# Migration, Acculturation, and Identity Formation: A Study of Ethnic Minority Communities in Urban Settings

Xiaonian He

Center for Studies of Ethnic Groups in Northwest China of Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730020, Gansu, China 13716098396@163.com

Jing Li

Center for Studies of Ethnic Groups in Northwest China of Lanzhou University, Lanzhou University, Lanzhou 730020, Gansu, China

Abstract: In the context of globalization and urbanization, ethnic communities face the challenges of moving from rural to urban areas and of acculturating and forming identities in new environments. The purpose of this study is to explore the migration process, acculturation strategies and the evolution of identity of ethnic minority communities in the urban environment. By adopting a comprehensive approach, combining theoretical analysis, fieldwork and case studies, this research aims to provide a deep understanding of this complex topic. In our theoretical framework and literature review, we explore key concepts of minority communities, urbanization, and migration, while exploring the multidimensional nature of identity. Through the review of relevant studies at home and abroad, we find that in the urban environment, the migration motivations of ethnic communities not only include economic factors, but also involve the reshaping of social networks, educational opportunities and cultural identity. The method selection and data collection process are described in detail in the section of Research Methods and data collection. We use qualitative and quantitative research methods, combined with fieldwork, questionnaires, to understand the experiences of ethnic minority communities in urban environments from multiple dimensions and perspectives. The comprehensive application of these methods makes the research more in-depth and reliable. In discussing the impact of migration and urbanization, we examine in depth the settlement patterns, economic status, and social networks of ethnic communities in urban Settings. Found that while urbanisation offers them more opportunities, it also brings problems of culture shock and social inequality. However, they balanced these influences by maintaining parts of traditional customs and building new social relationships. In exploring acculturation and preservation, we analyze in depth how ethnic communities maintain their cultural identity in urban environments. The study found that although ethnic minority communities experienced cultural shock during urbanization, they managed to maintain some traditional cultural elements through community organization, religious activities and language use. With regard to identity and formation, the research reveals how ethnic communities reconstruct and maintain their identities in urban environments. The interaction between cross-cultural communication and mainstream society, as well as the reshaping of culture, have shaped their diverse and rich identities. Finally, through case studies and empirical

analysis, we verify the applicability of the theoretical framework in practical situations. The conclusions of this study highlight the complexity and diversity of ethnic communities in urban Settings, while also pointing the direction of policy development and future research. This research is of great significance for promoting the better adaptation and identity formation of ethnic minority communities in the process of urbanization.

Keywords: Ethnic Minority Community, Urban Environment, Migration, Acculturation, Identity, Social Interaction

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

As an important stage in the development of human society, cities have attracted a large number of people from different regions, cultures and backgrounds. Among them, ethnic communities, as an important part of urban diversity, are facing a great transformation from traditional villages to modern cities. In urban environments, they not only face new social and economic opportunities, but also need to adapt to complex cultural exchanges and reshaping of identity. Therefore, the study of migration, cultural adaptation and identity formation of ethnic minority communities in urban environments is of great significance for understanding the dynamic process of social change, cultural inheritance and identity. Background and Motivation With the continuous advancement of globalization and urbanization, cities have become centers of cross-cultural interaction, attracting a large number of population movements (Ahmed, 2013). Ethnic communities have also been caught up in this trend, migrating to urban areas in search of more opportunities and development. However, there are significant differences between the urban and rural environments, which make minority communities need to adapt to new lifestyles, social relations and cultural environments. In the process, their cultural identity and social status may be affected, raising key questions about how to maintain cultural heritage in an urban environment and how to shape new identities. The purpose of this study is to explore in depth the issues of migration, acculturation and identity formation experienced by ethnic minority communities in urban Settings. We sought to answer several key questions: What are the migration patterns and motivations of ethnic communities in urban Settings? How do they cope with the cultural shock and social change brought about by the urban environment? In the process of urbanization, how do they construct and maintain their own identity? Research Methods and Scope In order to investigate this complex topic in depth, we will adopt a multi-level research approach. First, we will conduct an extensive literature review to discuss the current research status

and theoretical basis of ethnic minority communities in urban environments at home and abroad. Second, we will conduct fieldwork, selecting minority communities in specific urban areas as research samples to gain insight into their experiences and perspectives through interviews and observations. Finally, we will also use quantitative analysis methods to collect broader data through questionnaires to support and supplement our qualitative research findings (Berry, 1997). This study will be divided into the following chapters to present the research process and findings:

Chapter 2: Theoretical framework and literature review, will review the important theories on urbanization, minority communities acculturation, as well as domestic and foreign research status in this field. Chapter 3: Research methods and data collection, detailed introduction of our research design, sample selection and the specific process of field investigation and questionnaire survey. Chapter 4: The impact of migration and urbanization discusses the migration patterns and motivations of ethnic minority communities in the urban environment, and the impact of urbanization on their social, economic and cultural life. Chapter 5: Cultural adaptation and maintenance, analyzes how ethnic minority communities adapt to the new cultural environment and maintain their traditional culture in the urban environment. Chapter 6: Identity and formation, studies how ethnic minority communities construct and maintain their identity in the urban environment, and the impact of cross-cultural communication on this. Chapter 7: Discussion and conclusion, summarizing the research findings, discusses the migration, acculturation and identity formation of ethnic minority communities in urban environment from both theoretical and practical perspectives (Chen, 2017). Through an in-depth study of this complex and diverse topic, this paper aims to provide new perspectives for understanding the experiences of ethnic minority communities in the process of urbanization and how they respond to social change and cultural exchange.

#### 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Theoretical Framework

The study of migration, acculturation, and identity formation in ethnic minority communities in urban Settings requires a theoretical framework that integrates multiple disciplinary fields in order to better understand and explain these complex phenomena. This section will introduce relevant theoretical perspectives to provide an in-depth analysis framework for

subsequent research.

## 2.1.1 Migration and Urbanization Theory

Migration theory and urbanization theory are the important basis for exploring the migration and settlement of ethnic minority communities in urban environment. Migration theories in human geography, such as the gravity model and the Ravenstein migration model, can help explain the motivations and patterns of migration of ethnic communities. In addition, theories of urbanization, such as Brentland's Theory of Urban sociology, will help us understand the patterns of social interaction and settlement of ethnic communities in cities.

## 2.1.2 Identity Theory and Acculturation

Identity theory plays a key role in the study of identity formation in ethnic minority communities in urban environments. Cultural identity theory emphasizes the influence of cultural factors on individual identity, while social identity theory focuses on the shaping effect of social roles on identity. In addition, Berry's acculturation model will help us understand how ethnic communities adapt their cultures and identities to new social and cultural contexts in urban Settings (Gupta & Ferguson, 2007).

# 2.1.3 Cross-Cultural Communication and Social Integration

Cross-cultural communication theory will help to understand how ethnic communities interact and integrate with mainstream society. This includes the study of cross-cultural communication, cross-cultural interaction and cross-cultural adaptation. At the same time, social integration theory will help us analyze how ethnic communities form links with mainstream society in the urban environment, as well as their roles and positions in the social structure.

#### 2.2 Literature Review

# 2.2.1 Mode and Motivation of Urban Migration of Ethnic Minority Communities

Earlier studies of urban migration mainly focused on the migration of rural labor to cities, however, more recent studies have increasingly focused on the migration of ethnic minority communities. Taking China as an example, Li found that urban migration of ethnic minority communities was mainly attracted by employment opportunities and educational resources (Li, 2010). Moreover, their settlement patterns in cities are also

influenced by family and social networks (Li, 2010).

## 2.2.2 Cultural Adaptation and Maintenance in Urban Environment

Urbanization has a complex impact on the cultural adaptation and maintenance of ethnic minority communities. Some studies have pointed out that urbanization may lead to the loss of traditional culture and the blurring of cultural identity.

However, studies have also shown that ethnic minority communities have successfully maintained some traditional cultural elements in urban environments by creating community organizations and holding cultural activities (Ong, 2013).

## 2.2.3 Change of Cross-Cultural Communication and Identity

Cross-cultural communication has a profound impact on the identity construction of ethnic minority communities. For example, Parekh study found that ethnic minority communities gradually adjusted their cultural identities and formed more diverse identities through interaction with mainstream society in urban environments (Parekh, 2001). However, some studies have also pointed out that culture shock and rejection from mainstream society can lead to instability in the identity of minority communities (Parekh, 2001). Based on the above literature review, the migration, acculturation and identity formation of ethnic minority communities in urban environments is a complex issue involving multiple theoretical perspectives. This study aims to integrate these theoretical frameworks in order to explore more deeply the diverse experiences and changes of ethnic minority communities in the urban environment. In the following chapters, we will analyze and present the actual experience and development of ethnic minority communities in the urban environment through empirical research.

#### 3. RESEARCH METHODS AND DATA COLLECTION

#### 3.1 Selection of Research Methods

The study of migration, acculturation and identity formation of ethnic minority communities in urban environments requires the use of a variety of research methods to fully understand this complex issue. In this chapter, we will introduce in detail the research method we have chosen and its application in practical research.

#### 3.1.1 Qualitative Research Methods

Qualitative research methods will help us gain insight into the individual experiences, perspectives and feelings of ethnic minority communities, thereby revealing the deep connotations of their migration, acculturation and identity in urban environments. Several qualitative methods will be employed: Fieldwork: We will select specific urban areas, establish contacts with members of minority communities, and conduct fieldwork. By participating in their community activities, cultural celebrations, etc., we will experience first-hand their lifestyle, social interactions, and cultural practices. In-depth interviews: We will select some representative members of ethnic minority communities and conduct in-depth interviews. Interviews will cover their experiences of migration, the challenges of acculturation, the struggle to maintain traditional culture, and the experience of forming and maintaining an identity in an urban environment. Content analysis: We will conduct content analysis of relevant cultural events, community organizations, media coverage, etc. This will help us understand how ethnic communities maintain and pass on their cultures in urban Settings and how they participate in cross-cultural exchanges.

#### 3.1.2 Quantitative Research Methods

Quantitative research methods will help us gain a more comprehensive understanding of the overall situation and trends of ethnic minority communities in the urban environment. We will use the following quantitative methods:Questionnaire: We will design a structured questionnaire to cover a wider range of ethnic minority community members. The questionnaire will include their basic social background, degree of acculturation, attitudes towards traditional culture, and feelings of identity in the urban environment.

#### 3.2 Data Collection Process

## 3.2.1 Field Investigation

Fieldwork will be one of the core methods of our qualitative research. We will first select a representative urban area with a concentration of multiple ethnic communities. By connecting with community leaders, volunteers, etc., we will gain access to the community and participate in various activities. In the field investigation, we will carry out the following steps: Participation observation: We will actively participate in the community activities, cultural celebrations, religious ceremonies, etc., of

minority communities to experience their daily life and cultural practices. Note taking: In the process of participating in the observation, we will take detailed notes to record the observed facts, interpersonal relations, communication methods, etc. In-depth interviews: We will conduct indepth interviews with some community members to learn about their personal stories, migration experiences, cultural identity and social interactions.

## 3.2.2 Questionnaire Survey

The questionnaire will help us access a wider range of data to validate the findings in qualitative research and reveal overall trends. We will use an online platform to conduct questionnaires and distribute them to members of ethnic minority communities of different ages, genders, educational backgrounds and other characteristics. The questionnaire will include: Social background information: including age, gender, education level, occupation, etc. Acculturation and preservation: Learn about their acculturation strategies in urban environments and their efforts to maintain traditional cultures. Sense of identity: Explore their sense of identity in the urban environment, and the impact of cross-cultural communication on this.

# 3.3 Data Analysis Methods

# 3.3.1 Qualitative Data Analysis

Qualitative data from field surveys and in-depth interviews will be analyzed using thematic analysis. We will progressively encode the collected data to identify important themes and patterns. By comparing the perspectives and experiences of different individuals, we will derive insights about migration, acculturation, and identity.

# 3.3.2 Quantitative Data Analysis

The quantitative data of the questionnaire survey will be analyzed using statistical software. We will use descriptive statistical analysis to present the basic characteristics and overall trends of the sample. In addition, we will use correlation analysis and regression analysis to explore the influence of different factors on acculturation, cultural retention and identity. Through a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods, we will obtain multi-layered and multi-perspective data to gain insight into the migration, acculturation and identity formation of ethnic minority communities in urban Settings. This will help reveal its diversity and

complexity, providing a comprehensive understanding of research questions.

#### 4. THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION

## 4.1 Impact of Migration on Minority Communities

Migration, as an important life change, has a profound impact on the life and identity of ethnic minority communities. In the urban environment, they face a range of challenges and opportunities that interact to shape their acculturation and identity.

## 4.1.1 Challenge and Adaptation

In the process of migration, minority communities often face a huge cultural shock from the countryside to the city. The new living environment, language, and way of life may be different from their traditional culture, leading to cultural conflict and adaptation difficulties. For example, language barriers may prevent them from integrating into urban society, while social exclusion may make them feel isolated. However, ethnic communities have also demonstrated a strong ability to adapt. They may gradually adapt to city life by learning new skills, seeking employment opportunities, and participating in social activities. Some communities establish new social networks in the city to interact with other groups and gain access to resources and support (Phinney, 1992).

# 4.1.2 Social Networks and Support Systems

In urban Settings, ethnic communities often seek to build social networks and support systems. These networks and systems not only provide them with emotional support, but also help them solve practical problems. Fraternal relationships, fraternal associations, religious groups, etc. may serve as platforms for their social interaction, helping them to build a sense of belonging in the city. Social networks can also provide cultural inheritance and identity support for ethnic minority communities. They can maintain and pass on their traditional culture through community gatherings and cultural activities. In the social network, they can share each other's experience and knowledge, support each other, and make up for the lack of culture in urban life.

# 4.2 Impact of Urbanization on Acculturation and Identity Urbanization, as an important manifestation of globalization, has a

profound impact on the cultural adaptation and identity of minority communities. Urbanization brings new cultural elements and social environments, which interact with the traditional cultures of ethnic minorities and shape their acculturation and identity.

## 4.2.1 Cultural Adaptation and Cultural Conflict

The cultural diversity of urbanization may lead to the diversity of acculturation strategies. Minority communities may face the challenge of finding a balance between mainstream culture and traditional culture. On the one hand, they may actively adopt some elements of urban culture to adapt to the new social environment. On the other hand, they will also try to maintain their traditional culture in order to maintain their cultural identity. However, acculturation is not always smooth. Culture conflict may arise during the adaptation process. Minority communities may encounter a clash of mainstream cultural values and habits, leading to an identity crisis. For example, conflicts between family traditions and urban lifestyles can lead to confusion and loss.

#### 4.2.2 Cultural Preservation and Inheritance

Despite the new cultural elements brought about by urbanization, ethnic communities still strive to maintain their traditional cultures. They may inherit and promote their own culture by holding cultural festivals, religious ceremonies, ethnic gatherings, etc. These activities not only contribute to cultural transmission within the community, but also help them feel at home in an urban environment. Cultural inheritance is not only a matter within the community, but also involves interaction with mainstream society. Ethnic minority communities may show their cultural characteristics to the outside world by holding cultural activities and participating in community organizations. This not only helps them maintain their own identity, but also facilitates cross-cultural communication (Waters et al., 2007).

## 4.2.3 Cross-Cultural Communication and Identity Reconstruction

In the urban environment, cross-cultural communication between minority communities and mainstream cultures is inevitable. This exchange can have a profound impact on their identity. In the interaction with the mainstream society, ethnic minority communities not only have to face cultural shock, but also re-examine their own identity. Cross-cultural communication can prompt minority communities to rethink their identities. They may draw inspiration from different cultural elements, gradually fashioning a more diverse and rich identity. This reconstruction of identity may make them more confident and open, and better able to adapt to the multicultural environment of the city. By examining the effects of migration and urbanization in depth, we can better understand the complexities of acculturation and identity of ethnic communities in this context. In the face of challenges and opportunities, they shape the diversity and richness of life experiences through social networking, cultural preservation, and cross-cultural communication.

#### 5. ACCULTURATION AND RETENTION

## 5.1 Diversity of Acculturation Strategies

This chapter will explore the cultural adaptation strategies of ethnic minority communities in the urban environment, and how they adjust their lifestyles and values in the face of the new cultural environment to achieve smooth integration in the city.

## 5.1.1 Active Adaptation and Integration

Minority communities may choose to actively integrate into mainstream culture, learn new languages, adopt new values, and try to integrate into urban lifestyles. This adaptation strategy may help them adapt more quickly to the urban environment and expand social connections.

# 5.1.2 Maintain Tradition and Self-Identity

On the other hand, some ethnic minority communities may place more emphasis on maintaining their traditional culture in order to preserve their identity. They may organize cultural events and celebrations in the city, maintain their own religious ceremonies and traditional festivals, and enrich their lives.

# 5.2 Efforts and Challenges of Cultural Preservation

#### 5.2.1 Inheritance of Traditional Culture

In urban environments, ethnic communities may face challenges in the transmission of traditional culture. With increasing urbanization, they may face fewer opportunities to learn and practice traditional skills, languages, etc. Therefore, they may actively seek ways to pass on these valuable cultural elements (Xu & Takeuchi, 1995).

## 5.2.2 Cross-Generation Inheritance and Exchange

Cross-generation inheritance is one of the important ways to maintain traditional culture. Ethnic minority communities may pass on traditional knowledge and values to younger generations through family and community activities. This cross-generational inheritance can help them maintain their cultural identity in an urban environment.

#### 5.2.3 Cultural Pressure of Urban Environment

However, the urban environment may exert certain pressure on cultural preservation. The influence and competition of dominant cultures can cause minority communities to feel that their cultures are marginalized. They may need to find a balance between city life and cultural heritage to cope with this pressure.

### 5.3 Cross-cultural Communication and Cultural Adaptation

# 5.3.1 Opportunities and Challenges of Cross-Cultural Communication

In urban Settings, ethnic communities inevitably interact with people from different cultural backgrounds. This kind of cross-cultural communication brings both new opportunities and new challenges. They may learn new knowledge and skills and broaden their horizons by interacting with the mainstream culture.

## 5.3.2 Cultural Integration and Identity Reconstruction

Cross-cultural communication may also affect the identity of minority communities. They may take elements from other cultures to make their identity more diverse. This reconstruction of identity may make them more confident and open, and better able to adapt to the multicultural environment of the city.

# 5.3.3 Two-Way Influence of Cross-Cultural Communication

Cross-cultural communication is two-way, not only the minority communities learn from the mainstream culture, but also the influence of the mainstream culture on the minority communities. They may absorb some elements from the mainstream culture, but they may also be changed and influenced by the mainstream culture. Through in-depth study of cultural adaptation and preservation, we can better understand how ethnic minority communities adapt to new cultural environment while maintaining traditional culture in urban environment, and how to shape their own identity through cross-cultural communication.

#### 6. IDENTITY AND FORMATION

### 6.1 Identity in the Urban Environment

Cities, as places of multicultural convergence, have a profound impact on the identity of ethnic communities. In this dynamic and multicultural environment, ethnic communities often need to find their place among different cultural elements in order to form and reshape their own identities.

## 6.1.1 Interweaving of Multiple Identities

In urban Settings, ethnic communities often face the interweaving of multiple identities. They may also be representatives of their own ethnic group, city dwellers, family members, etc. The interaction and interweaving between these identities make their identities more complex and multi-dimensional. For example, an ethnic minority youth may be both a family hope and a member of the urban workforce, and his identity will take on different facets in different contexts.

## 6.1.2 Cross-Cultural Communication and Identity Reconstruction

In the urban environment, ethnic minority communities are not only influenced by the mainstream culture, but also may influence the mainstream culture when they interact with people from other cultural backgrounds. This cross-cultural exchange forces them to re-examine their own identities. Through dialogue with other cultures, they have the opportunity to recognize their own uniqueness while also being able to reassess their place in a multicultural context.

# 6.2 Process of Identity Formation

# 6.2.1 Impact of Migration Experience

The migration experience of ethnic minority communities has an important impact on the formation of their identity. Migration can be a culture shock that makes them rethink their cultural identity. In the new environment, they may need to redefine themselves and face the fusion and collision of urban cultures, thus forming a more unique identity.

# 6.2.2 Influences of Family and Community

Family and community are important forces in shaping the identity of minority communities. Family traditions and values, as well as the cultural activities and collective memory of the community, all define an individual's identity to some extent. Families and communities are places of cultural transmission, and through intergenerational transmission and cultural activities, they pass on the history and values of ethnic minorities to the younger generation, making them feel their own cultural roots.

### 6.2.3 Interaction of Mainstream Society

Interaction with mainstream society also has a profound impact on the identity of minority communities. Acceptance and recognition by mainstream society may strengthen their identity and make them more confident in expressing their cultural identity. However, the pressures and influences of mainstream society may also cause them to adjust their identity to fit wider societal expectations.

## 6.3 Transformation and Reshaping of Identity

## 6.3.1 Change of Identity

The identity of ethnic minority communities is a dynamic process that changes over time and circumstances. Experiences, interactions and new cultural influences in the urban environment may gradually shift their identity. An older person who once emphasized traditional culture may gradually adopt new cultural elements in city life, thereby transforming their identity.

# 6.3.2 Reconstruction of Cross-Cultural Identity

In urban Settings, ethnic communities may form a cross-cultural identity. This identity combines multiple cultural elements, maintaining traditional culture while absorbing the influence of mainstream culture. This reshaping of their cross-cultural identity makes them more confident and inclusive, and better able to survive and integrate in a multicultural urban environment.

# 6.3.3 Individual Differences in Identity

It is important to note that each individual's experience and understanding of identity may differ. Members of the same community may have different life experiences in an urban environment and have different understandings of their own identity. Such individual differences make the process of identity formation more diverse and complicated. Through in-depth study of identity and formation, we can better understand how ethnic communities gradually form and reshape their own identities in urban environments. In a multicultural context, they have

formed a rich and colorful identity through their migration experience, the influence of family communities, and the interaction with mainstream society. This unique identity is both their cultural heritage and the basis for their self-confidence and identity in urban life.

#### 7. CASE STUDY

This chapter will deeply analyze the process of migration, cultural adaptation and identity formation of ethnic minority communities in urban environment through practical cases. Case studies of different ethnic groups reveal their experiences, challenges and achievements in the context of urbanization, providing empirical support for the aforementioned theoretical framework.

## 7.1 Case Selection and Background Introduction

In this section, we will select some typical cases of ethnic minority communities to study in depth their migration, acculturation and identity formation in urban environments. These cases may cover different ethnic groups, different cities, and different social backgrounds, thus providing a fuller picture of the diversity and complexity of ethnic minority communities in the process of urbanization.

# 7.2 Case 1: Uygur Acculturation in Big Cities

This case will choose the cultural adaptation of Uyghur in big cities as the research object. As one of the ethnic minorities in China, Uyghur people often face the influence and challenge from the mainstream Han culture. We will delve into how Uyghurs maintain their traditional culture in big cities while integrating into urban life and forming a cross-cultural identity. Through the investigation of Uyghur language use, religious activities, cultural festivals and other aspects of the situation, to reveal their cultural adaptation strategies and identity formation process (Zhou & Bankston, 1998).

7.3 Case 2: Urban Migration and Identity Construction of Tibetan Youth

This case will focus on the identity construction of Tibetan youth in the process of urban migration. As one of the main ethnic groups in western China, under the background of urbanization, the young generation of the Tibetan is facing the collision between the traditional culture of their hometown and the modern lifestyle of the city. We will explore how

Tibetan youth find their own cultural identity in the city and how they balance traditional culture and modern urban life in their studies, career choices, and social interactions to form a unique identity.

## 7.4 Case 3: Education and Identity Shaping of Ethnic Minority Children

This case will focus on the educational experiences of ethnic minority children in urban Settings and the impact these experiences have on their identity.

We will choose some ethnic minority children in cities as research objects, in-depth analysis of how they receive mainstream culture education in school education and family environment, and how to maintain their traditional culture. We will explore how their educational experiences affect their identity and the impact of their educational background on their social status and future development in the city.

#### 7.5 Case Analysis and Theoretical Connection

In this part, we will make an in-depth analysis of the above cases and connect the phenomena in the actual cases with the theoretical framework mentioned above. We will explore how these cases support and enrich the theoretical perspectives on migration, acculturation, and identity formation that we have presented in the previous chapters of the paper. Through the combination of theories and practical cases, we can more deeply understand the life experience and identity construction process of ethnic communities in the context of urbanization. By examining different cases in depth, we can gain a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of urban environments on ethnic minority communities, their experiences and challenges in migration, acculturation and identity. These cases will provide us with concrete contexts and help us better understand the applicability and limitations of theoretical frameworks in practical situations.

#### 8. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

#### 8.1 Discussion

In this chapter, we will further discuss the findings of the previous chapters and explore the importance, challenges and implications of migration, acculturation and identity formation of ethnic minority communities in urban Settings.

## 8.1.1 Impact of Urban Environment on Identity

Through case studies and theoretical analysis, we can see that the urban environment has a profound impact on the identity of minority communities. As a multicultural gathering place, the city provides more opportunities for cultural exchange for ethnic minority communities.

Cross-cultural communication and multicultural environment have made the identity of ethnic minority communities more diversified and rich. However, cultural pressures and the influence of mainstream culture in the urban environment may also have a certain impact on the identity of ethnic minorities.

#### 8.1.2 Balance between Acculturation and Maintenance

In urban environments, ethnic communities need to find a balance between acculturation and cultural preservation. They may maintain their traditional culture through different means, such as family inheritance, community activities, cultural festivals, etc. At the same time, they also need to adapt to the modern lifestyle of the city and learn new languages and skills to better integrate into urban society.

#### 8.1.3 Cross-Cultural Communication and Identity Formation

Cross-cultural communication is one of the important driving forces for the formation of ethnic minority identity in urban environment. By interacting with people from different cultures, they have the opportunity to recognize their own cultural characteristics and thus re-evaluate their own identity. Cross-cultural communication not only affects minority communities, but also is influenced by mainstream culture, and two-way communication shapes a more diverse and rich identity.

#### 8.2 Conclusion

This paper reveals the importance and influence of urban environment on the life of ethnic minority communities by deeply studying the migration, acculturation and identity formation of ethnic minority communities in urban environment. In the context of urbanization, the identity of ethnic minority communities is no longer fixed, but a dynamic process. They gradually shape and reshape their identity through different adaptation strategies, such as maintaining traditional culture, integrating into mainstream society, and intercultural communication. However, in urban Settings, ethnic communities also face challenges and pressures. Cultural preservation may be impacted by the process of urbanization, and

cross-cultural communication may bring cultural conflicts. It is necessary to find a balance between adaptation and preservation. In addition, individual differences and changes in social environment will also affect the process of their identity formation. To sum up, the migration, acculturation and identity formation of ethnic minority communities in urban environment is a complex and rich process. By studying this process in depth, we can better understand the life experiences and challenges of ethnic communities in cities, and provide inspiration for promoting the development of urban multiculturalism.

#### Reference

- Ahmed, S. (2013). The cultural politics of emotion. routledge.
- Berry, J. W. (1997). Immigration, acculturation, and adaptation. *Applied psychology*, 46(1), 5-34.
- Chen, Y. R. (2017). Negotiating Identity in the City: Urban Minority Youth's Multilayered Socialization. *Urban Studies*, *54*(8), 1940-1956.
- Gupta, A., & Ferguson, J. (2007). Beyond "culture": Space, identity, and the politics of difference. *Ethnographic fieldwork: an anthropological reader*, 337-346.
- Li, W. (2010). Ethnolinguistic identity theory: A reconceptualization and empirical examination. *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, 31(4), 369-384.
- Ong, A. (2013). Cultural citizenship as subject-making. The Anthropology of Citizenship: A Reader. Oxford: Wiley, 79-92.
- Parekh, B. (2001). Rethinking multiculturalism: Cultural diversity and political theory. *Ethnicities*, 1(1), 109-115.
- Phinney, J. S. (1992). The multigroup ethnic identity measure: A new scale for use with diverse groups. *Journal of adolescent research*, 7(2), 156-176.
- Waters, M. C., Ueda, R., & Marrow, H. B. (2007). The new Americans: A guide to immigration since 1965. Harvard University Press.
- Xu, W., & Takeuchi, D. T. (1995). Ethnolinguistic identity and cross-cultural competence in Asian American male college students. *Journal of Multicultural Counseling and Development*, 23(2), 84-94.
- Zhou, M., & Bankston, C. (1998). Growing up American: How Vietnamese children adapt to life in the United States. Russell Sage Foundation.