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The Illusion of the American dream between reality and myth: can it lead to a second-hand identity crisis

Case study : the film Minari

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CANDIDATE: **SUPERVISOR:**

Mr. Zeroual Said **Pr.N. DAGHBOUCHE**

Board of Examiners

Supervisor: Pr.N. DAGHBOUCHE

External Examiner: Dr, Mekhaznia Wafaa

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DEDICATION

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ABSTRACT

this research presents an investigation about the American dream, if it is a reality or a myth, and to show the unraveled side of the ideology, also how can media cause a second-hand transfer to immigration and its role in drawing and glorifying the concept of the American dream, and show how the media has the power to change and influence one's personality by facing the American culture indirectly and cause him or her an identity crisis. This paper aims to raise awareness to EFL learners about the circle of illusion that the American dream puts people into, and break the perfect image that the media created in movies, social media …, and revile the mask of the perfect concept of the American dream and the American principals. Using a psychoanalysis of the movie "MINARI" to highlight the effect of the American dream on people's lives, and how it is possible could be a reason why some people feel challenged by American culture and how it is possible can cause them an identity crisis. Meeting with a questionnaire with the students of Abbes laghrour university and its analysis and foundlings.

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GENERAL INTRODUCTHION

Everyone has a dream and a goal to achieve no matter what, and everyone 's dream differs but they all want prosperity, opportunity, equality and they would work hard to achieve a wealthy and a better life. America gave a chance to people to achieve their dream by creating the "American dream" that gave them hope and lights up their souls. The term American dream was first coined by the American writer James Thruslow Adams in his book "the epic of America", it can be defined by the belief that anyone, regardless of his or her origins orwhat class they were born into have the opportunity to attain and achieve their dream by working hard. America also opened its doors to immigrants who have crossed the United States border; left everything behind their back their families, and maybe even their jobsand chose to follow their dreams. however, People believed what media draw for them about the American dream in books, screens, social media…, in which they faced a new culture indirectly without knowing the real colors and the other faces of this ideology. By facing a new culture which is different from the mother people can change their way of thinking and personality to fit with the new culture and it could cause them an identity crisis.

1. Statement of the problem:

The American dream is a well-known ideology that created a numerus opinion about its concept between people and researchers around the world, the question was if this ideology is a reality or a myth? And is the American dream achievable for everyone or just for the lucky ones? And how media portrayed the American dream and how it plays a role in changing and influencing one's personality and cause him or her and identity crisis?

2. Aims and objectives:

This research is mainly aiming to raise awareness about the concept of the American dream reveal the mask of the perfect image of this ideology that the media created and draw it in different platforms (screens, movies, books, social media), and the role it plays in making people run into a circle of illusion and cause them an identity crisis. Via analyzing a movie and a student's questionnaire, the two will highlight the illusion of the American dream between reality and a myth and the role of media as a second-hand transfer to immigration and causing an identity crisis.

3. Hypothesis of the study:

This research is based on the following hypothesis that shall be confirmed or rejected by the end of this research:

If the media romanticized the concept of the American dream and did not show the downsides of the ideology, it could play a role in influencing one's personality and way of thinking and causehim or her an identity crisis, by facing a new culture indirectly.

4. Signifiance of the study :

The significance of study lays in its role to help raise awareness about the unpopular side of the American dream, and how media couldinfluence one's personality and identity. This study made to show EFL learners that what the media draws about the American dream is not always true and show them the real colors of the story.

5. Limitation of the study :

The findings of this study have to be seen in light of some limitations.This study One limitation that faced this research is that the Algerian culture is not very accepting of dreams and ambitions therefore no participants agreed to have an interview even when promised with anonymity. There weren't any American movies that portrayed the American dream in bad way so a Korean movie was used instead

6. Research methodology:

a. Research Approach and Design:

In a research paper there are three main research approaches which are: quantitative, qualitative, and mixed method in which the researchers mix between quantitative and qualitative approaches.Qualitative research is an inquiry that explores the meaning of a social or human problem. It involves gathering data and various procedures to examine the meaning of the data.Quantitative approaches are focused on examining the relationships among various variable groups. It can be done on instruments such as diaries and statistical procedures. The goal is to find strong evidence that supports or debunks objective theories. Like qualitative researchers, quantitative researchers have assumptions about the nature and mechanics of tests.In Our study we have adopted a mixed method, according to John W. Creswell, J. David Creswell"Mixed methods research is an approach to inquiry involving collecting both quantitative and qualitative data, integrating the two forms of data, and using distinct designs that may involve philosophical assumptions and theoretical frameworks. The core assumption of this form of inquiry is that the integration of qualitative and quantitative data yields additional insight beyond the

information provided by either the quantitative or qualitative data alone." (John W. Creswell, J. David Creswell. P,49). Mixed method was the most suitable method in this study, we have adopted a descriptive survey design in which Polit &Hungler stated that "a survey obtainsinformation from a sample of people by means of self-report, that is, the people respond to aseries of questions posed by the investigator" (Polit & Hungler,1993p.148). meeting with a movie analysis

b. DATA ANALYSIS:

1. Population:

A population is a group of people whose characteristics or nations are different from one another. In statistical terms, a population is a pool of individuals whose statistical sample was collected."A population is described as a group of individuals who possess specific characteristicsand from which a sample is drawn to determine the parameters or characteristics" (Creswell &Plano, 2007, p.112)

The target population for this study included EFL students from Abbes Laghrouruniversity in Khenchela, the researcher narrowed down the population to second-year EnglishMaster degree students 34 of the students were selected randomly to answer the questionnaire.

2. Sampling :

A sample is a small set of data that is collected by a researcher from a larger population. It's usually used to identify potential issues or trends in a larger group. The statistical sample allows researchers to collect valuable data on a large population. It provides them with valuable information on the various factors that affect the population."Sampling is the process of se-

lecting a few (a sample) from a bigger group (the sampling population) to become the basis for estimating or predicting the prevalence of an unknown piece of information, situation or outcome regarding the bigger group. A sample is a subgroup of the population you are interested in".(Kumar, p.177). in our study, the sample was randomly selected from second-year master students of university of Khenchela,the 34 participants were supposed to answer an online questionnaire.The Simple Random Sampling technique was used to sample the participants for the study. This method ensured that the target population had equal chance to be picked.However, the second sampling material of this study is the analysis of the movie "MINARI", the genre of the movie is drama. The movie is about a Korean family living in America and trying to achieve their American dream

c. DESCRIPTION OF THE QUESTIONAIRE:

In this study the questionaire is designed as a second data collection tool. Regarding the participen't opinons about the concept of the American dream and how can the desire to achieve it can change one's personality, and how media is a second hand transfer to immigration, and how it can cause an identity crisis. However the questionaire is consists of 14 question items, the questinaire was designed in a logical order and structred using a different types of questions including: closed-ended questions thatallows respondents' to pick one answer or more, and the second type of question used in this questionaire is open-ended questions which allows the participents to be more free at using their own words to give their opinions and explanations, and the third type of questions is scale question where the participent choos his or her answers according to the scale given to them. Therefor the questionaire is devided into three sections, section one is about the respondents background

information, section two is about the participents opinions about the american dream , section three is about the repondents opinion about the if the media could change one's personality and cause him or her an identity crisis.

For the movie analysis we have adopted the american school of semiotics. Semiotics can be defined as, explores how humans use and interpret signs and symbols to communicate, to learn, and to develop knowledge, in other words is the study of signs and their use in society. It was first defined by Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure he stated."the life of signs within society.". However the term was also used by the english phlosopher John Locke in the 17th century,The idea of semiotics emerged only in the 19th and early 20th centuries following the independent work of French philosopher Saussureand of the American philosopher Charles Sanders Peirce.As for language, Saussure treated it as a sign-system. He distinguished the signifier and the signified, and he also distinguished parole from langue. The signifierwhich in language is a set of speech sounds or marks on a page, and the signified is the concept that a signifier refers to,or according to Saussurean underlying meaning associated with the signifier. The analysis of the movie "MINARI" was based on the signifier and signified.

CHAPTER ONE: THE AMERICAN DREAM AND IDENTITY CRISIS

INTRODUCTION*:*

The American dream is the motive that pushes people to apply to the green card a year after the other, regardless of being repeatedly rejected each time. This is all done just to hope-fullyimmigrate and establish a better, fancier, and more comfortable life, sometimes even for a closer version to their perception of what a life should be like. This is also the main reason behind illegal immigration and the phenomena of aliens that the United States is working hard to fight against and stop, as its government states.

The American dream can be defined as the belief that anyone can draw their own path to achieve success and prosperity through hard work, regardless of where they came from (ethnicity /race), their social class, their biological sex, and even their religious and political beliefs as well as what they identify as. As everyone can dream and can try to make their dream a concrete reality.

> *"A dream of a social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position." (James Truslow Adams, The Epic of America).*

It is impossible to overlook the role of media in glorifying the concept of the American dream, influencing the world, and leading people to believe in its ideology being that your dream is worth sacrificing for and that no price is too high if you really want it and if you are willing to try hard enough to achieve it.

However, the American dream is not available to everyone, only the lucky 'few'. This realization shows the unseen and less known face of the American dream. After creating a generation that is obsessed with ideas such as idealism and living a perfect life, making them emphasize and worship the importance of materialism, in which we can say that this dream is a destructive illusion that makes people break under the onslaught of circumstances, throwing

them into a conflict with themselves, compromising their morals, principles, and even identity just to be able to achieve the fancy life dream. This can be spotted that in Natalia's Estrada article (29/09/2020) which discussed her experience of being immigrant chasing the American dream *"The battles were different when we got here. Sometimes we hide parts of who we are for self-preservation."* She added "*Sometimes we hide because it's how we survive"* (Natalia Estrada, 2020). This testimony if anything, it highlights and proves the hardships and sacrifices that people go through in hopes of achieving a dream that the realization of is not surely confirmed, which could result in many issues such as having an 'identity crises. Erikson conceptualized this term and explained it as 'eight stages of development'. Although it is not a clinical term, it refers to a challenging aspect of one's self that may affect one's sense of self, how they view themselves, and how they choose to express it and the elements that determine that.

1.1 WHAT IS THE AMERICAN DREAM?

If anyone is inquired about the meaning behind the concept of "The American Dream", the lion's share would respond and say that it is the American idea of a successful fancy life rewarded to a great amount of hard work or they would reintroduce the stereotypical idea of a big modern house with an expensive car. Most individuals would foster and simultaneously feed on the belief that America is the land of equality, liberty, and justice provided for all.

> *"I look forward confidently to the day when all who work for a living will be one with no thought to their separateness as Negroes, Jews, Italians or any other distinctions. This will be the day when we bring into full realization the American dream -- a dream yet unfulfilled. A dream of equality, of opportunity, of privilege,and property widely distributed. A dream of a land where men will not take necessities from the many to give luxuries to the few. A dream of a*

land where men will not argue that the color of a man's skin determines" (~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr).

America also allows immigrants to achieve their dream of living a better life and giving them the chance to prosper and flourish. Therefore, the American dream is of some sort the ethos, the faith, and the fuel that keeps the idea of attaining the personal version of a roofless success in a diverse society alive and going.

In such a version variables like race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientations, political orientations, and religious beliefs are seen as mere personal information that an individual might identify with, making them of little importance. Indicating that they should not result in having any privileges granted or withheld, making the climb mobility and the possibility of a better life is possible for everyone.

It can be spotted in the discussionthat the writer and historian Noam Chomsky took a part of in an interview regarding the American dream *"Part of the American Dream is class mobility. You're born poor. You work hard. You get rich. It was possible for a worker to get a decent job, buy a home, get a car, have his children go to school. It's all collapsed"*. The assumption that America is a capitalist nation which supports the individual Capitalism that offers a number of unnoticed benefits: it helps create an entrepreneurial spirit,it gets people motivated to become creative and birth new ideas which is seen a good thing. (Bernie Sanders)

The apple does not fall far from the tree, most of the time. However, that does not dictate that people are forced follow their father's profession, nor fate.So, to speak, everyone is free to choose their own path, create their own destiny, and all that the law does isto protect their rights to pursue their goals.

The American dream is believed to be achieved through sacrifice, risk taking, and hard work, rather than by chance and luck. Hence, each individual carries upon themselves

the responsibility of what to make with what they have in a land where everything is possible, as with great power comes a great responsibility.

1.2 HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF THE AMERICAN DREAM:

1929 is the year that held America's worst nightmare, the period is well known as 'the great depression' it lasted ten years so it did not end until about 1939. The nightmare was basically a worldwide economic downturn and it was the longest and the worst depressing period that the western world has ever experienced, sparking fundamental changes in economic institutions, which put 'wall street',a place in lower Manhattan, New York that includes the major financial markets,in a panic and eliminated millions of investors.

The stock market went into a state of chaos as it only went down till it crashed causing losses estimated around 30 billion dollars, which is ay over what the World War one cost, the investors were furious and the public was terrified. Many workers got their contracts terminated and become unemployed, most the banks across lost too much and went bankrupt. This state of despair swallowed everyone and created a domino effect on people's life.

It is possible to think that the idea of the American dream is new, but looking back on the American historycenturies ago,it is noticeable that idea of the American dream was there in an abstract way so even though people had knowledge about it and a desire to achieve it, it still had no concrete definition as it was bot conceptualized yet.

It was a faith that everyone should fight and work for a better day and a successful life, this faith was embodied in the story well known as a Disney movie: "Pocahontas", a romanticized, more socially acceptable version of the story where a native American young lady falls for a white English man as she saves his life as well as her homeland from intruders and they live happily ever after.

However, the reality depicts the English men were not there to just explore the land but to start a Tabaco business, planting it, harvesting it, and selling in it back in the United

Kingdom. Pocahontas did help the English men but she did not get any peace or happiness, instead they took more and more land and started war with her tribe, at some point she was imprisoned and converted to Christianity, even her name was changed to Rebecca, as she married the starter of the Tabaco business “John Rolfe”. Pocahontas was seen as a “noble savage” as the English wanted the natives to act like her; leave their culture and embrace the English one and just obey. Or as it is called modernly just to be “white washed”, this story and how it was altered is a realistic portrayal of the American dream.*"It is unfortunate that this sad story, which Euro-Americans should find embarrassing, Disney makes 'entertainment' and perpetuates a dishonest and self-serving myth at the expense of the Powhatan Nation," Chief Roy Crazy Horse writes (Insider, 2014).*

The English got what they wanted and used whatever means they could to achieve it. However, no equality was present and it was on the expense of others who held different variables like race, religious beliefs, and social class which are supposed to not be a factor that determines privilege, but these details are over looked by mainstream media which is controlled by those who have more power.

Another example of how such a pursuit happened and was portrayed differently is the biographical book and the Hollywood movie made about Jordan Belfort who is known by the infamous title ‘The Wolf of Wall Street’ where a criminal took advantage of the great depression to make a fortune that he does not feel guilty for in anyway or form

> *“You founded Stratton Oakmont at 27. What was the world like to you at that time?*
>
> *Smaller, a pre-internet age – you only knew what you saw on the news. I wasn’t born rich; I thought I should act the way characters in movies did. ‘Rich’ was Dallas, Dynasty, Gordon Gekko. It’s different to what kids value now – everything’s Instagram.*

Now they've made an immersive show of your story.

Like when I lost control of Stratton, the story has grown beyond me. I'm glad people can look at my life and find enjoyment and empowerment. I'm not involved in the show – I sold the rights and I wish them well –

Will you be going to Heaven or Hell?

I'm going to Heaven. I'm very proud of the way I live today. I think I've paid off my debt, but things probably don't work that way." (The Red Bulletin, 2019).

In 1931writer and historian James Truslow Adams published a book titled "The Epic of America" in which he pictured a detailed version of the birth and rise of the nation, to be the first who coined the ideals of the "American dream"often refers to the idea that success is possible saying:

"That dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement." Adams continued*, "It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position." (James Truslow Adams1931)*

For Adams, the American dream was about freedom and idealism more than it is "material prosperity""the economic motive was unquestioningly powerful, often dominant. In the minds of those who took part in the great migration [to America], but mixed with this was also frequently present the hope of a better and a freer life, a life in which peoplethought that they would develop as they willed... for themselves and their children (James Adam 1931).

The American dream was a fresh start for the Americans as it opened the doors for none Americans and provided them with hope after a dark depressing period.

> *"During the Great Depression, which I'm old enough to remember - and most of my family were unemployed working class - it was bad, much worse subjectively than today. But there was an expectation that things were going to get better. There was a real sense of hopefulness."(Noam Chomsky).*

Adams viewed the future of America on a bigger and a larger spectrum focusing on the full picture and not only paying attention to the next two years following the great depression. He pointed,*"We forgot to live, in the struggle to 'make a living'; how our education tended to become utilitarian or aimless; and how unfortunate traits only too notable today were developed."*Americans were faithful and believed in themselvesto have the power and ability required tobuild a peaceful and prosperous society after the deprivation and instability of the 'Great Depression' and World War II.

A part from that, the American dream principals are supposedly stated by the declaration of independence *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness".*So, the American dream was shaped by the claimed American values such as: granted freedom of the individuals, self-reliance, self-discipline, and self-sufficiency.

Even though the definition of the idealism surrounding the "American dream" has changed through time and wasdifferently defined from various points of view, it still has the same stereotypical concept of achieving a successful, richer, and happier life.

1.3 THE*AMERICAN DREAM'S PORTRAYAL IN MEDIA:*

Media is one of the most powerful, influential, and ideological state apparatuses that encourage and support individuals to think and picture things in certain ways and forms their relationship within the societies they are living in, and it is out of mind how media has the power to influence and offer a particular identity that people accept obviously and naturally,According to Althusser, individuals are interpellated from the day that they are born—and perhaps even before, since parents and others conceive of the role and identity that their child will assume.

The power of influence of media could be spotted through movies, songs, and especially social media like Instagram, Facebook, Twitter…etc.*"Today we live in a society in which spurious realities are manufactured by the media, by governments, by big corporations, by religious groups, political groups..." (Philip k),*

People believe the media's portrayal of things,Will Rogers said,*"All I know is just what I read in the papers, and that's an alibi for my ignorance.",* in our generation people no longer care about what is true and what is not and the best example of that is "stereotypes" which are just generalizations of certain attitudes or ideas. Most times people fall for it, as it is believed that Canadians are overly polite, Brits worship the queen, Australians live in a big zoo, and Americans buy guns at grocery shops. These stereotypes are not necessarily true but they are popularized and believed because they are portrayed this way on the big screen.

Therefore, the concept of the American dream is a prominent as a lot of people are still running after it, seeing howpeople view the United States through the screen does notdismiss the power of mediain shaping thoughts and opinions andglorifying ideas and concepts, in this case it is the American dream.

The rise of commercial entertainment has been widely acknowledged as a contributing factor to the US's decline in public diplomacy. It is not uncommon for Americans to be sur-

prised by the impact of commercial media on their country's image abroadvia big screen like movies, theater, or via small screen television, computers, and phones (songs, documentaries, tv shows and ads…).

Back to the movie "The Wolf of Wall Street" is agreat example of the dream and how it was portrayed as a line in the movie is *"they want to get rich quickly they all want something for nothing" (00:28:40).* In this quote the lead character is indirectlyexplains the American dream where he himself was able to go from being broke and joblessat the age of twenty-two to being a millionaire at the age of twenty-six. The movie is full ofsymbols that explain the American policy exactly as many people abandon their stable jobsand take the risk of becoming 'bookers', which is a metaphor for taking risks. Most risk takers make great profits and live thefantasy as they were able to become rich and powerful, some made a survival rope out of it, andsome others were just lured in and could not find a way out to leave.

From the start of the movie, it was shown thatsuch a world was filthy, the filth was embodied in many examples like foul language, and a lot of cursing was involved. Also backstabbing as the main character cheated on his wife and was ready to sell anyone out to make more profit or to save himself. Then drug and sex abuse which caused STD's and other health problems. The whole movie showed an astonishing amount of immorality and corruption, it all was a subliminal exemplification of what the world of a 'bookie' is like or in other words what it would take to achieve the dream.

Another example is the 2014 'Super Bowl', during which COCA COLA aired its advertisement "America the beautiful" the song was first produced in 1910 the lyrics originally werewritten in English, however in COCA COLA'srendition the lyrics sung in different languages as a means to unite America's diverse ethnic landscape, and they pictured people with different ethnicities, this ad was a portrayal of the American life and its harmony, it showed that the United States was the nation that acceptednumbers of people from different

backgrounds and supportedthem to follow their path of success and prosperity to reach their goals inn life. Such an advertisement promotes an image of acceptance and tolerance among the American nation.

It is crazy how can the artists send a message to the whole world through only a song and music video and how can people interact with them. In 2014Rihanna the Pop/ R&B singer dropped her single and the video "American oxygen" that talked about the American dream. If you watch the video and listen to the lyrics u can notice how they pictured America by adding some emotional moments from the American history and some American events and showing that America is a nation of immigrants and have different ethnicities, anation that anyone can achieve the dreams and live a better life.

"Breathe out, breathe in

American oxygen, woah

Every breath I breathe

Chasin' this American Dream

……

This is the American Dream

Young girl, hustling the other side of the ocean

You can be anything at all in America, America"

(Rihanna. 2014.American Oxygen)

The fact that Rihanna is not even American gave the song a new angle to be looked at, she was born and raised in Barbados and was discovered by an American producer at the age of 17. Debuting her carrier at such a young age and becoming a world know star gave her wealth, fame, and power, so it could be said that she achieved her dream. Seeing such a song

come from someone with such a background can only spark hope in the souls of anyone with a hardly attained dream in mind.

The American version of the British game show Millionaire was expected to become the most talked about TV show in the country. The title was changed to Who wants to be a Millionaire? This show or the game gives people the opportunity to win money without working hard, which gave hope to people and gave a good vision of America and how can anyone achieve the dream even without working hard.

"You light me up inside
Like the 4th of July
Whenever you're around
I always seem to smile
And people ask me why
But you're the reason why"
(Gomez. R. 2014)

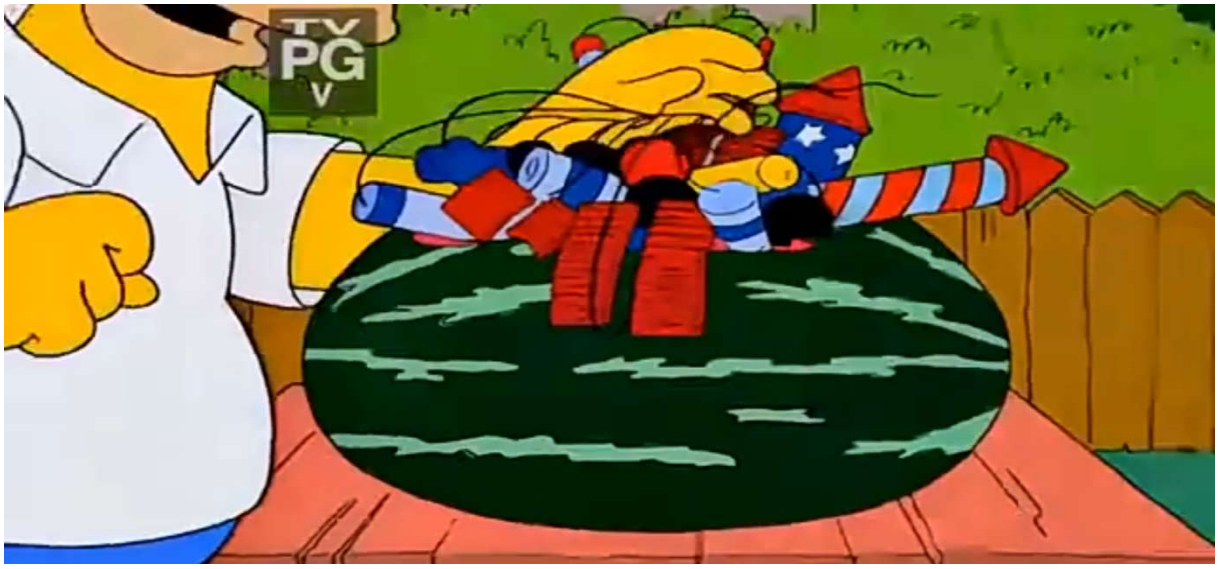
These lyrics sang by a singer from Hispanic origins known as Becky G, is about love and admiration for her significant other. An important detail that could be over looked is the reference to the 4th of July which is the date ofthe American independence, a federal paid holiday in which people celebrate with fireworks and host or attend barbecues and picnic sometimes even fairs. Such information is widely known because it is mostly mentioned in songs like this and movies and linked to the concept of freedom and liberty. It is mentioned a lot and highlighted in many media outlets because it signifies the start of the creation of a free land, the land of dreams.

The Celebration of The 4th of July in Katy Perry's MV 'Firework'



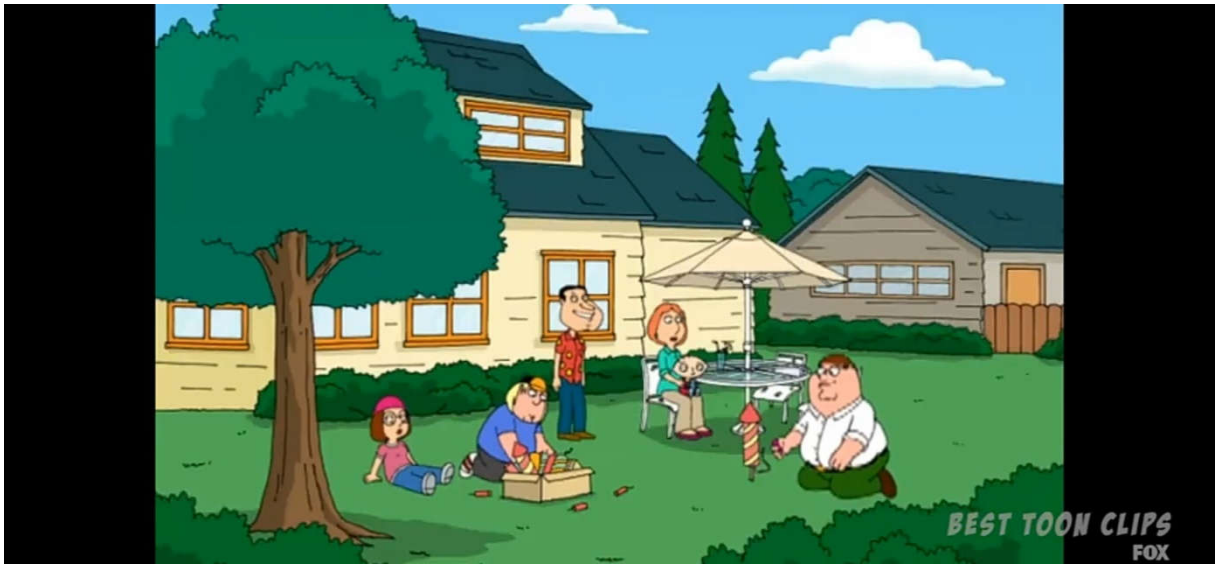
(Katy Perry. 2011. Firework)

The Celebration of The 4th of July in The TV Series 'The Simpsons'.



(Insane Clown Poppy. 2000. The Simpsons. S12. E03)

The Celebration of The 4th of July in The TV Series 'Family Guy'



(Whistle While Your Wife Works. 2006. Family Guy. S05. E05)

Another type of American propaganda to sell 'the dream' is 'Hollywood', which is known as the 'biggest' movie making industry.

> *"Hollywood is not only a town and an industry but also a creator of dreams and fantasies that have tremendous cultural impact. The "dream factories" are among the most global of industries, with huge overseas markets and an impact on people in practically every corner of the globe. Disney Studios elevated the cartoon character Mickey Mouse into what was arguably the most universally recognized icon of the 20th century. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' annual Academy Award (Oscar) ceremony broadcast from Los Angeles is said to have a TV audience exceeding one billion people. The industry also draws hordes of tourists into southern California" (Leonard M. Pitt. Los AngelesCalifornia, United States. Britannica. 2021)*

Hollywoodand Los Angeles are seen as the biggest entertainment and movie industries, most celebrities, influencers and, content creators move there to be closer, in hopes of

having bigger chances to reach fame and wealth in the biggest industry. However according to statistics Hollywood is not really the first in selling tickets as it only sold 2.6 billion tickets while Bollywood, the knock off Indian version sold 3.6 billion tickets.

This is all due to the media's influence portraying it to be the biggest, the best, and the most attainable way to reach dreams, an example of that is not only in movies but also in show awards, music festivals, and movie premiers ...etc.

1.3 THE AMERICAN BETWEEN REALITY AND MYTH:

America succeeded in its attempt to attract and convince people from all over the globe especially from other countries to go or to immigrate to America toobtain the life that they could not have in their home lands. Maybe because of the lack of capacities in their mother countries, wars, or escaping from the poor life. Instead of staying they chose to go to the States hoping for a better life.

An international, very well-known symbol of the United States is the statue of Liberty, it was received as a gift from France as a symbol of friendship between the nations and a symbol of freedom and getting rid of the oppression. It is set in the New York harbor where ships full of immigrants sailed before the evolution of flights as Lady Liberty was standing there welcoming them to a land free of discrimination and full of dreams, regardless of the reasons that pushed them out of their home lands.

*"This Dream attracts people who want an opportunity to climb the social ladder and achieve the life that the United States promises to anyone who is willing to work hard" (David stoll2009).*Likewise, America succeeded in planting the confidence and securitymaking people believethat anyone can go from rages to silk.

The election of Barack Obama as the President of the United States in 2008 seemed to prove that the American dream is available to everyone. It showed that it is an inclusive

dream for everyone regardless of their roots. In November 2007 Barack Obama delivered a speech in Bettendorf, Iowa, in which he claimed that

> *"Americans share a faith in simple dreams. A job with wages that can support a family. Health care we can count on and afford. A retirement that is dignified and secure. Education and opportunity for our kids. Common hopes, American Dreams" (Obama 2007) (Khaled choana 2019)*

The early fifties came up withnew intentions that had originated from post-war resilience, opportunity was one of the new ideas and concepts planted in the people. It resulted in giving the chance for many to attain their dream regarding different domains such as music: films,literature, and business.

The queen of daytime talk shows TV Orpah was seen as one of the lucky people who achieved their dreams and went from slums to castles, Disregarding her past and traumas. The 'lucky' person in question has been through a lot in her life, she was born out of wedlock, her parents separated when she was a teenager, and she was raised by her grandmother.She also suffered sexual abuse at the hands of her family members, more than once. As a teenager, Winfrey became pregnant and gave birth to a son who died shortly after.However, Media and broadcast training in high school led to her a success precedes by many tragedies. She then co-anchored a local newscast and hosted a popular talk show (JOE MONT2011). But the question is the American dream real and attainable for everyone? or is it just an American myth, did Winfrey become one of the richest women on earth by hard work and sacrifice, is being a US citizen a winning card that helped her get where she is, is her life an American dream achieved, is she lucky, were her tragedies a part of the dream or a bad luck, is all that matters in this dream the end...and so many other questions with different answers depending on the level of faith and belief the person has regarding this dream.

Myth is the short for mythology which usually means a story with unrealistic characters, unhuman powers, and in ancient setting or unknown ones. These myths can have teaching behind them, to teach people how to behave, to give morals, to give a religious depth, and sometimes it is simply aesthetic adding to the body of literature and art. However, each culture has its own myths, these myths are carried from a generation to another.

An example of that is Greek mythology, it is known by everyone and some of it turned into movies and even cartoons, they talked about a god called Zeus how he was the god of all gods and father of many, they mentioned Hades, Hera, Thor, and many more as each one was the god or goddess of a specific element, the myth included small details like their personality traits good and even bad and how they dealt with each other. All to give a new perspective to things and to give a moral in each story, the simplest is that Hades was the god of the underworld and he is supposed to be evil and cold hearted yet he was in love with Persephone the goddess of spring growth and he treated her well and was sweet to her as he took her as his wife. This shows people not to judge based on looks and the exterior ... the stories and morals go on and on

The same can be said about other cultures and their mythologies from Norse, Egyptian, Roman, Hindu, Japanese, Arabian and much more as they all share one factor which is how they are all unhuman and unrealistic. Non-of the myths include something that is remotely possible to do or see as in the history there is no sign of a dog named Cerberus with gigantic body and three monstrous heads or a lady named Medusa with head full of snakes for hair. However, the impact of these stories is evident on people as they preserved them from hundreds of years and kept telling them to a generation after the other.

The myth that is at hand now is the American dream, but it does not include any gods, it does not talk about any super powers, any magical creatures or magical places. Or at least it seems that way, the difference between this myth and Greek or Roman myths is the setting,

while the historic ones are old started around 3000BCE America did not even emerge as a country back then, the nation was not established till 1400's so it is only natural that it had different setting and different elements, modernized ones to fit the time frame. People at that point were done with superstitions and super heroes, they were interested in other things like getting wealth conquering new lands and building a life based on realism other than what they called 'lies'.

In order for the US to introduce a new myth and for the myth to be believed or even considered they had to put them into new modernised moulds and frames. The elements of the god and the magical land the super power still exist but they are modified with the aim of making it fit the modern needs and to make it appealing.

A magical land or setting is the US soil, The Land of Dreams. Immigration has been encouraged since the country was discovered; English people ran away from Catholics, Irish people ran from famine, and African people were brought against their will. Nevertheless, those with a voice made it a heaven cause the land was so diverse, accepting, and especially rich. The land reeked of opportunity and possibilities, it reeked to the point that the smell could be detected all around the world and the smell seems to linger still.

The magical power lays in the economic system that allows people to become millionaires and billionaires over a night or a few at most. A system in which the government is not trying to feed on you and tax you but only the strong can survive in so the power here is available to everyone it is not a Thor hammer that only one person can hold but a simple sword laying across the road and it just needs a good eye to notice it and a good mind to know how to use it. Wealth is power and all that you can get with it from material goods is just an additional, optional accessories or treasures those gods usually hide in their castles

The final and most important element is gods and goddesses, who are those legends who were able to live in the magical land and attain the magical power. This is embodied in

all the conventional American dream achievers, those who were poor or a working class then became rich enough for people to know them, the examples are endless for example Bill Gates who started Micro Soft from a garage or Elon Musk who is not even American or even the Kardashians.

In this modern myth the only necessity is to move to the magical land the weapons are already there and anyone can be a god, only a strong will, a smart brain, and willingness are needed to live a myth called the American dream a myth so popular yet so subliminal.

> *"If every person were to strive to get a bigger house, a newer car, and every material good available, the planet would run out of resources, and civilization would die an ignominious death. We would have blown the chance to create heaven on earth. Unfortunately, the American dream has been warped by the idea that people should be free to pursue their own desires, regardless of the consequences. Although this belief fuels our economic engine, it's bad for people as a whole... If your dream does not serve the whole of life in some way, then the energy behind it will be limited." (Anodea Judith, Lion Goodman, 2014).*

The U.S. is facing a crisis of opportunity, which could threaten the country's long-term growth. According to economist Joseph Stiglitz, rising inequality is threatening the American dream.*"The U.S. worked hard to create the American dream of opportunity. But today, that dream is a myth," (joseph Stiglitz, 2012).*He also mentioned that The US has the highest in-equality level in almost a century but not anymore,he also mentioned:*"The U.S. used to think of itself as a middle-class country – but this is no longer true,"(ibid)*he added *"Today, a child's life chances are more dependent on the income of his or her parents than in Europe, or any other of the advanced industrial countries for which there are data."(ibid).*This means that the gap between the country's richest individuals and those at the bottom is growing, and

the regulations that are governing the financial industry are contributing to the disparities in the wealth distribution, Stiglitz said: *"Financial regulations allow predatory lending and abusive credit-card practices that transfer money from the bottom to the top. So do bankruptcy laws that provide priority for derivatives," (ibid).* He argues that the idea that higher income inequality is caused by faster growth is a myth. During the Second World War, the US economy grew much faster than it has in the last decades.

> *"Textbooks teach us that we can have a more egalitarian society only if we give up growth or efficiency...However, closer analysis shows that we are paying a high price for inequality: it contributes to social, economic and political instability, and to lower growth."(Joseph Stiglitz,2012). (Deepanshu Bagchee2012).*

Susan Lynn "Suze" Orman is an American financial advisor, author, and podcast host, in her interview with the ABC news in 2011 she talked about the American dream as she mentioned in her book "the money class" that the old American dream has died which was materialistic. She explained that people started defining themselves by how much they had, she said:

> *"It used to be more, bigger, best...Everybody in America started to define themselves by all these things they had around them. And all of a sudden it came tumbling down. So, the old American dream has died, and that is a good thing."(Suze Orman2011)*

2.1 WHAT IS IDENTITY?

Everyone has these existential questions: "who am I?", "What do I want my future self to be?" and "How do I feel about myself?". Identity is often defined by various external fac-

tors, such as race, class, and religion. It can also be affected by how people feel about themselves their gender and sexual orientation.Therefore,Identity is linked to various values, which dictate how people make decisions. It also holds meaning and expectations for each individual.Developing one's identity involves three key tasks: discovering one's potential, defining one's purpose, and making choices that align with one's true self. Establishing one's values can help transform one's life. Lock's definition of identity was*"appropriating actions and their merit; and so, belongs only to intelligent agents capable of a law, and happiness, and misery" (Locke 1694)* means that the identity of persons is a forensic and normative concept. It can be used to explain the actions and motives of individuals.

Philosophers as well had described identity as the relation that a thing bears to itselfin which things change through time andwhen they do it, they eventually stop being what they were and start being something else. In the 17th century the German philosopher Wilhelm Gottfried Leibniz discovered the principal of indiscernibility of identical. The idea is that if any two things are same identical then they must share the same properties (crash courses 2017).

The person needs to understand himself or herself by identifying what known as "the big eight" which identifies the various parts of who we are and where we come from. It helps us understand who we are and who others are. First the age; this is about how society views people as they age. For instance, college students may be referred to as kids despite being considered adults. The second is the ability: This identity is about the various differences in physical, mental, and developmental abilities. It also includes social experiences such as trauma and surviving abuse. The third one is the race identity; in which Race is a concept used to classify people based on their perceived physical characteristics like Africans with their dark skins and wild hair, Asians with their hooded eyes and pale skin, Middle-Eastern

with their exotic features and brown skin... the list goes on about how each race is supposed to have attributed characteristics to match it.

Then there is ethnicitywhich refers to people's cultural identity like sharing the same language and same origins, which is often linked to their cultural background as it is not related to biology and physical features but rather religion, social surroundings, and intellectual background even.

The fifth identity is gender, the way people are treated by others influences their gender identity. In every culture there are interactions and communications that are considered as feminine, masculine, or androgynous, A person's gender is different from their sex in that it is identified with their anatomy. This difference is referred to as gender identity as each person is free to choose what they identify with regardless of what social norms dictate.

The sixth identity is sexual orientation, the individual's sexual orientation or romantic interest is not necessarily dependent on their behavior. Some individuals have both sexual and emotional attractions toward partners that are not conventionally expected as being attracted to the same gender or to both genders...

Then there isthe socioeconomic status, it is often conceptualized as the social standing of people depending on their income, wealth, or poverty, generally used to classify individuals into various social classes, as the income and material belongings do play a role in defining who the person is or at least how they are perceived.

Religion is a category that relates to a person's belief in a god or many. For instance, an individual may identify with a major world religion like Christianity, Judaism, or Islam or could have other beliefs that are not so popular like choosing paganism or secularity ... regardless of the choice the existence of faith or its absence plays a role in shaping one's identity.

If the formal aspect is to be overlooked and if identity is to be simplified and put in a simple frame that fits the topic of the American dream then it will be best described with examples. Coming of age, and character development are terms used mostly in literature and even in the world of cinema, they often include a story with a certain shocking event that changes the character's life.

In movies like 'Clueless', 'The Breakfast Club', and even 'To All the Boys I Loved Before' a common point is shared, the main character speaks to the viewers the stream of consciousness is used but not just to make the people laugh at some embarrassing thoughts or to make the plot easier to decipher but to show their identity, to give the viewers a clear view of how the person thinks, what they identify as, and even what they believe in.

Since identity is what gets us through life, it is who we are and how we act and react, a lot of people aim to have a unique identity not physically because that is merely dependent on genes and biology but internally, how each person views themselves and want others to view them which is ever changing due to many experiences like trauma, past life, future ambitions,new acquaintances... The reasons vary but the result is a change.

Since many are looking for a positive change in their internal identity, they look for a turning point or what is known in literature is epiphany, an event that makes the person change the course of their life. In James Joyce's novel 'The Portrait of An Artist as a Young Man' he mentioned an epiphany of seeing a pretty girl on the beach during sunset that made him change his life from being a religious obedient boy in Ireland to becoming an artist and chasing his passion outside his country.

Such an event is often romanticized and desired as it is shown in movies and written in novels, if it is replicated in regards on the concept of the American dream then moving to the new land could be the epiphany many are waiting for, the moment that can change their lives finally that makes them realize that they no longer want stable jobs with minimum wages and

boring stability but a cue to chase dreams and achieve the unachievable, to finally think outside the box.

However, many argue that epiphanies are not a real thing but solely the result of an overtime built up. A person who had to be under the social pressure of being obedient and religious and ‘good’ is bound to explode at one point so the moment that is regarding as epiphany is simply a decision to gather courage to break the pattern and gain freedom.

2.2 PERSONAL IDENTITY:

Personal identity refers to the philosophical questions that arise in the minds of each individual. These inquiries are often reflectiveabout how each person is, not about how theyare living, the components of self that are most connected to life experiences are also known as intrapersonal components. It is often the question of how one's identity is defined as at the core of the philosophical confrontation between life and death. It is the ultimate question of a person's existence.

The problem of personal identity has puzzled and divided philosophers for a hundred of years producing many theories for the purpose of understanding it, some believe that a person has sufficient conditions to be the same person at one time. For them, a continuity of character and mind (psychological continuity) is necessary to maintain a person's identity.

The psychological criterion can be divided into three versions: the narrow version, the wide version, and the widest version. The Narrow version demands that psychological continuity be maintained normally, while the Wide version allows any cause to secure psychological continuity. Others argued that this is not enough, since you also need to maintain a continuous psychological continuity. But it might seem that the combination of a physical criterion and a brain criterion would make sense: both acknowledge the significance of physiological instantiation and the importance of psychological continuity in our identity judgments. However, this approach contradicts the notion that a criterion of personal identity can provide a

reliable verdict in certain circumstances. There are some philosophers who would not accept the whole model of necessary and sufficient conditions. For instance, Wittgenstein thought that it would be silly to ask for conditions for a game.

John Locke was one of the most notable political and philosophical theorists during the 17th century. He was also influential in other areas such as theology, education, and religious belief. He is one of the earliest philosophers to discuss the question of identity and His discussion has had significant historical and contemporary impact.

His view on identity is crucial, it holds that in order to survive an adventure one must have both a conscious and a psychologically intact self-identity. This idea states that to be able to maintain one's individuality, one must have both a conscious and a psychologically intact self-identity. Lock's sees that the concepts of personal identity and continuity of consciousness are both presented in two different projects. Personal identity involves defending the view that consciousness is the essential element of personal identity, while continuity of consciousness involves arguing against the idea that identity is defined by a particular substance.

> *"a thinking intelligent Being, that has reason and reflection, and can consider itself as itself, the same thinking thing in different times and places; which it does only by that consciousness, which is inseparable from thinking, and as it seems to me essential to it." (John lock)*

In this quote Lock meant that Part of what makes a person whole is their ability to identify their past as belonging to them. This is especially true for children, who are often referred to as the "little boy" due to the nature of their education. (Patrick J. Connolly)

2.3 SOCIAL IDENTITIES:

Social identities are components of who people are which is derived from their involvement in social groups. They can be derived from various social identities, such as those created by family or a community of sports fans. (Mlibraries 2013).

In 1978 the psychologistHenri Tajfel came up with the social identity theory, in which he talked about how Groups help us to form these identities by giving us a sense of belonging to the world. According to him social identity is a person's sense of self-esteem and pride based on their membership in a group.

Tajfel also argued that stereotyping is based on a normal process in our minds, it involves grouping things together: the differences between groups and the similarities of things in the same group. Therefore, it is remotely normal to attribute specific traits to a group who shares similarities like saying that Hispanics are loud and lively while Koreans are shy and respectful.

Social identity theory argues that group members will seek to find similarities between an in-group and an out-group, The similarities to be shared in the in-group will mostly be positive like Germans sharing the same level on punctuality and professionalism, while the out-group attributions are negative for instance the same group of Germans deciding that Italians are care free and irresponsible. However, the theory does not only apply to big groups the identity can be as broad as race or as small as intellectual interests, making Germans a group and the chess club a group that is of no less importance.

In 1979 Tajfel and Turner proposed that these three processes used to evaluate individuals. The first one “Categorization” people, including one’s self are classified in order to understand the social environment. For instance, we use social categories like religion, student, bus driver… knowing what categories people belong to can help identify the appropriate behavior to follow in an expected manner.

The second stage is social identification, the identity of a group is adopted. This stage helps individuals develop an emotional connection with the group they have identified themselves with. For instance, if a person identifiesas a student, then they will adopt the identity of the groupthey believe to be a part of and act accordingly.

The final stage is social comparison, in which people identify with a group and then compare it with other groups. This step is critical to understand prejudice as it pertains to maintaining our self-esteem. (Saul McLeod,2019).

Finally, the stage of social comparison, in which a person identifies with a group and then compares it with other groups, realizing one's belonging and realizing the notion of otherness allows the person to fit in within an acceptable frame of what to do and to do not, this frame does not only provide a window of belonging but also draws the line of otherness and the out-group.

"It is critical to understand prejudice as it pertains to maintaining our self-esteem" (Dr. Saul McLeod,2019) an important part of identity and outer groups is to try and maintain a level of neutralism as it is okay to attribute specific features that highlight that group but having those traits be only negative could lead to a problem of prejudice which is a group of negative traits given to a group like saying that Muslims are terrorists, this can come from the over generalization as it could cause hostility between groups and alienation of the inner group from their own identity.

Therefore, social identity is the part of an individual's self-concept that is derived from his or her knowledge of social groups and its emotional significance to which he or she is entitled, how it effects each individual's identity separately and as a group as well.

2.4 CULTURAL IDENTITIES:

The concept of cultural identity has captivated and fascinated scholars, its complexity and sometimes-contested nature have been the subject of sustained attention from various

academic disciplines. In a sense, cultural identity is the process by which individuals identify with or accept certain groups within a particular setting.

Cultural identities are based on three sets of social constructs that teach members how to be and behave. These categories are: how to dress, how to behave, and what social expectations are for each person, but their historical roots separate them from social identities (Yep, 2002, Collier, 1996). It is easy to notice how African-Americans have changed their ways of being and acting since the civil rights movement which is an example of how cultural identity groups have evolved. Members of these groups must also be acculturated to their cultural identities in order to be accepted as part of their group.

However, this can be viewed as positive or negative for example the term 'white-washed' is given to black people who associate with white people and carry their it could be simple from using the word 'like' a lot, wearing cardigans, or not wearing their natural hair as these made them join the social groups of whites and be out of the black's social group.

On one hand, identity is a concept that has evolved over time from a set of recognizable attributes to a series of various identities, on the other hand, it is defined as a constitution that includes both familiar and shared derivations. (Hall. 1994. 1996). The concept of familiarity and share is associated with the meanings of belongingness, unity, and sameness. But the problematic aspect of this analysis is that it assumes that an identity is not only a product of a common origin but also of a common structure of experience or both. (Grossberg, 1996).

According to Hall there are two different notions of the cultural identity, the first one cultural identity as a shared culture, history and ancestry. *"There is a true self that people with a shared ancestry" (hall, p318 ,1996).* The second is cultural identities as positionalities, headded *"the names we give to the different ways we are positioned by, and position ourselves within, the narratives of the past" (hall p320,1996).*

Any of these identities could be ascribed or avowed identities, and they can be used to describe various aspects of ourselves (Martin & Nakayama, 2010). An identity can be ascribed to someone else based on their perceived traits. For instance, a person who is a nerd may feel that they are good at math or science fiction. And some identities are permanent, while others can change based on context. For instance, an African American may not be able to remember which box to check in a survey regarding the demographic of a group. If an African American is elected as the president of a college's Black Student Union, she may feel more deeply avowed by her African American identity. On the other hand, if she studies abroad and her new African friends identify as Americans, she may be ascribed an image of American by her acquaintances.

Throughout modern history, cultural and social influences have established dominant and non-dominant groups (Allen, 2011). Although dominant identities have historically had more resources and influence, non-dominant identities have had less. This is because the distribution of power and resources has been institutionalized. As a result, non-dominant groups are at a competitive disadvantage when compared to dominant groups.

2.5 IS IT POSSIBLE FOR AN IDENTITY TO CHANGE?

If identity is who the person is and how they view themselves and how others view them then it is fair to say that each individual has many identities as an individual can identify as a student in his university while with classmates, as a Black-Hispanic at family gatherings, and a loud annoying teenager when meeting friends. If this is the case then identity is a concept that cannot be fathomed. The identity here at hand is how the person perceives themselves: their principles, identities, thought process, beliefs...etc.

Identity is not fixed; it can be changed at any given moment. Most of the time, it is possible to break out of an old identity by symbolically breaking it out of family of origin, in which at any point someone can come to be who they want to be by changing their actions

and behavior. Change can be challenging, by changing one's self-perception and actions that can also help people break out of an old identity.

Identity could be transformed and altered. However, this change can be for better or worse, it could be empowered as a person focuses on their strengths or it could be weakened if people just let go of themselves. Change can be intentional or subconscious.

According to the psychologist Lisa Firestone One technique that can help people shift their self-concept is using Voice Therapy. This process helps them identify and act against their inner voice, which can be a negative reflection on themselves. It can also externalize these voices by saying them out loud as statements are made. This method helps people see negativity in themselves as a separate enemy, rather than a real point of view, resulting in growth and our empowerment and confidence gains as well (Lisa Firestone, 2017).

On the other hand, some experiences could result in subconscious decline of identity, trauma can cause people to stop caring for themselves and their well-being which will leave them to lose a sense of identity closing up, losing confidence and losing self-worth. An individual who was in a toxic relationship will face verbal or physical abuse, manipulation, and gaslighting. The result will be mental and psychological issues that will lead the person to subconsciously have a weaker identity facing a decline or a negative change.

> *"Like all aspects of habit formation, this, too, is a double-edged sword. When working for you, identity change can be a powerful force for self-improvement. When working against you, though, identity change can be a curse" (James Clear,2018, p55).*

There are various reasons why identities change over time because individuals are exposed to different things every day that can affect their way of thinking. many factors can influence and push identities to switch, an ideology like the American dream can lead the per-

son to change their ways, only to achieve their dream, a person's interests could change over time, media which has a big influence on identities, even a person's goal.

> *"True behavior change is identity change. You might start a habit because of motivation, but the only reason you'll stick with one is that it becomes part of your identity. Anyone can convince themselves to visit the gym or eat healthy once or twice, but if you don't shift the belief behind the behavior, then it is hard to stick with long-term changes. Improvements are only temporary until they become part of who you are" (James Clear,2018, p53).*

There is no denial that it is hard for some of us to change, James Clear said in his book Atomic Habits "*The more deeply a thought or action is tied to your identity, the more difficult it is to change it. It can feel comfortable to believe what your culture believes (group identity) or to do what upholds your self-image (personal identity), even if it's wrong." (James clear,2018, p56).*

A person cannot live the same way all his life, because it is probably not going to stay that way for long. It is important to design a life that will help maintain a level of self-discipline,

> *"Identity change is when your identity changes, you no longer need to desperately fight against temptations because you don't see them as such. If eating potato chips daily is no longer a part of your identity, there's no temptation to defeat; previously overpowering urges are now a non-issue because they are incongruent with your new identity." (Martin Meadows, 2017, p255).*

2.6 SOCIAL VS INDIVIDUAL IDENTITY:

The social and individual identity theories provide a unique perspective on the relationship between the individual and the collective. They assert that both individuals and social groups exist independently, and that since both groups and individuals are physically and mentally recognizable, they can and do act as both individuals and social groups.

Social identity theory has been exploring the links between the self-categorization aspects of social identity and inter-group conflict. In the late 1970s, Tajfel identified the differences between the levels of inclusiveness in self-recognition and the functional shift between personal and social identity. It was suggested that the basic capacity to engage in collective behavior is related to the character of a person's self-process andthe nature of the relationship, that the self has with the collective has been the subject of these two theories for a long time (social identity theory by Tajfel and Turner, and the self-categorization by Turner).

Social identity is a concept that refers to the way people's self-concepts are formed based on their membership in various social groups, some people may identify with certain groups such as sports teams, religions, and even fan bases? People from such group believe themselves to have a special bond and a unified identity, like ‘BTS’ fans who chose to call themselves an army and take their identity as fans very seriously.

2.7 IDENTITY CRISIS:

The term “identity crisis” was first coined by the psychologist Eric Erikson in the sixth stage of the psychological development which is “intimacy versus isolation,” between the ages of 18 and 30, this stage occurs after the fifth stage. Identity crisis is when people start to form intimate relationships with other individuals. And the major conflict at this stage occurs when people fail to form intimate relationships with other people.

We can define the term identity crisis as the person's developmental process that involves questioning their sense of self, a person suffering from an identity crisis often asks themselves how they fit in the world, what is their goal, and if they do actually belong to the place, they are a part of.

This developmental event can also alter their perception of themselves, Erikson believed that identity is something that changes again and over again throughout the cycle of life. Back to Erikson who explained that personality develops in a series of eight stages, from infancy to the adulthood, during which the person could experience many psychological crises.These crises could be positive or negative, for Erikson (1958, 1963), these crises are of a psychosocial nature because they involve psychological needs of the individual conflicting with the needs of society. The theory states that a successful completion of each stage leads to the acquisition of a healthy personality. Therefore, failure to complete a stage can also led to a reduction in ability to complete further stages.

The first stage of Erik Erikson's theory is called trust vs. mistrust. During this stage, an infant is uncertain about the world around them. The healthy and stable environment for an infant will help develop a sense of security and confidence, if these needs are not met then the child may experience a sense of suspicion, anxiety, and mistrust. This could lead to a loss of confidence in the world around the child.

The second stage of this development is called autonomy versus shame and doubt, which occurs between the ages of 18 and 3 years. At this stage children are developing a sense of control over their bodies and their emotions, because the child is becoming more mobile and physically able. This development is evidenced by the child's increasing sense of self-control and independence, they begin to assert their boundaries and begin to make choices about what they like and what to eat.

Erikson's third stage is initiative versus guilt, it is the stage where children assert themselves more often through play and social interaction. These are particularly lively and rapid-developing years in a child's life. According to Bee (1992) it is a "*time of vigor of action and of behaviors that the parents may see as aggressive."* during this stage the child is active in a variety of activities designed to stimulate their social and emotional development, they begin to plan and organize their own activities. They then feel secure in their abilities to lead and make decisions, but if this tendency is not addressed through criticism or control it can lead to children developing a sense of guilt. As the child grows more interested in learning, he will ask many questions. If the parents treat these questions as threatening then the child may feel guilty for being a nuisance, too much guilt can make a child slow to cooperate with others and inhibit their creativity.At the same time the child needs some guilt, a healthy balance between guilt and initiative is important to maintain a good development.

Erikson's fourth psychosocial crisis involves industry (competence) versus inferiority this stage is between the ages of five and twelve. At this stage children are beginning to develop their own specific skills; the child begins to feel valued by peers and the world around them. This is the time when the child begins to develop a self-esteem that is based on their achievements. If children are encouraged to have an initiative, they start to feel competent and confident in their abilities. If this initiative is restricted by their parents or teacher, they may start to feel inferior to their potential, and if they cannot develop a specific skill that society demands, then they may develop a sense of inferiority. Some failure may be necessary to develop some modesty However, it is necessary to balance the two.

The fifth stage of Erik Erikson's theory is identity versus role confusion, during this stage adolescents explore their sense of self and personal identity through an intense exploration of their values and beliefs. This stage is around the ages 12 to 18,in this stage (adolescence) the person moves from the childhood to the adulthood and theybegin to think about the

future,begin to believe that they belong to a society and are capable of doing anything they set their mind to. *"The adolescent mind is essentially a mind or moratorium, a psychosocial stage between childhood and adulthood, and between the morality learned by the child, and the ethics to be developed by the adult" (Erikson, 1963, p. 245)* This stage is also referred to as the transition, in course of this stage the adolescent or teenager will try to find out who they are. According to Bee (1992) what should happen at the end of this stage is *"a reintegrated sense of self, of what one wants to do or be, and of one's appropriate sex role",* as the body image of the adolescent changes throughout this period.

The sixth stage of the theory of psychosocial development is intimacy versus isolation, it refers to the development of intimate and loving relationships. This stage also brings us closer to other individuals, we begin to explore relationships that are longer-term. The completion of this stage can lead to a relationship that is healthy, secure, and happy. It can also lead to feelings of commitment and safety.

The seventh stage focuses on the development of the generativity versus stagnation, in these stages we give back to society through various activities and organizations and success leads to feelings of fulfillment and satisfaction. Meanwhile, failure produces shallow involvement in the world and results in negative feelings and sensations.

The final stage of this theory is ego integrity versus despair, this stage is characterized by the development of integrity. It is when people consider their accomplishments and can develop this trait if they see themselves as being successful. Erikson described ego integrity as *"the acceptance of one's one and only life cycle as something that had to be" (1950, p. 268)* and later as *'a sense of coherence and wholeness' (1982, p. 65).* Erikson believed that if we see our lives as empty, we tend to feel guilty about our past, this leads to depression and hopelessness. Wise people do not have a continuous state of ego integrity, instead they experience both integrity and despair.

At the age of twenty, Shaw describes a crisis which he attributes to the excess amount of success and responsibilities that he has been given.

> *"I made good in spite of myself, and found, to my dismay, that Business, instead of expelling me as the worthless imposter I was, was fastening upon me with no intention of letting me go. Behold me, therefore, in my twentieth year, with a business training, in an occupation which I detested as cordially as any sane person lets himself detest anything he cannot escape from..." (Shaw,1876)*

CONCLUSION:

The previous study wasattempt to explain the concept of the American dream and its origins and background, and to show the role of media in drawing the image of this ideology and glorifying it to people through screens songs movies and books. Therefore, the above chapter was also attempt to define what is identity and how the personality of a person could change through time by facing a new culture and the influence of media on people way of thinking.

CHAPTER TWO: ANALYSIS OF THE MOVIE "MINARI", AND THE ANALYSIS OF THE STUDENT'S QUESTIONNAIRE

INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this chapter is to provide clarification and exhibit the procedure used to explore and highlight the role of media in glorifying the cencept of the american dream and play the role in causing an identity crisis to people. This chapter is devided into two sections, starting with an analysis of the movie "MINARI" , then moving to the analysis and foundings of the student's questionaire to check if the desire to achieve the american dream could change a person's way of thinking and personality and if the media has the power to influence people's life and identity. The end of this final chapter meets with a general conclusion that sums up the all the research perspectives and findings.

SECSION ONE: ANALYSIS OF THE MOVIE "MINARI".

Movies have a big influence on people's life, it have the power toeffects the society in various positive and negative ways As the philosopher Stanley Cavell remarks" *the sheer power of film is unlike the powers of the other arts*.", movies have the power to shape a way of thinking and grow the individueles personality by drawing a an ideology that influence their lives as Colin said "*Ideology can be foisted on people in any number of forms—speeches, advertising, literary fiction, jokes, even music—but cinema has a special kind of power for the viewer*"(Colin McGinn,2007. p15), he added "*the film might still engage my attention in powerful ways, because of something about film itself, as distinct from whatever ideology it might contain. Contrariwise, a film might conform to my ideological beliefs perfectly while leaving me cold. Secondly, surely it is possible for a film to embody no particular political ideology and still be a powerful viewing experience*"(Colin McGinn,2007. P11),.Sometimes watching a movie similar to dreaming, and looking "into" a movie screen allow us to experience the thoughts and feelings of a movie's characters.

The movie “MINARI” is different from the typical immigrant story, when the character faces racism or anyways of indifference, The film follows the story of an immigrant family trying to accept the strange and foreign land that they have arrived in. “MINARI” is a drama inspired by the director “Lee Isaac Chung that” about his childhood in which, he shows the bittersweet journey of a kourean famillythat moves to rural Arkansas in the 1980sto find independence and achieve their american dream in a land of opportunity (AMERICA).Minari is a leafy green vegetablepopular in Korean cooking. In Lee Isaac Chung’s movie, it flourishes in an Arkansas creek bed, and it used as a metaphor or aLike the minari, the family of Yi Jacob and Monica Yi and their two children, Anne and David , are transplants. Jacob (Will Patton) and Monica (Laura Linney) are married couple with two kids Anne and David who lived in California. When Jacob moves to Arkansas, he gets an escape from the monotony of his life in California by trying to change his life to the better. He captivated by the endless possibilities of the land.

1 Exploring the majorseance in the movie:



Picture 01: Monica surprised by the new home



Picture 02: Jacob being happy about his new homeland

Table one 01: the family's different reaction about the new home

Denotative Signifier	Denotative Signified
Screanshots of the reactions of the wife and the other mumbers of the familly about the new home.	When the family first saw the new home their reactions were different,The kids, David and Anne, treat it as a

	playgroundand a mysterious new landscape to run around and explore. And The mother, Monica was shocked toview the isolated lotand the vacant trailer home in the middle of itwith horror and resignation because she expected to see something better.But the dad, Jacob , sees only pure potential, the chance to make something of his own. **Monica**: what is this place? **Jacob**: our new home.

At the beginning of the movie, it can be noticed that Jacob was skeptical of the house he bought for the family, as he wanted to buy more farmland. And The furiousness was clear on Monica's face from the start, but soon she accepts that house and accepts her husband's dream of making his own farmland, while the kids were having fun and enjoying the new homeland and curious about it.



Picture 03: The kids enjoying an American breakfast and talking english.

Table two 02: Screenshots of Aavid and Anne being Americans.

Denotative Signifier	Denotative Signified
Screansots of the kids eating breakfast like americans and not like koreans.	David and Anne were atouched to the American culture, they were speaking english and watching American news while having their breakfast in the American way.

However, in the movie it can be noticed that the kids were attached to the American culture more than their parents culture which is korean culture, they were speaking english, eating American food, and watching American news, wich shows their American identity and not their korean identity, which is their parents' culture.



Picture 04:Monica bieng happy about what her mother brought to her from kourea.



Picture 05: The grandmother giving a kourean gift to David.

Table tree 03: The grandmother presenting the kourean culture.

Denotative Signifier	Denotative Signified
Screanshots of the grandmother bringing food from the kourea to the Yi family.	The grandmother was happy to bring kourean food and other stuffs to the family to make them remember the kourean culture, and Monica was happy about what her mother brought to her, beccause she missed her home in Korea

The grandmotherSoonja brought the South Korea with her in her travel bag. She packed a different korean stuffs in that bag so the Yi family could smell

korea again.which makes Monica happy about it and shows how being a part from anothor cultur could change one's attitude and identity.



Picture 06: David refusing the korean food that the grandmother brought to him.



Picture 07: David asking the grandma if she know how the bake coockies.



Picture 08: David and his sister Anne having a conversation about their grandmother



Picture 09: The grandmother teaching the kids a korean game.

Table four 04: screenshots of David feeling disgused about the korean food. And prefeing american food and his opinion about his grandmother.

Denotative Signifier	Denotative Signified
Screenshots of David refusing the korean food and asking to stop giving it to him.	The korean food that the grandmathor brought and tried to make david eat and drink it was new to him which make him uncomfortable and disgused about it . and he preferd the American cockies he asked his grandma if she can make them for him. Therefor david thinks that his grandma is not real because she does not speak english and does not know the American culture.
Screenshot of the grandmother trying to teach the kids the korean culture.	The grandmother was trying to make the kids acept their origins and the korean culture by teaching them parts of the cultur like the game they were playing.

When Monica's mother, David's grandmother-in-law visits them, David was not ready to accept her or accept what she does, The children were put off by her old-country attitudes and the weird things she eats and drinks. "She's not like a real grandma," David complains. "She doesn't bake cookies.". then Soonja tried to

teach her grandson a card game that involves a lot of Korean swear words.Soonja plays the game of Hwatu with her grandchildren. Hwatu is a game played during a special season of gathering for Koreans. Because the game includes gambling, there is a certain edge of competitiveness that it can foster, and David introduces her to the pleasures of Mountain Dew. The kids do not know a lot about their origins and the Korean culture because their personalities have been built on the American principles, but the grandmother did not give up and kept trying to teach them about their parents' culture and make them learn about it and accept it by showing them how to play a game which is part of the Korean culture.



Picture 10: Monica asking her cowerker about korean churches.



Picture 11: the grandmother trying to make the family remmebering their past by a song.

Table five05: screenshots of Monica having a conversation with her coworker korean churches, and her forgeting about her past.

Denotative Signifier	Denotative Signified
Screenshots of Mnica trying to find a korean places for her kids to mingle with koreans and learsn korean culture	Monica was trying to make David and Anne mingle with the Korean cultureBecause they are getting far from their origins and being attached to the American culture.
Screenshots of the grandmother watching a korean show and make the family remember their past in korea.	The grandmother kept trying to make the Yi family mingle again with their origins and this time with Monica and Jacob by telling them about the song

	they used to love. Dialoge of monica and her mom: **Grandmother** : you two used to love this song **Monica**: this song? **Grandmother**: sure, whenever someone make your mom and dad sing, they would all get lovey dovey as they sang this song. **Monica**: did we ? **Grandmother**: they come to america and forgot everything.

This scene shows how the family forgot about their memories in Korea and their origins, and went deep in the American culture and influenced by the American culture because they were busy with chacing their American dream so, they lost their identities without noticing that. We can see also how Monica was trying to find a place where she can take her kids to mingle with other Korean

kidsso theywill not lose their identities.



Picture 12: Davind getting better because of the korean drink.

Table six 06: screenshot of the doctor telling the familly a good news about David's health.

Denotative Signifier	Denotative Signified
Screenshots of David getting better because of the korean drink minari	The korean drink helped the kid to get better and the family felt happy about that, in which it shows how important is the to accept your origins.

The power of minari was the reason for making David feeling better, it shows how being Korean and apart from its culture could help them too, not only what they learned from the American culture, after this scene, we can see that David starts to love and accepts his grandmother and get closer to her at the end of the movie.



Picture 13: David and Anne being confused about the korean store.

Table seven 07: Screenshot of the kids wondering about the stuffs they found in the korean store.

Denotative Signifier	Denotative Signified
Scrrensot of David and Anne confused about the korean food they found in the store	The kids have been grown in America and they were touched by its culture they only knew American food and lived like Americans and when they went to the store they found a new kind of stuff they did not see before.

David and Anne went to the Korean store and did not have any idea about the Korean stuff they have found there and they were wondering what was all that kind of food, which shows how the kids were not interested in their origins and their Korean culture. It also shows how their way of thinking and attitudes are different from their mother culture and their attachment to the American culture.



Picture 14: the family watching their dream on fire.

Table eight 08: screenshot of the family watching their work on fire and their dream fade infront of them.

Denotative Signifier	Denotative Signified
Screenshot of the Monica and Jaob watching all the work and dream fading with the fire.	David and Anne went to the Korean store and did not have any idea about the Korean stuff they have found there and they were wondering what was all that kind of food, which shows how the kids were not interested in their origins and their Korean culture. It also shows how their way of thinking and attitudes are different from their mother culture and their attachment to the American culture.

The Yi family was dreaming about a better life and achieving their American dream that was the reason why they came to the new homeland and changed their way of living. But by a small mistake from the grandmother, Soonja accidentally sets fire to the farmhouse where Jacob is storing the crops he has worked so hard to grow. Things in the family had gone from bad to worse, as Monica was considering divorcing Jacob. He had become engrossed in his work. Then Jacob and Monica were watching the dream burning and their hands were tied up and they did not do anything about it. But the fire had a good side and a good effect on the family because it makes them close again after they were planning to be divorced. And the grandson accepts his grandmother, when Soonja, who was devastated by the fire, tries to leave the family. her grandchildren convince her to stay.

2 Discussion*:*

The analysis of the movie shows how living and facing a new culture changes one's personality and attitude without even noticing the change and causes her or him an identity crisis in which he or she forgets about their origins and their real identity. In the movie "MINARI" Jacob and his family were chasing their dream of having their own farm and work to live a better life in America, the pursuit of the American dream; the economic, racial, and cultural challenges of an immigrant family in rural America; the will of a family was struggling to survive together. Bookending the story of Jacob's challenges are scenes of minari. Towards the beginning of the movie Soonja, Jacob's mother-in-law was a symbol of Korean national culture, takes her young grandson to a swamp on the farm and sows Minari seeds. She says to him, "Minari is just growing like weeds, so anyone can pick them up and eat them. The rich and the poor can eat Minari and be healthy. We put it in kimchi and eat it in the stew, and when we get sick, it can be medicine. Minari is wonderful". She was trying to spread the Korean culture and helps the family patiently despite the difficult circumstances of her own culture shock and the experience of being a strange old woman to her grandchildren.

The movie relied heavily and perfectly on the influence of the american culture on people's life and how can chacing the american dream cause an identity crisis to them, also it shows that the american dream is not always true and t is not for everyone but only for the lucky ones, and showing just how challenging it is to achieve the American Dream while also keeping one's family together. It can appear to be heartless so you donnot feel sad about losing other thing to achieve it. Jacob and Monica worked hard for their dream but at the end they lost everything because of a small mistake, and at the end of the movie the director showed the family happy together after what happened to them which shows that the dream is not only the dream of money but also the dream of love.

2.SECSION TWO: DATA ANALYSIS:

This section will discuss the data analysis generated from the responses of the targeted population. Their answers were presented and projected in graphical format. After gathering data from the computerized questionnaire, Google forms was the perfect choice to use to obtain the data of the questionnaire into Google Docs which eventually allowed to analyze the questionnaire by making the pie charts. First, quantitative statistics was used for the questionnaire to elicit primary quantitative data as preliminary results of our study. Next, the analysis of the movie in order to limit the scope of observation. Consequently, all the results aimed to answer the research questions.

1. ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONAIRE :

First section: theillusion of the American dream

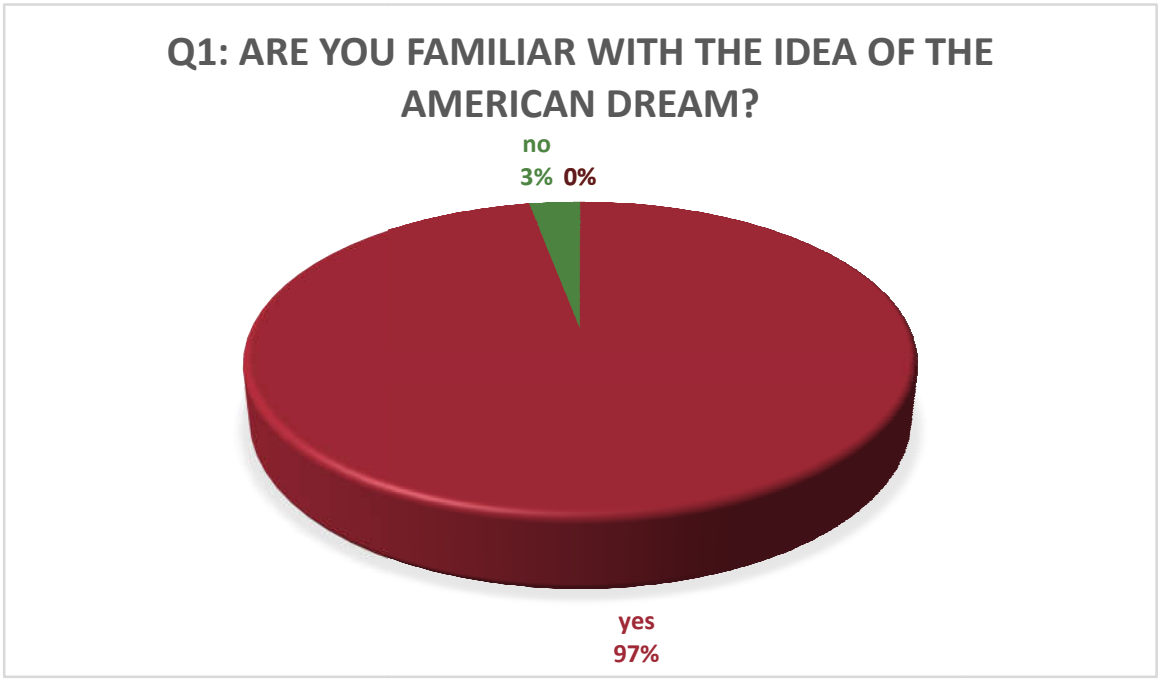


FIGURE ONE : respondents familarity and knowledge about the american dream.

It could be seen from the above figure that the majority of the respondents Ninety seven per cent (97%) were familiar with the idea of the "American Dream". Therefore it is apparent how the American Dream was so popular amongst the students of the University of Khenchela.

After the sample group asked to define the American dream, the answers was almost the same. According to the respondents definitions, it could be summerised in three lines , “The American dream is the belief of achieving goals through hard work and sacrifice for the sake of escaping misery and having a better life in the United States regardless of the the race origins or class they were born into, and live freely.

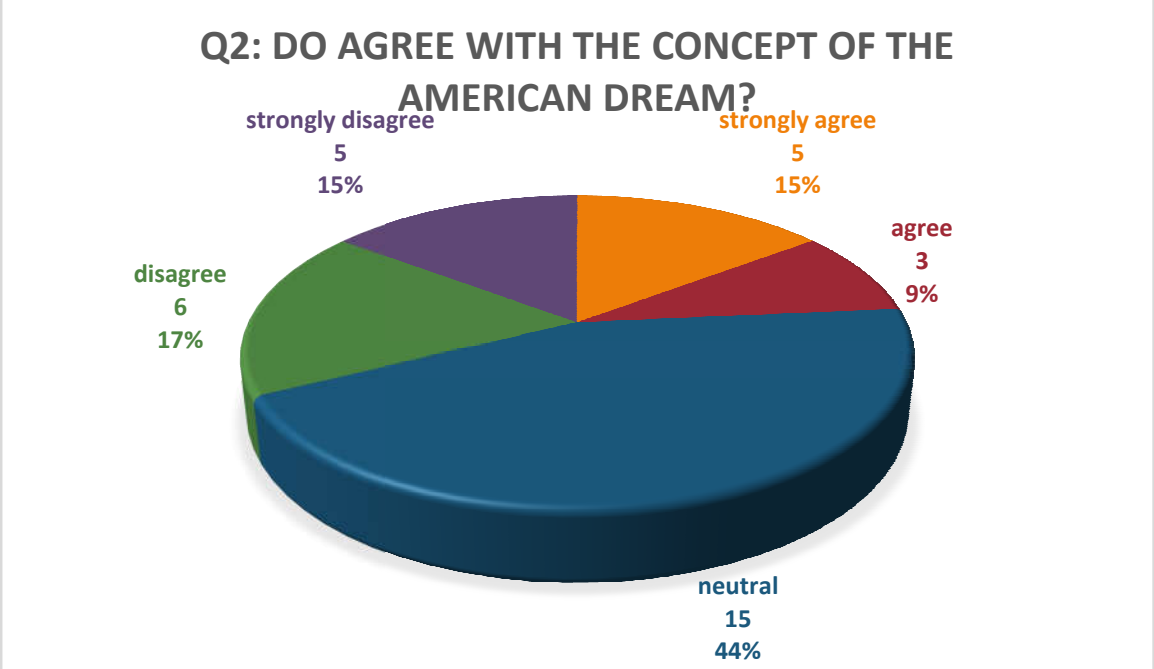


FIGURE two : respondents agreement and disagreement with concept of the American dream.

The above diagram revealed that nearly half of the respondents answers, forty-four per cent (44%), were neutral compared to seventeen per cent (17%) who disagreed with the concept of the "American dream".

From the selected sample only a quarter of the respondents fivteen per cent (15%) did strongly agree with the American Dream concept and the other quarter (15%) strongly disagreed. The results showed that there were different opinions about the concept.

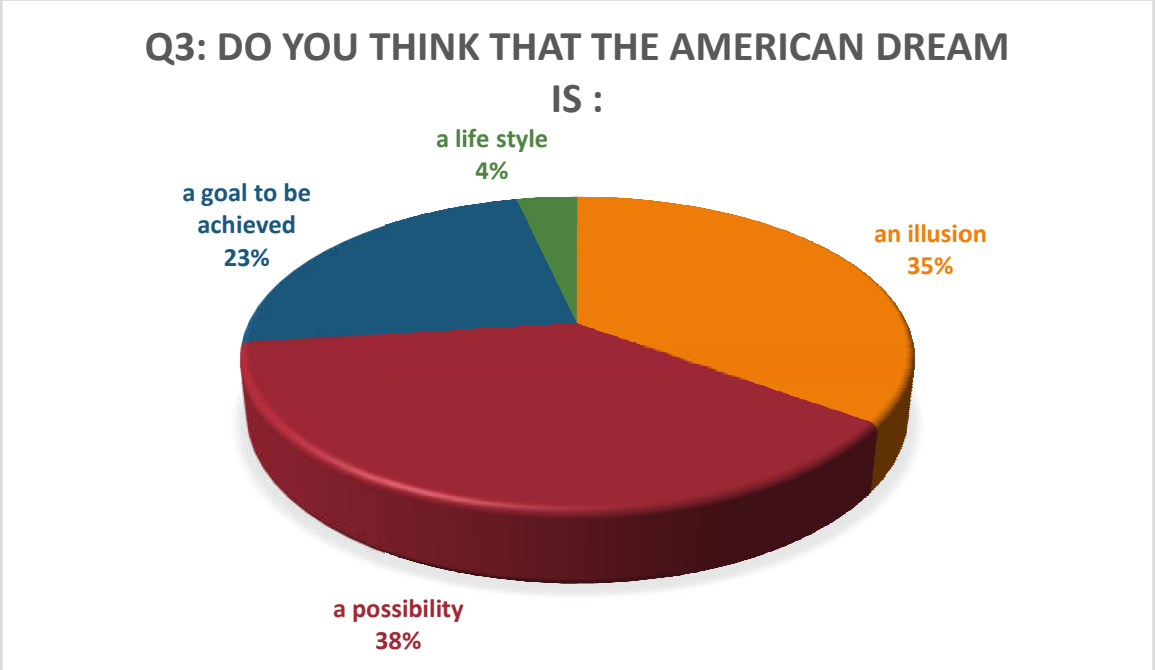


FIGURE three: how respondents see the American dream an illusion, a possibility, a goal to be achieved or a life style.

The above diagram demonstrated that the respondents ' answers were in convergence about the American dream if it is a possibility or an illusion, as thirty-eight per cent (38%) believed that the American dream was a possibility. However, thirty-five per cent (35%) of

the participants believed that it was an illusion. A proportion of twenty-three per cent (23%) of the participants affirmed that the American dream was a goal to be achieved, only a minority of the respondents believed that it was a life style.

The sample group have elaborated their answers for this question, some said that the American dream is possibility that can become a reality when an individual works hard enough to make it happen, and because there are many who had achieved it and they are living their American dream so it can be made. However, others said that it is an allusion, because the US does not really give equal opportunities to every Groupe of people “being racially biased”, also because this ideology is completely ignoring the structural imbalances in a capitalist society. The notion that "success" is simply a matter of will power completely ignores the material and objective, structural realities of society. And a person who was born into poverty is highly unlikely to "achieve what they want" on the basis that they have little access to institutions of opportunity.

The evidence from these opinions was that far too little attention had been paid to the concept of the American Dream and that a significant number of people are confused because the United Nation of America does not really give equal opportunities to everyone.

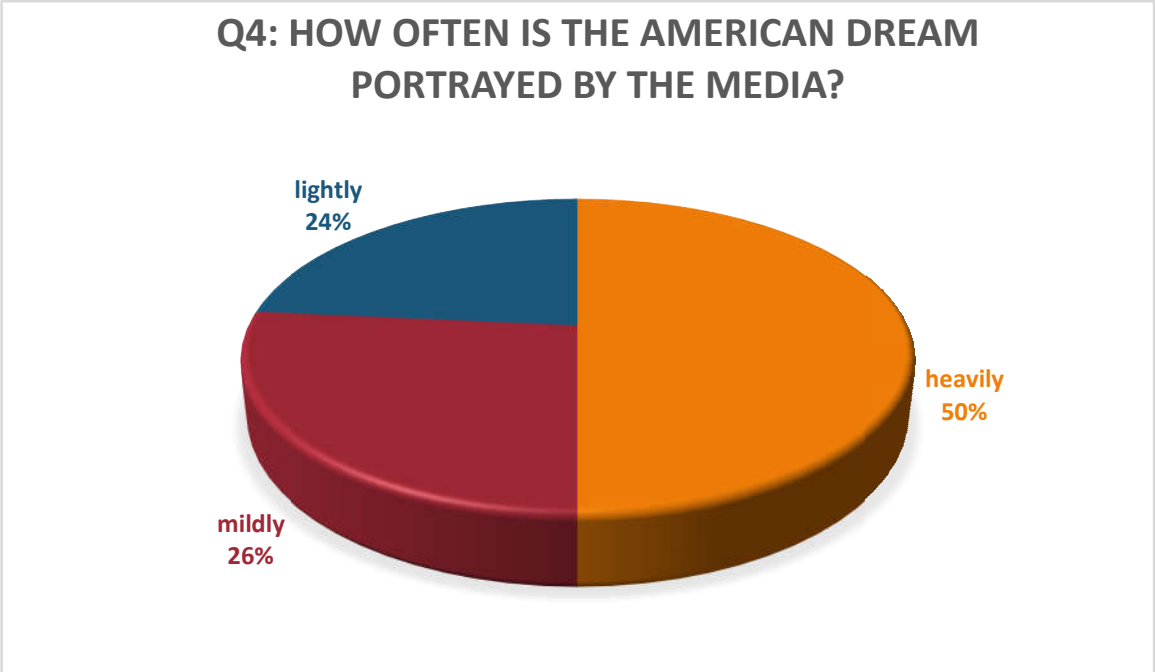


FIGURE four: respondents' opinions about how the American dream is portrayed by the media.

Half of the participant, fifty per cent (50%), indicated that the American dream was heavily portrayed by the media. Yet, twenty-six (26%) of the respondents defined that the media portrayed the American dream mildly and that a similar proportion of the respondents, twenty-four (24%), believed that it was portrayed lightly.

Drawing on the different respondents' answers, it can be inferred that there were different opinions about how the American Dream was portrayed by the media. But almost all the respondents believed that the media exaggerated in portraying the ideology of the American dream and it showed the good side and romanticizing of the concept of this ideology through Hollywood, popular music, broadsheet and tabloid news outlets all propagated this ideological trend as normal and natural.

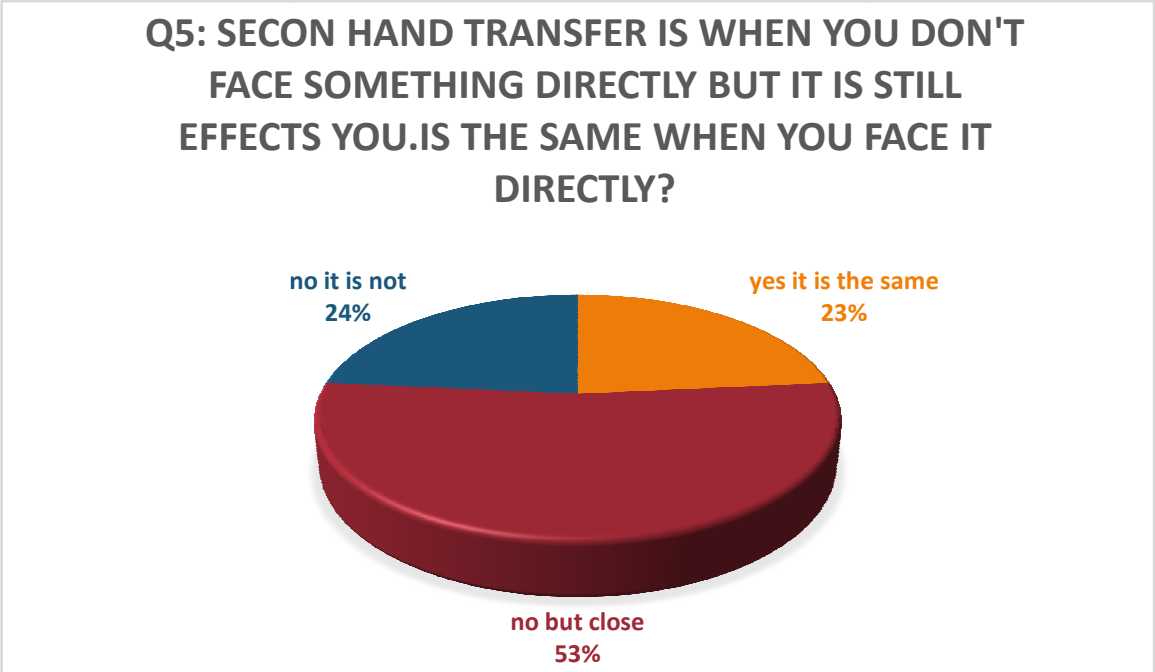


FIGURE five: the conception of the respondents of the effect of facing a culture indirectly is it the same as when they face it directly?

The diagram above demonstrated that half of the participants, fifty-three per cent (53%), in this study thought that facing a culture indirectly is different. Nevertheless, a quarter, twenty-four per cent (24%), maintained a similar idea whereas the remaining quarter, twenty-three per cent (23%), of them asserted that facing the culture directly or indirectly was the same.

Second section: the influence of media and its role in causing an identity crisis.

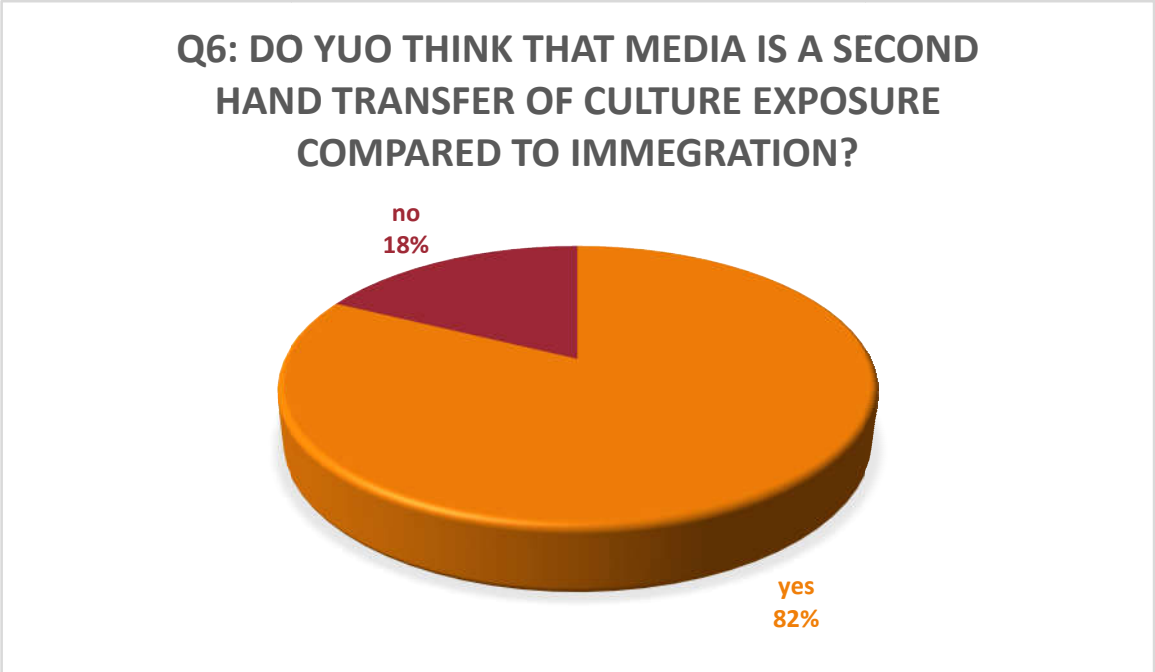


FIGURE six: Respondents' opinion about the media pushing people to immigrate.

Eighty-two per cent (82%) of the respondents agreed that the media is a second-hand transfer of culture uncovering compared to immigration. Meanwhile, the remaining proportion of eighteen per cent (18%) disagreed.

From the above figures it could be inferred that the media has the power to influence and manipulate people's lives, it portrays ideologies and makes people believe in it blindly and it indoctrinates solid ideas about immigration to affect their cultural perspectives and make them chase the opportunities to live a better life by immigrating in other countries and embrace other cultures like the American one. By creating the American dream in television shows, movies..., they built this narrative that anything associated with America is an ideal goal and that people should immigrate to America for freedom, success and wealth.

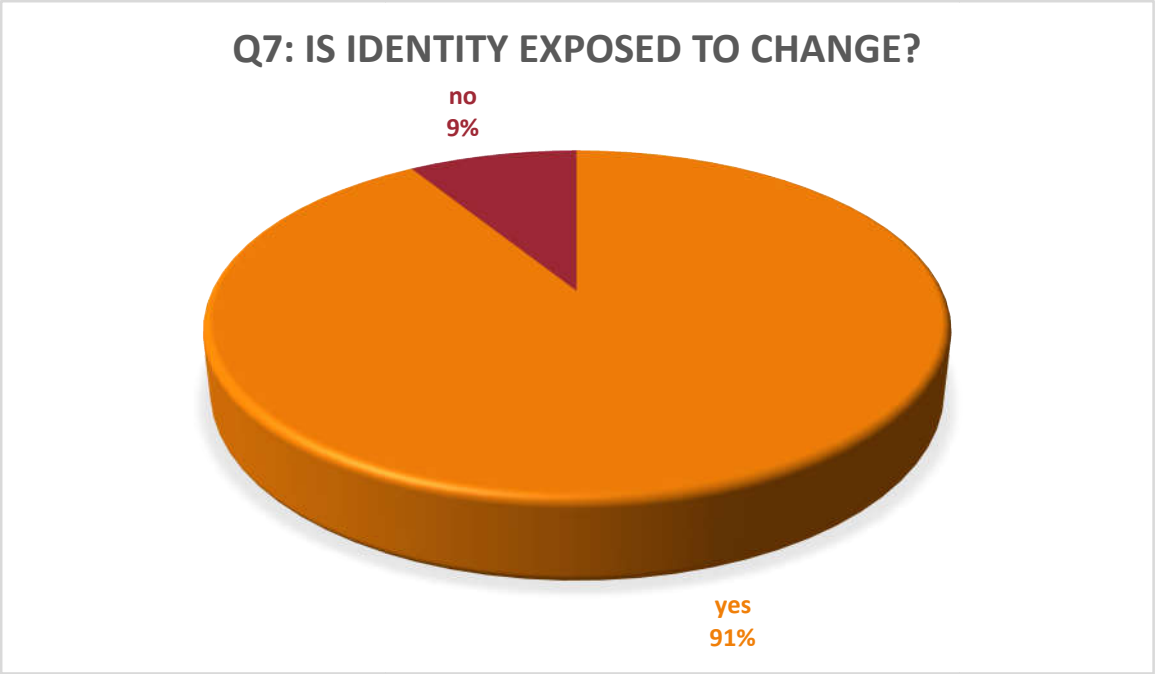


FIGURE seven: respondents' opinion about if the identity could be change or not

A considerable proportion of ninety-one per cent (91%) indicates that the person's identity could be change.while a small proportion of them nine per cent (9%) disagreed.

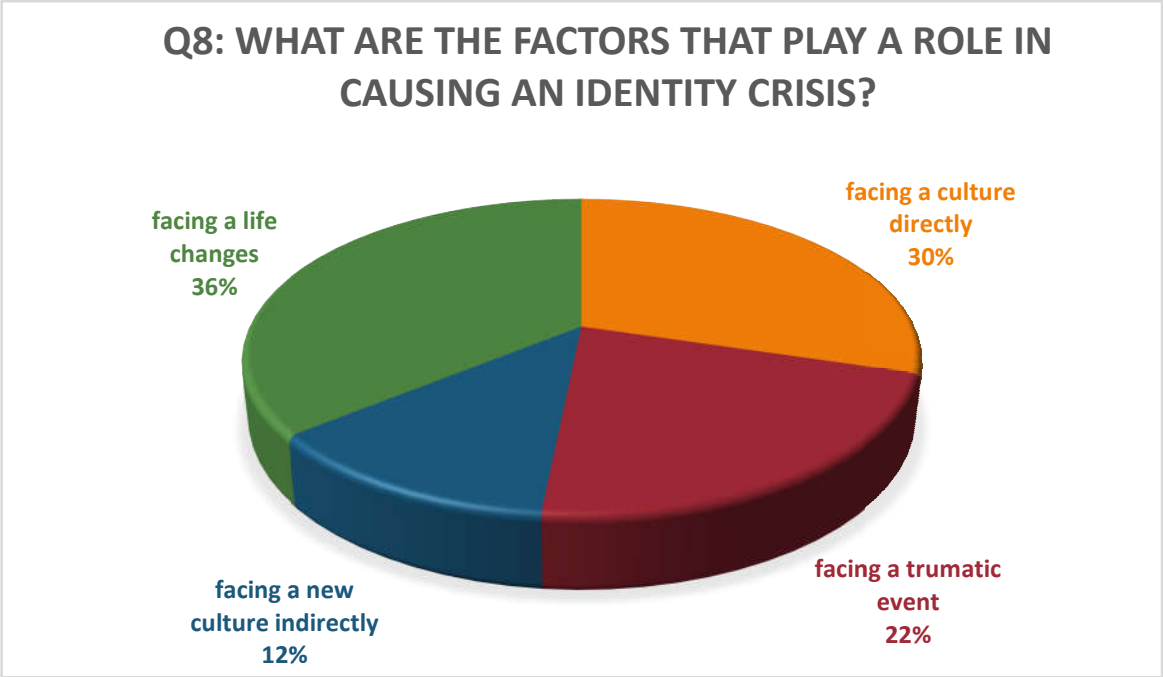


FIGURE eight: Respondents' outlooks on the factors that play a role in causing an identity crisis.

It can be inferred from the diagram above that the respondents 'answers regarding the above questions fluctuated between facing life changes at an estimated rate of thirty-six per cent (36%), and facing a culture directly thirty per cent (30%). Yet only a small promotion, twenty-tow per cent (22%), believed that facing traumatic events were the reasons for causing an identity crisis. Only a minority of them saw that facing a new culture indirectly causes an identity crisis.

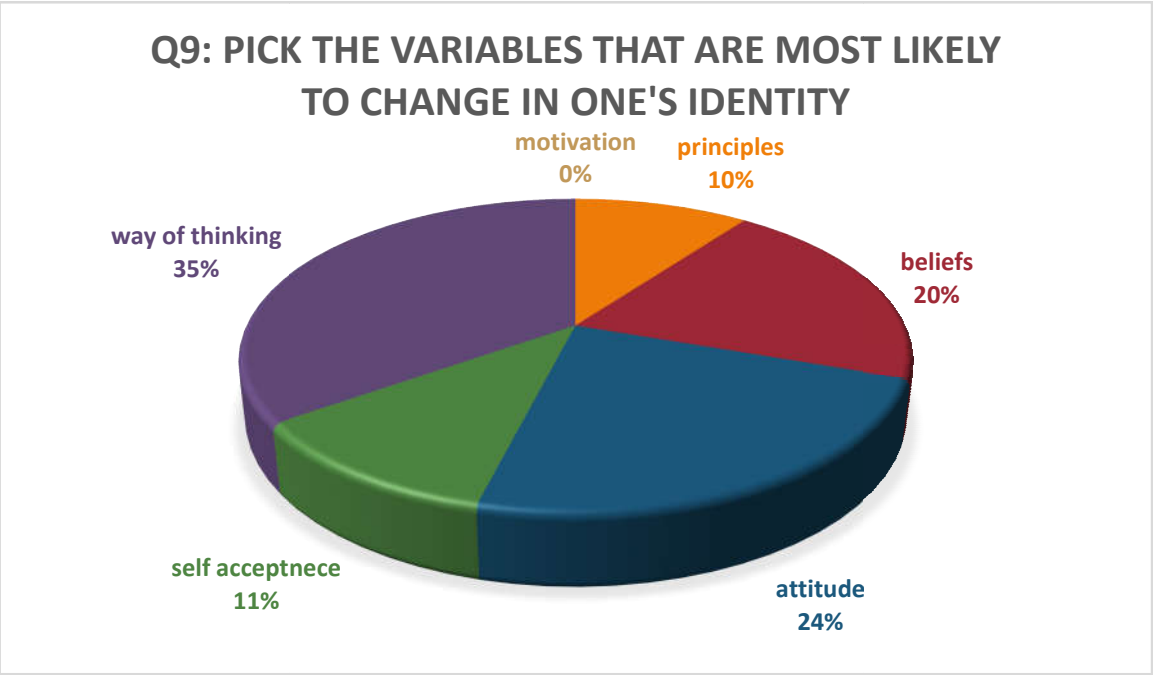


FIGURE nine: respondents' conception of the variables that play a role in changing a person's identity.

According to what the pie chart shows, a big amount of the respondents thirty-five per cent (35%) believed that a person's way of thinking could lead his or her personality to change. However, a promotion of twenty-four per cent (24%) respondents think that the attitude of a person is most likely to change one's identity. Yet, twenty per cent (20%) of the respondent's answers was one's beliefs are most likely to change a person's identity. Accordingly, a ten per cent (10%) amount of the respondents see that self-acceptance could be the reason of the identity change. And the answers for the person's principles are likely to change the identity were only ten per cent (10%).

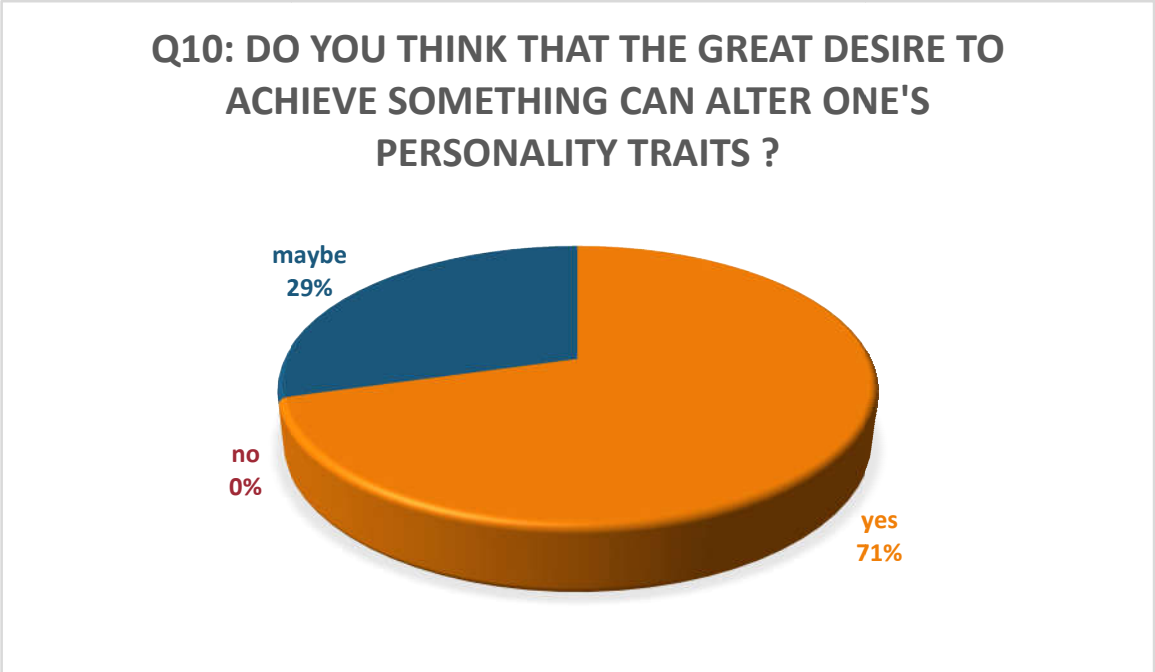


FIGURE ten: respondents' opinion about personality traits if it could be altered by the desire to achieve something.

As it shown in the diagram above, a big amount of seventy-one per cent (71%) of the participants indicated that when a person has a desire to achieve something in his life, that desire could make alterations to his or her personality traits. Yet, twenty-nine per cent (29%) of the respondents were not sure about it, they picked "maybe".

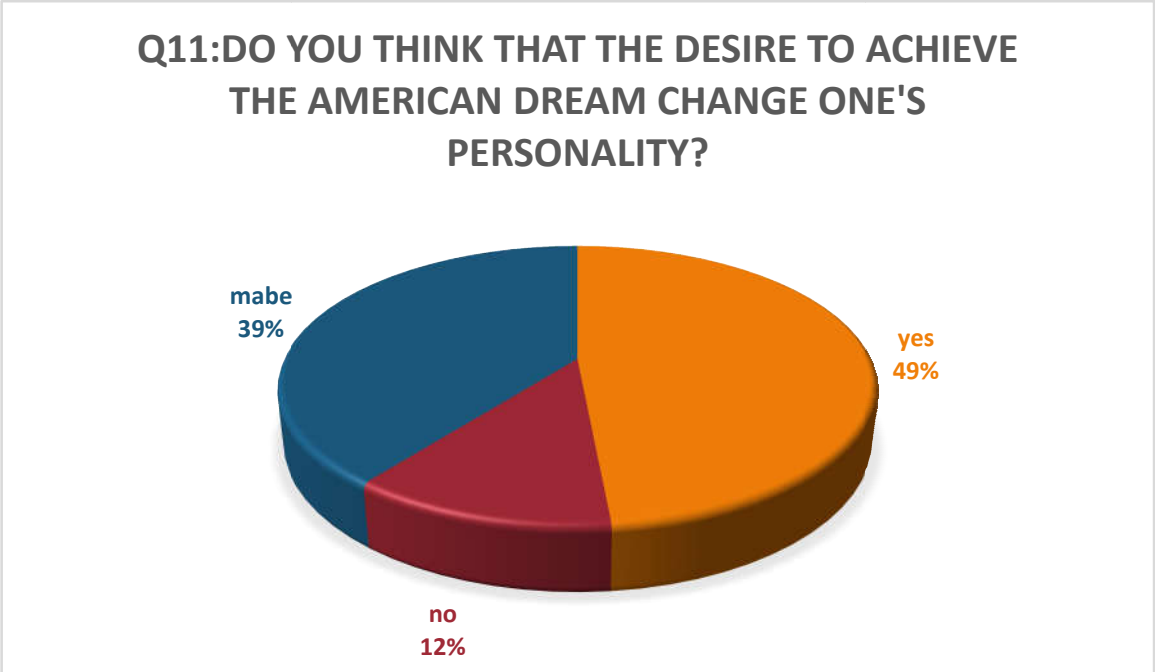


FIGURE eleven: respondent's opinion about the desire to achieve the American dream changes their personality.

Almost half of the respondents forty-nine per cent (49%) believed that the desire to achieve the American dream leads to change a person's identity. Yet, an amount of thirty-nine per cent (39%) were not sure, they see that It's hard to explain because it depends on the person personality and circumstances that face that person. And only (12%) of the respondents who thought that the desire to live the American dream is not necessarily changes a person's identity.

From the diagram above and the respondents' explanations it can be inferred that the desire to achieve the American dream requires to get rid of some principles to make it work, as a matter of fact, a person's psyche changes when it is faced with new life style or new structure.and the desire to live like Americans has a huge impact on the personality of people, especially young people, they are most likely to get effected by the influence of media. This desire to immigrate to the US motivates them to change their way of thinking and it could change his or her attitudes and their view of the future.

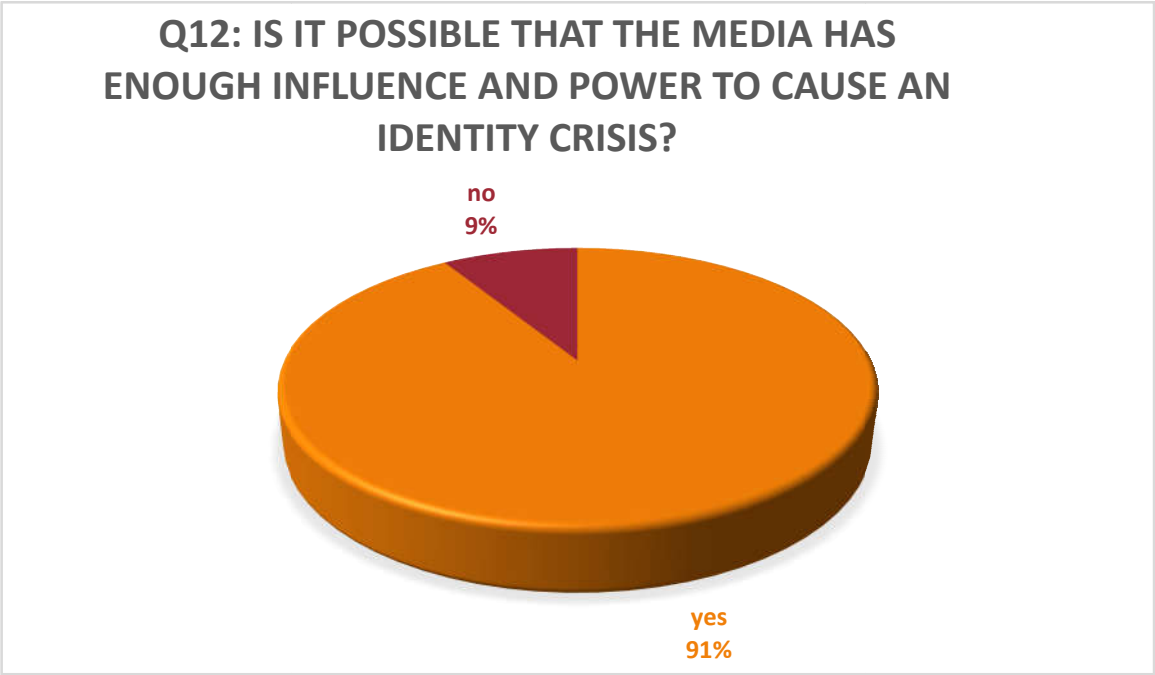


FIGURE twelve: respondents' opinion on the power of media in causing an identity crisis.

An amount of ninety-one per cent (91%) of the respondents agreed that the media has the power to influence one's personality and cause him an identity crisis. Yet nine per cent disagreed

According to the pie chart above, it can be inferred that media is the number one platform of gathering numerous minds and thoughts. Media has a great effect in changing people's identity, because of the surface beautiful image it illustrates about a lot of things like the concept of the American dream. however, it's spread for a hidden motive, that will change people identity over time subconsciously.

2. Discussion of the questionnaire:

This survey aimed to investigate if the desire to achieve the American dream could change one's personality and how the chosen sample sees the American dream (a possibility or an illusion), also to investigate the role of media in people's lives and its power to cause an identity crisis. Overall, by analyzing the survey it can be inferred that the American dream is a well-known ideology, but there are numerous opinions about its concept. Also, we can conclude that the media has a big impact on people's lives that it influences almost all life's domains and it has a big role in romanticizing the concept of the American dream by making people believe that they are doing it for the sake of happiness and makes them believe that they should start accepting other cultures as their home which support them to immigrate to America.

CONCLUSION:

this chapter dealt with: the analysis of the movie "MINARI" that shows the influence of the American culture on people's life and how it can change their way of thinking and attitude and mingle with the new culture and forget about their origins, however it shows that the American dream is not always achievable for everyone and not all the dreams and happy life is about money but love and warm is also important. Meeting with the analysis of the questionnaire with second-year master students about the influence and the power of media in glorifying the concept of the American dream and how it plays a secondhand transfer to immigration and play a role of causing an identity crisis by facing a new culture indirectly.

GENERAL CONCLUSION:

This research at hand was conducted mainly to investigate the relation between the idea or concept of the American dream and how it can cause a second-hand identity crisis meaning that even non-immigrants and people who did not face the American dream face to face still went through it. It is done to shed light on the hidden part of this concept and it aims to raise awareness of EFL learners and make them focus on the real version with real percentages instead of a romanticized version of it.

To gather the needed amount of information, data gathering took place as it was dividedinto two sections on one hand the theoretical section where the gathering was dependent on looking for information that related to the topic and that played a major role in explaining and simplifying the research topic. On the other hand, practical gathering that was done by the researcher via using tools such as questionnaire and analyzing a movie which was a vivid example of the theoretical gathering

The theoretical gathering or what is known as literally review played an essential role in this research as it gave the point of view of other researchers and explained Their thought combined with those of the researcher, it also proved that the researcher's point of view or motive to start this research was not from nothingness but was based on thorough studying and researching of the topic which helped move the research into the practical platform.

The practical gathering or what is knownas data analysis, is the most crucial part as it is the final step that could decide if the research is credible or not as it is analyzed objectively and with no inner motive other than wanting to unravel the truth surrounding a scientific matter. In this case there were two tools used one was a questionnaire send to master two EFL learners and the second was a semiotic analysis of a movie revolving about the same topic. Both gave the same results supporting the theoretical gathering and proving is adequate.

After conducting this research, it was clear that the concept of the American dream is becoming a threat to people all over the world generally and to EFL learners specifically because it is known that it is impossible to teach language without a culture and since English learners are exposed to British and American culture they are put at risk. That does not mean for them to be thought to hate it but only to be shown how to deal with situations that seem too optimal, and to learn how to take into consideration the good and the bad and if the bad is not shown then to feel skeptical enough to look for it.

Suggestions and the recommendations:

Teaching cultural elements and how can the identity can be altered while studying about a foreign culture in classes arerecommended to raise awareness to EFL students about the effect of theMainstream cultures on people in general and on students who study foreign languages in specific.

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STUDENTS QUESTIONNAIRE:

The Illusion of The American Dream: Theinfluence of media and its role in causing an identity crisis

Dear students,

We appreciate your efforts in helping us conduct a survey about the illusion of the American dream: the influence of media and its role in causing an identity crisis

section one: background of the participants

1. What is your gender?

Mark only one oval.

- male
- Female

2. How old are you?

Mark only one oval.

- 17-20
- 20-30
- more than 30

section two: the illusion of the American dream

3. Are you familiar with the idea of the American dream?

Mark only one oval.

- yes
- no

1. Define it according to your knowledge

2. Do you agree with the concept of the American dream?

Mark only one oval.

	1	2	3	4	5	
agree	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	disagree

3. Do you think that the American dream is?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ an illusion
- ◯ a possibility
- ◯ a goal to be achieved
- ◯ a life style

4. Please elaborate on your answer:

1. How often is the American dream portrayed by the media?

Mark only one oval.

- heavily
- mildly
- lightly

2. Please exemplify

section three: the influence of media and its role in causing an identity crisis.

3. Second hand transfer is when you don't face something directly but it still affects you. Is the effect the same when you face it directly?

Mark only one oval.

- yes, it is the same
- no but close
- no, it is not

4. Do you think that media is a second-hand transfer of cultural exposurecompared to immigration?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

1. Please justify your answer

2. Is identity exposed to change?

Mark only one oval.

- yes
- No

3. What are the factors that play a role in causing an identity crisis? (Pick only twoplease)

Tick all that apply.

- [ ] facing a culture directly
- [ ] facing a traumatic event
- [ ] facing a new culture indirectly
- [ ] facing a life change

4. Pick the variables that are most likely to change in one's identity

Tick all that apply.

- [ ] principles
- [ ] beliefs
- [ ] attitude
- [ ] self-acceptance
- [ ] way of thinking
- [ ] motivation

1. Do you think that the great desire to achieve something can alter one's personality traits ?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Maybe

2. Do you think that the desire to achieve the American dream change one's personality?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Maybe

3. Please explain

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

4. Is it possible that the media has enough influence and power to cause an identity crisis?

Mark only one oval.

- ◯ yes
- ◯ no

1. Please explain