

PERSPECTIVE

Culture

Culture appears frequently in our daily lives, in both explicit and subtle ways.

Cultures are culminations of years of human interaction and tradition, and they can affect us greatly in ways that we don't consciously realize.

This issue delves into the instances of culture in various aspects, such as social media and language, as well as their origins in history.



Dux vol.8

CONTENT

01 Cultural Difference _04

- Culture Shock: The Human Ability to Identify and Adapt - *Seoyoon Eunie Choi*
- Cultural Differences Unveiled Through COVID-19 - *Kristin Cho*
- Most Unique Cultures in The World - *Sean Koo*
- Attitudes Towards Facial Masks and Our Culture - *Andrew Kim*
- Cultural Appreciation vs Cultural Appropriation - *Ashley Kim*
- Appreciate, Don't Appropriate: Culture in the Music Industry - *Seoyoon Eunie Choi*

02 Internet/Social Media _28

- Explaining “Cancel Culture” - *Grace Yongeun Song*
 - Effects of Online Culture on Offline Society - *Grace Yongeun Song*
 - Cancel Culture: Has it Gone Too Far? - *Katherine Lee*
-



-
- The Cost of Swiping Right - *Rachel Lee*

03 History/Tradition _40

- The Profound Effect of the Cold War on American Culture - *Nancy Koo*
- How did the renaissance affect culture? - *Andrew Nam*
- How did different compromises affect culture in the United States of America? - *Andrew Nam*
- The Indian Caste Culture and Why the Caste System Should be Banned - *Andrew Kim*

04 Language _54

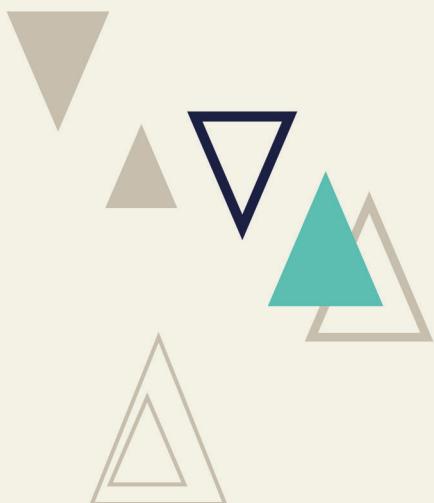
- The Profound Effect of Culture on Language - *Nancy Koo*
 - Relation between language and culture - *Eric Yoon*
-

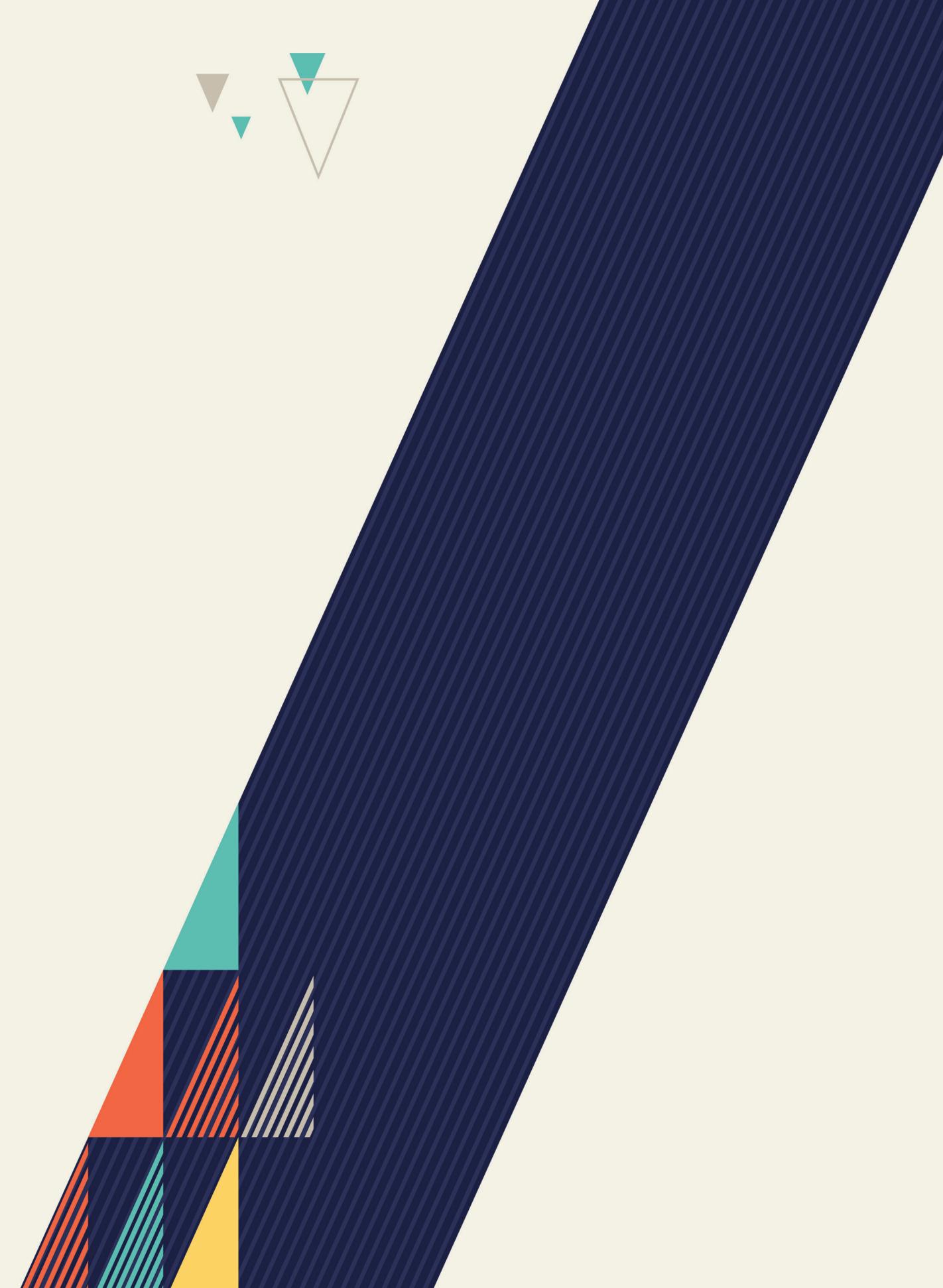


01

Cultural Difference

- Culture Shock: The Human Ability to Identify and Adapt
- Cultural Differences Unveiled Through COVID-19
- Most Unique Cultures in The World
- Attitudes Towards Facial Masks and Our Culture
- Cultural Appreciation vs Cultural Appropriation
- Appreciate, Don't Appropriation: Culture in the Music Industry





Culture Shock: The Human Ability to Identify and Adapt

*By Seoyoon Eunie Choi
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Imagine you are traveling to a country you have never visited before. You don't know the language, the cities, the people - most of all, you don't know the culture of the country, because you have only ever vaguely heard about it through other people. When you step out of the airport and into the city you're staying in,

you may slowly, one by one, experience things that jolt you and surprise you, perhaps in unpleasant ways, because everything is just so different here in this new country. This is a phenomenon known as "culture shock", and it, unsurprisingly, has a lot to do with the different cultures of nations and people.



Culture shock is, according to Simon Fraser University in Canada, “an experience someone may have when he/she moves to a cultural environment which is different from his/her own”.

In the scenario you previously imagined yourself to be in, you experienced one of the most common causes of culture shock – being in a foreign environment that completely alienates you as time goes on and you become more aware of your surroundings. Culture



shock is usually described as having four distinct phases: Honeymoon, Irritability and Hostility, Gradual Adjustment, and Adaptation of Biculturalism. Culture shock is usually the most intense at the beginning of the stay in the unfamiliar environment – this beginning stage is called the Honeymoon phase, and as the name suggests, it is the period in which people are thrilled to be in their new environment, seeing novel areas as adventures and chances to see and experience new things. Let's continue with the imagining and say that you're staying for about six months at this currently new place, meaning you're staying relatively in the long-term.

As you begin to climb down from the first-impression glee of being in a new country (perhaps you are in your third or fourth month at your stay), you may become



increasingly Irritated or even Hostile - the second stage of culture shock. You may experience frustration and fatigue due to misunderstandings, become uncomfortable due to unfamiliar nuances in speech and behavior that usually come so easily to you, and even experience depression as homesickness hits you in waves and you just want to go back home. This is where the "culture" part of culture shock sets in - it isn't just the thrill of the aesthetics of a new country or the exciting smell of a different location as the airport doors slide open for you. It's about the people, the customs, the way things are done and thoughts are thunk in this new area - essentially, you are experiencing a whole new culture, and this may come as a truly heavy mental and emotional shock to you. So now that we are about halfway through our culture shock journey, we should ask ourselves this question. Why is experiencing a new culture so jarring to us? And why do we feel the desperate need to adjust to the new culture as

fast as possible?

Well, this is because cultures are the very defining outlines of places, the very backbone of every society that makes cities and citizens unique. If an outsider steps into a location with a different backbone, a different defining feature from their own location, they will inevitably experience a staggering sensation that they may experience as a shock, because the different culture will be a too-strong reminder that they are indeed an outsider and will not belong unless they conform to the culture. And it is only natural and necessary that outsiders adapt, because all cultures are different and whoever chooses to transcend boundaries must first learn to accept the existence of these boundaries and the fact that they define things like unique cultures. Culture is so important to every country, city, and society out there, and culture shock is the unfortunate side effect of people attempting to relocate and find themselves in new places of opportunity. But the human ability to adapt is incredible, and as you go through the last few stages of culture shock, you'll realize that the initial jarring sensation was all worth the new experience in a different country.

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Cultural Differences Unveiled Through COVID-19

By Kristin Cho

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The COVID-19 pandemic has been influencing everyone around the globe through social, economical, and political factors. Although countries including New Zealand, Vietnam, and Taiwan have been averaging less than 5 new cases each day, many countries still seem to be struggling with the exploding numbers of people testing positive. With the duration of COVID-19 elongating, providing great numbers of statistics for pattern observation, the cultural differences among countries become apparent.



Although the number of cases in countries has fluctuated massively over the past 6 months, the disparity between the countries that have been able to control the number of confirmed cases and those that haven't been able

to do so has become evident. From a cultural perspective on this difference, one may ask: "Does whether a culture believes in the strength residing within the individual or in the success stemming from collectivism play a part in how COVID-19 is handled?" Although cultural differences are often unspoken and thus unconsciously held, they stem from within. When in crisis, the group norm within a culture will often default to these rules to solve problems.

Through the perspective of group-oriented cultures, including collectivist countries



like South Korea, citizens accepted COVID-19 testing, mobile tracking tools and applications, temperature checks in public areas, etc. On one occasion on the Korean news, there was a video of an old lady with breathing problems on public transit without a mask. Many people were enraged as she was not following the stringent rules of wearing a mask in public transportation.

Emergency texts are prevalent in Korea, in which locations of the confirmed are revealed for everyone to check in case they have also visited the same place. Meanwhile, in more individualistic countries like the United States, a country that has the most individualistic culture in the world according to every major intercultural study, taking personal data and publicizing it, is considered taking away the rights and privacy of individuals. Confucianism, a cultural force in East Asia that advocates the duty to society over individual needs, has been cited to explain Asian responses to COVID-19 and lack of cohesion in the United States, according to March 31 blog post by the Wilson Center policy forum.

In many ways, this global pandemic is blatantly showing what really matters to different countries, and in the process, revealing a lot about a country's culture. It's also reminding us of the many people, places and cultures that make this world so wonderfully diverse. For example, France has closed all "non-essential" businesses yet has kept the nation's boulangeries open.

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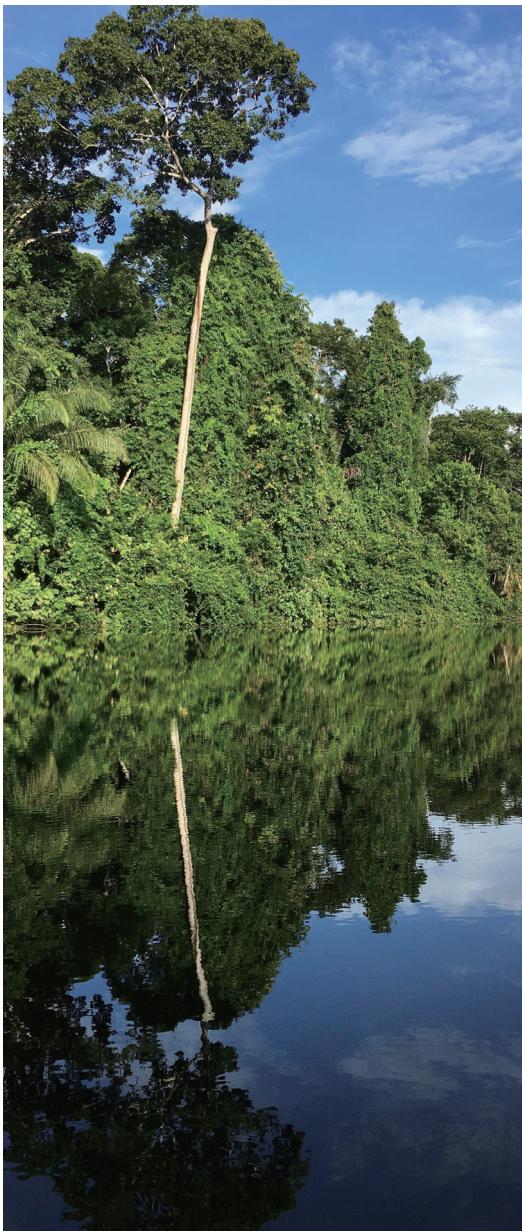
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Most Unique Cultures in The World

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All around the world, different ethnic groups, countries, and regions have different cultures. Cultures represent the people's daily lives and meanings. However, what if there was a culture where to become a man, you needed to endure painful stings? There are many unique cultures around the world such as the Chinese culture where a man needs to carry his pregnant wife bare footed over burning coals or carrying poisonous snakes over his head to worship a snake goddess; however, the three most unique cultures are the Sateré-Mawés' coming of age tradition, the Toraja people's living with the dead, and the Mursi woman lip plating.

The first most unique tradition is the Sateré-Mawés' coming of age tradition. In the Brazilian Amazon, young boys that belong to the Sateré-Mawé tribe

have a special tradition. When these young boys reach the age of 13, they have a special task to become a man. These boys would run through the jungle searching for bullet ants. According to the Schmidt pain index, the bullet ant ranks as the highest. These ants are then sedated by the leader who dips them into a herbal solution making the ants drowsy. While these ants are sleeping, they are put onto a glove with only the stinger pointing inwards. For several months, the gloves are worn by the boys 20 times before becoming a “man”.

The second most unique culture is the Toraja people’s living with the dead. In Indonesia, a strange culture is practiced by a group called the Toraja. These people lived with the dead. Though they do not live, they keep all the bodies forever, for a few years before the body is buried, the dead are just treated like a sick person. The people feed the dead, clean the dead, change the clothes of the dead, and many more. The Toraja people do this so the dead ancestor can get good luck in the after life. However, before they can do this, the dead have their body cleansed so it does not rot. They are coated by a chemical solution called formalin, which is a mixture of formaldehyde and water.



The last unique culture is the Mursi’s woman lip plating. In Ethiopia, the women in a tribe known as the Mursi tribe, have large plates inside their mouth. At the age of 15 or

16, the women in this tribe may have their lips cut. After the lip is cut, they hold the lip open by a wooden plug for about 3 or 4 weeks for the cut to heal. After the cut is healed, clay plates are inserted into the mouth. Overtime, these plates are swapped to bigger plates as the mouth grows bigger. Though it is part of their culture, Mursi women only wear it for a short period of time since it is so heavy and uncomfortable. So where did this tradition start from? Most people thought that the Mursi women did this to not be captured by slave raiders. However, this idea has been rejected by historians as they claim that the clay was representing wealth and social status.

The world has different groups of people and tribes each differing from each other not only because of their appearance but also because of their cultures. Though cultures may be beautiful and meaningful such as making a baby pick an object at the age of one to determine what he or she might be in the future, also known as dol jab yi. However, there are many unique cultures in the world such as the Sateré-Mawés' coming of age tradition, the Toraja people's living with the dead, and the Mursi woman lip plating. Though it may seem unusual and mystifying, it is still meaningful to those people.

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Attitudes Towards Facial Masks and Our Culture

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With the outbreak of COVID-19 starting from Wuhan, China, the best and only hope of preventing the virus has been the medical masks so far. However, there are several different opinions on the use of the masks. Even before the breakout of COVID-19, several East Asian areas have been using masks for the following reasons: preventing the spreading of diseases such as a common cold, hiding a bare face (without any makeup) by some celebrities, and occasionally preventing microdusts from entering the body. Unsurprisingly, even when the unprecedented virus hit, most Asian areas wore masks with ease. However, other Western areas had a hard time accepting and conforming to the idea of wearing masks because it is not a common cultural practice or action. One's thought about masks could reveal something about their culture.

When the Coronavirus broke out, the main discoveries were mostly medical, but there were also other statistical, political, and economical discoveries that were found. According to John Brandon, a Forbes journalist, wrote, “Sadly, a new study reveals that only about half of us are wearing masks — about 55% total.” This statistic itself proves how Americans viewed masks during the earlier stages of the virus, and how around half thought that they were not worthwhile. Experts suggest that this is because masks hide the majority of the face, making it difficult to express one's emotions. Another



reason seems to be that unlike most East Asian cultures, masks in America usually create suspicion; as if one were attempting to hide something from others. Many also tend to get misunderstood for actually carrying the virus.

The example of many Americans resisting to wear masks tells us what Americans value and prioritize, reflecting on their culture. For instance, Americans value self identity and being able to express themselves freely as their top priority. Wearing masks, however, can prevent one from showing their identity. Additionally, when it falls down to the health of the society or an individual, Americans tend to value individuals more. These examples can somewhat reflect on Western and American culture.

On the other hand, East Asian cultures like South Korea, for example, performed quite well in terms of accepting to wear masks. This is unsurprising as masks were always a common item. According to a survey conducted in South Korea throughout February 11th to 13th, 70% of the people said they started wearing the masks after the outbreak of the virus, 19% of people were already wearing masks often even before the virus, and only 11% said that they do not wear a mask at all. This was conducted in quite the earlier stages of the virus, and yet quite impressive. The most prominent reason for this is how South Korea already used masks often for other reasons.

The above data also suggests something about Asian cultures. In Asia, consideration for others is taught as the top virtue from an early age. Wearing a mask shows that you have consideration for other members of the society by doing your part to prevent the virus from spreading. Also, when it falls down to keeping a promise made with the members of your society versus exercising one's right to show self identity, Asian



culture prioritizes the promise made with society over individual identity. This also reflects on how East Asian culture is like, and what East Asian culture values.

The initial response to wearing masks may have varied in different regions, for both cultural and historical reasons. After more than six months into the global pandemic, America, which did not readily accept wearing masks, is showing 2,362 COVID-19 cases per 100k. On the other hand, South Korea, a country that conformed to wearing masks from the beginning of the outbreak is showing only 48 COVID-19 cases per 100k according to Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering. It is clear. Until an actual vaccine is introduced, masks are the only effective way to stop the virus regardless of one's culture.

Andrew Kim
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Cultural Appreciation vs Cultural Appropriation

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From halloween costumes to big name fashion shows, cultural appropriation has long been a common occurrence, but we have still yet to acknowledge it. Cultural appropriation is a term often used to describe the taking over of creative or artistic forms, themes, or practices by one cultural group from another. It could mean wearing a piece of jewelry or clothing that may hold a place of great significance in a culture, or getting a hairdo that is rich in the history of another culture. For example, it is very disrespectful to the indigenous community to send a lingerie-clad model down the runway with a culturally significant feathered headdress. But it is important to note that cultural appropriation isn't the same as cultural appreciation (or cultural exchange).





Cultural appreciation is when someone seeks to understand and learn about another culture in an effort to broaden their perspective and connect with others cross-culturally. This is so important in becoming an educated global citizen and perhaps even a leader.

But where do we draw the line between appropriate forms of cultural appreciation and more damaging patterns of cultural appropriation?

In essence, any forms of cultural

exchange that does not violate the moral and cultural values of the respective culture would be considered acceptable. It is important that you understand what the item or culture you are borrowing truly means or contributes to the culture. Otherwise, your mindless acts can be harmful not only to those whose culture you are borrowing but also to those with whom you share it. Genuine appreciation roots from an authentic desire to understand and learn about another culture in an effort to broaden your perspective on the global scale. If you are borrowing

a part of a culture for your own personal interest, that is appropriation no matter your intent in doing so.

So, how can you take part in or “borrow” (appreciation) a culture without exploiting it for your own personal interest (appropriation)?

One way you can become a better global citizen is through self-reflection. Examine your own culture and try to understand the cultural differences and why they might be different. Taking an introspective look at your own culture will allow you to realize that a specific aspect of your own culture might be central to your identity, and so if someone were to use it without understanding the importance of it, that act, whether it was intentional or not, would probably offend you. Take this into consideration and carefully determine if your borrowing of a culture might offend a person of that cultural background. Another important step you should take is to listen to those who are a part of the fabric of that society or culture. Listen to their stories and understand the



implications of the aspect in which you are trying to “appreciate”. It is also crucial that you consider the context in which you will be borrowing their culture. What does a certain symbol mean to a particular culture? When and where is it appropriate to use it? Understanding what the various aspects of a culture are and what they mean are so important.

Ashley Kim
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Appreciate, Don't Appropriate: Culture in the Music Industry

*By Seoyoon Choi
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On June 26, 2020, a certain K-pop group released its first official single in over one year, with the music video of the song, released on the group's official YouTube Artist channel, garnering over 80 million views within the first 24 hours of its release, shattering records set by previous holders. However, eagle-eyed fans and observers quickly noticed that the set design of the music video, as well as the attire of the members (who shall remain unnamed along with the group), exhibited certain blunders or holes in research done to prevent the improper use of other cultures and customs for music in the name of aesthetics and visual pleasure.

In one of the scenes of the music video, a statue of Lord Ganesha, a symbol of wisdom and understanding in the Hindu religion, could be seen on the floor, with one of the members sitting on a tall chair near the statue. The placement of the statue was likely a mistake on the set designers' parts, as the members most likely do not have a say in what goes on the sets in their music videos, but the statue on the ground offended many fans around the globe who practice Hinduism and worship Lord Ganesha. The lack of careful research done by the set designers was obtrusive, as deciding to use a culturally significant statue that is clearly not from their or the members' own cultures and religions should have been the first red flag to look into the



origins of the statue further. Some fans defended the action by saying that the member who had been sitting in the chair in front of the statue also worshipped the deity, but these claims were quickly shot down as the member, if she truly did worship and recognize the god, would have refused to cede to such blasphemous behavior, even for aesthetic or musical purposes.

The members have also often been witnessed wearing Indian jewelry and bindis (representations of marriage or good luck in Hindu culture) for their music videos and photo-shoots. The group's primary makeup artist reportedly said that the members do get to decide what kind of makeup and jewelry they want to wear, as that is more representative of them and their personalities than set designs, which shows that the



members do not recognize that they are using a part of a prominent culture for purely aesthetic reasons without being mindful of the implications of their actions. And while it is difficult to be cognizant of all cultures around the globe, one as notable as Hindu culture is hard to miss, especially with bindis that are so commonly observed, which is further proof that more research must be done in order for there not to be cultural catastrophes like these again.

But it is not just this certain group that has made these blunders. Another group, who had utilized a similar concept in the past, titled their concept “ethnic hip”, a name that blatantly ignored the inapt use of the Hindu religion and culture in their title track and music video. Other groups have also used Hindu themes, jewelry, and sacred objects to embellish their music videos and photo-shoots. This shows that the Hindu practice, though often perceived and recognized as beautiful and significant, is one of

the countless cultures being subject to what is most often called “cultural appropriation”, or the “inappropriate adoption of the customs or characteristics of one society by another”. Cultural appropriation has been a widespread phenomenon in every aspect of history, not just the small niche that is Korean pop music, but the



K-pop industry has long been notorious for using other cultures for aesthetic reasons without ever acknowledging that they “borrowed” from these cultures and that this certain “borrowing” was politically and culturally incorrect.

Culture is the very thing that makes up this extremely diverse globe of people, and the difference is what makes the human race so interesting and flawed but in a raw and open way, yet appropriating a culture is so vastly different from appreciating the beauty of a culture, and it must be stopped. Educating oneself about a culture that is unfamiliar would be the first step to take, as simply knowing that a seemingly innocuous object, like the statue of Lord Ganesha, is of extreme value and importance to another culture would avoid appropriation on at least a small scale level. The acknowledging of the fact that cultures outside of one’s own exist would largely eradicate mistakes like this from happening again, and, hopefully, be what ultimately makes everyone appreciative of other cultures without taking advantage of them.

Seoyoon Eunie Choi
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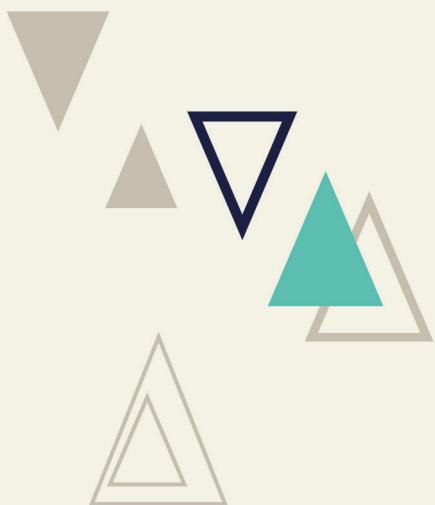
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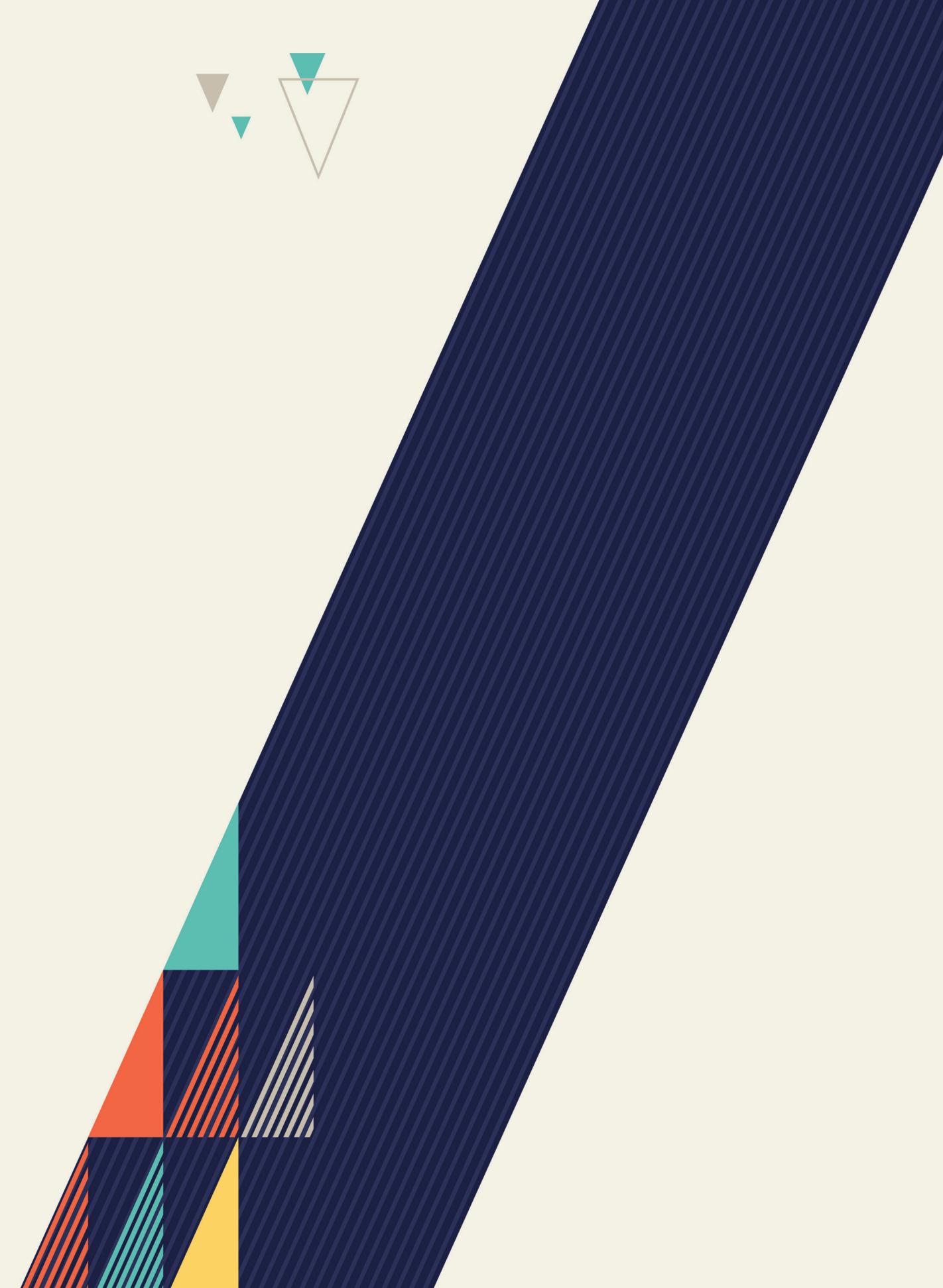
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02

Internet/Social Media

- Explaining “Cancel Culture”
- Effects of Online Culture on Offline Society
- Cancel Culture: Has it Gone Too Far?
- The Cost of Swiping Right





Explaining “Cancel Culture”

***By Grace Yongeun Song
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Today, everything and everyone can be ‘cancelled’ if the internet collectively decides that it needs to be so. The term ‘collectively’ is important here because the cancelling of something is really a result of a mass movement, collective in form and force. J.K. Rowling is ‘cancelled’ because of her transphobic views. Cardi B and Nicki Minaj are ‘cancelled’ because they made homophobic comments. Trump is ‘cancelled’ because of his racist, inappropriate conduct and words towards women, people of colour and immigrants. Kanye West is ‘cancelled’ for saying slavery was a ‘choice’ and for supporting Trump.

Cancel culture is relatively new; it only surfaced in the last five to six years and has been largely a product of internet culture. One of the reasons why the term’s exact meaning is still being ascertained is perhaps because it is relatively new and its scope is still evolving with developing online behaviour. The most visible examples of cancel culture occur when a celebrity or public figure says or writes something or engages in an act that is deemed offensive and inappropriate by the public.

One of the characteristics of cancel culture is also the tendency to ‘pile on’, where social media users engage in mass behaviour by specifically targeting the individual who is being publicly called out. Previously, during a speech that he made at Mt. Rushmore, US President Donald Trump appeared to call out “cancel culture”, perhaps because he himself has been a target so often, particularly since he first announced his presidential campaign.

It is “the very definition of totalitarianism,” and “completely alien to our culture and our values” with “absolutely no place in the United States of America”, Trump had said.

One of the most visible examples of the application of cancel culture was when Affleck was sued by two women for sexual harassment on the set of the mockumentary ‘I’m Still Here’. The actor had settled both cases out of court, but these reports resurfaced during the 2017 Oscars when he was nominated and subsequently won the award for ‘Best Actor’ for ‘Manchester By the Sea’. At that time, social media users had tried to ‘cancel’ Affleck, to hold him accountable for both incidents and public opinion was strongly against the actor being lauded and recognised by the Academy Awards.

Grace Song

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Effects of Online Culture on Offline Society

***By Grace YongEun Song
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Social media is making us angry, lonely and self-obsessed. There are countless studies on some of the negative influences our online lives have on our personality and perspective. Whether it comes to following certain rules or etiquette in one-on-one interactions or maintaining decorum in a public setup, establishing a culture depends on how quickly the cultural norms were set, whether there is a clear leader or dissenter and how outside visitors view the culture according to Jennie Chen, a social psychologist based in Austin, US.

On the internet, those norms did not take centuries to be established and can often be a lot cruder than those followed in most civilised societies. Why? Because a human mind determines what is appropriate, inappropriate, private or public based on many factors.

Another crucial factor in play is how the social concepts of private space or appropriate behaviour can vary from culture to culture. Here is where online cultures have less differences — the common norm that is emerging has more uniformity. So, regardless of whether the person is logging in from Seoul or New York they would share a common culture.

So, while ignoring people around you to take a video on Snapchat might be considered deviant behaviour, it is only deviant when seen in the context of offline cultures.

While this world might be different, it is definitely not as ‘human’ as the offline world according to Sandra Akuruk, a 25-year-old security official from Uganda.

Boyoung Park, a 21-year-old sales assistant and English literature student, has seen first-hand the impact heavy use of social media has had on isolating people in South Korea.

"Some people are aggressive and easily say offensive things to argue; they want people to watch them," the resident of Seongnam, South Korea, told Gulf News. However, she did feel that the rudeness was often limited to the online realm.

"They don't speak out in public, only online. I'm not sure if this is used by other countries too, but they are called 'keyboard warrior' in Korea," she said.

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Cancel Culture: Has it Gone Too Far?

By Katherine Lee
Seoul International School

Every week, it seems like a new influencer or celebrity gets “cancelled” on the internet for old tweets that they had posted years ago, or for a controversial statement made in a recent interview or YouTube video. The act of “cancelling” a public figure is now associated with public shaming and barring their career or platform from further thriving after being exposed for something considered generally problematic, like using certain slurs or promoting misogyny. Even up until half a decade ago, however, the phrase didn’t have the ominous meaning it has today.

In the early to mid 2010s, the term “cancel” was used on social media sites like Twitter mainly to hyperbolize a teasing statement towards a public figure after saying or doing something that was considered cringey or disapproving. But as more social media influencers moved their careers to these online platforms and larger audiences started to form around internet drama that targeted these figures, collective public shaming slowly became a regular occurrence in all corners of the internet. Sure, the practice definitely calls out certain public figures who may seem perfect in the eyes of the internet, but is actually misogynistic, racist, homophobic, ableist, or more. People who advocate against those mindsets should be given a bigger platform than those who do. Has cancel culture, however, recently reached a point where people use it as an excuse to pick and choose certain figures to harass online?

As the summer of 2019 rolled around, a scandal involving multiple popular YouTubers was revealed to the public and broke the internet. Tati Westbrook, a 38 year old American internet personality, uploaded a lengthy video on YouTube targeting James Charles, another prominent beauty YouTuber, and exposed many concerning incidents he allegedly instigated. The video was met with shock, confusion, and mostly support, with masses on the internet rushing to support Tati and cancel James in what became a huge internet battle between her and James Charles. Within a month, James Charles had lost many of his friends, millions of followers, and various business opportunities because of the allegations made against him in the initial video. For the



next year, James Charles would slowly rise back to prominence as Tati's claims were mostly proven false and people on the internet slowly erased traces of their eagerness to completely cancel James Charles' career and platform the past summer. Cancel culture, if represented adamantly enough, could be enough to ruin a young person's life; yet some people don't take its negative impact on mental health or overall online environment seriously enough.



If we continue to fuel cancel culture, which seems to have no visible signs of slowing down

in the near future, people need to become more aware of some its consequences and implications, as well as learning to not pick and choose between the popular and already disliked figures, which is only counterproductive in its rooted purpose. If we are to continue to act of "cancelling" people, it should be aimed to educating these public figures, not rushing to immediately ruin the rest of their lives.

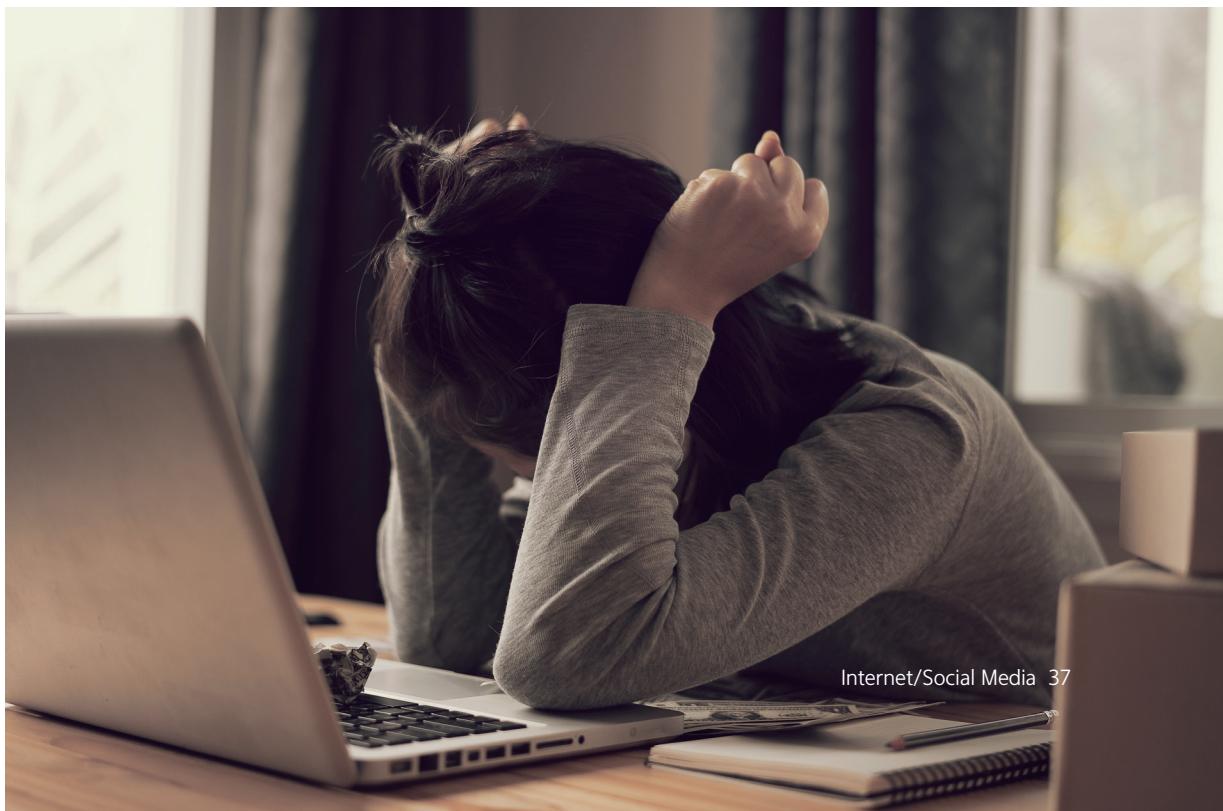
Katherine Lee
Seoul International School, 11

The Cost of Swiping Right

By Rachel Lee

Seoul International School

Whenever I log into Facebook, my timeline is inundated with myriad posts about Korean soap opera SKY Castle. The TV show, centered around four mothers who will go to the ends of Earth to ensure their children's entrance to Korea's top universities, has received national acclaim for its poignant reflection of Korea's obsession with educational background. Although the show has dramatized the extremity of Korea's fixation on schooling for the sake of ratings, the truth is that Koreans have incorporated an unofficial social caste into almost all aspects of every day life--including dating. With countless Korean dating apps that filter out all but the top 1% in academia, it's difficult for the less gifted to thrive in not only the workplace but also their personal lives. But in a country infamous for high suicide rates and academic stigma, should incorporating discrimination based on education into our love lives truly be allowed? In the U.S, many



turn to dating apps to meet people outside of their comfort zones. But in South Korea, dating apps catered to finding matches of certain caliber or prestige are increasingly becoming the norm. For example, popular dating app SKY People only allows males who have studied at top universities or work at major conglomerates to use its services (Kim). Although supporters claim that such requirements add credibility and safety to its services, the app's critics have blasted it for being elitist and discriminatory (Kim). And these opponents have valid points. South Korea has enough problems with its education system; young children are taught from birth that their futures depend on what university they enter. If Korean society is to make the chance at love depend on a stellar education background, such obsession with prestige will further detrimentally affect a growing population of young adults. Although supporters of Lee 2 exclusive dating apps argue that engaging with only those from a similar upbringing encourages safer and healthier interactions, various studies have proven that socio-economic diversity helps eliminate prejudice and increase civic engagement (National Coalition on Student Diversity). Western dating apps such as OkCupid or Coffee Meets Bagel have helped people find love and sexual freedom and widen their social circles (Bromwich). Although many Korean dating apps also pursue helping individuals rediscover themselves through forms of intimacy, others are contributing to the unhealthy classism entrenched in Korean society. As Korea is becoming increasingly self-aware of its obsession with college and status, it has become necessary to eliminate social requirements placed by dating apps to relieve stress in an already academically pressuring environment. Only by legally limiting the academic and classist requirements set by dating apps will South Korea be able to progress as a more inclusive community.

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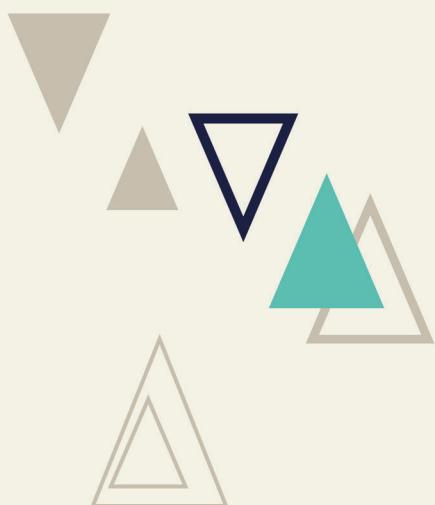
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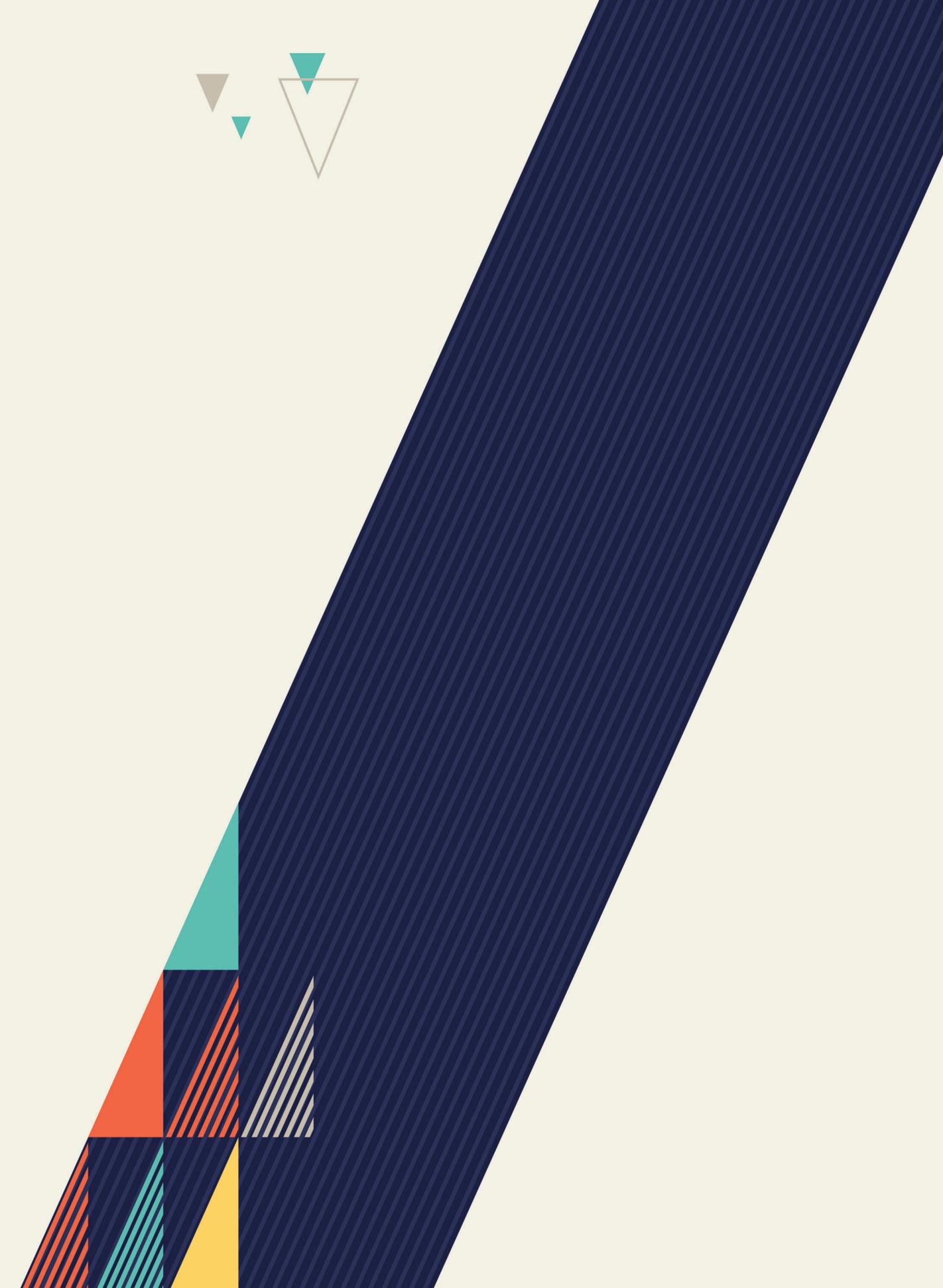


03

History/Tradition

- The Profound Effect of the Cold War on American Culture
- How did the renaissance affect culture?
- How did different compromises affect culture in the United States of America?
- The Indian Caste Culture and Why the Caste System Should be Banned





The Profound Effect of the Cold War on American Culture

*By Nancy Koo
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The Cold War became a dominant influence on many aspects of American society for much of the second half of the 20th century. It escalated due to antagonist values between the United States, representing capitalism and democracy, and the Soviet Union, representing communism and authoritarianism. Being the two dominant world powers after WWII, disagreement between the United States and Soviet Union spreaded into a global conflict. The Korean and Vietnam Wars are important examples of military intervention by the United States in order to stop communist expansion. However, these wars did not have the profound impact on the cultural, political, and economic aspects as the Cold War had.

In literature, dystopian themes were prevalent. Books such as the Manchurian Candidate and The Fourth Protocol reflected fears of Soviet takeover, while books like 1984 and Alas, Babylon explored what Soviet domination might actually look like. Also, books were not bright and cheery like they had been before the civil war and frequently reflected the harsh past and history of the civil war, which led to the increase in dystopian books and also educated many people about the civil war. These books were mostly biased, which may have led to the common notion,



still carried on today, that the United States did nothing wrong and that it was all because of the Soviet Union.

Television, a new medium, also reflected people's preoccupation with the U.S. Shows like I Spy, Danger Man, Mission: Impossible and I Led Three Lives were all spy dramas, many with Soviet characters. Some shows even made fun of the tension, such as Get Smart and The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle. Many movies came out

that dealt with the themes of nuclear

apocalypse. Doctor Strangelove, Fail-Safe and WarGames all reflected the ever-pervasive fear of nuclear destruction. James Bond films were famous for the action and violence included in the movie as it also reflected the violence during the civil war. These films are still loved until today and the main theme or purpose of these movies were to portray the violence during the civil war, which alerted a large audience about the civil war.

The Cold War was an important





influence on almost all aspects of American society. Cultural antagonism between the United States and Soviet Union had both positive and negative repercussions. Mutual fear between the two countries led to political confrontations; some of which nearly led to world war. Differing economic philosophies

resulted in opposing claims of what freedom meant, and economic competition led to massive military spending by both countries. Because of its broad influence, the Cold War was the defining event of the second half of the 20th century and impacted, to varying extents, almost all American foreign and domestic policy decisions.

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How did the renaissance affect culture?

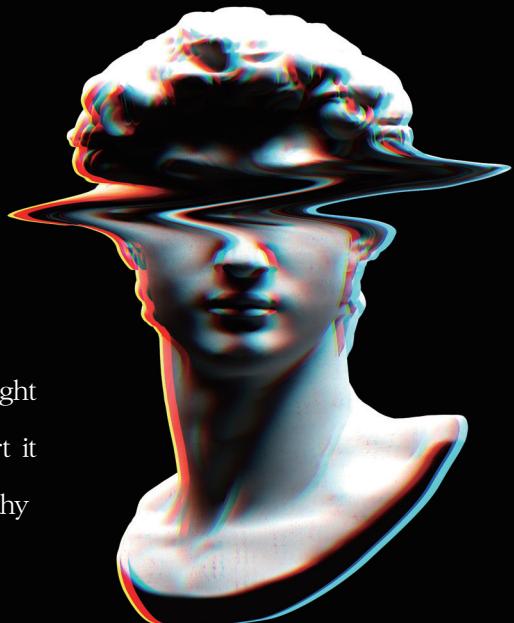
By Andrew Nam

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History

The renaissance was a time period lasting around 300 years from the start of the 14th century to around the 17th century. During this time a variety of cultures rose and still remain to this day. This time period took place in Europe when there wasn't a massive empire that was ruling the entirety of the continent. The renaissance was a key component to world history as this time introduced new paintings and artworks the world still adores until this day. While period 3, the middle ages, mainly focused on living and the way to eat and survive, the renaissance was centered around artworks and paintings. This act was portrayable as citizens were more wealthy than ever, causing these people to afford leisure and to take time off of survival. There were many speculations to why the renaissance rose and fell. The main reason to why it rose was the cultural flourishing in Italy, the cause that it fell was the everlasting wars in the Italian peninsula, resulting in the age of enlightenment.

To begin with, the renaissance was brought to light for many different reasons. To start it off, Italy was one of (if not the most) wealthy



countries in Europe, making them capable of many things that other countries could not afford. The family who produced the renaissance in Italy was the Medici family. The house of Medici was a family during the first half of the 15th century. They were an Italian family that gained their wealth from banking and other economics-related activities. Due to their immense property and resources, they were also a national powerhouse in politics. This affluence fueled the Medici family to afford leisure such as painting and drawings, which impacted the whole of Italy. The word "renaissance" meant rebirth so this period rebirthed Europe as a whole. Although the Italians started this period, it was the french who made this time so valuable to world history. A short French by the name of "Louis the XIV" made an enormous influence during the renaissance. Louis the fourteenth built a palace just northwest of Paris, the name to this creation was "The palace of Versailles". This palace had everything, to amazing views, beautiful paintings, luxurious interiors and etc. The palace in Versailles marked the highest point to the time in the renaissance. These paintings still remain and, it plays a key part to what we know as French culture.

Additionally, there is always a downfall in the course of history. Although the renaissance revolutionized the world, it still had its flaws. The renaissance lasted for a solid 3 centuries starting from Italy and also ending in Italy. There were a variety of reasons for the demise of the Renaissance. The most well-known and correctly estimated reason to why the renaissance ended is because of the change in trade

routes due to the wars in the Italian Peninsula. By the end of the 15th century, there was a variety of wars ranging from civil



wars to conflict between countries.

The Spanish, German and French invaders were battling for the region on the coast of Italy. This war weakened many of firepower. Since the countries



countries due to the lack weakened financially and military-

wise, there was a clash of religions mainly between the Protestants and the Christians. The wars in Italy and other countries altered the trade routes resulting in the economic decline of many countries. In addition, it limited the amount of money that people could spend on paintings prompting in the lack of exchange between diverse cultures. All of these events spiraled downwards, and causing a "slippery slope effect" which inspired the Renaissance to mark an end to. By the early 17th century, the Renaissance had died out, giving way to the Age of Enlightenment.

The period lasting 300 years from the 1400s to the 1700s has made an unforgettable impact on history with vivid paintings, a change of cultures, and the sculptures. With influences from once in a generation type painters such as Leonardo Da Vinci, Michaelangelo, and Raphael, the renaissance was truly the time when paintings and artworks thrived. In addition, the impact that Louis the 14th created cannot be ignored. The renaissance also known as the "modern ages" made a mark on history, ending the middle ages and giving way to the age of enlightenment. All in all, the renaissance has made a statement in the world we live in today, and it's cultural impacts still live with us.

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How did different compromises affect culture in the United States of America?

By Andrew Nam

Seoul International School

History

The American compromise brought together the 13 different colonies into one. Every colony had differences in culture, ethnicity, and much more. These 13 different colonies had to compromise to satisfy every single colony to become 1 country. 13 different colonies had to compromise in order for them to become a country. Even Though the 13 different states were compromised. No colony was 100% happy. What were the different compromises and how did the different compromises affect culture in the different states?

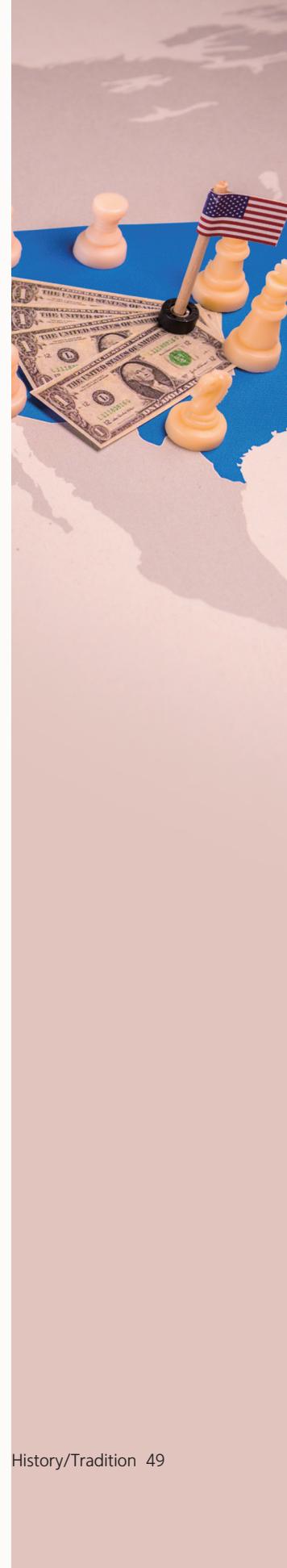
The compromise they reached would count each slave as 3/5 of a person. Neither the North nor South fully was benefited this way because, as slaves were counted in part toward the population. Once it was decided that representation in the House of Representatives was to be based on population, delegates from Northern and Southern states saw another issue. Which was how slaves should be counted. The Three-Fifths Compromise was the process for states to count slaves as part of the population



in order to determine representation and taxation for the federal government. The implementation of this compromise affected the American culture in that people's perception of slaves changed.

The Commerce Compromise was an issue over whether congress could allow trade, Northern States said they could, The Southern States said they couldn't, The outcome was that Congress could regulate trade, No export tax, and No limit on the slave trade for 20 years. This compromise was beneficial to the north and the south. Because for the first 20 years It would benefit the Southern States. And after 20 years It would benefit the Northern states. This compromise affected the culture in that trade in the United States flourished after this incident.

The slave trade compromise was an agreement during the Constitutional Convention of 1787 protecting the interests of slaveholders by forbidding Congress the power to tax the export of goods from any state, and, for 20 years, the power to act on the slave trade. The free states of the North wanted Congress to have the power to regulate commerce. The states in the North wanted Congress to have the power to regulate commerce. But the states in the South opposed this power because they feared Congress would use it to end the slave trade. This compromise changed the culture in that slaves were under the total control of their owners and that there was no freedom for slaves.





Overall, the different compromises established in the United States changed the culture in a variety of ways. The American government had to implement rules, and every colony had to be reasonably happy in order to make the country function. The smaller states were afraid that the president of the whole country would only focus on the big states. For example, Delaware had significantly less power than New York. This was because they had a smaller land and a weaker economy, and smaller colonies have significantly less power compared to big colonies. Each representative from every 13 colonies met and created new laws that acted as an overall law.

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The Indian Caste Culture and

Why the Caste System Should be Banned

By Andrew Kim
Seoul International School

A Hindu believes in a pathway in order to reach Heaven, or Brahman (which is a Universal Soul and often just translated as God, or Heaven. A Hindu Caste system persuades the Hindus that the pathway to reach Brahman is from hard work and dedication. The Caste system is the hereditary classes of people that are determined by birth. A person's caste level is fixed for life. This system guides a Hindus life and it forms it so the person can live a fulfilling life with no regrets. This system is also the pathway for Hindus that lead them to Brahman.

Within the very sophisticated and complex system, there are four different levels. However, there is one rank that is considered so low and "polluted" that it is not part of the system. These people are called the Dalits, often referred to as the "untouchables" in traditional Hindu society, these people are not part of the caste system. They are outcasts, whose souls are considered to be "polluted." The fourth highest level includes the Shudras, composed of skilled service workers, craftspeople, and laborers. The third



highest are the Vaishyas, composed of merchants and landowners. This is the owner class. The second highest, Kshatriyas, a member of the warrior class of human beings. Most of the rulers and kings are from this class. Then the highest of the system, the Brahmins, a member of the preaching and praying class of humans. The highest group in Hindu caste, they are called upon to perform rituals.

The caste system is divided by using measurements known as karma. Karma determines the achievements that need to be reached by the human within their lifetime. Although the caste system makes a nicely organized society, it actually results in a discriminatory hierarchy. This system needs to be banned immediately because this is stagnating India's growth in terms of young and intelligent people. Only those above Dalits have a chance of making a good school, and the Dalits barely have a chance of getting in. There these students are ignored and bullied even by the teacher because they fear the Dalit.

When any one of these people die, their Atman, which is the soul, doesn't die. Through reincarnation, an atman can be moved to another body. The goal of every Hindu is for the atman to eventually join with the Universal Soul, Brahman. Reincarnation is when a person is born, lives, dies, and is reborn again many times. Souls are reborn many times until they are pure enough to be with the creator,





Brahman. This process is called Moksha. Moksha is when the soul becomes one with Brahman and when the soul is pure. One's atman can be moved to another body and therefore can be reincarnated in order to be promoted to a higher or lower level in the system. In order for this to happen, it depends on one's completion of their dharma. Dharma is a code of behavior or a set of moral and ethical rules that govern the conduct of each social class.

Devotion to work and family is included. Each Caste has a different set of rules to live by. If an individual fulfills their dharma, that means they will have good Karma, which is a Report Card on one's life. When a Hindu dies, Karma is the measure of how well a person performed his/her Dharma. Upon rebirth, a person's position in the Caste System is determined by Karma.

Throughout several cumbersome steps and repeated times of reincarnation, the soul joins with the Brahman. They can not be reincarnated anymore, as their soul is pure. This is the official end of a Hindu's life. With will and patience in the system, a Dalit, Shudra, Vaishya, Kshatriya, or Brahmin can get great karma each lifetime, and join their Atman with the Hindu heaven, Brahman.

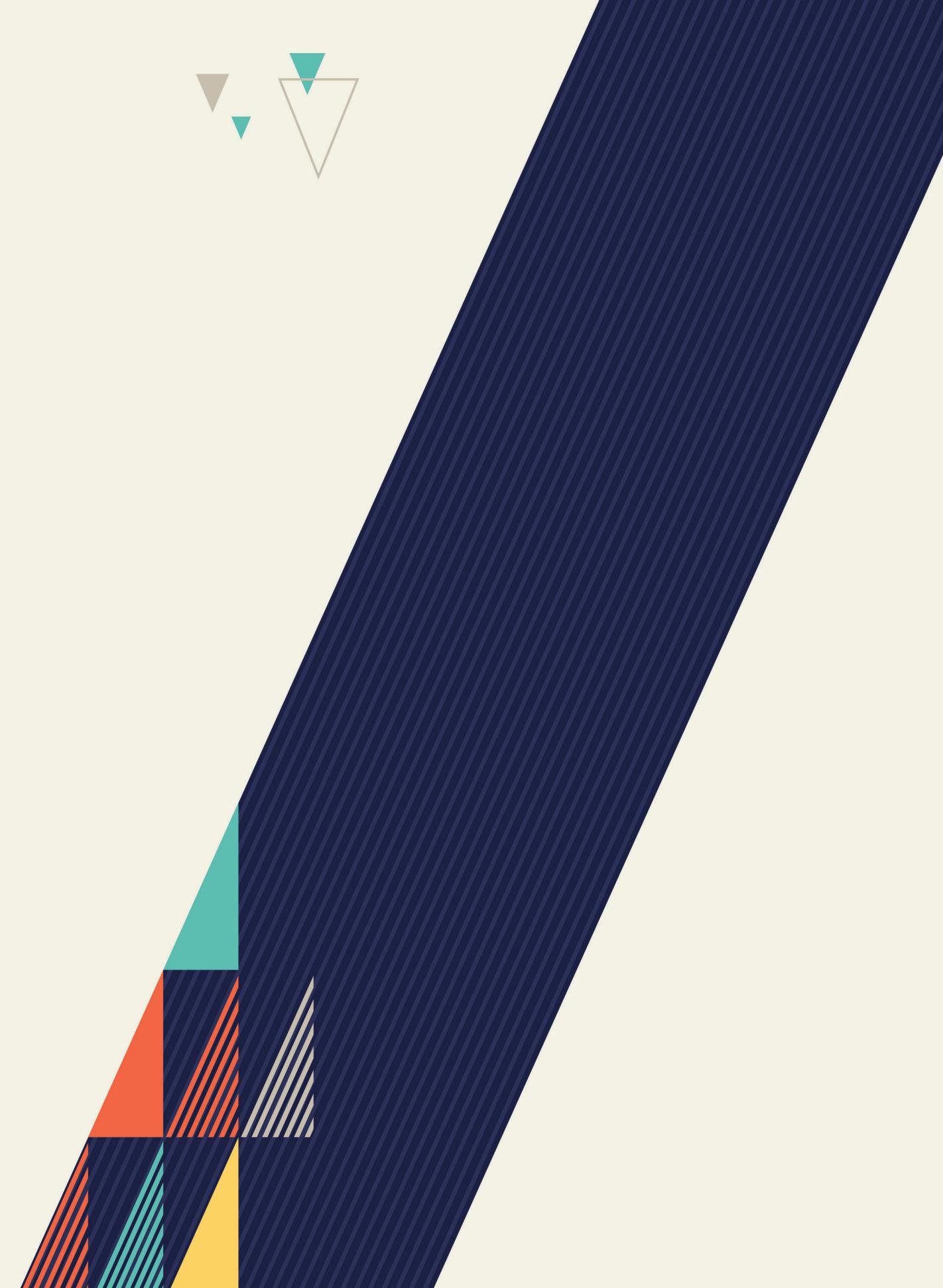
Andrew Kim
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04

Language

- The Profound Effect of Culture on Language
- Relation between language and culture





The Profound Effect of Culture on Language

By Nancy Koo
Seoul International School

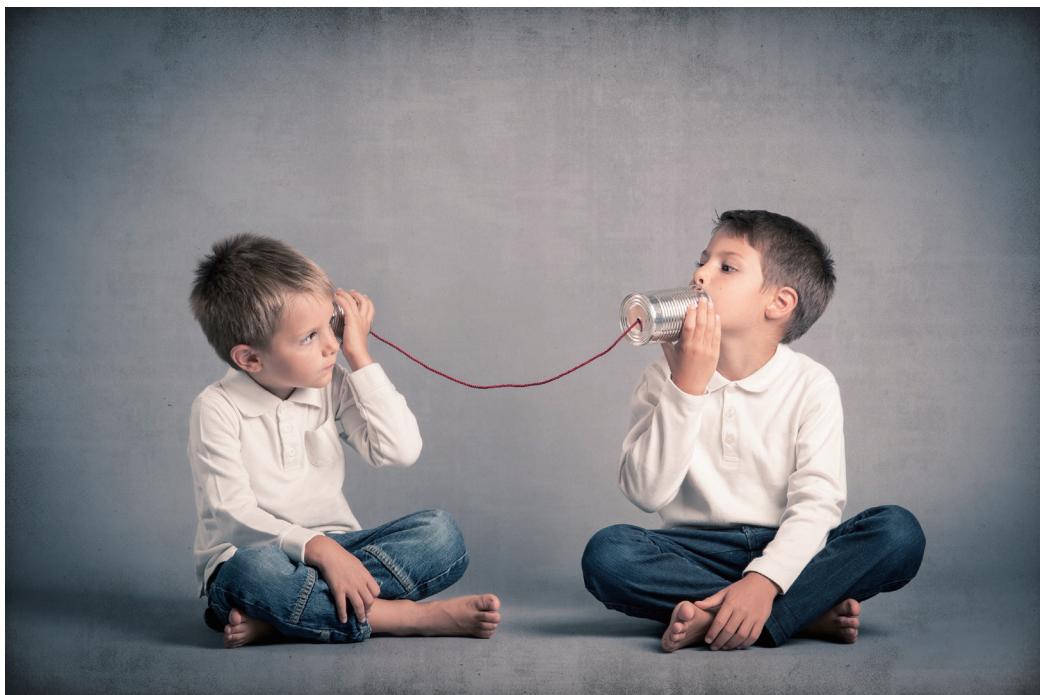
According to the dictionary, language refers to the method of human communication, either spoken or written, consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way and



an unique system of communication used by a particular country or community. It may seem like language is only a trivial part of our lives; however, language is much more than just a means of communication. Shaped by the unique and distinctive culture of the country, one word or a phrase can present different meanings to different people. It may be difficult for a foreigner to understand the phrase 'break a leg', but it is a phrase that is commonly used in the United States and Americans would have no problem understanding it.

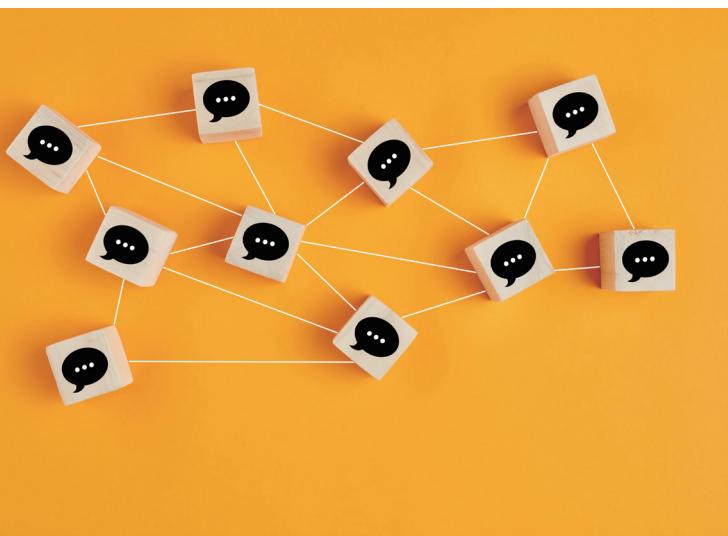
Firstly, culture shapes the nuance of the language and communication of a country and a group of people. As culture is something rooted deeply in the system of a country, so it affects all aspects, especially the language of a particular country. The

Japanese language, for instance, is a conformist language. What I mean is that people will tend to think alike when they speak Japanese. A natural tendency is to avoid confrontations when people speak Japanese. This is how the language and its culture will work. However, English is an antagonistic language. People will speak the way they feel, which is valued. Conflicts may naturally occur in the English environment, unlike in the Japanese environment. Even though these two countries are similar in their economic and political strength, the culture of the respective countries form two completely different moods in the countries despite the numerous similarities.



Secondly, as mentioned before, cultural differences have a prominent effect on the way in which people understand certain phrases or words. In language, there are certain phrases or words that only natives can understand as the word implies situations or cultural aspects that require basic knowledge regarding the country's

culture and history. For example, in the United States, there is a saying ‘it is a piece of cake’ and contextually it means that the task one needs to complete is easy and simple. However, if a foreigner, such as a Korean reads this saying, he or she would be confused as there is no context and it does not make much sense when it is translated directly. Also, on the other hand, there is a saying in Korea that means the same thing as ‘a piece of cake’, but it is directly translated into ‘eating rice cake while laying down’. These sayings both have exactly the same meaning, but they are two completely different sayings. This shows that the differences in the two sayings is not the meaning itself but the cultural differences.



In conclusion, although language and culture may seem to have a weak relationship, they have a strong bond and are greatly influenced by each other. By understanding the culture of a country, it makes it noticeably easier to understand the language and phrases that are unique to the particular country. Also, by

learning a foreign language, one can learn and understand the cultural environment of the country and can learn to respect cultures of different countries.

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Relation between language and culture

By Eric Yoon

Thornhill Secondary School



Culture and Language have an infinite relationship between them. It is one of the main arguments of contention between linguists and culture scientists. Interestingly, linguists argue that language has a greater influence on culture, while culture scientists say that culture has a greater effect on language. From this dispute, we see that culture and language interact with each other. Some experts say, “Without accessing one’s language, you cannot understand its culture”. On the other hand, when one learns other languages, they are also interacting with that culture.



When learning a new language, we learn the word arrangements such as the alphabet, and the rules of grammar. However, a closer look at the language rules and structure describes the customs and behaviours of a particular society. That is why it is important to take note of the details when learning a new language because it is intertwined with its culture. For example, if we study and analyze Korean, we are able to find the specific characteristics of Korea. In Korean, there is an honorific form of the

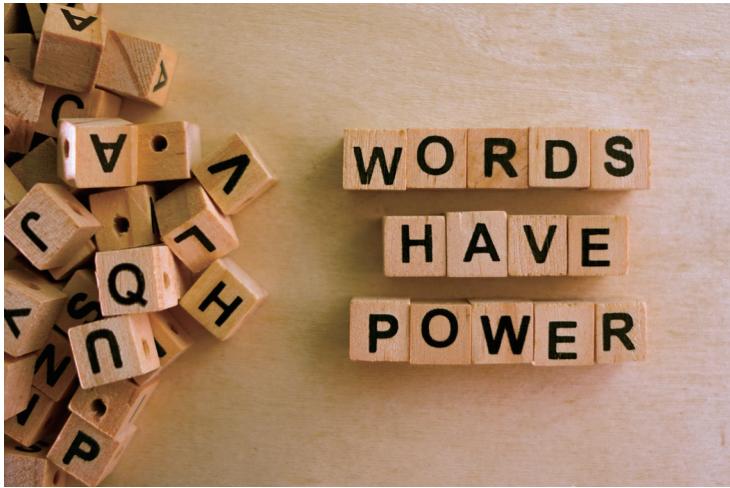
language which is a component that is not easily found in other languages. This displays the vertical (hierarchal) human relation Korean culture. Also, blood relations are very important in Korea society. As a result, there are various terms for different relatives and they are organized very specifically. Additionally, even looking at words that are related to animals or plants can allow one to get to know Korean cuisine which is a staple part of its culture. Analyzing Korean again, there are various vocabularies about

plants that have been segmented only in Korea. This explains that Korean diet culture has been developed centering on plants.



Paralanguage is another example that shows how language and culture are closely related to each other. Paralanguage is a component of communication by speech, and one of the terms which can describe human communication. For instance, intonation, pitch and speed of speaking, gesture, and facial expression. These communication skills are learned by observation and being exposed in an environment from the specific culture. Therefore, depending on a specific society, it is inevitable to learn changing voice or tone, using gestures, and other factors during conversation. Communicating with people of different cultures can cause misunderstandings due to the differences in the paralanguage.

Regardless of which side of the argument is correct, we can conclude that they have an important relationship that affects our world. Language is a medium that helps to



convey the culture that has been developed over the centuries from one generation to the next. That is why today we can have diverse cultures and live in a world where we coexist with each

other, and our role is to continue to share language and culture with the members of society for the generations to come.

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