

Immigration through hyperreal communication

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"I am so po atm! Omg!". "K, let's talk f2f 2moro plz! Ily." Although these terms appear to be a foreign language or a code of the intelligence apparatus, they are used by many American teenagers in social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp and Twitter. One of these American teenagers is the 15-year old Zeek immigrating from Trinidad and Tobago. Her process of immigration is extensively observed by Cheryl McLean hypothesizing that integration into the society can be achieved by the creation of a digital web of social interactions. This concept is built upon bonding with her friends from Trinidad and Tobago and adapting to an American teenager life which helps her to both immigrate without lacking to live out her Caribbean character.

Based on McLean's concept of immigration by the use of social media, this paper focuses on the process of societal integration by constructing a hyperreal world. To what extent can we integrate into a homogenous and exclusive society without concealing or losing characteristics that define ourselves? How can we adapt without actually adapting? As the solution of a conventional conflict is the communication between the opponents, it is the same for the process of immigration. Individuals have to talk to each other in order to facilitate adaptation and integration. Orthodox methods to accelerate immigration are cultural education programs and self-help groups. However, these approaches are limited by two factors: One-sidedness as a result of not involving the original culture and lengthiness. But to what degree can we fade out these negative externalities?

The answer is the creation of a kinder and gentler type of immigration through hyperreal communication. This new type of societal integration requires digital communication in hyperreal social media forums in order to combine the fiction, what the individual thinks of himself, with the perceived reality, how others see that individual mixing the lines between holding on to original cultural characteristics and acquiring new cultural characteristics.