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Date

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Reading Response five

**“Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology,” written by Dr. Lauren Miller Griffith of Texas Tech University and Dr. Jonathan S. Marion of University of Arkansas, and edited by Nina Brown, Laura Tubelle de González, and Thomas McIlwraith, explores the significance of performance in culture with the help of distinction between performance of culture and cultural performance, constructions of gender, outcomes of performance. After reading the article, I felt that the authors tried to explain the behavior and acts of the people to develop the culture, however, there were various points in the chapter that raised the questions. In the starting, the chapter was discussed using terms like “cultural performances” and “performances of culture”** (Brown et al.)**.** While the chapter is accurately defined the concept of performance, however, I feel that the case study which is used to explain the term does not reflect the whole population. The next authors discussed was "everyday performance" by explaining the tension between agency and hegemony. I felt that the example is given in the section "presentation of self" is not accurate. It is the fact that people behave differently when they feel that someone is watching them but I do not think that every individual has a different attitude when he is alone. I was impressed by the line "Clothing, physical characteristics, comportment, and facial expressions all contribute to one's personal front"because I believe that these factors definitely help to identify the personality and status of the individuals (Brown et al.). My issue with the chapter is the use of various case studies. It can be useful to elaborate the concepts discussed in the chapter. However, the problem is that the whole explanation of each concept was based on a particular case study. This is a pattern throughout the chapter which restricted the thinking power of the reader. In the section “performance communities,” no case study was used and a general discussion with the example of dance helped to understand the term “community of practice”. The example of salsa that is now performed as local practice and worldwide identifies that dance styles become the cultural practice while variations can be accepted only when the large population get involved in it (Brown et al.). It helped me to understand the fact that culture and performance has a direct link. However, performance can be a part of culture only when the maximum number of people show acceptance. In my opinion, authors not fully but somehow managed to engage the readers to explain the composition of culture through various examples and cases related to dance, and other art performances. In the end, I want to highlight the point that art like dance is not the part of some religions like Islam then how their culture adopts such performance.

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Work Cited:

Brown, Nina, et al. *Perspectives: An Open Invitation to Cultural Anthropology*. 2017.