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Borders and Perspectives
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Borders and Perspectives report



Summary

Introduction

What I would like to express.

Concept of borders

From zero knowledge to knowing more than I can handle.

Unconscious way of shortening bridges: food

Believe or not, it shorts gap.

My conclusions

What I have apprehended.

Introduction

I have shown some pictures I took in Gaisa to a student from our class and I asked her what makes her think or feel. She is from a country different from mine, as well as culture, creed and beliefs different from mine. I'm from Peru, she's from Turkey. I profess the Catholic religion, she is Muslim. However, we are in the same country and we share the same dream: to complete the master's studies successfully.

The way in which I will represent these appreciations will be through photographs and small paragraphs that describe them. I have placed her words in a textual way, in quotation marks. Mine are expressed in the footer.

Concept of borders¹



“First of all, when I hear border term I feel obstacles, like the things that push you to the other side of the line. Also I had visions of lines in my mind.

But if we talk about the borders we have in the world, I can not identify them as good or bad. There are existing because the human made crisis and I am not sure if we need to erase the borders.

On the other hand, I don't trust any government, so I believe that the borders should be exist for just keeping everyone safe. Not for hurting someone”.

¹When I think about borders, whether in my region, Latin America, or in Europe, I feel anguish. I don't feel that the border is a clear line that we cross and that's it. We are going to the airport, we queue to check in our new flight, we identify ourselves to enter another country. From Peru to Germany it takes 14 hours of flight. During all that time, where do I belong? When I leave my place of origin, I am no longer part of them. And as long as I don't enter a new country, I'm not part of that one either. I'm, then, in limbo.



Unconscious way of shortening bridges: food²

“In my country we have Turkish tea, simit (Turkish bagel), different types of olives, cheeses, tomatoes, cucumbers, omelette, Turkish traditional foods... “



² I think that shortening distances should not be left only in words. We can also create bridges through everything that is possible. Food is one of those ways, definitely!

Sharing ourselves³



“This is Turkish lokum, with rose. We can share it everywhere, especially in our special religious days such as Eids, but that day [in Gaisa] was an important day for Muslims, and we are celebrating these kinds of days with sharing some foods.

That day was a special day for my religion and I wanted to celebrate it my way as a Turkish girl. I felt so happy when I share it, especially when everyone loved lokum because doing something from my culture is a reminder of me to myself.

I feel more comfortable when I do something that I have in my identity. So it's more about being able to live my own personality for me.”

I had never tasted such a particular sweet, but neither had one that had such an important content for a person. It symbolizes faith in what one believes, and by sharing it, it also shares a part of itself. It is as if, through these exchanges, we are allowed to access the internal world of another person. With this, any distance is greatly shortened.

Conclusion

There is no single way to look at the world. But while we are under certain coordinates, in a country or in a region, we are going to "be" Americans, Europeans, Asians, and so on.

Sharing meaningful experiences for us makes us to leave the mental border that we have incorporated and where we identify ourselves by our nationality, our beliefs or our place of origin.

