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The first thing that came into my mind after reading Gio and Latif’s story was that their experience was very privileged. Prior to Gio’s competition in Sydney, where he can naturally experience new things while staying there, he had already tried an Australian drink in Cebu called “flat whites”. This alone further contributes to my understanding that globalization is indeed a complex phenomenon that occurs at multiple levels. I came from a not well-off family, and though I want to, I don’t have the needs to buy an Australian drink as 1) there were no Australian-inspired cafés from where I am, and 2) I don’t have the money and time to try something new. Globalization is an uneven process that affects people differently.

Most accounts view globalization as primarily an economic process (markets, trade deals). Even before, whenever someone asked what globalization is, I would always answer along the lines of “it’s a working concept where countries connect and benefit each other”. I would always see it on a large scale whereas globalization and its impact is a process that also occurs at the smallest and seemingly insignificant moments in our lives. Manfred Steger described globalization as “the expansion and intensification of social relations and consciousness across world-time and across world-space.” Steger also notes that “globalization processes do not occur merely at an objective, material level but they also involve the subjective plane of human consciousness.” People begin to feel that the world has become a smaller place and distance has collapsed from thousands of miles to just a mouse-click away. I stated above that Gio’s experience is a whole lot different from mine as I only actually *see* and *feel* the product of globalization when I am scrolling on social media and I see two people arguing about a word that means differently in their respective countries without them realizing that they’re not from the same country. It was a wake-up experience for me because social media made me feel that everyone came from the same place and not states apart. Globalization made you feel that you know everyone and that they’re the same kin as you. Countries, through the internet and social media, made you feel closer without actually seeing each other or being with each other.

Globalization represents the many processes that allow for the expansion and intensification of global connections. Through it, unprivileged individuals like me who can’t afford to actually go to a place to experience things, build connections, understand the culture, and many others can experience it. Globalization naturally also has its disadvantages where it may lead to a country’s downfall. However, interdependency between nations is already proven that it has more benefits for all parties than without it.