

Acculturation in Canada: Ideation, Behaviour & Experience

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Presented by: Marlene Mulder,

PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, University of Alberta

Junior Research Scholar, Prairie Metropolis Centre

Ethnic Diversity Survey

- Conducted by Statistics Canada and Canadian Heritage
- Data collection – April to August, 2002
- “to understand how people’s backgrounds affect their participation in Canada’s social, economic and cultural life”
- N=41,695 (73% response rate)
- Immigrant n=10,136
- Computer assisted phone interviews (CATI)
- Non-official languages – Mandarin, Cantonese, Italian, Punjabi, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Spanish
- Research Data Centre

Acculturation – The ‘Berry’ Boxes

		Maintenance of heritage culture and identity	
		+	-
Desired relationships outside of heritage culture	+	Integration	Assimilation
		Multiculturalism	Melting Pot
	-	Separation	Marginalization
		Segregation	Exclusion

Research Questions

1. Is it possible to operationalize acculturation modes?
2. Are ideals and behaviours congruent?
3. How is acculturation type connected to life experiences in Canada?

Ideation

- Operationalization of Ideation Phan and Bretton (2009)
 1. Sense of belonging to Canada/province/city of municipality
 2. Importance of 'Canadian' identity
 3. Sense of belonging to ethnic group
 4. Importance of 'ethnic identity'
 5. Importance of ancestry
 6. Importance of customs and traditions

Ideation

- Variables used
 - Phan and Bretton vars 1,2,3,4,6
 - Added 'Discomfort' variables (ethnicity/culture; race/skin colour; language/accent; and, religion)
 - Unfixed number of clusters
- Two clusters with characteristics matching Berry's description of Integration/Multiculturalism and Assimilation/Melting Pot
- Total Population – 8 in 10 Assimilation
- Immigrant Population – 1 in 2 Assimilation

Acculturation – Nine Immigrant Source Countries

Integration

Philippines

India

China

Hong Kong



Poland

Italy

United Kingdom

United States

Assimilation

Germany

Behaviours

- Language
- Spouse/Partner place of birth
- Contact with family and friends abroad
- Participation in ethnic and mainstream organizations
- Volunteerism with ethnic and mainstream organizations
- Voting at federal/provincial/municipal
- Work with others from same ethnic ancestry

Influencing Factors

- Sex
- Age & age at arrival
- Years in Canada
- Visible minority status or place of birth
- Education – parent’s education
- Religion – parent’s religion
- Income
- Place of residence

How is acculturation type connected to life experiences in Canada?

Experiences of Discrimination

- Frequency
- Reasons
- Location

Experiences of Crime

- Assault, fraud, robbery, vandalism
- Hate crimes

Contribution

- More broadly defines acculturation
- Determines if some attitudes and behaviours are congruent
- Defining characteristics of immigrants in each acculturation mode
- Information that may be helpful to better serve and prepare for new immigrants



Thank you!

mmulder@ualberta.ca

*The research and analysis are based on data from
Statistics Canada and the opinions expressed do
not represent the views of Statistics Canada*

References

- Berry, J. (2001). A psychology of immigration. *Journal of Social Issues*. 57(3) 615-631.
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