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Ethnocentrism and Cultural Relativism in the Deaf Community

Cultural Relativism is the idea that we all have different cultures that are valid and equal to your own culture. However, not all people believe that all the cultures are equal, and some believe that theirs are better. This is called Ethnocentrism. This happens when someone judges another culture based on your own culture in a way that our culture is superior. This can happen between the hearing and deaf culture a lot because not only are they divided by language or culture, but also by physical boundaries as well. This can cause a lot of misunderstanding, such as the hearing culture to see the other as a lesser culture because they have a “disability”. Even though the deaf community does not consider themselves to be a part if a disability group. Those in the hearing group also are unaware that they had their own hearing culture, personally I had no idea that there was such a distinction. Since talking this class, I have been able to learn a bit more about both the hearing and deaf cultures, which has in turn helped me and my fellow classmates develop more cultural relativism and get rid of ethnocentrism.