Course: PRINCIPLES OF SOCIOLOGY

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Subject of Assignment

"Point out and discuss the representations of refugees in press discourse. Analyze how the subjectivities of refugees are constructed and compare the various images of refugees that emanate from different political, social and cultural views".

Team Research

You have to create a team research of 3-5 individuals. It's better for your team, its synthesis to be multinational, as it will enable us to proceed to an interesting comparison between (socio-political) discourses from different national newspapers.

Paper's Structure

The paper must consist of distinct chapters, that each one will include each student's analysis. You are going to choose one article from a mass-circulation progressive and one from a conservative newspaper in your country. Thus, if the number of members of your team research is 5, then paper has to include 5 separate chapters. Furthermore, in the beginning, you'll write an introductory chapter, in which all the members of your team research will describe the content of the paper/assignment. At the end of your team paper, there must be a section of conclusions. This section will be a conclusive, collective chapter that will point out the similarities and differences between the representations of refugees that you'll point out in your analysis. You may find similar representations in articles from conservative (or from progressive) newspapers. Or, perhaps, you met with variances of conservative representations between the different national newspapers. It would be interesting to try to interpret the socio-political reasons for these similarities or/and differences.

Qualitative content analysis

Firstly, you have to create conceptual categories into which you will include parts of your articles (namely, the chosen by you newspapers articles). In this way, you will categorize the data that you'll collect from the certain articles. For example, you could find discursive material that supports the category of "Refugees as a threat to social order". Or perhaps a conservative article addresses refugees as a threat to European culture, so you can create a conceptual category with the name "Refugees as a threat to European culture". On the contrary, a progressive article may present refugees as victims of neo-imperalism, or as a powerful source for cultural exchange and enrichment for western societies. In this case, you could construct the respective categories of "Refugees as victims of neo-imperialism" and " Refugees as a powerful source for cultural exchange and enrichment for western societies".

The target of qualitative content analysis is to find out the basic meanings in a text by moving certain parts of the text to your conceptual categories. This is the first stage of this method. Then, you will write down your assignment by presenting your conceptual categories. Now, you can present these categories by creating sub-units, in which you will quote some characteristic abstracts of the text and you will utilize these abstracts for your theoretical analysis. Therefore, your research work is to proceed to content analysis of two articles, which deal with the social phenomenon of refugee crisis, and in your presentation of your analysis you are going to compare the representations that emanate from different socio-political views (from different newspapers).

Word limit

Your individual part/chapter of the paper (your analysis) must not be less than 3 pages.

* I suggest you use

Font: *Times New Roman*,

Size: *12*

 Space between the lines: *1,5*.

*At the last session, you will present orally your team research work and you will hand in your assignments to me.