**Homework due Sunday at 4 PM on 01/16/2022:**

**1. Please write four questions related to intercultural (cross-cultural) based on your 4Cs homework (concepts, challenges, connections, changes):** Please use your homework notes and type/copy paste in this document by putting together ideas from your 4Cs homework for your midterm paper. Please use this form because the APA references are included for you.

Please keep the references for the readings and viewings in the document APA style on the third page. Delete the articles you are not using.

2. **You are not researching new articles, but you have read and taken notes on already categorizing the readings and viewings. If it is confusing, look at the PowerPoint attached to Class 08. Find all of your best writing and include it in the homework.**

**3. It is essential to use the author’s or speaker’s name and date where you got your ideas from. If you use direct quotations, please also write the time it was said in the video or the page and paragraph number in the reading.**

Research Questions:

1. [Concepts]

Gavin (2014, November 7) mentioned three questions about cultural diversity matters:

Q1. Why should we be worried about this loss of cultural diversity?

Q2. Why is it happening?

Q3. What should we do about it?

There are answers to each of the questions:

A1: Thousands of different cultures give us “thousands of different ways of seeing the world and thousands of unique sets of knowledge” (Gavin, 2014, November 7, 5:06~5:21). For example, the medicines for Malaria, which were made by mixing the original plants in different two countries, are saving many lives of people. Therefore, we should cherish those different cultures. In addition, it also means to respect human rights.

A2: “First, we need to recognize that culture is not static, but culture belongs to people, culture is dynamic and changing” (Gavin, 2014, February 7, 8:30~8:39). Meanwhile, he also stated that “the small number of cultural groups is determining the shape and fabric of society,” (??:??) such as the systems of low education, poor economics, and other disparities. An imbalance of power that exists within the society is the cause of the loss of cultural diversity.

A3: It is essential that we realized the existence of extinct or endangered culture around us, and how unevenly power spread across our society, and then we should act to keep each one of these cultures. To respect the indigenous people is also important.

A man from Sudan said, “Shower? How does it look like?” (National Geographic, 2009, October 23, 0:15). In the video, he and other Sudanese who came to America from Sudan have a lot of trouble because they never knew about American culture. They have not seen a shower, electricity, and some American foods. They were very impressed by eating the meal in a plane, potato-crisps, and a donut sold in the market.

One of them said, “I think many of us have so many questions to ask, but I think we have few. Few people to answer them” (National Geographic, 2009, October 23, 2:18~2:22).

According to them, the American people are not kind to them.

International Relations EDU, 2019) asserted that there are five ways to avoid misunderstanding in cross-cultural.

1. The first thing is to “Assume Good Intentions.”

2. The second thing is to “Ask Clarifying Questions”.

3. The third thing is to “Don’t Trust Your Intuition”.

4. The fourth thing is to “Slow Down!”

5. The fifth thing is to “Take a Reality Check. And Then Do it Again”.

Cuddy (2012, October 1) explained in her TED Talk that nonverbal postures such as body language, facial expressions, and the feelings of the voice strongly influence our communication and our minds.

2. [Challenges]

It is surprising for me that half of the languages, which exist now (about 7000 languages) will disappear when our children become six or seven years old.

After I heard that we have wrong images of Sudan, I tried to research Sudan on the internet and understand this country without bias. Because I have learned the history of Sudan in the world history lessons of high school, I had the image that Sudan is a tragic country where many conflicts happened, and people are still suffering from poverty.

However, it was partly correct but partly wrong. I knew that actually, Sudan has a significant and flourishing city, various delicious foods (they drink a cup of tea with plenty of sugar instead of alcohol), and Sudanese love Japanese culture! Thanks to watching the video and research about Sudan, my image of Sudan has changed a lot.

I strongly agreed with the fourth way, “Slow down”. Thanks to reading this article, I noticed that even if I may be careful of the speed as I speak to foreigners, it is still too quick for them. Therefore, speaking too much slowly is just right when I talk with a person from a different culture.

I was surprised that even blind people make the victory pose when they reach a goal after running. This pose may show our feelings of full of confidence, having high-power, and great pleasure. And, interestingly, this trend is the same as other animals.

3. [Connections]

 I want to be a kindergarten teacher for the future, and in the video, the strength of the influence on the recognition of cultural diversity by teachers in the school was mentioned. Therefore, I want to have awareness and responsibility for it and be careful about acknowledging cultural differences.

When I visited Australia and talked with my host family for the first time, at first, I was so surprised and scared because I misheard “today” for “to-die”. I did not know Australian people pronounce “a” as “ai”, not “ei”. From this experience, I think it cannot be helped that such a misunderstanding arises; however, if we can guess the cultural differences in the background, we can realize misconceptions earlier. Therefore, I strongly agreed with the first way, “Assume Good Intentions.”

It is important not to perceive negatively from the beginning but positively.

As Cuddy (2012, October 1) said in her speech, I was also a very negative and passive student in my junior high school and high school. In the class, I always wrapped myself, make myself very small, and kept silent during even break time. I thought I was not supposed to be here. So I wish I could know this amazing way of changing my mind at that time.

However, I am usually careful to smile when I feel sad, even if it is faking since I was a child because my mother has taught it to me. I think it is really effective through my experience.

4. [Changes]

I was born in Tokyo, Japan, I have grown, so it is difficult for me to feel the traditional culture around me. However, to see my childhood, when I was an elementary school student, I learned about the culture of our local society, such as traditional food, industry, and technical art. I also had many opportunities to listen to various experiences from my grandparents. Therefore, I want to treasure my nearest culture and hand down to our later generations.

I want to try “the two minutes powerful posing” when I become nervous, such as a job interview or the situation I have to speak in front of many children (because I want to become a teacher).

In addition, I was moved by the words, “Don’t fake it till you make it. Fake it till you become it,” so I want to keep these words in mind (Cuddy, 2012, October 1, 19:32).

References

Cuddy, A. (2012, October 1). *Your body language may shape who you are* [Video]. YouTube. TED Talk Conferences. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ks-_Mh1QhMc&feature=emb_logo>

Gavin, M. (2014, November 7). *Why cultural diversity matters* [Video]. Youtube. TED Talk Conferences.

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