Review Questions:

1. What is “Moral Isolationism”?

Moral Isolationism according to Midgley is the view of anthropologists and others that we cannot criticize cultures that we cannot understand. She argues that moral isolationism is a doctrine of immoralism.

1. Explain the Japanese custom of tsujigiri. What questions does Midgley ask about this custom?

Tsujigiri which means crossroads-cut is a custom of Japanese wherein they try-out their new swords on a chance wayfarer. They should be able to slice someone in a single blow otherwise it will injure their honor and reputation.

Midgley has two questions that struck her the most. The first question is, “Does the isolating barrier work both ways”? And the other one is, “Are people in other cultures equally unable to criticize us”?

1. What is wrong with moral isolationism, according to Midgley?

According to Midgley, moral isolationism falsely assumes that culture is separate and unmixed where in reality these customs are developed and form out of many influences from other culture.

1. What does Midgley think is the basis for criticizing other culture?

According to Midgley we can’t just form crude opinion regarding other people’s culture. The basis would be How well do we know their culture & what is the purpose of doing that. Also, according to her we can’t criticize other culture if we can’t even understand our own.

Discussion Questions:

1. Midgley says that Nietzsche is an immoralist. Is that an accurate and fair assessment of Nietzsche? Why or why not?

I think Midgley’s assessment of Nietzsche is not fair because first of all they both have different insight regarding morality. Their point of view is different from each other. And if ever Nietzsche is an immoralist why would he even bother to discuss his point of view about morality.

1. Do you agree with Midgley’s claim that the idea of separate and unmixed cultures is unreal? Explain your answer.

I do agree with Midgley’s claim that the idea of separate and unmixed culture is unreal. Why? Let’s take a look in our culture. We cannot say that it is purely Philippine Culture alone. Our culture is a mixture of Malay, Chinese, Japanese, American & Spanish cultures. Even other countries are like these. Singapore can be a good example. Although there can be instances wherein there culture is unmixed but it’s only rare.