

Constructing and deconstructing identity

(structuralist and structuralist theories)

INTRODUCTION TO CULTURE STUDIES

Introductory Activities for Exploring and Comparing Cultures



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Part 1: IDENTITY, or “who am I?”



Instructions:

- Please write your answers to the questions of the form on the separate paper (slides 4-7)
- Create your definition (slide 8)
- Answer the question (slide 9)
- Carefully follow Part 2 and write opinion (slide 15)
- Send it via E-Platform

Introduction

This book is intended as a guide to introduce various topics in culture studies. Before beginning to explore some of the ambiguous and abstract notions of culture, it is important to understand your own worldview. If you have a good understanding of your own identity, community and perspective, then objectively learning about, experiencing and interacting with other cultures will become easier and more enjoyable. Please keep in mind that in the endeavor of cultural studies, *the journey is its own reward!*

Cultural Identity Profile

Complete the chart below with your information and draw or paste a picture of yourself

	Name
	Hometown
	Hobbies or Interests
	Cultural Experiences
Favorite food	Least favorite food
Favorite movie	Least favorite movie
Favorite song	Least favorite song
Favorite sport	Least favorite sport

Let's play
Write – fill
in the form:

Introduction Questions

In small groups ask and answer the following questions. Take notes in the space provided.

Where are you from? Introduce yourself.		
What is something interesting or unique about yourself?		
Where have you traveled? What did you experience?		
Describe your ideal vacation?		
Describe your family.		
What sort of things does your family do together?		
What is your dream for the future?		
What is your most embarrassing story?		
What is a strange or interesting story from your work?		
What is your best or worst memory?		
What is the most important lesson you learned at school?		
What would you like to change about yourself?		
What is your nickname Who gave it to you?		
What is your greatest challenge now?		

Interesting Information Questions

If you could communicate with any type of animal, which animal would you choose?		
Who is the most interesting person you have ever met?		
If your life was a TV show, what would the title be?		
What's your theme song?		
If you could be married anywhere in the world, where would the wedding take place?		
If you could be invisible for one hour, where would you go and what would you do?		
Who do you think is the most beautiful person alive today?		
What do you think is the most beautiful sound?		
What would you like to be famous for?		
Name the most delicious and most disgusting things you have ever put in your mouth.		
Has a television commercial ever moved you buy the product? What was it?		
If you learned that there actually was a Heaven and Hell, what would you change in your life?		
If you could find out that one work of fiction was actually true, what book would you select?		
If you could have the answer to any question, what would you ask?		
If you could be the pet of any person on earth, who's pet would you choose to be?		
Which month of the year do you think would best describe your personality?		
If you could travel into the past or future, how far would you want to go?		

Draw or attach a picture of something important to you and describe it.



Description:

Why is it important?
Is its value particular (you) or universal (everyone)? How is your picture different from others?
Can others understand and appreciate its importance? Why or why not?

Compare your information with others.

What are similarities and differences? What can we learn from these?

Write: Based on above exercise, try to think?

- Can you identify your cultural identity based on the answers: which continent? Which language? Which nation? Which sphere (elitist, popular, sub-culture)?
- Which question does not point out your belonging to the given culture?
- What is identity? What is cultural identity – write your definition before you go further?

Working definition:

- Cultural identity refers to a person's sense of belonging to a particular culture or group.
- **Write: Give me an example of a norm of being a student, which feels “normal” to you, but it is a question of tradition/habits/learning?**
- Identity is a result of a process. This process involves learning about and accepting **traditions, heritage, language, religion, ancestry, aesthetics, thinking patterns, and social structures of a culture.**
- Normally, people **internalize the beliefs, values, norms,** and social **practices** of their culture and identify themselves with that culture. And we do not fully realize all level of our cultural belonging

PART 2: Deconstructing IDENTITY

Deconstruction in practice

Introduction to Cultural Studies

How to argue? And What is an argument?

Traditional philosophy and the art of reasoning:

Logical

Persuasive

Based on knowledge

Objective

About reasoning (coming to the right conclusions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKEhdsnKKHs>

Let's talk
about:

PRIVILEGE

- Pierre Bourdieu
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvzahvBpd_A
- **Habitus** ([/'hæbɪtəs/](#)) is ingrained habits, skills and dispositions. It is the way that individuals perceive the social world around them and react to it.
- these dispositions are usually shared by people with similar backgrounds (such as social class, religion, nationality, ethnicity, education and profession).
- The habitus is acquired through imitation and is the reality that individuals are socialized, which includes their individual experience and opportunities.
- Thus, the habitus represents the way group culture and personal history shape the body and the mind; as a result, it shapes present social actions of an individual

If you do not understand what privilege is?

Watch very carefully the film and enumerate the element that differentiate people from each other?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gqPgXhslGWY>



"What's the matter?
It's the same distance!"



Watch the film again here
with the critical commentary?
Watch it carefully as a cultural
theorist? Are the questions
and doubts about the film
wrong, or right ?

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMyD_le1fVw

Opinion

- What is your opinion about the first film (“If someone doesn't understand privilege”):
 - 1. What is interesting?
 - 2. What is annoying?
 - 3. Do you agree with the criticism of this film (give one example of so)?
 - 4. Do you think that some people are more privileged than the other?
- 100 words



The end of your
assignment 😊