Topic: Ethnic Identity

- It used to be that when minorities, such as Mexicans, immigrated to the United states they would for the most part would try to assimilate to the American customs and traditions. Americanization was and has always been a dominant idea to first generation-immigrants and minorities. Nowadays the idea of multiculturalism seems to be as desirable for second generations. With multiculturalism Mexican Americans now value their roots and connect more to their origins, helping them shape their identity (Jiménez, 103).

- Second-generation immigrants and Mexican Americans learn practices and have experiences from first-generation immigrants, such as family members. These interactions help shape their ethnic identities. It is more common to come across these practices in a community that has a large Mexican immigrant population. These interactions occur throughout the community more often and in broader areas. They expand ethnic exposure to second generations that help keep their ethnicity identity closer (Jiménez, 104).
• Interethnic couples serve very important in the identities of their children. It is more common for these couples to share more socioeconomic elements than ethnic elements. However, this gives the children more origins to choose from and therefore becoming an important part in representing his or her identity (Jiménez, 114).

Assessment:

Jiménez’s book focuses on the importance of integrating culture into the community. His themes surround the idea of multiculturalism. He discusses every aspect of it from where it comes from and how it develops to how it affects families, generations and communities. These multicultural interactions, especially in a community, play a big role in shaping the identities of many individuals nowadays. His arguments are not necessarily one sided but he does lean more towards the positive effects multicultural experiences have on self-identity.

The author’s strengths are where he supports his ideas with examples. His weaknesses are where he fails to support these ideas with more than one or several examples. His arguments and topics mostly surround one general example and he goes from there. However he is very thorough with these examples. Interethnic couples help broaden their child’s identity is an example he uses. He goes onto that idea for too long and fails to generate more examples like this. If more examples were given there would be a better chance of connecting these ideas directly to some of the issues dealt with in the narratives.