

A Review of Social Integration in the Migration Process in Relation to the “Other”

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Abstract: Migration movements in the world have continued to increase with the effects of globalization. When looking at the history of migration from past to present, both the characteristics of migrants and non-migrants and the host societies’ and states’ points of view on immigration and immigrants have changed considerably. How the basic dynamics of the relationship with the “other” affect the process is important in achieving harmony and integration between immigrants and non-immigrants. How do changes in the perceptions of immigrants affect the integration process? The main purposes of this study are to analyze basic views on how inter-subjective harmony in the migration process is achieved and to reveal the responsibility of institutions in this process.

Keywords: social integration • adaptation • acculturation • otherness • migration

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Although the history of migration is as old as history itself, migration in the sense that is discussed today clearly possesses a very different quality than former migration movements. The concept of migration is defined as an act of displacement, generally referring to the transition from one place to another. When looking at definitions related to the concept of migration, particularly in the literature, this emphasis can be seen to stand out in many definitions. Explaining this displacement has been attempted over the characteristics that initiate and encourage migration, the positive or negative qualities of the homeland and county being migrated to that Everett Lee (1966) called push and pull factors. Certainly migration is basically an act of displacement, but location change alongside many variations is seen to have emerged in this process here. Therefore, when migration is viewed only as an act of displacement, it just refers to a change of location, which would be an entirely incomplete definition. Although migration studies have not been taken back as far as migration itself, migration studies, especially in terms of concepts and theories, also need to constantly be renewed in parallel with the changes and transformations in the world since the days when the first studies started to be done. This is because the world has many different conditions, quite different from the conditions of the time when Ravenstein (1885) penned *The Laws of Migration*, and even for this reason alone the immigration laws that have been created at specific times remain insufficient at explaining the causes of migration movements and migration routes that have displayed different characteristics in the face of changing conditions. How sufficient are the migration movements that economic-based theories in particular have tried to explain though push and pull factors at explaining refugee movements, asylum seekers, and immigrants taken under the scope of protection, which are some of the greatest problems of the period we live in today? While the factors affecting a migration movement may only be economic when addressed as a whole, one can see that many of the migration movements we actually witness these days are shaped by many variables. Apart from discussions about globalization itself, many cases related to globalization are seen to have an effect on the number of changes that the characteristic features of many migration movements in the world also exhibit. Reaching greater distances in less time becoming easier, the steps bursting out in the field of technology, and moving from place to place becoming easier are the developments leading masses to new appealing areas. All of these are in fact the basic reasons underlying migration's increased rate and direction to many more and newer routes. At the same time, the impressive role of the modernization movement is also quite clear –especially when understood with reference to a process constructed on the “other”. In this sense, the close relationship it has with nationalism also makes the impact modernization has had on migration movements all the more meaningful. The rise of nation states and nationalism are seen as having provided the opportunity for boundaries to become more pronounced and the distinction of “I” and “other” to be

able to be made with a more precise language over specific qualities. This situation possesses an important position in terms of its impact on the location and perception of immigrants, because one of the most important of the basic determinants in the process between immigrant and non-immigrant groups or individuals is the state of being the "other" with respect to one another. This "otherness" also directs the relationship with immigrants from the first encounter. The fears, concerns, and mistrusts for one another, and distances in modern life actually appear in much clearer forms toward immigrants in everyday life. This is in fact because they have a position of "other" that is also greater than those who are "others" in social life. They are twice as foreign and are seen as possessing all the concerning potentials of modern life. This perspective can be said to be quite related to modernization concepts such as individualization, risk, security, concern, and anxiety.

When looking at the migration movements experienced in the world, the altering and transformative effects of these movements on societies is seen quite clearly. When considering the increasing speed of migration, one can in fact say that these effects have been seen in more social spheres in shorter times. Just as the dizzying speed of the world is impactful in all areas, migration as a humanitarian movement has also increased its speed in parallel with this. For this reason, communities anymore need to host migrant groups. This also means the number of people involved in migration will increase with increases in the existing number of immigrants, because while immigrants are affected by the individuals and groups they encounter in the process of migration itself, they also simultaneously affect the individuals and groups with which they come in contact. According to official figures from the United Nations, 258 million immigrants in the world are mentioned to live in countries other than where they were born. This also means that we seem to have too many reasons to say that this age in which we live is an age of migrations. Yet at the same time this age can also be seen as an age of otherizing for these immigrants. When looking at the negative attitudes and behaviors that are assumed toward immigrants over the world, the unwanted, estranged, and others of today can be said to be immigrants. On this point, understanding the basic dynamics of the relationship between immigrants and the host society and providing social integration are important, because immigration continues to have increased in speed from the past to the present and will also always exist after this. In terms of being an issue that increasingly concerns more and more people, these encounters becoming more consistent needs to be considered over the possible ways of sharing space. From this perspective, the process of acculturating encounters between immigrant and non-immigrant groups occurs through the processes of social cohesion and integration. When debating migration's current situation, considering every migration experience to contain a number of its own features that are unique in this sense and studying the process of these encounters at the micro-level by also observing its unique base dynamics are important.

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