Key Words: immigrant refugees, acculturation, language, identity, immigrant children


Topic: Refugees Adolescents Adjustment to a new Culture

- Studies in America done by Lazarevic, Wiley, and Pleck have shown the difficult process of immigrant Serbian refugees in the United States. They state that although parents seemed to have a hard time leaving their countries and coming to a whole new culture, they seemed to have a strong feeling of their identity and what their culture is, so they still embraced their beliefs, customs and language. On the other hand, their children had a harder time adapting because they wanted to belong to the host country in which they would begin to grow and try to find a better sense of their identity. (Lazarevic, Wiley, Pleck, Introduction)

- These studies have also shown that children from immigrant families have developed low self-esteem. There were studies done to Chinese American children and Mexican American children in their process of acculturation in America and found that many of
them developed depression and could mean that it might be a result from their acculturation gap. (Lazarevic, Wiley, Pleck, 223)

Assessment:

Lazarevic, Wiley, and Peck discuss the results of studies done to Serbian Refugees’ kids and discuss how they differ from other immigrant children; they are able to point out the main problems of immigrant children and how they are more likely to feel the need to find their own identity. This particular source explains very well the hardships that immigrant children go through when they are encountered between two different cultures; it also shares that studies have found in cases where immigrant children have struggled to cope in a new culture. In these results they have found that children often develop depression and low self-esteem.

Overall, this document offers enough information to educate us about the difficult process immigrant children have to go face in order to become part of a new culture and retain some of their original culture in order to shape their own identity.