

# The (Un) Welcome Stranger

Intercultural  
Sensitivity  
in Six  
American  
Novels

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# ETHNOCENTRIC STAGES

Milton J. Bennett's Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity

## DENIAL

AVOID CULTURAL DIFFERENCE  
OTHER CULTURES NOT NOTICED  
MAY ACT AGGRESSIVELY

## DEFENSE

OWN CULTURE ONLY VIABLE ONE  
STEROTYPING  
FEELS THREATENED

## MINIMIZATION

TRIVIALIZE ANOTHER CULTURE  
FOCUS ON SAMENESS  
OWN CULTURE IS UNIVERSAL

DENIAL } When a character perceives a kind of personhood in other, character moves into. . .

DEFENSE } When a character perceives common ground with other, character moves into. . .

MINIMIZATION } When a character perceives both unity and diversity, character moves into . . .

# ETHNORELATIVE STAGES

Milton J. Bennett's Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity

## ACCEPTANCE

DOES NOT MEAN AGREEMENT

AVOIDS RELATIVISM

OTHERS EQUALLY IMPORTANT

IS NEGATIVELY JUDGMENTAL

## ADAPTATION

EXPANDING COLLECTION OF WORLDVIEWS

CAN LEAD TO MORE EMPATHY

NOT ASSIMILATION AS IN MELTING POT

NOT CULTURAL APPROPRIATION

## INTEGRATION

LIKE FROM A DIFFERENT CULTURE

BLENDING IN

LIMINALITY

CAN MOVE IN AND OUT OF CULTURES

ACCEPTANCE } When a character starts putting new worldviews into practice, character moves into . . .

ADAPTATION } When a character blends into another culture, character moves into . . .

INTEGRATION

# Moby-Dick by Herman Melville

Defense } Ishmael denigrates Queequeg at the Spouter Inn

He shows a sense of superiority over Queequeg

Minimization } Ishmael admires the human qualities in the whale

Ishmael says, “the man’s a human being just as I am.”

Acceptance } Ishmael shares a bed with Queequeg

He is open to multiple interpretations of the color white

Adaptation } “He bolts down all events, all creeds, and beliefs, and persuasions.”

Integration } Ishmael shares a bed, a pipe, and other things with Queequeg

# The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Denial } Chillingworth ignores Hester at first on the scaffold

Dimmesdale denies a part of himself

Defense } The women denigrating Hester at the scaffold

Chillingworth uses Hester as a means for revenge

Acceptance } Hester accepts those who do not accept her

Pearl accepting Native Americans, sailors, and animals

Adaptation } Chillingworth's medical skills

Integration } Chillingworth and Dimmesdale live together

# The Country of the Pointed Firs by Sarah Orne Jewett

Denial } Narrator secludes self to write

Joanna moves to Shell-heap Island

Defense } Scientific community and Mrs. Todd belittle Littlepage

Minimization } “it is more than a birthright, or a custom, and lesser rights were forgotten in the claim of common inheritance.”

Acceptance } Mrs. Todd accepts Sant Bowden’s grasp of military ritual  
Narrator accepts Joanna’s self-isolation

Integration } Narrator eats piece of pie with Bowden written on it

# The American by Henry James

Defense } Newman laments the young copyist doesn't know English and denigrates Mr. Tristram's handshake

Minimization } Newman is smitten by Claire's excellent English and denigrates Mr. Nioche, suggesting all get back on their feet the same way. Newman denigrates Valentin, calling him "a noble little fellow."

Acceptance } Newman takes French lessons from Mr. Nioche

Adaptation } Newman does not reconcile unity and diversity, readily seen with Babcock

# Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison

- Denial } Brother Tarp's chain symbolizes the denial of slavery
  - Brother Westrum denies characterization inherent in the chain
  - Narrator treated like a thing at factory hospital
  - Brotherhood dismiss narrator's speech
- Defense } Narrator relating to Whites
- Minimization } Brotherhood wants a leader who is like the White man
- Acceptance } White world viewed as different & humanly important,  
but . . .
- Adaptation } Vet advises an act when it comes to adaptation



# For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway

Denial } Pablo denies Jordan's existence when stating he has no rights

Defense } Pablo refers to Jordan as a foreigner

Acceptance } Jordan accepts the gypsy despite the gypsy's level of seriousness

Adaptation } the silent first dinner at the guerilla camp

Integration } a military integration over the cause, sex with Maria, and the switch of roles between Pablo and Pilar

# A Practical Application with Hemingway in Cuba

To Have and Have Not

The Old Man and the Sea

Islands in the Stream

Marxism, existentialism, minimalism, stream of consciousness (living in the moment)



# Milton J. Bennett

*Basic Concepts of Intercultural Communications, Paradigms, Principles, and Practices.* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Boston: Intercultural Press, 2013.

“Becoming Interculturally Competent.” *Toward Multiculturalism: A Reader in Multicultural Education.* Ed. Jaime Wurzel. Newton, MA: Intercultural Resource, 2004, 62-77.

“Towards Ethnorelativism: A Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity.” *Education for the Intercultural Experience.* Ed. R. Michael Paige. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural, 1993, 21-71.