

Aboriginal and Multicultural Worlds

As we progress forward as a global community, multicultural and indigenous worlds are becoming more visible in today's prevalent Western Culture. To most, this is seen as beneficial, and will further support the diverse cultures present in Australia. Others see this ethnic diversification as a negative influence, corrupting the established Australian identity commonly known today.

These viewpoints are expressed in the texts *1112: Anhar – Iran to Woomera*, *Babakieueria*, and *Bend it like Beckham*. Through these texts, we learn the constant controversies between dominant and minority groups, the struggle of having a different culture to those around you, and the fear felt towards other cultures from nothing but prejudice and bigotry. Despite these negative affairs, we learn the increasing reconciliation between ethnic groups, contributing for a better world as a synergetic society.

For centuries, the relationship between dominant and minority cultures have been tainted with conflict and injustice. Lands around the world have been colonised by European nations, forcing different cultures to live together as one community. Unfortunately, many Europeans developed an attitude of superiority, leading to laws and acts that only favoured them, with others stripped of basic human rights.

This social separation is displayed in the motion picture *Babakieueria*, which outlines the impacts of the colonisation of Australia effectively through role reversal. The plot involves the Aborigines invasion and political overpowering of the White Australians. Highlights of the film involve a re-enactment of the Stolen Generation act, the internal relocation of Australians from their homes to remote areas, and the viewpoints of politicians, police and Indigenous civilians towards 'White Affairs'. The film conforms to a documentary format, centred on an interviewer consulting others on their opinions. Ultimately, the film's target audience are White Australians, intensifying the film's message through perspective – how would you feel if you were the Aborigines?

Through personal experiences, having a different culture to those around you has its advantages, but holds certain difficulties. These multicultural experiences are explored in the motion picture *Bend it like Beckham*. As we progress through the film, we observe the life of the main character, Jasminda. She holds a strong ambition to professionally play soccer, but is strongly discouraged by her parents and restrictive Indian culture. Apart from its salient plotline, the film holds strong symbolic meaning in some scenes. During the climax of the film, Jasminda is placed in a penalty shot. She visions the receiving party as her relatives, and bends the ball's path around them, towards the goal, leading to success. This symbolises her personal struggles to turn away from her culture and family in order to be like the others.

Jasminda's perspectives justify the difficulties and restrictions of holding a different culture, to a certain extent that it is unbearable and it has to be denied in order to have things your way. Eventually the plot ends well, when Jasminda's parents conform to her request to play a professional career in soccer. Her father emotionally recalls when he was treated unfairly by others when he attempted to join a local English cricket team in his youth. Despite facing these experiences, he eventually accepts that today's society has changed, and discrimination is not accepted.

Negative behaviour towards other ethnic groups can also be generated without even meeting them. Fear, prejudice, bigotry and stereotypes have caused enormous amounts of hatred, injustice and racism towards multicultural and indigenous communities. One of the events that started these affairs were the September 11 terrorist attacks. Acknowledging the people responsible were Middle Eastern caused immigration laws to tighten, and increased suspicion, called 'risk groups' by authorities.

Australia held a crucial role in national security, which ignited controversy from the many injustices it caused. One of these injustices is explained in the text *1112: Anhar – Iran to Woomera*. This is based on a true story, about Iranian refugees attempting to enter Australia in hope of a better quality of life. Unfortunately, they were caught and were transferred to an immigration detention centre in Woomera, a remote desert place, where temperature reached the extremes.

Anhar, aged 16, is the main character of the text. She expresses his sorrow and impatience through prose, poetry and a series of flashbacks using an emotive phrase, 'I remember'. Comparing events past and present are constantly used, highlighting the poor quality of life in the Immigration Detention Centre. The persecution of their Mandaean religion is referenced in the story, and how they were discriminated in their homeland through violence and widespread xenophobia. Anhar uses many analogies in his poem, all indicating he has hopes to be set free, but nothing seems to happen. It is obvious the life experienced in Australia is much worse than how they live in Iran.

Even as an optimistic global community, we still need to acknowledge the flaws present, working to eradicate racial discrimination and simple bigotry. The texts above describe these flaws, and learning from them can prevent it from happening any further. Regardless of the opinions held towards ethnic diversification, it is obligatory to be accepting. Unified, multicultural, indigenous and dominant groups can together live in harmony.