

Immigration to the U.S, the Acculturation Process and Cultural Identity: The case of Iranian living in the United States of America

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There have been many reasons for people to immigrate, like the joy of reaching the Utopia. There are some complications for immigrants which impacts as their life stops for a while, awaiting another move, and the duality of creating relationships and losing them again vs. keeping isolated with the next move happens.

Immigrants in western countries including U.S encounter difficulties of assimilation in the new culture, learning the new language, new way of living day to day and so on.

There is a continuous dichotomy between the US melting pot and its socio-cultural structure and the migrants own culture, traditions, religion and political thoughts.

There are some elements affecting acculturation process:

- Cultural attitudes of the migrants
- Social support of the recipient countries
- Length of residency
- Education
- Fluency in the new language (Berry, 2003, Yeh, 2003)

In this article, the effects of immigration on Iranian immigrants in U.S, on their acculturation and the meaning of their self, identity in new society are discussed. The three waves of migration by Iranians, namely pre-Revolution, during Revolution era and post 1990s migration to the USA will be analyzed in this regard.

Keywords: U.S, immigrants, Iranians, acculturation, identity