

## **BEYOND BORDERS: GATHERING LOVE OF DIFFERENT CULTURAL BACKGROUND**

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### **Abstract**

Falling in love with someone from different culture is a matter of sharing life with a person who belongs to another cultural background. Such a kind of love experience contributes to melt both cultures in one and broaden the couple worlds. Hence, it is human's belief and faith in choosing the one we are attracted to in a strange chemistry. Moreover, falling in this love is another way of developing a corresponding culture with different set of expressions to describe emotion and need. This love faces some challenges starting from how to communicate and how to adapt all kinds of cultural differences.

Among many basics of successful melting love of different cultural background is to learn a fact that looking down upon one's culture is a major reason behind the failure of any relationship. Multicultural love couples have to give up a lot not only being in family, but more other things that may change the identity and beliefs. However, home is where the heart is beating and comforting. On the other side, falling in that love is falling in love with another language and culture as well. In many ways, learning of foreign language is transformative because knowing and learning of another culture is going far beyond vocabularies and grammar, yet it is the learning of another way of life and thinking, another tune, another way of eating, socialization, art, and literature. It is a full engagement of mind and body.

The paper has some literary examples tackling emotional relationships that cross cultural different background.

**Keywords:** multicultural love, melting love, cultural differences

### **THE MAIN TEXT**

Falling in love with somebody from another culture is a beautiful experience. It examines self-identification and self-expression. It is a relation of open-minded people and expanding realization of those who choose to develop their social understanding for relationships through love. It is the matter of selecting a life partner, a new belief, a way of living, and many other differences. To reach a successful ends of these differences, couples must search ways of adjustment including the negotiating matters such as values, morals, and systems of social life. Those couples prefer to establish a new life through choosing a partner from different cultures to discover some hidden benefits or ethnic minorities that can be added to their own.

The purpose of this paper is not to explore what is the difference between cultures or any personal differences among people. It is to discuss the reasons behind making solid relationships between partners who belong to different cultures. It is an exploration with a consider references to the physical and interpersonal attraction, similarities, variations, needs, and filling gaps. In personal relationships, some

considerations should be taken into account like why human being searches sometimes for variations or diversity. There is also another consideration of the possibility of changing values according to the growth and the influence of love relationships, particularly when things go right in a relationship.

Generally, people of all cultures tend to build a meaningful bond of relationships as a common need to establish connected nets of social relativities. To create these nets, it is important to interconnect with each other, to depend on other cultures, to discuss the way of living, loving, thinking, and life functioning. Connecting effectively means finding matches and mates to interact and to exchange the effect of each culture.

In dealing with a hypothesis that man is the product of various cultures, a personal identity is shaped by subjugating it to various influences that come from outside and inside. For example, opening to social media has a great role to know directly or indirectly people from other cultures building the bridge of friendship or love relationship. Moreover, travelling either for tourism or work may help much to establish relationships and to create challenges in close relationships with somebody from a different cultural background. In a similar point of view, people in many cases prefer to discover differences and to navigate something unfamiliar to their own familiarities.

## 1 SHOWING AND DISCOVERING VALUES

Apparently, intercultural relationships provide thoroughness of partner's culture for they develop exchangeable appreciation for both sides. Each partner will do his/her best to show his own and to discover things in the other. Furthermore, a good understanding of a partner's culture results love and respect. To get a successful love relationship of different cultural background, some points should be kept from causing division:

- Respect differences of the partners: This celebrates the important differences in the partner which depends mainly on seeking to listen and understand rather than to judge and doubt. Habits, beliefs, values, and majorities should be respected and highly valued. The partner's essentialities must be reserved as valuable traditional culture deserved to be known and respected.
- Enhancing the other cultural identity: Through careful discussion, partners must lead their acknowledgment and discussion to an apparent enhancement of the identity of both by showing the good merits of belonging to other cultures and being a part of it. It is a harmonious relationship through sharing certain values such as ethnicity, family, morals, liberal thoughts, or convictions. Simultaneously, getting the partner's admiration needs not to discard one's own cultural values and traditions. Instead, one of the most important factors of reducing tension in love relationship is to enhance the traditions of both partners' cultures, feeling the importance of them, and understanding a fact that a partner is the product of that culture.
- Looking for commonalities: Intercultural relationships provide opportunities for searching commonalities for solid grounds. Through similar interests and goals, the partner would share and adopt significantly their strong-built relationship and practice its value in their community. Sharing common interests creates an intimate relationship more than navigating differences.
- Planning for future stages: This point has much to do with the seriousness of the partners or at least one of them. It is how to find a well-established acceptance for their love relationship over time. While discussing the subject of bringing a new multicultural family and developing their multicultural intimacy, the idea of bringing up children should be encountered with some advantages. It should be noted that the future children of this relationship happily and likely will celebrate such a kind of diversity and will get much benefits of belonging to two cultures. Both partners will convince themselves and people around that their relationship is pleasantly established as a worldview or a kind of global intimacy more than national harmony. Hence, loving the opposite culture means loving your partner and loving all challenges related to that love which are all certainly manageable overtime.

The intercultural love relationship is basically one-to-one connection created willingly or unwillingly for a sort of likely change. It builds its bases on powerful will to discover other meanings of love and emotion where the limits of money, politics, and religion are faded. On the other hand, involving in a serious relationship would provide a good opportunity to develop the personal and educational knowledge through the acquisition of another language. Simultaneously, such a kind of relationship helps to show refreshing emotional direction towards other cultures and people we may know little or nothing about them, or sometimes to recreate other positive reactions to countries and cultures we have already built passive impressions about their social and

political systems. Actually, building relationships, mostly love relations, with people from different culture helps in acquiring new culture, new understandings, new thoughts and measures. Indirectly, we may discover that we belong to different cultures and societies at once. Unwillingly, we become aware of the partner's culture and its beliefs, the way of thinking, the style of living, and common points of view. It is an affection once you get first by heart role (emotions and feelings), and second by a desire of curiosity to be a part of another culture and involve in its routine and dynamic concerns.

Intercultural love relationship may mean another language of people, or other way of exchanging love and emotion that jumps to activate the influence of eyes and looking. Imperfect language can be the barrier of enjoyable communication although there maybe misunderstanding sometimes and explanations come out in the wrong way. The harmonious comfort between partners may end up language confusions. It helps to get a relationship which is more enjoyable and dreamy. So, the inability to share the same language, in many cases, is a trustful relationship because honesty and trust are not explained by understandable words, but rather by mere feelings. Under the influence of imperfect language, a partner couldn't lie or flatter because he couldn't talk as free as he used. Things are going easily without decoration or faked perfect words to be said. It is all related to a look at faces and eyes to feel senses. Importantly, a successful relationship between partners of different cultures is that relation which does not depend on translation or asking to teach other's language. Although it is useful to know the meaning of most words, yet it is better not to turn such relation into a language lesson or doing the best to correct the language mistakes. Practicing the language of the partner should be one of the valuable concern particularly the slang expressions that come unintentionally and spontaneously. On the other hand, making mistakes while speaking and practicing the other language is something more enjoyable when a partner intentionally chooses to refresh the semi-silent communication of this love relationship.

Effectively, the partners from different cultures can be communicated in other ways such as body language, looking of eyes, gestures, or the tone of their voices. From psychological point of view, admiration and fondness can be fed not necessarily by words, yet shared meaning of love and respect may have more effect than spoken words. In *The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work*, John Gottman sets what can be described the seven principles of having successful marriage and love for long lasting relationship among people in the same culture or different cultures. Gottman asserts that love and marriage relationship need a shared meaning for things that should not be related only to making love as sexual bonds, yet it is "a spiritual dimension that has to do with creating an inner life together-a culture rich with symbols and rituals"<sup>(1)</sup>. To Gottman, successful relationship centers on the fundamentals of life but not on the sidestepping differences.

## 2 PHYSICAL AND INTERPERSONAL ATTRACTIVENESS

Interpersonal attraction may affect a partner to create a positive view point. For example, to be sexually warm and sociable means formatting a good general looking when the outer physical attraction is turned away. But, in general, physical and interpersonal attractiveness are influential in the choice of romantic partner or friend <sup>(2)</sup>. Psychologists believe that a person of physical attraction possesses characteristics which are distinguished and mostly lovable as they guarantee success and effect. Moreover, personality has a great role to push a relationship towards development if there is a lack in physical attraction<sup>(1)</sup>. People across cultures tend to confirm their judgments of personality <sup>(3)</sup>. L.A. Zebrowitz emphasizes in his book *Reading Faces Window to the Soul?*, that acceptance of personality depends on the scientific explanation of the faces' perceptions giving an example of the successful association and the agreement of individual traits between American and Chinese peers <sup>(4)</sup>. Moreover, many studies point that agreement between or among cultures depends mainly on the traits and good impressions that they are infer from faces <sup>(5)</sup>. Apparently, most people who have positive traits and distinguish characteristics are linked with physical attractiveness <sup>(6)</sup>. People of physical beauty are looked in the centralization of others' thoughts and appreciation because they seem more strong, friendly, sociable, and happy in addition to their pretty outer looking. Hence, those people are valued by their culture as desired, respected, and attractive. In a universal agreement, attractive people are those who have baby face. Mostly, baby-faced people are mirrored as those faces of no harm or less wickedness and less power which are all liked and lovable than those mature-faced people <sup>(7)</sup>. Baby-faced partners are looked by others for their mid-matured reactions, natural appearance, and normal behaviors. They are well-accepted strangers although they have less sexual attraction. In love relationships between different cultures, baby-faced partners are attracted more than emotion faces for giving much similarity to the innocence and purity of recent-created energetic people and less sexual experiences. Thus, "people seem to be attracted to the people they should be attracted to" <sup>(8)</sup>.

Similarity can be considered as one of considerable reason behind friendship or romantic intimacy. It indicates sharing the same attitudes, ideas, ideals, and fundamentals. Similarity may come also from the failure of both partners in ex-relationships to begin a new start of telling stories of failed love experiences. Thus, the similarity in failure of broken-down ex-love relationship helps to create an atmosphere of examining a new relationship. Focusing on spirituality and sexual love between partners from different cultures are differently treated according to the impact of religion, understanding, and the societal background. Due to the differences in cultures, acting sexual love can be tackled as a body language that can replace the absent understandable spoken language, or the suitable way to strengthen this relationship. The bond of love between partners of different social structural background is a kind of socio-emotional need that can be encouraged and developed within love situations<sup>(9)</sup>. Starting living the inspiring life between two different cultures, the body language turns this verity into active familiarity through reading eyes movements and lips ways. In other words, it is the language of touch sealed by the first embrace and the first kiss. Such marks of love express the partners' emotions in a corporate environment of an intimate relationship. In their way of love expressions, faces reflect what they mean. The details of differences would find an automatic solution through deciphering body parts. All speak in one understandable language. Beauty of love moments metaphorically invites neck, lips, chest, and eyes to melt all differences. The harmonious situations between partners of different cultures will create a sexual inspiration and an enjoyable transformation from being different to sharing similar identity. This will help both "to feel more emotionally balanced"<sup>(10)</sup>.

### 3 INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

Culture as a wider identity, consists of social complexities of family customs, values, history, religious identity, ethnic bases, and social system. Each member of a family represents a unity of social structure. Individuals are those people who are filtered by culture and formed by its values and traditions. People of this culture learn how to love, what to evaluate, the way to releft their essentialities, and how to enhance their cultural identity. A cultural pattern, an individual, represents healthy beliefs and principles. He/she reasonably and emotionally interprets the behaviors of the culture, heritage, and influences to other cultures.

Through personal understanding of diversity among cultures or within one culture, variations between cultures create a great interesting to discover other cultural background and to develop an interchangeable relationship. Within the stages of discovering other cultures, philosophies are transmitted peacefully and emotionally through love opportunities that may happen by travelling or communicating via social media. Cultural and spiritual norms would find a good environment to link with different beliefs and norms to celebrate a harmonious worldview. Making similar and common worldview is the first serious step for a primary means of creating and developing an intercultural communication that can be happened by language or nonverbal influences such as eye contact and facial gestures' expressions. Therefore, a successful developmental love relationship is the product of no more than simple words that express multiple meanings. The common sense of emotion and love expressions opens a wide entering to build a mate-relationship that "requires an intense feeling of love and commitment"<sup>(11)</sup>. Socially, mate- relationships between different cultures refer to a strange but intense happiness occurs when its partners feel satisfaction and find other meaning of life in their closeness. According to M. Krain love is the belief that "one's concern for the welfare of the other, one's helping the other, and one's depending on the other are key attributes of an intimate relationship"<sup>(12)</sup>. Love relationships relay mainly on the uniqueness of each social structure. Each side will celebrate what is regarded as independent value such as self-assertion and how this value will affect emotionally on the other side through showing liking, interest, admiration, and longing to discover new things. Love in such a case is the matter of caring of other's beliefs and interest and respecting their demands and possibilities. Hence, steps like talking about common hobbies or initials participate in starting a connected call for an essential interaction.

Accordingly, in this paper, the researcher tries to shed the light on the diversity and similarity that face love relationship across cultures. In a consideration to the differences in cultures, love and love styles are marked by people dominated way of thinking and appreciating emotions. For example, love is differentiated by some psychologists and sociologists as passionate love ( hot and fiery emotion linked with sexual need and an emotional need and longing ) and compassionate love ( a spiritual need for warm attachment and intimacy). Such intimacy is described as searching and finding a mate in a romantic union to bring different and foreign individual in a binding relationship. This binding builds its bases on the suitability of the couple for each other, their need for either passionate or compassionate love, and their matured respect for each other culture. Hence, and through a scientific assertion, the paper concludes that love across cultural differences is subjugated to debates concerning values, love style, social boundaries, and morals. Yet, cultures agree on a common fact that love is a complement to humanity. It is a link that gathers the disconnection among people.

Love across cultures stresses the reproductive feeling of attachment and belongingness and enhances the value of identity.

## NOTES

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