

Some BME Vocabulary: The definitions given here relate to multicultural education issues

- 1) **American Exceptionalism** is the theory that the United States is "qualitatively different" from other nations (and often seen as a "beacon" and other countries would be better if they were more like the U.S.)
- 2) **Culture** is the lifeways of a group of people, including their family structure, religion, arts, technology, etc.
- 3) **Ethnocentrism:** The pretty much universal belief that the culture that one is born into is superior to all other cultures.
- 4) **Multicultural Education:** Education designed to make it less ethnocentric and more pluralistic.
- 5) **Cultural Relativism:** Franz Boas' idea that different cultures cannot be compared and valued as better or worse than one another—they are just different.
- 6) **Social Darwinism** is idea that cultures are evolving (and Euro-American cultures are superior to other cultures).
- 7) **Culture Shock** is the disorientation caused by entering a new culture that can cause severe psychological stress
- 8) **Cultural Capital** is the collection of non-economic forces such as family background, social class, varying investments in and commitments to education, different resources, etc. which influence academic success.
- 9) **Funds of Knowledge:** The knowledge students gain from their family and cultural backgrounds that teachers can use to make their classrooms more inclusive.
- 10) **Cultural Deficit Theory:** The idea that some students cannot achieve academically because their culture.
- 11) **Enculturation:** The lifelong learning of one's home culture.
- 12) **Cultural Pluralism:** Different cultures can live side by side in harmony.
- 13) **Xenophobia:** Fear of foreigners (people who are different from you).
- 14) **Assimilation:** When a person or group loses their home culture and adopts a new culture.
- 15) **Mutual Accommodation/Acculturation:** Partial adaptation to a new culture where a person learns something about another culture with some appreciation for that other culture.
- 16) **Racism:** The belief that one "color" of humans is superior to humans of other colors.
- 17) **Stereotypes:** Characteristics, often negative, of some members of a group that are applied to all its members.
- 18) **Stereotype Threat:** The fear that one's behavior will confirm an existing stereotype of a group with which one identifies. This fear may lead to an impairment of performance on tests, especially high stakes tests.
- 19) **Indigenous people:** The original/first inhabitants of a land.
- 20) **Indiginization:** Preparing students from an Indigenous group to become teachers for that group's children.
- 21) **Contextualization:** Adapting curriculum to fit the culture/lifeways/experiences of the students and their families.
- 22) **White Privilege:** The advantages people born with a "white" skin have in the United States
- 23) **Marginality:** Living on the margin without access to white privileges. In textbooks, are ethnic minorities discussed in boxes at the sides or edges of the page, while "white" Americans dominate the main narrative.
- 24) **Extended Family:** Mom, dad, kids, uncles, aunts, grandparents etc.
- 25) **Nuclear Family:** "Mom, dad & the two kids"
- 26) **Matriarchy** is a system of social organization in which descent and inheritance are traced through the female line.
- 27) **Patriarchy** is a system of social organization in which descent and inheritance are traced through the male line.
- 28) **Eurocentrism** focuses on Greek, Roman/Italian, French, German and English contributions to the history of the world.
- 29) **Afrocentrism** focuses on African contributions to the history and culture of the world.
- 30) **Ethnic Psychological Captivity** is the first stage of Bank's continuum where dominated ethnic minorities accept the lower evaluation that the dominant society places on their group and its culture
- 31) **Culturally/Ethnically Encapsulated (Tribalism)** is the 2nd stage of Bank's continuum where a previously dominated (and maybe still dominated) ethnic group sees themselves as superior to the group that dominated/dominates them. Only knowing the world from one's own cultural and ethnic perspective.
- 32) **Cultural pluralism** is the idea that different cultures can live side by side peacefully.
- 33) **Biculturalism** is the idea that someone can go back and forth fairly comfortably between two (or maybe more) cultures.
- 34) **Equity vs. Equality**, equity involves treating people fairly (but maybe differently) whereas equality involves treating everybody the same.
- 35) **"Acting White"** is a put down of ethnic minority group members who are seen by their group as being assimilated and rejecting their heritage culture. These people can be called apples, oreos, bananas, coconuts, etc.
- 36) **Self-determination:** The United Nations has declared that ethnic minorities should have the freedom to determine their own destinies without having the majority telling them how to live their lives.
- 37) **Homogeneous vs. Heterogeneous grouping:** In homogenous grouping students with similar characteristics are grouped together; in heterogeneous grouping students with different characteristics are grouped together.
- 38) **Nature vs. Nurture debate:** In the nature vs. nurture debate, nature refers to a persons characteristics inherited from their parents and nurture refers to how they are brought up
- 39) **Affirmative action.** An attempt to right past wrongs by helping ethnic minority and other discriminated against groups get scholarships, jobs, etc. in at least equal proportion to the dominant group.
- 40) **Melting Pot vs. Salad Bowl metaphors:** The melting pot metaphor promotes the idea that immigrants and others should assimilate into the dominant culture of a country in order to achieve citizenship. The salad bowl metaphor promotes the idea that different ethnic groups can retain their distinct identities in one harmonious country.
- 41) **Miscegenation** refers to marriage between "races." Antimiscegenation laws were in effect in 28 states in the 1950s. They were struck down by the Supreme Court's Loving vs. Virginia decision in 1967.