

Micro-Paper 30: *Identity*

Sara Uribe

Student at Licenciatura Inglés-Español, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, Sede Central Medellín
LSLP Student Researcher

Defining the Term

Identity refers to how people build themselves as human beings as part of a society, in a specific time and space. That means creating new little worlds from a variety of realities. This term makes reference to people's capacity for interacting with other cultures, religions, and thoughts to extract, out of those big aspects, some things they like for adding to their identification system.

In this way, identity has to do with the different relationship that people are able to establish with the world. Identity is defined depending on the information that people have received from it through life. Despite living in the same world, individuals construct reality in very different ways. Thus, all the interactions people make, represent, in certain way, mental configurations those motivate how people act in specific situations or how they could understand those kinds of interactions.

Currently, and thanks to globalization, one can see that people are discovering other ways of thinking, which allows to consider the creation of multicultural identities. In other words, it is not just an identity created from one point of view but for multiple ones, which that helps, at the same time, to strength the society dynamics in sense of, increasingly, people are recognizing difference and consider the other's opinion as a valid one.

Connecting it to LSLP

At LSLP, we work on the language interactions from multiple dimensions, as is the case (so far) of our interest in physical and cultural routes. From this point, identity is highly related to our project because once it emerges, one of the best avenues of expression is through language. So, this identity expression has emerged, for instance, in our cultural routes

(fashion, tattoo, music and graffiti), which lets us to think about the variety of manifestations people use to express the things that they feel most identified with. Thus, identity provides us with an overview of the society dynamics around the language interaction and how other concepts are appearing through the exercise of doing research.

Also, this concept helps us, in terms of research, to recognize some patterns that people establish related to people's use of language to express their beliefs, which lead us to explore more concepts connected to this particular phenomenon.

Expanding Second Language Research

To expand our research, identity has a potential meaning in our work, as this concept is one of the bases of cultural fields. This way, we can think more about how those language interactions occur in terms of identification systems and mental structure configurations. Thus, without forgetting our main goal (i.e. language itself), we can establish other kinds of associations between the way of expression (language) and the reasons why those expressions exist (identity).

Also, it would be interesting to explore the idea of social identity. This idea would allow us, as languages researchers, to understand the real impact of creating new identities and how this allows us to establish expression patterns focused on, in this case, our cultural routes.

References

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