

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 article presents an innovative perspective on Zimbabwean couples in the UK by using Critical Discourse analysis and bringing to the fore, the issues emanating from separation and divorce related to the migration and enculturation process. Such a perspective is presented through the collected analysis of 30 interviews depicting from the standpoint of the authors, the voices of participants. From the statements drawn from interviews as well as field notes and observations, the study purports to indicate how couples dealt with their relationships while they understood their separation and divorce. The authors attempt to describe social violence outcomes in their findings through critical discourse analysis of identified themes.

There are however some questions which I would respectfully like to highlight may be useful to the authors:

- the findings are based on a sample of 30 persons covering much of the UK, drawn from an advertisement, yet were 30 persons a sufficient sample for the types of questions being studied?
- The 30 are characterized as couples, but are they pairs? or single males/females?
- The time period of residence for the participants in the UK overall varied from 1977 to 2016 and required at least one year of residence. Yet, who within this time period of 19 years, within what time frames did the divorce occur? Were there more divorces in early enculturation of 1-2 years or with later acculturation and assimilation?
- Since the study was conducted over a 6-month period, what other data sources aside from the interviews, observations and field notes were gathered and analyzed and how was data triangulated?
- Are the statements gleaned of the interviewee's representative of more than a few, some, most or all participants?
This is unclear since they are not aggregated, and it is hard to see how generalizations can be drawn and linked to the discussion and explanation of structural inequalities, cultural ideologies, gender and violence?

Hence, I would need to know with greater specificity and linkages to "thick descriptions", how in fact enculturation has worked against the relationship building of these 30 people? how migration and enculturation in specific areas have led to divorce? and what was the aftermath of such experiences in 2019 that is relevant to our current understanding of these issues? The discourse analysis and methodology findings to theory linkages need to be stronger to give this article the purported outcome.

