

Elissa Terry

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Individual Research Paper

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I looked into the definition of migration, and some other key terms for my group's teach-in presentation over immigration issues. This research paper will go more in depth of what I found in my research for this assignment.

Migration is different than immigration and emigration in that it is non-permanent and deals with things besides people. In *Learning English with Emma* she defines migration as being people, animals, or seasons that move from place to place. One example that she uses is birds that migrate to the south for the winter. The birds do not necessarily stay there permanently. In most cases, the birds will migrate to the south for the winter and then migrate back north for the summer. They migrate because of the weather conditions, and their ability to survive in certain weather.

There is also the example of migrant workers. Migrant workers will move to a different place, not necessarily across the world, but somewhere new for a short amount of time just for work, and then move back home. Each case is different depending on the migrant work, but some will come back each year, or hold certain migrant jobs throughout the year, which causes them to move from place to place with each new job that they hold.

The Iowa Workforce Development has a program called “Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers Program, or MSFW. This program is a good example of how migration works within Iowa. This program hires seasonal farm workers to work in over 2,500 different farms across the state to help “cultivate and harvest” (Adasme, 2014) their crops for the season. “Generally, migrant farm workers return to the same worksite year after year with several generations of the same family working the same company fields and following the same migrant path to Iowa. Seasonal farm workers reside year round in Iowa and work in other areas during the off agricultural season.” These workers do not always stay in Iowa, but they also do not necessarily go back to where they migrated from. This program also helps the migrants feel safe and welcome in the communities they are brought into. They provide “Outreach Specialists” that can help them translate the language. “In specially designated regions of the state our Migrant & Seasonal Farm Workers Outreach Specialists focus on helping farm workers to register with our labor exchange system, find jobs, get other basic services, and providing referrals to other community services.” (Adasme, 2014)

There are three different kinds of migrants. Voluntary, involuntary, and post-colonial. While all of these are somewhat similar to each other, they do have some differences that will be covered. A voluntary migrant is someone who chooses to leave, such as the name suggests. They volunteer, in a way, to leave their country. Some reasons a person may choose to leave could be the

opportunity for a better job, which can also result in providing more for their family, or providing a safer place to raise their family. People that choose this become immigrants to their new country of choosing. They immigrate to a new country, and emigrant from another. Another reason some choose to leave their country would be to become a sojourner (Sorrells, 2013) or a person who chooses to leave other than for a job or family, and they do not necessarily have to leave permanently. They can leave for a temporary amount of time for education, military orders, missionary reasons, or simply just as a tourist. These are the examples of the voluntary migrants.

Involuntary migrants are simply what the name suggests; people who are forced to leave their country permanently for mainly political reasons. These reasons could be famine, political or religious persecution, or as a refugee. Famine causes people to move away from their homes, because they can no longer provide either food for themselves or for their family. Refugees are forced to leave because their safety is in danger. If they remained where they were they could get hurt.

An example of an involuntary migrant, specifically someone who is facing political persecution would be Edward Snowden, who attempted to seek asylum in Russia this past year. According to (Greenwald, 2014), Snowden was “The 29-year-old source behind the biggest intelligence leak in the NSA's history.” Snowden escaped the United States who had a warrant out for him after Snowden leaked some NSA secrets. He wanted to be granted asylum in Russia to avoid political prosecution in the United States.

The last kind of migrant is post-colonial. These are people who migrate to recolonize in a different place. An example of this type of migrant would be Polynesians who travelled around the Pacific and colonized on different islands including Hawaii, New Zealand, Samoa, and the Cook Islands.

Some theories that help define migration that Sorrells, (Sorrells, 2013) discusses in her book "Intercultural Communication" that were also discussed in the lecture, include push-pull theories, world systems theory, migrant networks, social capital, trans-migrants, xenophobia, assimilation, separation, marginalization, and integration. Push-pull theory explains different ways people migrate. They may be pushed to leave because of factors such as economic hardship, famine, war, or even persecution. The alternative would be factors that pull people to migrate, such as economic opportunities, family reunification, or political stability.

Another theory discussed is world-system theory. This theory is defined as migrants who move from less developed countries to highly developed countries. These three theories, push-pull and world-systems would be considered part of macro-level theory.

One of the meso-level theories is a migrant network. These are interpersonal ties that connect migrants, former migrants, and non-migrants in origin or destination areas through ties of kinship, or family, friendship, and

community. Social capital is another example of a meso-level theory. Sorrells, (Sorrells, 2013) defines this as a sense of commitment, or obligation to look after one another in kinship, friendship, or community. The last key term that deals with meso-level theory is trans-migrants. Trans-migrants are migrants who move to maintain cultural, social, or economic ties with their country, region, or city of origin.

There are a couple more key terms discussed in class, and in *Intercultural Communication*, (Sorrells, 2013). Xenophobia is defined in the book as having a fear of outsiders. This would be a term to help describe how some people, or the host's, may feel about migrants that enter their communities. Assimilation is a term more migrants have to deal with rather than the hosts who live where the migrants move. The migrant values the host's culture more than their own so they can fit into the new culture they have submersed themselves into. The opposite of assimilation would be separation, which is when the migrant would value their culture over the host's. There is an in-between for these two terms. Marginalization is when the migrant places little value on either culture. They decide that they do not want to be a part of their own, or the host's culture. The other option would for the migrant to use integration. Integration is when the migrant would have values from both cultures. They mix the two together to keep their connection with their past, and to help them fit into their new culture.

References:

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