

Review of: "Square peg in a round hole: Migration and romantic relationship troubles in the UK Zimbabwean diaspora"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

This is a very interesting study on a very appealing topic which can be related with diaspora communities beyond Zimbabweans.

The introduction gives a very good background picture especially to readers not familiar with the cultural context of this topic. It might be helpful to explain more clearly what is the relevance/significance of the UK context and what is the connection between UK and Zimbabweans – why is UK a favourable destination? What are the cultural ties?

Methods:

Well considered justification of forms of sample accessibility. As the content of the interviews can become upsetting, has there been any provision regarding potential emotional distress caused because of the interviews?

Furthermore, it might be helpful to include more information about the questions asked, the length and location of each interview. Ethical considerations have been included but need to be even more explicit.

Analysis:

CDA is presented as a relevant and suitable technique of analysis but I got confused as the analytical process focused into themes. Thus I am not sure whether the authors intended to utilise CDA but ended up applying Thematic analysis (=equally if not more suitable for the purposes of this study)

Results (=analysis of data)

The authors have successfully explained what the purpose of this section will be but it seems that the analysis is not conducted as effectively as this data could have been used: 1) in each fragment it would be very helpful to add demographical details of each participant eg gender, age, location, length of current family status or years in UK. 2), 2) each fragment needs to be analysed separately, 3) the way analysis is presented looks more like thematic analysis.

The structure of this section is very effective but the way analysis is presented is not as rigorous as it could have been as each fragment needs to be analysed in relation to theory or specific themes/concepts/ideas that the authors have detected. The links between the fragments and the arguments of the authors need to be direct, clear and thoroughly

supported.

The fragments are intense and extremely powerful – this is the brilliant part of this work as the researchers managed to collect extremely rich data. It may be helpful considering utilising a phenomenological approach as lived experiences are very vivid in these fragments.

Finally, the authors need to make more connections/bridges between their findings and relevant literature. This should take place during the analysis part and especially in the discussion.

This is an extremely interesting and promising piece of work and its stronger element is its rich data. The study needs to utilise more detailed and better supported literature, focus and adequately support a suitable methodological technique and most importantly, dig into analysis even further in a more rigorous and detailed approach. The aims of this study are absolutely fascinating and I am very interested in reading the final draft of this work.