



Research Article

The role of musical practices in the formation of transnational identities among migrant communities

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Abstract

This study examines the role of music in the construction of transnational identities among immigrant communities. With the rise of globalization and migration movements, the processes through which individuals and communities engage with multiple cultural contexts have become increasingly complex. In this context, music has evolved beyond merely an aesthetic form of expression to become a critical tool in identity construction and social integration. The research explores how the musical practices of immigrant communities carry the cultural elements of their places of origin into new living spaces, how these elements are transformed, and how new forms of identity emerge during this process. Additionally, the study investigates the contribution of musical practices to the social integration processes of immigrant individuals and the relationship of music with concepts such as cultural hybridity, resistance, and authenticity. The findings reveal that music functions as both a cultural bridge and an instrument of identity construction for immigrants, yet this process is context-specific and dynamic. The results of the study provide significant contributions to the literature on the relationship between music and identity, offering practical suggestions on how music can be effectively utilized as a tool in social integration processes. This research enables the development of a broader understanding of the role of music in the construction of transnational identities.

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Introduction

Music has played a significant role as a form of cultural expression throughout human history, serving as an effective tool in the construction of both social and individual identities. Musical practices have intertwined with the socio-cultural structures of societies, evolving in interaction with these structures. In this context, music has gained importance not only as an aesthetic phenomenon but also as a form of social, political, and cultural expression. Particularly in today's world, where globalization and migration phenomena have intensified, the multifaceted role of music has become even more pronounced.

The phenomenon of migration, while referring to the spatial mobility of individuals and communities, also brings about cultural and identity transformations (Cormoş, 2022). Migration can lead individuals to redefine their cultural identities and, in the process, adopt new forms of identity (Eckersley, 2017). This process of redefinition constitutes a significant area where music is employed as a tool for identity construction. Immigrant communities can transfer the cultural elements of their places of origin to new living environments through music, and by blending these elements

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with the new cultural contexts they find themselves in, they can develop new musical practices. Consequently, the role of music in cultural transmission, identity construction, and social integration among immigrant individuals and communities presents a compelling area of study for researchers.

In this context, the primary objective of this research is to examine the role of immigrants' musical practices in the formation of transnational identities. According to Lidskog (2016), a transnational identity refers to the state of belonging to multiple cultural and national contexts, and these identities can be constructed and sustained through various musical practices during the migration process. Our study aims to uncover how music fulfills this function among immigrant communities and which dynamics are influential in this process. Additionally, the role of musical practices in the relationships that immigrant individuals establish with the societies to which they belong, as well as in their integration processes into these societies, has been one of the focal points of the research.

In this study, the use of music as a tool in the process of identity construction among immigrant communities, the impacts of musical practices on this process, and the contributions of these practices to the social and cultural lives of immigrant communities have been examined in depth. The research has been designed as an effort to understand how the musical experiences of immigrants shape their transnational identities. In this context, the study seeks to answer the following key questions:

- How do immigrant individuals and communities construct their transnational identities through musical practises?
- How do these musical practises undergo transformation and acquire new meanings in different cultural contexts?
- What role of the musical practises of immigrants play in their social integration processes?

This research is anticipated to make significant contributions to the literature on the relationship between music and identity. By focusing on the role of music in the formation of transnational identities, this study is expected to help develop new perspectives in both migration studies and the sociology of music. Additionally, the findings of the research are expected to offer practical and theoretical insights into understanding the function of music in social integration processes. In this regard, obtaining new knowledge on how musical practices shape the relationships between immigrant communities and the societies that host them is among the scientific contributions of this study.

Theoretical Framework

The relationship between migration, identity, and music has a broad literature in disciplines such as sociology, anthropology, and cultural studies. In this literature, approaches related to transnationalism, identity theories, and the social role of music are particularly prominent. This section will detail the theoretical framework that forms the basis of this research. Transnationalism theories explain how immigrant individuals and communities develop identities associated with multiple national and cultural contexts, while identity theories provide insights into the role of music in this process. Additionally, theoretical discussions on the social functions of music will guide the analysis in this research.

Transnationalism has emerged as an increasingly important concept in migration studies in recent years. Traditional migration theories assumed that immigrants developed a new identity in the country they arrived in after leaving their homeland and left their old identities behind, whereas transnationalism suggests that immigrants can be simultaneously connected to more than one spatial and cultural context (Vertovec, 2004). In this context, transnational identities refer to the state of belonging to both the country of origin and the new living spaces. These identities are formed through the intermingling of different cultural contexts and practices, with music playing a crucial role in this process (Lidskog, 2016). Advocates of transnationalism theory, such as Schiller, Basch, and Blanc-Szanton, emphasize that immigrants are socially, culturally, and economically connected to two or more national contexts, creating a new form of identity (Erel & Lutz, 2012).

To understand the role of music within this theoretical framework, it is also necessary to refer to identity theories. Identity is a dynamic process constructed through social and cultural interactions. In this process, individuals and communities continually negotiate and redefine their identities. Stuart Hall suggests that identity is not a fixed and

immutable essence but a process that is constantly reconstructed (Tang, 2018). In this process, cultural products and practices function as essential tools for expressing and redefining identity. In this sense, it is possible to assert that music plays a significant role in the construction of both individual and collective identities. Hall's identity theories support the framework of this study in understanding how transnational identities are constructed through musical practices.

Theoretical approaches to the role of music in identity construction explain how music functions as a form of cultural expression. Ethnomusicologists examine how music is used in the processes of expressing, preserving, and reconstructing social identities, revealing how music intertwines with social dynamics. For example, Turino suggests that music provides a performance space for the formation of identities on both individual and societal levels (Chami, 2013). These performances reflect how individuals express themselves and how communities construct their collective identities. In this context, musical practices are critical for understanding how identities are negotiated and redefined in social contexts.

In addition to transnationalism and identity theories, theoretical discussions on the social functions of music also play a significant role in this research. Music can be used as a tool for social groups to express their identities, develop solidarity, and resist oppression (Danaher, 2010). Particularly among immigrant communities, music contributes to both the preservation of cultural roots and the adaptation process to new social contexts. Bourdieu's concept of "cultural capital" is a useful tool for explaining how music is used as an expression of identity and status in this context. According to Bourdieu, cultural practices such as music play a significant role in determining hierarchies and differences among social groups (Robbins, 2005). Robbins (2005) also notes that Bourdieu's concept of "cultural capital" was first introduced in educational research in the early 1960s; however, he emphasizes that it should be reflexively used today in accordance with his later thoughts. In this sense, music functions as a source of power in the construction of both individual and collective identities among immigrant communities.

This theoretical framework provides a foundation for understanding how music is used as a tool in the construction of transnational identities among immigrants and what dynamics are influential in this process. The theoretical approaches to be used in the research aim to reveal how musical practices among immigrant communities are shaped and how these practices relate to social and cultural contexts by focusing on both the social functions of music and the processes of identity construction. Within this framework, the research will offer a comprehensive analysis aimed at understanding how transnational identities are constructed through musical practices.

Literature Review

The relationship between music and identity has long been a topic of examination and discussion across various disciplines within the social sciences. Particularly, the phenomenon of migration and its effects on cultural identities have been extensively covered in the literature. Migration not only involves a physical relocation of individuals but also brings about a process of developing new cultural and social belonging (Wessendorf, 2019). This process leads immigrant individuals and communities to redefine their identities, with musical practices playing a central role in the construction of these identities. In this section, by reviewing the existing literature on migration, music, and identity, a framework for this study will be established.

Studies that address the impact of migration on identity construction often emphasize the importance of cultural elements in the integration processes of immigrants into new communities. For instance, a study that examines Akerlof and Kranton's identity economics approach in the context of migration highlights that cultural identity is as significant as the economic welfare of both immigrants and the native population. This study notes that immigrants tend to preserve their cultural identities and prefer to live in diaspora communities, especially when the cultural distance is significant (Prinz, 2019). Another study exploring the identity development of immigrant youth emphasizes that individual ethnic, national, and personal identity development, as well as group processes at the societal level (such as threats and stereotypes), constrain the identity options available to immigrants. This study highlights the importance of biculturalism (adopting both the heritage and the host country's identities), although it acknowledges that this can be challenging for some immigrant groups (Schwartz et al., 2018). Research on Turkish immigrants in Germany reveals that assimilation discourses play a central role in identity construction and that these discourses contribute to the mutual

construction of the "other" between native Germans and Turkish immigrants. This study shows that the spaces occupied and created by immigrants have become focal points of discussions on difference and otherness (Ehrkamp, 2006). According to Berry's typology of cultural adaptation, integration is defined by two key components: the preservation of traditional cultural heritage and participation in the broader society. These components contribute to the psychological and sociocultural adaptation of immigrants, with integration generally yielding more positive outcomes than separation, assimilation, or marginalization (Ward, 2013). The literature frequently discusses the need for immigrants to balance the preservation of their cultural identity with adapting to their new environment. Migration researchers like Portes and Rumbaut have addressed the dilemmas and challenges immigrants face in their identity construction processes, revealing the complex dynamics of these processes (Haan, 2010). In this context, significant findings have been obtained regarding how music functions as a bridge for immigrant individuals to maintain their cultural roots while building relationships with new societies.

Research in the fields of music sociology and ethnomusicology has focused on the role of music in the construction of social identities. These studies examine how music is used as a tool in the processes of expressing, maintaining, and reshaping cultural identities (Boer et al., 2013). Particularly, studies conducted among immigrant communities have demonstrated the central role of musical practices in identity construction and the sustainability of these identities. For instance, Lidskog's (2016) study titled "The role of music in ethnic identity formation in diaspora: A research review" explores the role of music in the preservation and transformation of ethnic identities. This study emphasizes the significance of music as a crucial tool in identity construction in diasporic situations. Similarly, the article "Participatory music-making and well-being within immigrant cultural practice: Exploratory case studies in South East Queensland, Australia" (Cain et al., 2020) investigates how the music-making practices of immigrant communities impact individuals' mental, social, and emotional well-being. This study shows that music plays an important role for immigrants in maintaining their identities and adapting to new environments. The article "Migrant Musicians: Transnationality and Hybrid Identities Expressed through Music" (Golemo, 2020) discusses how immigrant musicians express their hybrid identities through musical expressions and convey their transnational experiences. This study explains how music functions as a tool for immigrants to build an "internal homeland" and express various manifestations of cultural belonging. The study "Immigrant students and the 'homeland music': Meanings, negotiations and implications" (Karlsen, 2013) examines the meanings attributed by immigrant students to the music from their or their parents' homelands and how this music is negotiated within the school environment. This study demonstrates the significant role of music in the identity construction of immigrant students and in the maintenance of cultural belonging. Finally, the study "Afro-Colombian internal migration and participatory music: Ethnically and politically charged religious festivals in Bogota" (Rojas, 2021) discusses how the musical performances of Afro-Colombian communities play a role in constructing ethnic identity and civic participation. This study emphasizes the effectiveness of music in social cohesion and collective identity construction. These studies clearly demonstrate the central role of music in the construction of identities and the sustainability of these identities among immigrant communities.

Another significant area in the literature that focuses on the role of musical practices in the construction of transnational identities is the impact of music on cultural hybridity processes. Cultural hybridity refers to the process by which different cultural elements come together to form new and complex cultural forms. This process takes place in an environment where the dynamics of globalization and localization work together. Cultural hybridity not only involves the mixing and synthesis of different elements but also includes the formation of new cultural forms and connections (Wang & Yeh, 2005). In this process, studies on how music is adapted and transformed in different cultural contexts provide important insights into understanding how transnational identities are shaped. For example, in his work "The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness," Gilroy details how transnational identities formed in the African diaspora through music and how these identities hybridized under local and global influences. Gilroy's work draws attention to the creative and transformative power of music in the construction of these identities (Gunderson, 2004). Similarly, in the book edited by Monson (2003), "The African Diaspora: A Musical Perspective," the central role of music in the formation of transnational identities in the African diaspora is emphasized. Monson

addresses how music has become a symbol at the intersection of local and global, exploring the complexity of these identities (Gunderson, 2004).

Studies examining the musical practices of immigrants reveal that music serves not only as a form of identity expression but also as a tool of solidarity and resistance for immigrant communities. In this context, music emerges as an important tool for immigrants in developing a sense of collective solidarity in response to the challenges and exclusions they face. Studies examining how immigrant youth engage in the processes of social resistance and identity construction through musical practices demonstrate how music functions as an effective tool in the construction of individual and collective identities. For instance, a study examining how ethnic identities and cultures are preserved and transformed through music in diasporic situations highlights the significant role of music in the identity formation of immigrant groups. This study also notes that music is effective in identity construction in political contexts such as social stratification or resistance (Lidskog, 2016). Another study shows that youth are inspired for collective participation and action by concretizing forms of resistance through participatory action research and arts-based approaches. This study reveals that art opens a space for collective resistance towards social justice for young researchers (Cerecer et al., 2011). Another article that examines the identity development of immigrant youth from a multi-level perspective explores the identity development processes at both the individual and group levels. This study emphasizes the importance of immigrant youth adopting both heritage and host country identities, while also noting that this process can sometimes be challenging (Schwartz, 2018).

Finally, there is extensive literature on the role of music in the social integration processes of immigrant communities. These studies examine how music contributes to immigrant individuals forming new social bonds, gaining social acceptance, and expressing themselves in new cultural contexts. According to Crooke and colleagues (2023), music also plays an important role in promoting social cohesion and intercultural understanding. Intercultural music participation is used as a tool to break down cultural barriers and explore cultural intersections between immigrants and host societies. Although the real-world benefits of such musical activities are not yet fully understood, further research is needed to understand how and when music can be used in the processes of inclusion, understanding, and adaptation. Another study conducted in Australia (Marsh, 2012) demonstrates that music contributes to the adaptation processes of newly arrived immigrant and refugee children to the host culture. According to this research, school-based music experiences offer opportunities for cultural preservation, intercultural transmission, and verbal and non-verbal communication, fostering a sense of belonging among students in communities.

The information obtained from the literature provides a foundation for understanding the role of musical practices in the formation of transnational identities among immigrants in this study. In this context, the literature review has also shown which theoretical approaches this research will be built upon and how these approaches will support the study's objective.

Importance of Study

This research aims to fill a significant gap in the literature on the relationship between music, migration, and identity by examining the role of musical practices among immigrant communities in the formation of transnational identities. Globalization and increasing migration movements have accelerated the emergence of transnational identities, and in this process, the role of music has become increasingly evident. However, academic studies on this subject have remained limited, with the function of music in transnational identity construction not being explored in sufficient depth. This research seeks to address this gap and aims to better understand the critical role of music in this context. Another aspect that enhances the importance of this research is its emphasis on the central role of music in processes of social and cultural change. Music functions not only as an aesthetic form of expression but also as an effective tool in identity construction, cultural hybridity, and social integration processes. The in-depth examination of how music is used among immigrant communities offers a broader perspective on the functions of music at both individual and societal levels. This research provides essential data for understanding how music is used as a tool in cultural transmission and how the dynamics of this process are shaped. The formation of transnational identities, where immigrant communities develop a sense of belonging to multiple cultural contexts, is materialized and expressed through music. This research contributes to a

comprehensive understanding of how transnational identities are shaped and the transformative power of music in this process. Additionally, by examining the role of music in social integration processes, it reveals how immigrant communities are accepted in new social contexts and how music functions as a bridge in this process.

Another dimension of the research's significance lies in its practical implications. Music is used as an important tool in the processes of preserving and redefining the cultural identities of immigrant communities. In this context, the findings of this research offer practical suggestions for cultural policymakers and civil society organizations on how music can be effectively used to support the social integration of immigrant communities. Furthermore, the role of music in developing cultural resistance and solidarity among immigrant communities is also instructive for social workers and educators working in these areas. Finally, this research offers an interdisciplinary perspective, encompassing music sociology, ethnomusicology, and migration studies, and provides new contributions to academic discussions in these fields. The findings of the research enrich existing theoretical approaches in these disciplines and enable the development of new theoretical frameworks regarding the role of music in social processes. In this context, the results of the research have a broad impact on both theoretical and practical levels, contributing to the development of a deeper understanding of the relationship between music, identity, and migration.

This research serves as an important tool for understanding the role of musical practices among immigrant communities in the construction of transnational identities in a globalizing world. By detailing how immigrants express their cultural identities through music and the functions of music in social contexts during this process, this study provides significant contributions to both academic literature and practical applications. In this context, the research stands out as a valuable resource for academics, policymakers, and practitioners who seek to better understand the relationship between music and identity and expand knowledge in this field.

Method

This research was conducted with the aim of examining the role of musical practices of immigrant individuals and communities in the formation of transnational identities. The primary focus of the study is to deeply understand this relationship through literature review and document analysis methods and to develop new perspectives that will contribute to the existing literature. The literature review aims to systematically compile the existing body of knowledge on the topic and evaluate it critically, while document analysis will involve a detailed examination of written and visual materials. In this section, the research sample group, data collection process, data analysis methods, and ethical considerations will be discussed in detail.

Documents

The sample group in this research consists of academic studies and relevant documents that focus on themes of migration, music, and identity in the existing literature. For the literature review, academic sources such as articles published in international and local academic journals, books, theses, and conference papers were selected. Additionally, cultural studies and research in ethnomusicology that address the musical practices of immigrant communities were included in this review.

In the context of document analysis, various written documents (e.g., cultural organization reports, musical event announcements, association newsletters) and visual materials (e.g., concert posters, video recordings of musical performances) were examined. These documents were selected from sources that provide direct or indirect information about the musical activities of immigrant communities and the role of these activities in identity construction. Furthermore, news reports, documentaries, and interviews published by media organizations on immigrant music were among the analyzed materials.

Data Collection Techniques

Two main techniques were used for data collection in this research: literature review and document analysis. Both techniques were employed to answer the research questions and better understand the relationship between the musical practices of immigrant communities and identity construction.

Literature review

The literature review aims to systematically examine existing academic studies on the topic and compile comprehensive information on the fundamental approaches and findings in this field. Literature reviews form the foundation of academic research and play a vital role in gathering existing knowledge and assessing the state of a particular area (Linnenluecke, 2019). The literature review primarily focused on academic articles, books, and theses accessible from international and local databases (e.g., JSTOR, ProQuest, Google Scholar). During this review, themes such as how music is used as a tool for identity construction among immigrant communities, how transnational identities are shaped through musical practices, and the role of music in cultural transmission processes were emphasized. This information from the literature supported the theoretical framework of the research and served as a reference point during the analysis process.

Document analysis

Document analysis is a technique for obtaining data through the detailed examination of written and visual materials. This method allows researchers to analyze existing texts and conduct their studies even in situations where field research is not possible (Morgan, 2022). In this research, reports published by cultural organizations, association newsletters, event announcements, and media content related to the musical practices of immigrant communities were analyzed. Additionally, materials such as visual recordings and posters of musical events were examined to understand the social and cultural significance of these practices. Document analysis provided additional data to understand how music is used as a tool in the construction of immigrant identities and complemented the information obtained from the literature review.

Data Analysis

The collected data were systematically analyzed using qualitative data analysis methods. Both the literature review and document analysis data were examined using thematic analysis with the Maxqda Analytical Pro software. Thematic analysis is a process aimed at identifying recurring themes and patterns in the data. Thematic analysis is considered a flexible and theoretically free method and can be associated with different epistemological and ontological positions (Lochmiller, 2021; Kiger & Varpio, 2020). A six-step method was used during the analysis phase. The six-step method proposed by Braun and Clarke is a widely used framework for applying thematic analysis. These steps include familiarizing oneself with the data, generating codes, constructing themes, reviewing potential themes, defining and naming themes, and producing a report (Majumdar, 2019; Campbell et al., 2021). In this process, the main themes that emerged regarding the musical practices of immigrant communities and their role in the formation of transnational identities were systematically classified and interpreted.

In the literature review, themes such as musical practices, transnational identities, cultural hybridity, social integration, and authenticity were emphasized. These themes were analyzed in line with the perspectives offered by existing academic studies and integrated into the theoretical framework of the research. In the document analysis, the narratives, images, and symbols in materials related to immigrant music were examined to understand how immigrant identities are expressed and how music is used as a tool in this process.

Ethical considerations

Ethical considerations were approached with great care in this research. All sources used during the literature review and document analysis were accurately referenced, and the copyright of the sources was respected.

This methodological framework aims to achieve the research objective of deeply understanding the role of musical practices of immigrant communities in the formation of transnational identities. The literature review and document analysis functioned as complementary methods to understand various aspects of this multifaceted process and to contribute new insights to the literature. In this context, the research findings aim to fill gaps in the literature on the relationship between music, migration, and identity and to expand the body of knowledge in this field.

Results and Discussion

In this section, the data obtained during the research process will be presented in detail and discussed in light of the existing studies in the literature. The findings will be derived from the data collected through literature review and

document analysis methods. During this process, the role of the musical practices of immigrant communities in the formation of transnational identities will be examined, focusing on how these practices are shaped, the dynamics that influence them, and how these practices contribute to the social and cultural lives of immigrant communities.

Presentation of Findings

The role of musical practices in the construction of transnational identities

The literature review and document analysis revealed that the musical practices of immigrant individuals and communities play a significant role in the construction of transnational identities. The data obtained demonstrate how immigrants bring together the cultural values of their country of origin with the cultural elements of their new communities through music, supported by various studies. Immigrants use music both to preserve and transform their cultural identities and to integrate into their new communities. For example, one study examined the role of music in the formation of ethnic identity and emphasized that music is an important tool in the process of preserving and transforming the identities of immigrant groups. In this process, music functions as both a resource and a constraint in the social positioning and orientation of immigrants (Lidskog, 2016). Another study investigated the impact of music on social cohesion and intercultural understanding, revealing that participation in music plays a significant role in breaking down cultural barriers and exploring cultural intersections between immigrants and host communities (Crooke et al., 2023). This demonstrates that music is a tool that facilitates the integration of immigrants into their new communities. Another study examining how Minangkabau and Javanese cultures come together through music (Santoso et al., 2023) shows how different cultural elements are blended through music and how mutual respect and understanding are developed. This study reveals that music can be used as a language of communication between individuals with different cultural backgrounds, thus promoting mutual respect for cultural values. In a study by Golemo (2020), it was also noted that immigrant musicians contribute to the cultural richness of the societies they live in and express their hybrid identities through music. These musicians both rediscover their own musical cultures and reinterpret them from a new, cosmopolitan perspective. This process allows immigrants to build an "internal homeland" through music. Finally, a study by Cain and Lakhani (2020) in Australia examined how the music-making practices of immigrant communities affect the mental, social, and emotional well-being of participants. This study shows that participation in music is an important tool for immigrants to express themselves and connect with their communities. These data demonstrate that immigrants use music both to preserve and transform their cultural identities and to integrate into their new communities. Music plays an important role for immigrants as a means of communication, a tool for identity construction, and a facilitator of social cohesion.

During this process, music helps individuals and communities preserve their cultural identities while also allowing them to redefine these identities in new contexts. For example, concert posters and performance videos analyzed in the document analysis show how immigrant musicians combine local music genres with global music trends, thereby creating a new musical identity.

Cultural hybridization through musical practices

Musical practices allow for the merging of different cultural elements to create new and complex music forms. Findings that demonstrate the contribution of the musical practices of immigrant communities to cultural hybridization processes are supported by various studies. Musical practices allow for the merging of different cultural elements to create new and complex music forms.

Immigrant musicians contribute to the cultural richness of the societies they live in by expressing their hybrid identities and transnational experiences through musical expressions. These musicians rediscover their root cultures while also building an "internal homeland" through music-making and experiencing music (Golemo, 2020). This clearly demonstrates how musical practices contribute to cultural hybridization processes. Music plays an important role in the processes of preserving and transforming the ethnic identities of immigrant communities. Research on how identities are preserved and transformed through music in diaspora situations highlights the importance of music in these processes (Lidskog, 2016). This supports another finding that musical practices contribute to cultural hybridization processes. Additionally, studies on the relationship between music education and cultural identity (Davis, 2005) show

how music education, with a multicultural ethical approach, supports diversity, hybridity, and differences. This demonstrates that musical practices allow for the merging of different cultural elements to create new and complex music forms. Finally, as seen in the example of Muziki wa Injili (Gospel Music) in Tanzania, music hybridization occurs when musical sounds cross different cultural boundaries and enter new music cultures. In this process, traveling sounds interact with other sounds they encounter in new music cultures, leading to transformation (Sanga, 2010). These findings demonstrate that the musical practices of immigrant communities make significant contributions to cultural hybridization processes and allow for the merging of different cultural elements to create new and multifaceted music forms.

This leads immigrants to develop a multi-layered cultural structure in their identity construction processes. The theoretical approaches found in the literature support this process, and the findings obtained from the document analysis provide a more concrete view of this hybridization process. Particularly, the blending of local folk music motifs with modern music genres in the performances of immigrant musicians can be considered an example of this hybridization process.

Social integration through music in immigrant communities

The findings also demonstrate that music plays an important role in the social integration processes of immigrant communities. The literature review contains a wealth of information about the use of music as a tool to strengthen social bonds and enable the establishment of new social relationships. For example, one study highlighted the role of music in the formation of ethnic identity and the preservation and transformation of cultural identities in diasporic situations. This study emphasized how music functions as both a resource and a constraint in the social positioning and orientation of immigrant communities (Lidskog, 2016). Another study conducted in Australia demonstrated that music programs play an important role in the integration processes of newly arrived immigrant and refugee children. These programs help students maintain cultural continuity, promote intercultural communication, and enhance their social cohesion (Marsh, 2012). Music is also used as a tool to promote social cohesion and intercultural understanding. Music communities formed to overcome cultural barriers and explore cultural intersections increase harmony and understanding between immigrants and host societies (Crooke et al., 2023). Another study examined how music education affects the cultural orientation processes of immigrant children. This study found that children who participated in music programs showed a stronger orientation toward the mainstream culture (Frankenberg, 2016). Additionally, studies have investigated how music affects the well-being and social cohesion of immigrant communities. These studies show that making music enhances individuals' mental, social, and emotional well-being and strengthens social bonds within the community (Cain et al., 2020).

Cultural organization reports and musical event announcements analyzed in the document analysis reveal how music contributes to the integration of immigrant communities with local societies. For example, music festivals organized by immigrants provide an opportunity to showcase their cultural identities and facilitate interaction with local communities. Such events provide concrete examples of how social cohesion and cultural exchange occur through music.

The role of music in the context of authenticity and cultural resistance

The research findings reveal that musical practices play an important role in the context of authenticity and cultural resistance among immigrant communities. The literature contains various studies on the use of music as a tool of cultural resistance. One study highlighted the role of music in the formation of ethnic identity and the preservation of cultural identities. This study emphasized that music is used as a tool of social stratification or resistance among immigrant communities (Lidskog, 2016). Similarly, a study conducted on migrant worker groups in China showed that musical production and performance activities reshaped the cultural subjectivities of workers and provided cultural resources for the solidarity of the working-class community. Another study conducted in Australia revealed that music contributes to the cultural adaptation processes of newly arrived immigrant and refugee children and youth, supporting cultural resistance in this process. This study indicated that musical experiences developed a sense of belonging among students and facilitated cultural transmission (Marsh, 2012). Additionally, a study conducted on Afro-Colombian communities

showed that musical performances have the potential to build ethnic identity and civic participation and that these practices promote social cohesion for immigrants and forcibly displaced people (Rojas, 2021). A project carried out in Norway revealed that music contributes to the understanding of cultural traditions and the prevention of discriminatory attitudes, thereby supporting cultural resistance among immigrant communities. Moreover, the music therapy literature emphasizes that music is an important tool for understanding cultural differences and enhancing cultural sensitivity in therapeutic processes (Hadley & Norris, 2016). In conclusion, musical practices play a significant role in the context of authenticity and cultural resistance among immigrant communities. These practices help immigrants preserve their identities, achieve social cohesion, and express themselves in new cultural environments. Therefore, the role of music in the context of cultural resistance and authenticity among immigrant communities deserves further research and examination.

The findings obtained from the document analysis demonstrate how immigrants use music as a tool to preserve and revitalize their cultural identities and values. For example, the performance of traditional music by diaspora communities can be seen as a form of resistance aimed at preserving these identities. At the same time, these practices also serve as important means for immigrants to express themselves in new social contexts.

Discussion

The research findings reveal that music plays a central role in the construction of transnational identities among immigrant communities. It is argued that music contributes to the shaping of transnational identities, which express the state of belonging to multiple cultural and national contexts. This finding supports the work of researchers like Lidskog (2016), who emphasized the importance of music in the preservation and transformation of ethnic identities. However, there are differing views on the role of music in the construction of transnational identities. For instance, some researchers argue that the impact of music in this process may be limited. Researchers like Vertovec (2004) suggest that the influence of music may vary depending on factors such as individuals' socioeconomic status, educational level, and cultural capital. In this case, it is argued that the role of music in identity construction may not always be equally effective and is context-specific. Therefore, it is clear that more comprehensive and context-sensitive research is needed on the role of music in the construction of transnational identities.

The research findings also show that music plays a significant role in cultural hybridization processes. Cultural hybridization is defined as the process by which different cultural elements come together to create new and complex cultural forms. Some studies emphasize the creative and transformative power of music in this process. However, it should be noted that cultural hybridization does not always lead to positive outcomes. There are criticisms in this regard. For example, Appadurai (2001) argues that cultural hybridization can lead to identity crises and cultural conflicts. Other studies have noted that cultural hybridization can create tensions between cultural elements rather than integrating them, leading to identity confusion. In this case, the role of music in the cultural hybridization process cannot always be assessed positively; the new cultural forms that emerge in this process may create a sense of belonging crisis or identity turmoil for some individuals.

Music is frequently emphasized as an important tool in the social integration processes of immigrant communities. Crooke and colleagues (2023) argue that music plays an active role in promoting social cohesion and intercultural understanding. Similarly, studies by Marsh (2012) demonstrate how music programs contribute to the integration processes of immigrant and refugee children. These studies show that music helps strengthen social bonds among immigrant communities and facilitates the establishment of new social relationships. However, it should be considered that the role of music in the social integration process is not always positive; in some cases, it may exacerbate social exclusion and discrimination. There is a possibility that certain music genres or musical practices may be perceived as foreign and threatening by host societies, which could lead to the exclusion of immigrant communities. In this case, the possibility that music could increase social polarization rather than facilitate social cohesion and integration should also be considered.

The research findings indicate that music plays an important role in the context of authenticity and cultural resistance among immigrant communities. Researchers like Lidskog (2016) and Marsh (2012) emphasize that music functions as a tool of resistance for immigrant communities. In this context, it is argued that music helps immigrants preserve their identities and express themselves in new social contexts. However, criticisms can also be made regarding the role of music in the context of authenticity and cultural resistance. The commodification of cultural products by global capitalism can be criticized, and it can be suggested that music is also affected by this process. This criticism points to the risk that authentic musical practices may gradually become commercialized by the global culture industry, leading to a loss of originality. Therefore, the function of music as a tool of cultural resistance can be questioned in this context. The commercialization of music could weaken the authenticity and resistance power of these practices, thereby limiting music's role as a tool of resistance for immigrant communities.

Caution should be exercised regarding the generalizability of the research findings. The findings obtained in this study are based on a specific geographic and cultural context, and there are uncertainties about whether similar results can be obtained in different communities and contexts. For example, Berry (2001) argues that the integration processes of immigrant communities can vary significantly depending on the socio-cultural structure of the society they are in. In this context, it is clear that the research results may vary across different cultural, social, and political contexts, and therefore generalization should be done with care.

In conclusion, these research findings demonstrate how music plays a central role in the construction of transnational identities, cultural hybridization processes, social integration processes, and cultural resistance among immigrant communities. However, evaluating these findings in light of opposing views and criticisms in the literature helps us understand the complexity of the effects of music on immigrant communities. The effects of music are context-specific and may not always produce the same outcomes in every case; therefore, it is clear that these effects need to be examined more deeply and critically. Such an approach will allow for a more comprehensive evaluation of the relationship between music, identity, and migration.

Conclusion

The research findings demonstrate that music plays a central role in the construction of transnational identities among immigrant communities. Immigrant individuals maintain their identities while integrating into new social contexts by blending the cultural elements of their countries of origin with those of the societies they now live in through musical practices. This highlights the significance of music as a tool for identity construction among immigrant communities. In this context, music serves as a means for immigrants to preserve their cultural roots while also helping them express themselves and gain acceptance in new social settings.

Musical practices play a crucial role in cultural hybridization processes. The findings of the research show that music brings together different cultural elements to create new and complex musical forms. Immigrant musicians contribute to the cultural richness of the societies in which they live by expressing their hybrid identities and transnational experiences through musical expressions. This clearly illustrates how musical practices contribute to cultural hybridization processes.

Moreover, the research concludes that music is also a significant tool in the social integration processes of immigrant communities. Music helps immigrant individuals establish new social bonds and integrate into their communities. The use of music as a tool to promote social cohesion and intercultural understanding enhances harmony and mutual understanding between immigrant communities and local societies. However, it should also be considered that music may not always play a positive role in this process, as it can, in some cases, exacerbate social exclusion and discrimination.

Finally, the research finds that music plays an important role in the context of authenticity and cultural resistance among immigrant communities. The function of music as a tool of cultural resistance helps immigrants preserve their identities and express themselves in new social contexts. However, the risk of music becoming commercialized and commodified by global capitalism also exists. This could limit the effectiveness of music as a tool for authenticity and resistance.

This research has demonstrated how music plays a central role in the construction of transnational identities, cultural hybridization processes, social integration processes, and cultural resistance among immigrant communities. However, it has been emphasized that the effects of music in these processes are context-specific and may not always produce the same outcomes. Therefore, it is clear that the relationship between music, identity, and migration needs to be examined more deeply and from a critical perspective. Consequently, the findings of this research suggest that more comprehensive and context-sensitive studies are needed to understand the effects of music on immigrant communities.

Recommendations

This section includes insights and recommendations for both academic research and cultural policy and practical applications based on the findings. Additionally, various suggestions have been developed for immigrant communities themselves. These recommendations aim to provide strategic guidance on how music can be more effectively used in identity construction, cultural hybridization, and social integration among immigrant communities.

Recommendations for academic research

The research deeply examines the role of music in the construction of transnational identities among immigrant communities, but it also highlights the need for further studies in this area. First, it is recommended that similar research be conducted in different cultural and geographical contexts. In this regard, there is a need for studies comparing the effects of music on different immigrant communities. Additionally, studies that explore the impact of music on immigrants' socioeconomic status, educational level, and cultural capital could provide valuable contributions to the existing literature.

It is also important for research examining the role of music in transnational identity construction to be planned as longer-term and more comprehensive studies to track long-term changes. Such studies could help understand how the musical practices of immigrants evolve over time and how their identities transform in this process.

Finally, more critical studies are needed on the role of music in cultural hybridization and social integration processes. Research that addresses the possible negative effects of music in these processes, such as identity crises or social conflicts, could fill gaps in the current literature.

Recommendations for cultural policy and practical applications

The findings of the research suggest that music can be used as an important tool in the social integration processes of immigrant communities and the preservation of their cultural identities. In this context, several recommendations can be made for cultural policymakers and civil society organizations.

First, it is recommended to create programs that support and encourage the musical practices of immigrant communities. Such programs can strengthen the role of music in promoting social cohesion and serve as an effective tool for overcoming cultural barriers. Events such as music festivals, workshops, and concerts can enhance interaction and understanding between immigrant communities and local societies.

Cultural policymakers should make music education programs accessible to immigrant children and youth. These programs can facilitate the integration of immigrants into mainstream culture while also contributing to the preservation and redefinition of their cultural identities. The role of music as a bridge in this context can help create a more inclusive social structure by minimizing cultural conflicts.

Additionally, it is recommended to use digital platforms to archive the traditional music of immigrant communities and ensure the preservation of this heritage for the future. Such initiatives can contribute to the sustainability of the cultural identities of immigrant communities and serve as a tool of resistance for preserving these identities.

Recommendations for immigrant communities

It is important for immigrant communities to continue and develop their musical practices as a means of preserving their identities and expressing themselves in new social contexts. Immigrant communities should use music as an effective tool for preserving and redefining their cultural identities. Music can enhance intra-community solidarity and help preserve cultural roots in new social contexts. In this process, combining local and global musical elements can both sustain the cultural heritage of the community and contribute to the formation of new musical identities.

Additionally, immigrant communities should increase their interaction with local societies through music events they organize. Such events can facilitate cultural exchange and contribute to the social integration processes of immigrants. In this context, efforts should be increased to develop joint music projects with local societies, aimed at overcoming cultural boundaries and fostering mutual understanding.

Immigrant communities should take conscious steps to pass on their musical practices and cultural heritage to future generations. In this process, spreading musical education and practices and sharing knowledge in this field is crucial for ensuring the continuity of cultural identities.

These recommendations provide strategic guidance on how music can be more effectively used in identity construction, cultural hybridization, and social integration among immigrant communities. The suggestions offered for academic research, cultural policy and practical applications, and immigrant communities aim to contribute to a deeper understanding of the effects of music on immigrant communities and to better manage these effects.

Limitations of Study

This research, while examining the role of musical practices in the formation of transnational identities among immigrant communities, carries certain limitations. Firstly, the study is limited to a sample from a specific geographic region, which restricts the generalizability of the findings. It cannot be guaranteed that similar results would be obtained in different cultural and socioeconomic contexts.

The data collection methods are confined to literature review and document analysis. These methods are limited to accessible documents and existing literature, which may be insufficient for examining broader contexts. Additionally, the duration of the research is not conducive to tracking long-term changes and transformations, posing the risk of overlooking dynamics that may evolve over time.

Subjective interpretations and cultural differences also present a limitation during the research process. The meanings attributed to music can vary across different cultural contexts, which may not fully align with the researcher's perspective. This could partially limit the accuracy of the findings. Consequently, these limitations necessitate careful evaluation of the research findings, and it is recommended that future studies address these limitations.

Biodata of Author



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