**Lecturer’s name: Erkin Mukhammedov**

**Summary and Response Essay**

**Topic: Extended families in Western society**

**Word count**: 760

Kathy Cox and David Hill (2011), in their article, “Extended Families in 'Western' Society,” write about the changing nature of extended families in Western society. The authors suggest that grandparents and great-grandparents enjoy being together with their grandchildren, which has been proven to have beneficial health advantages; parents can benefit as well from being part of an extended family as working hours increase and individuals of working age become more time poor. Meanwhile, Cox and Hill (2011) point out that large families assist society in general by saving money and using fewer resources while also offering better childcare, higher emotional commitment, and more possibilities for social contact. Moreover, they report that older people and parents are hesitant to live with their children out of fear of burdening them. Additionally, they indicate that although it is unlikely that financial status alone was the determining factor, social circumstances and culture may also have played a part in the middle generation's decision to relocate to a far-off city for work or other reasons as well. This essay will focus on the authors' debatable statements about benefits that grandparents and parents take advantage of by living with their extended family and reasons for some people to move away from their children.

 The first issue is about how grandparents and parents can take advantage of living with extended family. Cox and David (2011) claim that living with extended family can provide emotional support, help with childcare, and create a sense of community among family members. I agree with this statement, as it  not only benefits the grandparents and parents but also has a positive impact on the children's upbringing as they get to experience a multi-generational household, which can lead to better social skills and a broader perspective on life. Xu (2019) found that according to the literature on grandchild care, grandparent caregivers have greater self-confidence and self-esteem, a stronger feeling of self-worth, a new goal for their life, and more intimate ties within large families, which all contribute to their personal well-being and psychological health. It means that grandparent caregivers not only benefit the grandchildren they care for but also experience positive effects on their own mental health and overall well-being. In addition, Laila Tingvold et al. (2012) found that the participation of the extended family was vital to the connections between parents and children and influenced both of their lives. Therefore, it is important for grandparents to maintain a strong relationship with their grandchildren and be involved in their lives as much as possible; this can lead to a mutually beneficial relationship where both parties feel loved, supported, and valued.

 Another argument is about the reasons why people try to move away from their families. While financial position was unlikely to be the deciding factor, social conditions and culture may have played a role in the middle generation's choice to transfer to a distant location for job or other reasons (Cox and David, 2011). I also agree with this view because the decision to move away from one's family and community is often a complex one that involves multiple factors. For example, the availability of job opportunities and access to education may have played a role in the decision-making process as well. According to Dustmann and Glitz (2011), if migrations occurred, it was for one of two primary reasons: as a result of natural disasters or man-made situations (such as persecution owing to differing political or religious beliefs) or because the financial outlook appeared to be better in other places. In other words, people either migrated out of necessity or in search of better economic opportunities. Moreover, Ishtiaque and Ullah (2013) indicated that a high rate of joblessness, poor income, rapid population expansion, unequal resource distribution, the need for higher education, historical migratory patterns, and dissatisfaction with housing have all been recognized as important factors in rural outmigration. Therefore, it is not surprising that many individuals from rural areas choose to migrate to urban centers in search of better living conditions and employment opportunities.

 In conclusion, the arguments about extended families in western society presented by Cox and David can be accepted. I agree that people living in extended families can benefit from the support and security provided by their family members and the factors that some people try to keep away from their relatives. Additionally, I think that it is important for governments to find ways to balance the advantages of both rural and urban living to ensure that everyone has access to a high quality of life to keep family members together.

**Reference List**

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**Reflection**

**Word count**: 408

Assignments for the Academic English module during the first semester included an in-class test on academic listening, writing a summary response essay, and writing a reflection essay for CW1, which required two drafts for review to get feedback. I decided to write an essay on one of four articles, "Intelligence: Heredity versus Environment." While attending lectures, my lecturer gave me tips on how to write an excellent summary response essay and to improve my note-taking skills for summarizing listening for the in-class test.

The in-class test was completed unsuccessfully because I had expected that note-taking skills would play a crucial role in achieving a good mark. If I had not only focused on improving my note-taking skills, I would have passed the exam. Due to the fact that there were such crucial things like understanding the main idea and key details, having effective recognition of the core idea and important information was vital. After failing an in-class test, I started to prepare for the summary response essay. For the summary response essay, the most challenging things were picking the most relevant data and arranging it logically. In addition to including my own analyses and ideas, I had to make sure that my summary accurately conveyed the author's major point. However, I learned how to effectively summarize and respond to an article, which is a valuable skill for any academic or professional setting, while attending lectures. In addition, due to my lecturer`s feedback, I was able to improve my summarizing skills and better understand the importance of identifying key ideas and arguments in a text. Although I tried to imply the skills and knowledge that I had gained during the lectures, I also failed in my first course work. However, I took the feedback from my lecturer seriously and made a conscious effort to implement their suggestions in my subsequent assignments. As a result, I was able to see a significant improvement in my grades and overall academic performance in the second semester.

   After reviewing my overall work for the first semester, I realized the importance of getting feedback from lecturers and attending lectures to improve my academic performance. Moreover, I made a conscious effort to prioritize my studies and manage my time effectively, which allowed me to stay on top of assignments and prepare thoroughly for exams. As a result, I was able to achieve better grades and feel more confident in my abilities as a student.