately
            2. Positive Affect: I can easily get what I want
4. BP3: My encounter toward two different group of “the others”
   1. LGBTQ
      1. At first: I was manipulated by “normative assumptions” in social construction (Straight is the norm, so LGBTQ become weird ones)
      2. However, after I encountered a gay, I found out that they were nothing difference than us
         1. Treated people well
         2. Do the same thing others do
   2. Disabled
      1. At first: I have sympathy toward them
         1. Poor life
         2. Cannot do nothing
      2. I found out that no one is perfect
      3. After MCS class I realized that yeah indeed everyone should be differently abled
      4. Now I help others that need help whether on E-Line or at grocery store
5. Conclusion:
   1. Taking multi-culture class benefits people a lot
      1. Change how we view the world
         1. This change our behaviors toward others
      2. Together let’s make the world a better place

Myself With Multicultural Study

**(Part I)** Privilege is on my side. Although I am a Taiwanese Asian, I do not feel always oppressed in America. I feel privilege in social status and knowledge level in America. I can shop anywhere I want without being looked at strangely. I can eat at any restaurant with people serving me well. One thing is because I am abled-body. The other is because I am viewed as Chinese. I can express ideas to people anywhere without being discriminated. Concerning this, for most of the part, the feeling of privilege and oppress have to deal with how others see us. For my privileges, they are actually socially constructed. People view me as Chinese not only in America, but also everywhere in the world. They believe that Chinese people that are able to learn overseas are rich. In addition, people think that Chinese, or Asian people are smart, in other word, nerdy. However, I am Taiwanese. Why am I categorized as Chinese? This is because China and Taiwan have strong connection in culture. Both of our countries use Chinese, have people with yellow skin, and have people from same origin. The only difference is the system of our governments. This is why I am view as Chinese in America, and this is why I possess the privileges of having high social status and being able to express ideas freely in America.

However, in American people’s eyes I am the minority. I am placed within “Minority Racial Identity.” According to Centers for “Disease Control and Prevention,” minority groups are defined as “Asian American,Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, American Indian and Alaska Native.” This is actually micro-invalidations. That is, why do people other than that of white should be categorized as second-class citizens? Why should we be the “Minority?” Dominant people simply ignore our feelings of being regarded as second-class citizens. Regardless of this, the identity development model is actually a great indication of what people who are not categorized as dominant group are facing. To begin with, before I came to America, I was in the stage of conformity. I wanted to be American. I listened to English music and watched movies with English pronunciation. Not only this, I even bought a book called “How to speak American Accent.” However, after I came to American last winter, I started feel that my culture were not bad at all. I was in the stage of dissonance at that time. I started to like the collectivistic character of my culture. At the mean time, I saw the downside of individualism in America. For instance, people were being too separate from others. On the other hand, in my culture, everyone works together to accomplish goals. I simply like this. Till now, I skipped directly through the stage of Resistance and Immersion to that of Introspection. Why did I say so? My heart toward the love of American culture has never changed. I never blamed American people for brainwashing me. I simply love to listen to English music, watch English movie, and to speak English. On the other hand, I also love the way my people interact with each other. I love how “traditional” Chinese characters look like. I am in introspection stage now. I want to be both American and Taiwanese.

Back to privilege, I am going to talk about two social constructs that affect me positively. However, one thing that we have to know is that oppression and privilege exist relatively. After knowing this we can start to talk about privilege without offending other people. First, being a man gives me additional power. People tend to listen to my words more comparing to women’s. Moreover, I would be given a lot of information at the malls or any places that need decision making, because according to normative assumption men are in control of power. For example, often time when I go to restaurant with my female friend, the waitress of waiter would ask me what I wanted first. Another example is that when I go to the bank with my female friend, the consultant will provide me additional information comparing to my female friend. Secondly, for me being a straight person benefits a lot. I have the privilege of be able to express my love to someone freely. For example, every time when I am going out for a date with someone, I do not have to hide the relationship between my lover and me. I can do intimate action with my lover. The positive affect of this is that I will be respected and can do what I want freely. Therefore, privilege has its good and bad.

Privilege and oppression are not the only ones that are social constructed, but also do race, sexual orientation, class, and ability level. Next, we are going to see how socially constructed sexual orientation and ability level affect us.

**(Part II)** Many people have fallen into the trap of socially constructed ideas, including me. When I was young, people brainwashed that gay people were abnormal. “There must be something wrong in their head.”, straight people would say. This is what we called “categorization” in social construction, which society categorizes sexual orientation in two types, straight and “the others.” When I became older, however, I started to realize that LGBTQ were actually nothing difference than us straight people. I remembered when I was in high school, one of my best friends was gay. He played video games, he listened to music, he watched movies, and he also loved somebody. Also, he treated people well. I began to change my perception toward these groups of people. However, every time when I walked with him, I was micro-insulted. People called me gay. I could not stand this. I got myself on the “hook,” and told those people not to do so. I said, “Why do you not like gay people?” They replied me with silence. I won. I am the savior of gay. Similarly, for differently-abled people, I used to seen them as disabled. When I was young, every time when I saw handicaps, blind people, deaf people, or other people with disabilities, I would not help them. I thought that having sympathy toward them meant that I was good. This was simply getting off the hook. According to “Johnson Chapter 9,” I was telling myself that “I am one of the good ones.” After taking multi-culture class I realize that being silence was something harmful. This simply makes the aggressor think that his or her behaviors are right. Knowing this, I started to take action to help the differently-abled people on E-Line. I would help them bend the chairs and create space for them. However, one thing that I have not accomplished yet is to speak out. Every time when I saw people insulting differently-abled people, I just kept the words to myself, although internally, I did argue with myself. This is not the end. I have to improve myself more to help more people in need.

In conclusion, taking multi-culture class is something worth doing in our whole life. Without the knowledge from this class I will never be a whole person. This class changes how we view the world. Further, how we view the world changes how we treat others. Privilege will never be used to take advantage of others. LGBTQ will never be the strange ones. Differently-abled people will never be discriminated. In the end, there will be no one off the hook.

Works Cited

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