

COMPLETION REPORT

The Transcontextualization of Cultural Identities among Japinoys in Japan

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THE TRANSCONTEXTUALIZATION OF CULTURAL IDENTITIES AMONG JAPANESE-FILIPINO CHILDREN IN TOKYO, JAPAN

The onslaught of globalization marks the dissipation of global territorial boundaries and intensifies the pattern of migration around the world. Moreover; social, economic, and cultural demarcation tend to be porous as globalization forges constant social interactions and interconnectedness among diverse people from different corners of the world. Under other condition, millions of Filipinos are compelled to cross international borders in search for better economic and educational opportunities, and quality of life in industrialized countries. The case in point is the migration of Filipino women who have worked as entertainers in Japan during 1980s and 1990s. Concomitantly, several Filipino women have engaged in interracial marriages with Japanese men and eventually had their families in Japan.

The Japanese-Filipino couples actively experience the process of family formation that constantly navigates within transnational context. The socio-cultural plane that hones Japanese-Filipino families, locates the children in a peculiar discourse of identity formation. The Japanese-Filipino children are continuously active agents in the process of re-negotiating; re-imagining, and re-reconstruction of their cultural identities.

The concept of Japanese-Filipino Children in this ethnographic study is used to capture the synergy of syncretic cultural identities founded on Japanese and Filipino origins. Generally, this paper seeks to examine the flexibility of the Japanese-Filipino Children as nomadic individuals who are active agents in the formation of their cultural identities. This focus capitalizes on the theoretical argument that individuals are not passive repository of structural influences but rather active agents in the formation of cultural identities. Specifically, this paper purports to describe the salient cultural identities of Japanese-Filipino in Tokyo, Japan; know the processes; and identify the forces that impinge on the process of their cultural identity formation.

The transcontextualization of cultural identity among Japanese-Filipino Children in Tokyo, Japan operates within transcultural plain orchestrated by the Japanese and Filipino cultural background of their parents. The formation of syncretic cultural identity among them is consequential to interracial marriage between Japanese men and Filipino women. Salient cultural identities of Japanese-Filipino Children include being religious, sociable persons, hospitable, respectful to elders, patient, hopeful, humble, resilient, hardworking, innovative and resourceful, contented and happy, multilingual, and patronize Filipino food. These set of cultural identities establishes their uniqueness vis-à-vis Japanese people in Tokyo, and therefore identify themselves as Japanese-Filipino Children.

In the process of cultural formation, the Japanese-Filipino Children are active actants who constantly interact with their family and larger society of Tokyo. The oscillation of cultural identity from Japanese to Filipino and vice versa is evident among Japanese-Filipino Children as they navigate their identity within transcultural context. Myriad of social forces impinge on the process of cultural formation among Japanese-Filipino Children however; family, school, and church have played vital role in honing their cultural identity. The transcontextualization of cultural identity among Japanese-Filipino Children operates within mixed Japanese and Filipino cultural milieus.

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Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

The research article will be submitted for peer review in consideration for journal publication.

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)