

Intercultural interactions in the painting arts education: "Azerbaijani painters example in Turkey"

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Abstract

Teaching of the arts which include universal values and rules in essence ,in spite of containing local signs, should be formed by universal criteria's and the richness, and contain diversity as well. Intercultural interaction is an opportunity that may offer important advantages to this diversity. To be the subject of education and training of the arts, which is almost in the same age with humanity, in Turkey coincides with relatively near future. Turkish art education institutions, trying to fit the process of understanding hundreds of years of tradition and rules into a few decades, tried to speed up this process by going especially western countries or bringing artists from there. While the number does not exceed fingers of two hands especially in the last ten-fifteen years, now the expression of these numbers with three-digit numbers made the need for qualified instructors preferred. On the one hand this case contains various handicaps, but on the other hand, it can be considered as an opportunity. These study opportunities were designed to detect the sample.

Keywords: art, intercultural interaction, Azerbaijani painters.

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1. Introduction

Intercultural interaction is an important social reality we come across with in every field in our lives as an incontrovertible reality of the time. Even though it doubtlessly appeared as a result of globalization, now it has reached the power to change almost every field's information. In this regard, it has been needed to arise to consider intercultural interaction as a case and eliminate its negative aspects, and use its positive aspects effectively. Even though it has local traces, art education should take shape with universal standards and substantiality just as art itself has universal value and rules in itself. In addition to that, it should contain as many varieties as possible. Intercultural interaction is an opportunity that may bring important advantages to this diversity. To be the subject of education and training of the arts, which is almost in the same age with humanity, in Turkey coincides with relatively near future. Turkish art education institutions, trying to fit the process of understanding hundreds of years of tradition and rules into a few decades, tried to speed up this process by going especially western countries or bringing artists from there. While the number could be counted on the fingers of one hand especially in the last ten to fifteen years, now the expression of these numbers with three-digit numbers made the need for qualified instructors preferred. It can be considered as an opportunity even though this situation has various kinds of handicaps. This study was designed to investigate these opportunities on their samples.

2. Aim

The aim of the current study is to investigate the opportunities that intercultural interactions can provide in the painting art teaching, and opinions of Azerbaijani painters and academicians who work in art departments at universities in Turkey concerning to the subject.

3. Problem

The problem of this research is to investigate the role of intercultural interaction in artists' and art educators' being used as primary source in painting art education. These questions concerning to the matter are seek for an answer.

1. What is intercultural interaction?
2. Which opportunities can intercultural interactions provide in art teaching?
3. What are the opinions of Azerbaijani painters and academicians who work in Turkey concerning to the subject?
4. What do Azerbaijani painters and academicians who work in Turkey think about painting art education in Turkey, and what are their suggestions?

4. Method and Limitation

This research has two stages. Scanning method is used in the first stage. Scanning method is an approach which aims to define past and current situations or facts as they are. The second stage is the questionnaire on which an open-ended interview form standardized as a data collection tool whose validity and dependability studies are done. These statements are made about the questionnaire which is first used in Europe in 1883 and then in America in 1847: It is an investigation which is made to learn thoughts, experiences and knowledge of people about a problem. In other words, "Questionnaire is the list of questions which are arranged fitting for purpose of a definite research." In questionnaire technique, communication between researcher and information source is provided by writing, and the information source finds an opportunity to freely answer the written questions that are directed to him/her." There have been had a written interview with these 10 Azerbaijani

painters and academicians whose names and other information are hidden on the researcher via a questionnaire.

5. Findings

The findings obtained in the research show that intercultural interaction is a teaching approach which have been implemented as an important factor in art education. It is found that about twenty Azerbaijani painters and academicians work at art departments of universities in Turkey. Moreover, it is understood that considerable majority of them are constituents of these departments.

5.1. Intercultural interaction

It is certain that the things which globalization creates and its positive and negative sides have been subject to many debates in last decades. Yet, thanks to information technologies which are improved and expanded rapidly, this condition's penetrating all sides of our lives is an indisputable truth. This context also plays the leading role in formation of identities. According to Mark Poster, who says that identities take shape in process of interaction and via language, communication via computer created a specific language. This language introduces new configurations in identity formation process. Subject in computer communication is around post-modern semantic fields such as time and place, internal and external, mental and phenomenon. Computer communication contains e-mails, discussion groups and teleconference. In each one of them, computer provides sending written texts. For example, hiding his identity, one can communicate with unknown people by changing his name, sex, social role and status. (trs.: Timisi, 2003).

It is thought that this kind of interactions which have such common, accessible and transformative features must be actualized deliberately instead of ignoring because it is inevitable for cultures which take their courses not to have interactions. Furthermore, no culture is adequate to develop by itself in terms of values it has produced.

According to Erinc who says that the main source of culture is human and orders the other sources (1995) "The eventual source is everything a society and the people regarding themselves as a part of that society that takes and assimilates after the interactions and communications with their neighbors throughout the history. Cultural interaction is provided by many ways. We can divide these ways into two main groups.

- a) It is to contact people who are from different cultures in peace especially because of economic difficulties.
- b) It is to contact people unwillingly because of war and forced migration.

According to Kim Y. Y. "Intercultural interaction expresses the communication and interaction that are between people who have knowledge and experiences to different cultural domains and subcultural backgrounds. As a discipline, the conceptual framework of the intercultural communication and its concerns has expanded over time, especially including the sub-cultural groups that become distinct in terms of race and ethnic." (trs.: Bekiroglu ve Balci, 2014). This process may have been affecting human life in positive and negative aspects in many ways.

5.2. Positive Aspects of Cultural Interaction:

When looked at intercultural interaction from different point of view, it is likely to count many negative sides. However, this study focuses on the positive sides. Its benefits are lined up like this in many sources:

Acculturation

- Contributes communities to know each other,
- Helps art activities' expansion,
- Helps universal cultural values emerge,
- Expands research interests of sociology.
- It benefits if it occurs spontaneously and with the acceptance of society.

As art is one of the most important and active transporters of culture and cultural renewal, it takes an active role in chagement of these interactions into advantages. "Because art is a visual language; an expression tool. Real power of visual images can easily perceive cultural differences, make them learnable and respected." (Kirisoglu, 2009)

The way to reach individualistic culture significantly crosses the way of universal culture. According to Erinc (1995) "The more open-minded and unprejudiced could be approached to universal culture, the more individualistically cultural could be. In that case, highbrow means a person who has understood universal culture, its people and values. And this means having personal identity."

The findings obtained in the research show that intercultural interaction is a teaching approach which have been implemented as an important factor in art education. It is found that about twenty Azerbaijani painters and academicians work at art departments of universities in Turkey. Moreover, it is understood that considerable majority of them are constituents of these departments.

5.3. Survey Questions and Some Remarkable Answers Given to These Questions

In this part of findings are the questions which are asked participants and some answers given to these questions.

Question 1. What do you think about the exams which are held to admit students to art departments in Turkey?

- As the exams are held in a short time, they have stated that they do not find these exams healthy, it is difficult to discover one's talent in three hours, and these exams measure only memorization

Question 2. What do you think about lessons and the content of art departments in Turkey?

- Practicing time is insufficient.
- Even though the content of lessons is good, instructors who can apply these contents do not have enough information and experience.

Question 3. What can you say which aspects of art departments in Turkey should be developed when you consider the education you have taken?

- Practicing hours are not sufficient. Except that, it is a big missing that there are no pilener lessons. I disapprove of making copies from photos instead of original pictures. It is a big missing that there is either no or few artistic anatomy lessons in pattern lessons.
- Both theoretical knowledge and application information are based on memorization and mark in Turkey. Yet, art and its education cannot be taken for marks. Art and its education are given by transferring an expert's knowledge and experience and application. Namely, it is given by master-apprentice relationship.

Question 4. What can you say about the importance of intercultural interaction after your experiences in Turkey?

- Cultures are enriched thanks to intercultural interactions, and one fills the deficiency of the other.
- Cultural studies in Turkey have not impressed us a lot because they are not original. Turkish artists are under the influence of western art. They use the same style and mimicry as westerners do.
- Culture forms a society's identity, and makes it different from other societies. Culture is the manner of life and mode of thought. People are similar to each other biologically even though their societies and countries are different. Yet, they are different from each other in terms of religion, attitude and the way they perceive events. People need intercultural interactions because it is important to understand people from other societies and have healthy relationships for development of society.

Question 5. What can you say about the role of intercultural interactions in art education?

- Learning a different culture which is apart from traditional education enriches students.
- Frequently organizing activities between universities, national activities and international activities (exhibitions, workshops, master class programs, etc.) will contribute intercultural interactions.
- It is needed to apply international educational exchange programs spryly which are being applied already in Turkey. By this way, teachers and students get into an interaction process from different programs individualistically. This provides positive impact to their world views, and we all know this is vital in producing art.

Question 6. What do you think are the advantages of interscholastic student teacher exchange applications, respecting artists as resources in art education?

- I think the exchange of teacher and student is very important in terms of cultural relations.

Question 7. Would you like to add any other opinion?

- The language of art is the same all over the world but its color is different, and I think these colors together will create a beautiful world.

6. Conclusion

This study shows once more the understanding of universal art education and training should be formed by universal standards even though it is fed with local values. Besides, at this time, it has been concluded that, the use of artists and artist educators as a primary source is as crucial as or perhaps more crucial than the written and verbal sources. It is understood that this source is another necessity to priorities intercultural interaction.

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