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| **Critical Response Analysis**  Name:  Student Number:  Date:  Course:  Instructor:  Referencing Style: APA |

Subjective Nature of Identity of the Individuals

This critical essay describes the main themes of the authors, Bauman, and Rose and Miller. The main theme of both author’s article is the never ending search for settling on a particular identity which is definable, sustainable and dependable. Bauman relates to the theme by revolving around the search of an individual’s identity in this constantly changing world. Rose and Miller follows the same theme by emphasising on the search for an ideal government in modern times, which can manage individuals and societies, by applying several ways of measurement by using liberalism, knowledge, language, society as reference points (Bauman, 2001). They propose a free market or a civil society, which is more liberal and open as an alternative to a politically unstable government. It is to be seen that can a free market or a civil society exist and unite such diverse characteristics of people in a state.

Bauman argues that, the quest for identity from the ancient eras have been the same but, the options for selecting an identity and then hoping to cling to it for fear of its loss has taken centre-stage among individuals in the modern era. Men and Women today have conceptualised several ways of building up their worth and have the maximum means to meet the ends. The daily changing world is seen to be running faster than the individuals and hence the individual is not able to settle down on a contented path which he often searches. This is clearly and visibly evident by the hollowness among the overworked professionals across nations. People showing their inefficiencies and irresponsibility, reducing attention span, nearly losing control of their own life balances, are some major factors which proves this quest, as suggested by Bauman, completely correct. But Bauman does not mention that this personal issue or intrinsic value search is not persistent through all mankind, because people who have arrived at a juncture in their life and have achieved personal contentment are the ones who have given something to the society at large. Identity is more value and recognition driven than something to cling too and change it soon after. Unlike his thought, that Identities are changing fast, it is an important question whether people change, or rather, are capable enough to change their identity fast from the ones they have already acquired, needs substantial research to reach the core of the thought.

As put up by Alain Perefitte, much of the progress of the West in the last two centuries could not have realized without the confidence of people in themselves, in others, and the institutions. Bauman speaks dually on one side of the instability of identity among people, and on the other hand, about the individual’s ability in creating his own future by following a planned action plan with confidence. This dual nature of his thinking arises a question that, can someone without a small ounce of identity felt inside of himself contribute significantly towards a social change as a whole? Bauman’s main idea is that people will let go of their personal freedom at the cost of their individual benefits. He claims that the fast motion of the world created by people, has created some major problems and issues for the same propeller of the world’s motion. The responsive capacities of individuals are so limited under the forces controlling the problems facing all mankind (Bauman, 2001). This thought is without evidence and an alternative, because to grow financially, emotionally, spiritually is everyone’s birth right, and if not growing themselves and the nation, what else should mankind do? Perhaps, he should have provided an alternative to growth which is more sustainable, reliable, and collectively profitable, which he fails to do so.

Finally, Bauman succeeds by saying that, identity search is never an inborn element of an individual but it is being born of the modern globalization-in fact it is born of it- and it might not die for ever as it is being nurtured by the people pushing the world ahead, thereby creating a vicious cycle, by making ‘the search for identity and the globalized world in turn creating new identities’, reciprocal to each other.

Rose and Miller, in contrast to Bauman’s thought, is on the search for an ideal government, to enforce a social change and discipline that governs the individuals, thereby giving limited freedom to the individual being governed under political, economic, spiritual, legal entities. The idea of proposing an alternative like a free market or a civil society which can liberally interact, is a noble one.

Rose and Miller nicely articulates, that a liberal government also identifies areas and domains outside its political agenda, and pursues it with vigour without disturbing its internal disciplines, which can be made possible by external contribution of generous time donors behaving as a link between the government and social citizens. The question here that they need to answer is whether such a government is possible, where personal interests among people is more dominant at the cost of societies. It is an idealistic approach which is easy and delightful to think about but laborious to implement. Bruno Latour gives a beautiful rendition of power in the hands of governments, by saying that power is not the forceful imposition of disliked and inharmonious disciplines among its citizens, not the authorities performing their respectful duties with mediocre results, but power is actually the effects of such authoritative actions of the government and expediting the actions towards a unified goal of better governance. Here they are completely right because, power is indeed to be used for the betterment of the society and not as an apparatus for fulfilling personal ambitions. But at the same time they fail to suggest the constant stability of an ideal government and a society, if ever formed, in times of global change. Diversity is the major reason for conflict of interests in many elements such as religion, social causes, development, prioritizing safety among different class, external nation’s pressure, and compulsion of changing rules and law for

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