Narrative Paradigm Analysis of Differentiating Immigrant Experiences from Holland, MI

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Introduction
- The 2010 Census documented 50.5 million Hispanics in the United States or 16.3% of the total population, making Latino families the largest ethnic minority group (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010).
- Additionally, reports indicate that in 2005, the undocumented foreign born population reached an estimated 30% of the United States (Brabeck, Xu2, 2010).
- DACA protects individuals brought to the United States as minors.
- DACA status is given to those who came to the United States before turning 16 and under the age of 31 before June 15, 2012.
- Only people that meet certain requirements are eligible for this program. Some requirements would include:
  - Continuously lived in the country since June 15, 2007
  - Not been convicted of a felony offense
  - In school, graduated high school, or discharged from armed forces
  - Does not pose a threat to national security or public safety
- Of great importance are the ways immigrant family members manage the uncertainty of DACA.

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Cristian DACA Recipient

Lezley US Citizen

Sandra Permanent Resident

THEMES
- Didn’t know the difference of being undocumented in this country
- Sacrifice from parents for a better future
- Hard finding job because of the legal status
- Had to be independent at an early age because his parents were always working
- Compare his life with people that had documents or citizens
- No say as a child when it came to decisions
- Childhood cultural difference
- Different struggles
- Parents have hard jobs
- Not feeling that you belong
- Realizing some differences
- Missing out on opportunities
- Very secretive about status
- People should value what they have
- Self doubts
- Did not know about the different legal statuses that this country has as a child
- Sacrifice from parents in this country for the family
- Feeling guilty of all the opportunities a citizen is given that other people don’t have
- Feeling secure no matter what
- Fear of her family being deported
- The opportunity of traveling
- Family is a very important aspect
- Family sacrifices
- Different perspective due to legal status
- Reasoning of moving to different country
- Childhood difference
- Being scared and confused
- New environment, not fitting in
- Language barrier
- Distant from father at young age
- Difficult decisions
- Cultural change

COMMON THEMES
- Wanting a better future
- As children not acknowledging status difference
- Fear and confusion
- Constantly comparing oneself to others
- Overcoming obstacles

Research Question:
What are the similarities and differences of immigrants with different legal statuses in the United States?

Method
- Content analysis – focus on themes
- Two coders for each narrative
- Each coder analyzed stories of others
- Comparative analysis

Throughout our research we used thematic analysis: to examine, pinpoint and identify any similarities and differences we found in the three narratives. With the narrative paradigm attention to coherence and fidelity was essential.

Limitations
- Additional narratives would enhance generalizability
- Additional coders would increase reliability and validity
- Variation of coder cultural backgrounds could reduce coding bias

Conclusion
- Narratives have coherence, likely because of cultural similarities.
- Listener reactions to stories based on knowledge of an individual is the way the listener interprets the narrative.
- Sharing immigrant narratives plays an important role in expanding perspectives of listeners, of describing the current struggles of immigrants, of changing the American narrative.