

Summary

This article is looking into the identity development of nine different deaf participants. The article is looking to challenge the distinction between “deaf” and “Deaf”. “Deaf” is the sign language community and “deaf” is the culturally hearing. The way they’re doing this is by looking into these communities’ experiences in mainstream school and special school. This is allowing them to determine how their identity is shaped throughout life after these experiences. This article introduces something called “DeaF identity” which is a representation of individuals transition from the Deaf and hearing communities. The article looking into six students that attended mainstream schools. They found that the students at mainstream schools believe they if they adapted to the hearing world then they would be able to achieve a lot more and have more future opportunities. However, they felt that they were missing out on their true feeling of being deaf during their school years. The study then investigates three people that attended special schools that were designed for people with hearing problems. This study showed a more positive happy atmosphere that allowed them to develop a strong deaf identity. The study then goes into highlighting three different thematic categories. These are being deaf, school impact, and deaf identity development.

What is the focus or thesis of the reading?

The focus of this reading is too through the identity development of 9 different deaf participants through looking at their educational experiences weather that is a mainstream school or a special school that is for deaf people. The study is looking at what it means to be a deaf person according to the stories of deaf adults. This study is important because it is showing a growing influence in the research of deaf identity.

From your reading, what are the key points made by the author(s)?

The biggest key points I think were made when looking into the nine different participants and realizing they don’t feel the need to fit in they enjoy buying into their

deaf identity. Other key points made throughout this article is determine the distinction between the “deaf” and “Deaf” societies. The last key points that were made are the different thematic categories.

Which of those key points do you find most important and why?

This is important because many people that have disabilities feel stigmatized and feel the need to hide that they have a problem, or they are feeling the need to try and fit in and prove that they belong and that they can be just like everyone else. However, as seen in this article deaf people do not feel the need for that and they are happy and feel they can develop more in special schools.

What ideas in this chapter are new to you and especially interesting?

All these ideas are new to me as I have never investigated the deaf community. I found very interesting that deaf people take pride in being deaf and don't feel the need to go to a mainstream school and try and fit in they are happier going to special schools devoted towards deaf people because it truly allows them to grow into their deaf identity.

What ONE question would you like us to address in class?

Have they done a study like this in America? If so, what were the results?