

Research project
Catalonia viewed from outside

Name: Claudia Prieto

Group: 2n Batxillerat

IES Guillem Catà

Tutor: Adel Sayed

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank my research tutor Adel Sayed for his patience and concern for my research work, my parents that encouraged and supported me throughout this work, all the friends who took part in the surveys and Marina, my Latin teacher that kindly advised me on various aspects of this work.

Table of contents

Acknowledgement	2
Foreword	4
Introduction:.....	5
Chapter 1. Migration flows in Spain.....	6
1.1 Spanish emigration from 1959 - 1973	6
1.2 The emergence of immigration in Spain in the 80's and the 90's	7
1.3 The consequences of migration for Spain	9
1.4 Migratory Trends of Spain:	10
1.5 Effects of immigration in Spain:.....	12
Chapter 2. Culture clash between immigrants and the host society	14
Chapter 3: immigrations in Catalonia.	17
3.1. Overview of Catalonia.....	17
3.2 Internal immigration.....	18
3.3. Foreign Immigration in Catalonia:	20
3.4. The language and the immigrant.....	23
Chapter 4. Immigration in Manresa	25
4.1. Evolution of the population in Manresa	25
4.2. Manresa: Self Experience	28
Chapter 5. Catalonia viewed from the outside.....	30
Conclusion	34
Bibliography.....	35
Appendices	37

Foreword

Immigrations is as old as new, from the beginning of all times, humanity has experienced immigration which has made human beings displace themselves to other places. It is a natural condition since the origins of human life. That spirit has apparently been with humans, or nomads. Immigration is supposed to have taken place in Africa to Asia 70.000 years ago, proved by fossils that had been found in the African Continent. There have been immigration flows on a large scale throughout the course of history, but overall they have increased since the outbreak of the industrial revolution. From the mid 1800's, considering the economic and social situations, we can understand the reasons why human beings immigrate to other places of the world, with the expectations to build a better life. Historically, migrations changed totally the aspects of the countries, influencing their racial, cultural and linguistic compositions, like other big important changes.

In modern times, immigrants mostly wish to be part of an advanced job market and that is what has influenced people to leave their country. The educational offer is another factor of immigration, as the precariousness of their lives or the lack of resources (that can easily be found in more developed countries) and the desire of improving their style of life and family welfare can be added to the endless list of reasons behind. In terms of the individual perception of immigration we can compare between the country of origin and the country of destination.

Firstly, moving from one place to another has become increasingly easy and potential immigrants can find out how life is in other countries. There are different points of view: when you have a favorable perception of your own country and when the perception is not so good. In the country of origin of a potential migrant there can be legal problems, often created by the government in question, that prohibit migrants from leaving the country, above all because the great majority of immigrants are usually adults, young people in the working age and contributing to the country development.

Secondly, all developed nations strongly restrict immigration, justifying that immigrants are cheaper labor and a burden on public social services. Immigration in the developed countries has supporters who claim that immigrants cover the labor needs of these countries providing cheap labor and working for lower salaries. Usually to cover jobs that no one wants, countries hire people from other countries who are willing to work hard and even those that have a higher level of preparation.

Introduction:

Immigration has happened worldwide for millions of years and is part of our life. Every year millions, thousands, hundreds of persons migrate with the hope to obtain a better life, in search of new enriching experiences, and safety and happiness for their families. The most developed countries are always very attractive for the immigrants, like the territories that are the focus of the project work.

This work is based on three parts. The first part is an overall perspective on migration flows in Spain from the 1960s to the present. This chapter includes the causes that led to significant migration flows, the impact of immigration on the economy and society, the migration profiles most attracted to Spain. I have also included a section that deals with the culture clash between immigration and the host society, and the benefits or the contradictions that immigration may bring. The next chapter deals with Catalonia, it follows the same steps as in the previous chapter on Spain. It includes demographic trends of immigration, which has contributed to the rejuvenation of Catalan society, and talks about how immigrants are affected by the current crisis. In addition I have also included a section on the barrier that the language sometimes presents in the process of integration of foreigners in their host society, and their level and knowledge of the Catalan language. Finally, a more local chapter that deals with immigration in Manresa, demographic trends in the capital of the Bages and conflicts linked to racism whenever there is a foreign population. And finally, I present my personal experience as an immigrant.

I also designed a survey for this project that I distributed among a group of immigrants close to me. Although I did not obtain a notable or large number of surveys, I analyzed the responses to learn about their knowledge on the situation of Catalonia, the problems of adaptation, their relation with the Catalan language, their reasons for leaving their home lands and their expectations when they arrived in a new country and finally their integration in their daily social life.

Chapter 1. Migration flows in Spain

1.1 Spanish emigration from 1959 - 1973

The Franco dictatorship lasted from the end of the Spanish Civil War in 1939 until the death of "the leader" Franco and succession in 1975. Franco's regime remained in power by adapting to changing external circumstances both politically and economically.

In the sixties, between 1959 and 1973, a "developmentalism" era took place in which Spanish society and Spanish economy suffered a radical and unprecedented change in its history. According to the figures given by the Spanish Institute of Emigration (EEI), 71% of people migrating to Europe came from Spain. Unlike in previous migrations, migration in the sixties was on a rotating basis. Most migrants left the country with an employment contract, established between the Spanish Institute of Emigration and the authorities of the host countries. This way, migrants provided their services to the host country and returned home at the end of the contract. In addition, there was a close relationship between the economic situation of the host country and the volume of employment contracts offered to Spanish workers. The annual average displacement during that period was 73,000 people.

Causes:

-In the sixties, emigration was mainly economic. So we have to analyze both internal factors that pushed people out of the country and external factors that attracted them to new countries. The sum of both made over two million Spanish people leave the country.

- The Spanish civil war dragged on throughout the forties. The human and economic losses, the lack of communication with the outside world, powered by the Franco regime that wanted to maintain a self-sufficient economy, kept the country in an alarming state of poverty and isolation.

- The mechanization of agriculture reduced the need for labor and laborers were forced to migrate from rural areas.

-Massive population migration from rural to urban and industrial areas. In the fifties, half a million people left rural areas, in the sixties they were over a million.

- At the end of the fifties the industrial sector was not able to absorb the labor force accounted for population growth, much less the waves of peasants who kept coming to industrial areas.

-The emigration policies established through agreements between the governments of sending and receiving countries set the number of emigrants, wages and length of stay. Europe was considered as the solution by the government to solve the problem of unemployment and raise sufficient capital to promote industrial development.

The factors that Spanish population was attracted to, were that the population in the host countries were unable to cover all the jobs and held the most qualified ones. Besides labor force was needed for less-skilled and poorly paid jobs, and that void was filled by the southern and eastern Europeans, whose countries were less developed.

The northern and central European countries were the main attraction because in the sixties they were an area with strong economic growth.

The main destinations of Spanish immigrants were France and its colony in North Africa, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

The exile left a feeling of resentment among Spanish immigrants for having had to leave their country to save their lives, and gave them confidence that they could return to Spain and take the place they had left.

1.2 The emergence of immigration in Spain in the 80's and the 90's

1985 is the year when the very first Spanish immigration law (LOEX 7/1985) was adopted after intense internal and external emigration from the sixties through the crisis 1973. Two migration flows marked the subsequent decades: the flows from Central and Northern Europe (basically senior citizens, or people attracted by the offers of better jobs), and the flows from Latin America and Africa (political refugees and professionals running away from the dictatorships).

The approval of the LOEX 7/1985 Act was a condition for Spain to join the EEC (Economic European Community) to avoid a massive and uncontrolled entrance of foreigners. Despite its official denomination, it was a law very restrictive which did not establish a framework for rights, but it centered in the entrance regulations, the permission systems and the infractions and sanctions of foreigners in Spain. Finally, the law approval was overlooked since foreigners were considered as tourists rather than immigrants in Spain, according to the public opinions.

Between 1985 and 1996, the mid to late 80's, Spain became a country of immigration, with increasing migratory flows from abroad, in large part from Africa, especially Morocco. The latter became the main foreign nationality, and increased the economic activity. The large number of these foreign working immigrants began working in the agriculture sector as laborers or as construction workers and domestic workers, which are usually women. What makes them stand out in the population are their cultural traditions, their areas of origin, or their phenotypic traits, whether Asian, Black, Moroccans or Latino.

Figure 1: Total population and foreign residents in Spain 1981-2011

Year	Total Population	Foreigners	% total foreigners	Annual Increase
1981	37 689 662	197 942	0 .6	
1986	38 437 362	241 971	0 .7	
1991	38 858 680	360 655	0 .9	
1996	39 617 477	499 773	1 .3	
1998	39 852 651	637 085	1 .6	
1999	40 202 160	748 954	1 .9	111 869
2000	40 499 791	923 879	2 .3	174 925
2001	41 116 842	1 370 657	3 .3	446 778
2002	41 837 894	1 997 946	4 .7	607 289
2003	42 717 064	2 664 168	6 .2	686 222
2004	43 197 684	3 034 326	7 .0	370 158
2005	44 108 530	3 730 610	8 .5	696 284
2006	44 708 964	4 114 166	9 .3	413 556
2007	45 200 737	4 519 554	10 .0	375 388
2008	46 157 822	5 268 762	11 .4	749 208
2009	46 745 807	5 648 671	12 .0	379 909
2010	46 951 532	5 708 940	12 .2	60 269
2011	47 150 819	5 730 667	12 .2	21 727

Source: Padrón Municipal, INE.

In the graphic, we observe the shortcomings of the LOEX 7/1985 Act in the early 90s that deal with the regulation of the flows of foreigners to facilitate their employability and social inclusion. This law proved two principles that govern Spanish politics: immigration must adjust to the national employment situation, so that foreigners could only be hired to cover jobs that could not be covered by the Spanish, and the job contracts were to be made in the country of origin, to prevent irregularities.

In 1991 the Congress of Deputies approved a proposition of law, a resolution that has no force of law but that is intended to be approved by Parliament, which established three basic principles that must be met: the control flows, integration and development cooperation. A few years later, in 1994, the first Plan for the Social Integration of Immigrants of the Ministry of Labor was approved.

Figure 2: Main nationalities of foreign residents in Spain. 1998-2010

	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010
TOTAL	637 085	923 879	1 997 946	3 034 326	4 144 166	5 268 762	5 747 734
Europe	312 493	430 370	701 947	1 048 351	1 609 856	2 314 425	2 578 971
Africa	147 876	228 972	423 043	579 372	785 279	909 757	1 059 369
<i>Of which Morocco</i>	<i>111 043</i>	<i>173 158</i>	<i>307 458</i>	<i>420 556</i>	<i>563 012</i>	<i>652 695</i>	<i>754 080</i>
Latin America	117 871	189 461	730 460	1 237 806	1 500 785	1 758 295	1 760 030
Asia	42 742	56 017	98 058	141 683	217 918	256 728	317 646

Source: Padrón Municipal. INE.

As we can see from the figure, the relative importance of foreign residents has increased in Spain and there are still incoming foreign migration flows. There are now more Latin American migrants than Moroccan, Asian and sub-Saharan African migrants all together. In 1998 large groups arrived from Latin America, mostly from Argentina, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia.

Within the framework of rights, a law 1/1996 was adopted on the legal protection of minors that recognizes family reunification and foreign education for all children, regardless of their legal situation or that of their parents. In 1997, because of this law, many illegal immigrants were able to register and be included in the health, education and social service programs and benefits.

On the one hand, the Spanish represent themselves as followers of an ideology of human rights, giving immigrants access to public services, but on the other hand, in practice, the migratory model appears contradictory to this ideology.

At the beginning of 2008 there was an increase of migration flows for Spain. Foreign residents went from 923 879 in January 2000, 2.3% of the population, to 5 268 762 in January 2008 (Figure 1). The migrant groups that rapidly increased were Eastern Europeans (Romanians and Bulgarians).

All these migrations are explained by the labor market theory. Economic factors are unequal between countries. Another explanation has to do with the historical, economic, cultural and political links of migrants from former colonies with Spain.

In 2000-2007, immigration became a social problem in terms of the transformations in people's everyday life. There was an increasing number of Spaniards who had daily contacts with immigrants, whether at work, on the street, or hearing about their arrival by boat in the media, so the presence of foreigners in the social field increased. Since immigration had become a social issue, its legal nature should be addressed. Finally the LOEX 4/2000 law established for the first time in Spain a large part of regular immigrant rights and a program for undocumented immigrants. This law led to legalization, since immigrants would then share the same services as nationals.

The families of immigrants began to increase, affecting migration flows, as the INE (National Statistics Institute) puts it:

"If at the beginning of the 2000's the job search was the main cause identified in the surveys to come to Spain, in 2008 family reunion and weddings were the main reason for immigrants"

1.3 The consequences of migration for Spain

In terms of emigration, the main consequence was the loss of a generation, considered the best in Spain, of exiled scientists, writers, health educators, and politicians of the Golden Age. Consequently, Spain fell behind on the economic, scientific and cultural levels. Most political leaders were in exile, in prison or dead. Those who remained in Spain went into hiding for fear of repression.

Emigration changed the structure of the Spanish population. From an economic viewpoint it reduced the pressure exercised on population growth. Although relations with the people from other countries were limited, the lives and culture of the host countries

ended up permeating to some degree among migrants. Their return to Spain in many cases did not involve obtaining a better job and the knowledge and the experience they acquired abroad was not recognized.

When the return of migrants was massive, as it happened after 1973, it had a negative impact throughout Spanish society: rising unemployment, reduction of wages, and less stable jobs. The only advantage was the increased Social Security contributions.

In terms of immigration to Spain, the most striking result was the increase in the population: thus, between 1998 and 2005, Spain had grown by 4 255 880 million inhabitants. Most of this increase is due to the influx of immigrants during this period.

The major arrival of immigrants of working age had a favorable effect on total Social Security affiliations, to the point that between 2001 and 2005 about 45% of affiliations were foreign workers.

Since nearly half the economic activity created in recent years relied on foreign workers, and jobs held by foreigners were mainly concentrated in areas where the supply of domestic labor is scarce (construction, home, hospitality, agriculture, etc.), immigration has helped to soften the rigidity of this offer, limiting the emergence of inflationary pressures .

The key arguments for those against immigration are the following:

- The phenomenon has hurt the lower class workers due to the increased supply of socially undervalued labor for its qualifications and / or agricultural work.
- The increased economic benefits have not been invested in improving the production cycle within traditional companies.

With regard to the socio-cultural conditions, until the 1990's, the Spanish population had been relatively homogeneous. However, the influx of immigrants in recent years has led to greater racial, cultural, religious and linguistic diversity.

1.4 Migratory Trends of Spain:

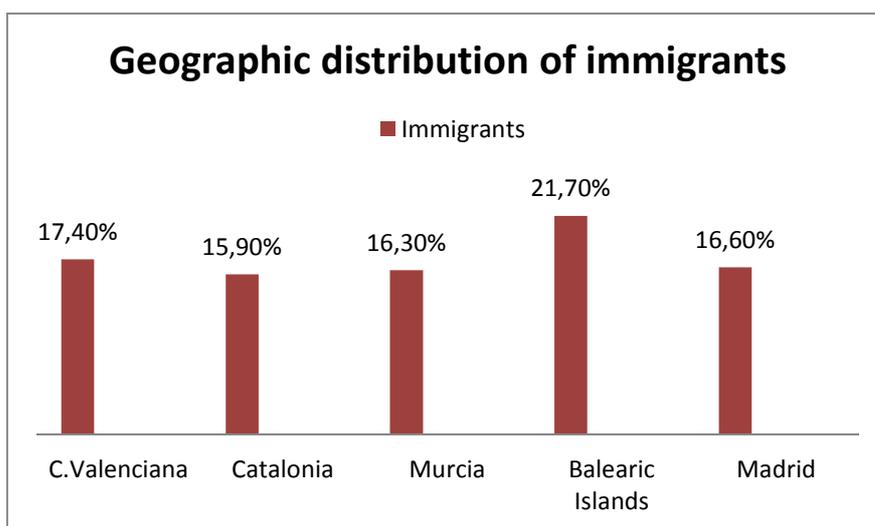
In the past five years, the foreign population has quadrupled in Spain. According to the 2009 census, 12% of residents in Spain are foreign nationals. In 2011, there were 5.730.667 foreign-born residents in Spain.

The number of European immigrants from countries outside the European Union rose significantly between 1998 and 2011 from 6.6 % to 21 % of total migrants. If we look at the countries of origin of immigrants, we can see that in 1998 the five main nationalities were Moroccans (190,497), French (143,023), Germans (115,395), British (87,808) and Argentines (61,323). In 2011 this list was: Romanians (809,409), Moroccans (766,187), Ecuadorians (478,894), British citizens (392,577) and Colombians (372 541). The apparent decrease in the number of citizens from outside the EU in Spain is also due to the number of nationalizations carried out in 2011, which made them disappear from the foreign lists of the INE (National Statistics Institute) and other factors such as the

nationalization at origin, in accordance with the law of historical memory, which benefited 300,000 people in Latin America.

The distribution of immigrants is quite uneven. In 2009, Autonomous communities with most immigrants were Catalonia, Murcia, Madrid and Valencia. The 52.8% of the immigrant population is concentrated in Madrid, Barcelona, Alicante and Malaga. However, the number of immigrants is growing in the rest of Spain.

Figure 3. Geographic distribution of immigrants



Source: Padrón Municipal (INE)

In the Spanish case, immigrants tend to settle in areas characterized by their economic dynamism and job opportunities, and where they have relatives and friends who can provide help, information and contacts to "welcome" them, although they later can move to other provinces to improve their situation.

The Spanish town with the highest proportion of foreigners is San Fulgencio in Alicante, where 77.58% of its 12 030 inhabitants are not Spanish citizens.

The geographical distribution of immigrants also depends largely on their nationality. In Madrid and Catalonia, Latin Americans and Africans (including from Maghreb) represent two-thirds of the immigrant communities, although in Catalonia there are twice as much Latin Americans as Africans, while in Madrid the opposite happens. Moroccans are the largest immigrant group in Catalonia and Andalusia, and 75.51% of all Pakistanis in the country live in Catalonia.

The majority of Ecuadorians live in Madrid (34% of them in 2005), Barcelona and Murcia. The British are the majority in Alicante and Malaga, the Germans in the Balearic and Canary Islands.

In the last year of 2012, total foreign residents in Spain were 5 290 710: 51.58% of them were non-EU nationals, and 48.42% were EU nationals. From the fifteen main immigrant nationalities, seven were from the European Union: Romania (903 964), United Kingdom (238 402), Italy (183 190), Bulgaria (172 562), Portugal (127 852),

Germany (126 095), and France (101 133), according to the National Institute of Statistics (INE).

1.5 Effects of immigration in Spain:

The most striking result of immigration in Spain has been the increase in the population: thus, between 1998 and 2005, the Spanish population grew by four million. Furthermore, as the majority of the immigrant population is often between 25 and 35 years old, growth is higher in this age group and therefore immigrants have rejuvenated the Spanish population.

Since nearly half the jobs created in recent years were based on foreign workers, their contribution to Spain's economic growth in the past five years must have been very significant. Furthermore, the increase in the workforce has led to an increase in revenue associated with income tax.

Moreover, since the foreign employment has been mainly concentrated in areas where the supply of domestic labor is scarce, immigration has helped to soften the rigidity of this offer, limiting the emergence of inflationary pressures and making small Spanish companies continue their activity. The fact that immigrants fill undesirable jobs for the Spanish population and that it is a young population, and that, in turn, the Spanish nationals hold higher positions in the labor pyramid means that young people can access more training and that women have access to a greater number of jobs in the labor market and in general the Spanish welfare state continues to be stable.

In Spain since the 1990s, there have been relatively large bilingual communities. The languages more spoken in Spain after Spanish are the following:

1. Arabic, mainly Moroccan Arabic is the majority language among immigrants from the Maghreb
2. Romanian is spoken by the vast colony of Romanian origin
3. English is spoken primarily in the provinces of Malaga and Alicante by citizens originating from the United Kingdom, Ireland, United States, Canada or Australia.
4. German is spoken mainly in the Balearic and Canary
5. Berber languages , spoken by 563 012 Moroccans living in Spain. The Rif is the most spoken language among immigrants in Melilla.
6. Quechua is spoken by Peruvians and Ecuadorians while Southern Quechua is spoken by Bolivians living in Spain.
7. Guarani, spoken mainly by Paraguayans
8. Portuguese, spoken by Portuguese immigrants (mainly in Galicia and León) and Brazilians
9. Woo, language spoken by the majority of Chinese immigrants in Spain, mainly from Zhejiang Province.

10. Bulgarian. There are 101,617 registered Bulgarians in Spain, and it is the predominant foreign nationality in the provinces of Valladolid and Segovia.
11. Sub-Saharan African languages among which Fula, Wolof, Mandingue and Soninke

Chapter 2. Culture clash between immigrants and the host society

Obviously when immigrants arrive in Spain, they bring along their particularities and their customs, their language, their religion, and many more.

But these features are not the most important in the host society or are unrelated to the guidelines followed by the laws of the State. Although immigrants may develop much of their culture without it being a cultural impact, they cannot do so as easily, since the education, society and policy of the host country already existed prior to arrival.

Immigration can mutually enrich both the host society and the immigrants with contributions as food, new music, new art, and new social attitudes. All this increases cultural diversity that helps fight racism or xenophobia that may be latent in the host country. But in other aspects, we can mention incompatibility situations that are more difficult to integrate, culturally speaking. When a person leaves his country behind, he leaves behind his family, cultural values, which may lead to some confusion in the host country where the emigrant may not comply with the cultural guidelines of the country and may become a bad example for the other immigrants. Most foreign immigration in Spain come from North Africa, Caribbean countries, Romania, India y Pakistan, China, etc., which cause cultural clashes, accompanied by prejudice and differences from the host society, which leads us to talk about the “differentiality” of those citizens that segregate each other based on their casts or races. People that are more prejudiced can discuss crime by their skin color, and point out that immigrants are always different from them for the reasons I mentioned above.

Currently in Spain, in the year 2013, immigrants are those who have most been suffering the crisis that is affecting us, especially the undocumented who are locked up in detention centers for foreigners (IECs), which for many is still somewhat unknown. Here, immigrants are synonym to offenders, and many of these prisoners have not committed a crime. These centers show the worst example of treatment towards immigrants. Even the United Nations (UN) has denounced Spain for these institutions. In addition excluding laws withdraw health coverage from the undocumented or prioritize only rich foreigners. There are no official figures on the number of illegal immigrants in Spain, but some organizations talk about half a million illegal immigrants. The latter when they are identified by the police are held in the detention centers mentioned above, before sending them back to their country of origin. In many cases they are victims of mafia groups or women trafficking and do not receive any help. They are deprived of their liberty against their will. The UN once again claims that these centers should be closed because of the lack of adequate medical care, which in some cases has led to deaths within these centers, where communication with the outside world is also limited. In Spain an average of 4 000 violent altercations related to xenophobia are recorded every year, according to a European network against racism. Also the International Organization for Migration provides data that 37 % of Spanish have anti-immigrant feelings, 33 % said they are tolerant and 30 % say they have no opinion.

There is another type of indifference where we ignore racism and which plays an important role. I'm talking about the type of prejudice that made possible the segregation and wiping out of entire groups of immigrants as in World War II.

Prejudices deal with cultural differences. These differences are supported by those who maintain a dominant position and affect more directly the immigrant sector as they try to expel immigrants from competition in the labor market, believing that immigrants frustrate their social interest and reduce their benefits.

However, the concept of tolerance offers a solution: accepting what we do not like up to a limit, always having the option of criticism. This concept must be accepted and integrated by the host society. It is the best suited to new cultural situations where they have not taken the time to know them well, besides being a sort of agreement where there is no need to tolerate all customs but where all people must be respected.

In conclusion, the integration of the immigrant population should be incorporated into the system of rights of the host society, which requires cultural integration. It can only be achieved with a commitment to equal rights, which would be the starting point to the integration.

But despite everything, there are always segregationist tendencies that can occur in areas of social life, for example, when segregationist groups refuse to establish friendly relations and coexist in society with immigrants.

Also there is a segregation of a more urban nature, where immigrants end up living in areas initially degraded for economic reasons, where there is cheaper housing. In Spain, there have been repeated cases of racial discrimination where immigrants are denied rental housing by homeowners or real estate agents.

Madrid and Barcelona are prime examples, but not the only ones. The school environment is another example where we can find segregation, as many schools prefer not to have immigrant students, for fear that the prejudices of the nationals. This makes immigrants go to other schools with other immigrants, which their parents prefer because it makes them more comfortable. Last but not least, is the workplace, perhaps one of the most important areas, as discussed above, since it is the future of the integration of the immigrant population.

The foreign immigrant population provides some cultural aspects, since cultural diversity has become an objective. Spanish society is now a little more aware of the existence of this diversity through immigration received in recent times. From a cultural standpoint, immigration gives us many things. We can refer for example to the Moroccan community that has a family structure in which we can highlight internal solidarity and hospitality. Another aspect is the low presence of alcohol in Arab Muslim culture.

Moving on to the next group, we find the Sub Saharans, who are more concerned with the present or the past and a future is only a few years, unlike westerners who live only for the future, paving the way, which only serves to build the road. Their family organization is quite general, families are large and kinship relations are of great importance.

In regard to the Latin American group, there is not much distance between Spanish society depending on the cultural traits that vary according to the country of origin (Caribbean countries, Central America, West India and South America). There is no difference as far as the language is concerned, and we can observe the fact that they are former Spanish colonies or inhabited by Spanish emigrants, and who thrive on tradi-

tions of many cultures, but they are all based overall on a European heritage, assimilated and transformed.

Chapter 3. Immigration in Catalonia

3.1. Overview of Catalonia

Catalonia is a Spanish autonomous community located in the Northeast of the Iberian Peninsula, with an area of 32,000 km², consisting of the provinces of Barcelona, Girona, Lerida and Tarragona. Its capital is the city of Barcelona.

There are currently 7 504 881 inhabitants in Catalonia. It is ranked eighth in Spain on the Human Development Index according to data from the Valencia Institute of Economic Research (2007), and is a leader in the industrial and economic sector in Spain. Its geographical location has made it possible for Catalonia to be at the forefront of the industry of Spain. Tourism has become one of the main business activities; from here Barcelona has become the largest most important point of reference for visitors.

Its history and its language have been the basis of identification for many people, as it has been in the spotlight in Europe for their constant struggle and desire to become a free country, a country that is not part of the policy of Spain. Of course, putting Catalonia on a map is the main objective of the Catalan Government. But a little more than half of the seven million inhabitants of Catalonia, as we know were born outside Catalonia or have their roots outside of Catalonia. They have adopted the Catalan dream, but without neglecting their origin, they have settled their monopoly, their projects in this region. However, Barcelona is a city with more reference to Spain, and Catalonia, besides being a small country, can open to the world and finds a place in the world.

However, the separation of Catalonia from Spain is seen with current wisdom by the United States and the European Union that consider it a dangerous and outdated perspective. Influential politicians, diplomats and academics tend to see this issue as a meaningless option, and the main political parties perceive it as a utopia rather than a viable alternative. All these reflect the fear of the unknown and a surprising lack of information about the economic cost of and benefits of Catalonia's independence.

Many Catalans do not consider themselves Spaniards, but only Catalans. It is this feeling that makes known the situation of Catalonia in the rest of Spain, Europe and elsewhere. The key achievement of the political party Convergence and Union (CiU) that has ruled the region for over 20 years is to achieve higher levels of self-government, which is defined as a Catalan nationality and refers to the rights of political self-determination of the Catalans. Catalonia has on its side one of the four parties with more political strength, Esquerra Republicana, who supports the cause completely .

There are mostly three arguments for the Catalan independence:

- First of all, as the Catalan culture and language are not understood or accepted by Spain, the best way forward is an independent state. This comes after a century of linguistic discrimination and 36 years of dictatorship is by General Franco
- Second, Catalonia should be mature enough to sustain and govern alone in the European Union and the United Nations in order to address their problems with a well defined political entity.

-Finally, Catalonia might be better off after the separation, since Catalonia pays a lot to the central treasury of Spain

For a long time, most of the Catalans would have been happy with Catalonia as a region of Spain. Strong opposition in Spain means that decentralization has always been half-way, chaotic, inefficient and insufficient. Now Spain is being re-centralized and multiculturalism has been rejected. This led to a big change in the public opinion in Catalonia. Many people no longer see Spain as the tolerant and inclusive country they hoped to build after Franco and the Civil War. Catalonia wants to hold a referendum to freely choose their future peacefully and democratically.

"The life of the Catalan is an act of continuous affirmation [...] It is because of this that the defining element of the Catalan psychology is not reason, as for the French; metaphysics, as for the Germans; empiricism, as for the English; intelligence, as for the Italians; or mysticism, as for the Castilians. In Catalonia, the primary feature is the desire to be."

-- Jaume Vicens Vives, Catalan historian

After 35 years trying to make Catalonia be part of Spain in a convenient policy, there is a common feeling among the majority of Catalan citizens that any negotiation has become impossible. On the Spanish side, the failures and inefficiencies of the system are being used by the Spanish Government to justify recentralization.

One of the other prospects deals with how Catalonia is seen by immigrants. Catalonia is one of Spanish regions with the highest percentage of immigrants with 16%, so its situation also influences them. The independence of Catalonia would mean a change in the labor market, an issue that affects both immigrants and nationals. It could also generate a greater feeling of nationalism, with a rejection of immigrants. It is a complicated situation and issue, since the advantages and disadvantages should be deeply analyzed, and it is not an issue that is taken lightly by either side.

3.2 Internal immigration

Immigration to Catalonia was in force in the forties and fifties, and reached even greater importance in the sixties with a record of 800.000 people (from Andalusia, Murcia and Castile), half of which settled in Barcelona. From the point of view of these foreigners at that time, the Catalans were a hardworking and thrifty people, and at that time the most advanced region in Spain. However, under the Franco regime, there was no cultural or linguistic infrastructure to receive the newcomers that came from the rest of Spain.

A new migration wave was due to rural exodus to the city, which reached between 50,000 and 100,000 each year, which meant a significant growth in urban areas .

In Barcelona, L' Hospitalet de Llobregat was known as the most populous city, quadrupling its population of 70,000 since 1950. Other towns followed the same example as Cornellà de Llobregat that went from 11,000 inhabitants to 80,000. By the end of the 60's, over half of the population was composed of immigrants. The reason to immigrate to Catalonia was the repulsion of rural life to go find promises in the city, which is the

equivalent to the search for a better future, because people wanted to improve from an economic and social point of view. Spain at this time was experiencing unprecedented rural exodus, one of the largest in the EU in the 60's. As a consequence, thousands of villages disappeared following the emigration of their inhabitants, so the process of urbanization accelerated, through the continual introduction of populations in large cities.

The Stabilization Plan of 1959 encouraged the migration progress, which was promoted by the technocratic ministers of Opus Dei. This plan wanted to modernize the Spanish economy and eliminate the least productive sectors. Consequently, wages suffered a notable decline which led many of those affected, most of them from the working class, to find another better future away from their land.

In the 50's, many newcomers came to Catalonia. It was said that this migration process was one of the strategies of the Franco regime to denationalize Catalonia. A flow of outsiders came from Andalusia, Extremadura, Valencia, Aragon, Castile and Murcia, but for the Catalans they were simply Spaniards, a very simple and general definition.

In the field of economics, immigration has always been one of the most important factors for the economic growth especially that of Catalonia. Although wages in Catalonia were the highest in Spain, there was a shortfall of labor that the Generalitat had to cover.

For immigrants, Catalan society, culture and language were different. Also the atmosphere of community specific to hometowns gives way to the individualism of the great metropolis: in the city no one knew each other, neither spoke. In many cases immigrants settled in ghettos where they experienced inequality with the native population. The "catalanization" of the immigrant population turned difficult since the use of a new language was not needed for daily life.

Moreover the Catalanist politicians saw immigration as a threat that could devalue the Catalan identity, moving on to be nothing more than a territory. For this reason the language was a critical and essential element for the integration of immigrants. In turn, immigrants accepted the Catalan culture, which was the balance of a balance of integration.

Later emerged the idea that the Catalan was identified as the one who lives and works in Catalonia and abroad and outsiders were considered undesirable, and accepted with resignation, since they were also necessary for the workforce.

Outsiders would not be Catalan until they spoke the Catalan language like Catalans. Although it was more important at that time to improve the socio-economic situation to solve the precariousness of some outsiders (from Andalusia, Extremadura) .

According to the urban policy, immigrants were worried about the lack of housing. By the early sixties, the Planning Commission indicated that Barcelona suffered a shortfall of 62,030 dwellings. Long working hours were mainly intended to obtain housing, to guarantee a minimum of social stability to families who had emigrated. But there were cases in which the lack of quality housing was present.

Regarding the minimum services, the situation in the field of health also became a problem, and little attention was given to education. Yet for many workers it was very important to get their children to study because they put their future at stake.

3.3. Foreign Immigration in Catalonia:

In the 90's and 2000's, a large migratory wave arrived to Catalonia. The preceding migration in the 50's and 70's represented a profound demographic shift in Catalonia. In 2000, 6,261,999 people lived in Catalonia and 2.90% came from outside Spain. In 2006 there were nearly 940,000 immigrants residing in Catalonia, which population grew from 6.2 million in 2000 to 7.1 million in January 2006. The reason was the increase in the economic boom. The profile of the newcomers had totally changed by then. Most new Catalans were Moroccans, and there were an increasing number of Latin American nationalities from Ecuador and Colombia.

The latter group had become as the most numerous group of foreigners, they accounted for 32.31 %, followed by Africa with 14.05%, the EU with 11.06 %, and finally Asia and Oceania accounted for 9.8%. By nationality, Moroccans were more represented with 20.8% of the foreign population.

As time progressed, the increasing number of Asians, Western Africans and Moroccans increased tensions in the nineties, manifested in racial conflict and xenophobic attitudes in various counties and municipalities in Catalonia. Catalonia, Barcelona prominently had become a magnet for international immigration for foreigners from Third World countries. This was influenced by the Organic Act of 1985 and the regularization of foreigners occurred in a context of international openness. This law codifies the entry, residence, work and the rights of foreigners in Spain.

There was a competition in the labor market between native workers who came to Catalonia in the sixties from southern Spain and workers from the known "Third World" underdeveloped countries arrived in the Catalan region in the seventies and eighty. The difference was that foreign immigrants had to legalize their residence and work in Spain, as the first mentioned above were part of the Spanish State.

There are three situations in the labor market that lead to discrimination: the substitutability of labor, complementarity and competition. Working in Catalonia, unlike in other Spanish regions is considered safer for job stability and regularization of salary in addition to possibilities of getting promoted, although immigrants do not have this facility as nationals.

The job is often closely related to the level of study, however among immigrants there is a high educational heterogeneity according to their place of origin, but it is often difficult to find a balance between the level of education and labor qualification.

In 2007, 36% of the population was born outside Catalonia and had to adapt to a process of integration into the host society, different from their home.

Figure 4. Population by nationality to the Catalan regions. Catalonia 2007:

	Europe	Africa	America	Asia and Oceania	Total Foreigners	Total population
Catalonia	273 742	253 016	357 707	88 042	972 507	7 210 508
Alt Empordà	13 969	9 396	6 663	549	30 577	129 158
Baix Camp	11 025	9 529	7 681	1 092	29 327	180 196
Baix Llobregat	19 700	20 440	32 916	3 578	76 634	771 516
Barcelonès	81 334	35 448	169 435	59 394	345 611	2 212 658
Maresme	10 366	19 751	13 309	2 833	46 259	414 081
Selva	12 902	6 951	6 660	2 121	28 634	157 674
Tarragonès	12 608	11 665	10 627	2 146	37 046	231 161
Vallés Occidental	16 859	25 110	37 727	4 094	83 790	845 942

Source: IDESCAT

In the period spanning the years from 2001 to 2008, the Catalan population grew at one of the highest rates in its history. In 2008 the number of foreign residents for the first time exceeded one million inhabitants. In Catalonia lived 21 % of all foreigners living in Spain. In 2008, America was still the region with the largest contributors of "new Catalans" with 36%, Europe was second with 30% and finally, Africa accounted for 25 %. In addition, 44% of the Asian population resided in the city of Barcelona. But in terms of nationality, the gold medal goes to Morocco, followed by Romania and Ecuador.

In 2008, precisely on December 19, a document called the National Pact for Immigration was signed based on three pillars: migration and labor, adaptation of public services and integration. The Sant Jordi Lounge in the Palace of the Generalitat hosted the signing of the National Pact for Immigration. The document responds directly to the three main requirements towards immigration: management of migration flows and access to the labor market, adapting public services to a diverse society and integration into a common public culture.

Figure 5. Population Growth in Catalonia: 1999-2009

	1999	2009	Crecimiento	%
Spanish citizenship	6 062 608	6 283 231	220 603	17.5%
Foreign citizenship	144 925	1 184 192	1 039 267	82.5%
Total Population	6 207 533	7 467 423	1 259 890	100.0%

Source: Informe anual estadístico de Catalunya

The foreign population that has settled in Catalonia during this period did so in a very favorable time of economic growth for the country.

They are also very numerous Romanians, Ecuadorians and Bolivians.

In 2010 the law on welcoming people immigrating into and returning to Catalonia was approved. This was a step forward for easy access to full citizenship and Catalan au-

tonomy. The law provided an initial welcome that allowed a first contact with the culture and language and the labor market of the host country.

The main objective of the law is the introduction of foreigners in a social environment that is unknown to them, in addition to expanding knowledge about the rights and duties in Catalan society. Catalonia was the first indigenous community in the Spanish State to establish a comprehensive reference framework for reception.

In 2011 and 2012, Spanish citizens also felt the need to go to try their luck in other countries, this was the reason why 117,000 Spaniards saw the need to find a job that you do not always correspond with their professional qualifications .

Despite the crisis, in 2012 the number of immigrants is still growing, according to the census of inhabitants, there are 1,186,779 foreigners residing in Catalonia. This large growth represents 15.7% of the Catalan population. According to the Idescat (Catalan statistics Institute) of 2012, the counties with the largest foreign population are the Alt Empordà with 28.1 %, Segarra with a 26.8 %, and Baix Empordà with 21.7 %. In 2012, the population of European origin represents the largest group with 30.9% of foreigners. Latin Americans are the second largest migrant group in Catalonia with 29.8 %, followed by Africans with 27.2 %.

According to the last census from January 2013, 32,302 foreigners have left Catalonia because of the crisis. Immigrants moved from being the beneficiaries of social aid to be the group most affected by the cuts.

The crisis is cruel to immigrants that are denied health care or lose their residence permit for not having a job. 41% of immigrants are unemployed. Unemployed immigrants account for 15.7% of the Catalan population.

Catalonia has been a shelter, and its population grew from 1900 to the present by massive flows of immigrants. Catalonia is one of the most prosperous parts of Spain and one of the most popular regions in the European Union. The immigrants have made beneficial contributions to Catalonia, contributing to rejuvenating Catalan society, and stand out as the dynamic factor since 50 % of public finances come from taxes and social contributions collected from the immigrant population, estimated at some 5,000 million euros annually .

In conclusion, immigrants have contributed to the development of Catalonia. Catalonia had hosted immigrants from over 170 countries that speak more than 250 languages. These are the people who contributed to the development of towns, people who have made efforts to adapt and learn. Catalonia has been able to overcome and successfully integrate migration processes with its traditional yet open nature, getting richer and stronger. It has made social, political and demographic improvements thanks to its cultural diversity.

3.4. The language and the immigrant

Due to the poor distribution of emigrants groups from Andalusia, Extremadura and Murcia to Catalonia, the lack of a school system in Catalan and the prohibitions during the Franco dictatorship, the Catalan language was not seen as a language. Subsequent language policies have aimed to correct this situation. An infrastructure is essential for newcomers for their insertion into the culture and the language.

The population that immigrated to Catalonia has always been identified with their mother tongue, regardless of their characteristics or social status, or length of stay in Catalonia. The mother tongue is being passed on to children. The Castilian or Spanish is the language that is acquired and used among social groups, unlike the Catalan language which is unknown to most. Since the late nineties, the Catalan society has undergone a process of profound transformation and in this process the linguistic characteristics have become more diverse. In Catalonia, nearly half of the immigrants have Spanish as their mother tongue (45.9%), the second group is Arabic (20.9%). Only 1.6 % of immigrants mention Catalan as their mother tongue and only 3% say they identify with it.

Figure 6. Linguistic identification of the immigrant population by place of origin

	<u>European Union</u>	<u>Maghreb</u>	<u>Rest of Africa</u>	<u>Central and South America</u>	<u>Asia and Oceania</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Catalan</u>	4,2 %	0,9%	0,0 %	0,9%	0,0%	17 1,6%
<u>Spanish</u>	16,8 %	6,3%	15,6 %	93,3%	3,9%	482 45,9%
<u>Catalan/Spanish</u>	4,5%	1,4%	10,7%	2,9%	0,0%	32 3,0 %
<u>Arab</u>	0,6%	75,1%	1,8 %	0,0%	10,1%	219 20,9 %
<u>Bereber</u>	0,0%	12,8%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	36 3,4%
<u>Other languages</u>	57,3%	3,0%	52,0 %	2,2%	84,8%	217 20,7%
<u>Total</u>	164 100%	282 100%	46 100%	450 100%	61 100%	1.050 100%

Source : Idescat and IERMB : Survey of living conditions and habits of the population of Catalonia, 2006 .

With regard to the initial language -- the first language the child speaks at home -- this diversity is reflected: 50 % of residents in Catalonia speak Spanish as a mother tongue, 30% speak Catalan as a first language, 10% grew up in a bilingual Catalan-Spanish family and 10% learned to speak in a language different from Catalan and Spanish. It is this 10% of the population that has the highest degree of linguistic diversity, with speakers of 65 different languages . The most common languages are Arabic, Romanian, Berber, French and Portuguese.

Regarding the level of knowledge of Catalan, people with more ability to speak Catalan come from the European Union, with 39.3% that can speak, and 26.9 % that can write. Of course, those coming from Asia and Oceania, as well as North Africans have greater difficulty to learn the language. Immigrants from Latin America have less problems in comprehension, but these are among the least active in integrating the language in speech and writing.

Spanish is the language most spoken in Catalonia with a percentage of 45.9 % versus Catalan, with 35.6%. With the increase in immigration from various corners of the world, people speak languages different from the official languages of Catalonia (Catalan and Spanish). The first one is Arabic spoken by 162,300 people, followed by Romanian with 56,800, Galician with 36,500, French with 31,100, Portuguese with 26,900, English with 22,100 and Russian with 20,200.

Catalan is the main language in central Catalonia. The Ebro delta is the territory where Catalan is most spoken. Areas with the highest percentage of people not speaking any of the official languages are in Girona with 10.9 %, followed by Camp de Tarragona, 10%, and Aran with 10% too.

What creates conflict is that in the population there is no linguistic equality. In fact it is possible to live in Catalonia without knowing any of the two official languages , thus possibly creating the risk of ghettos. Half of the population claims that they understand, know how to speak, read and write Catalan although their knowledge is less than with Spanish spoken by more than 95% of the population in Catalonia.

On the other hand the Catalan speakers have grown in recent years according to data from the Institute of Catalan Studies. Those who speak Catalan grew by 500,000 people and they are close to 10 million. According to a study of Catalan language commissioned by the Observatory of the Catalan language, Catalan is among the 100 most widely spoken languages in the world for its demographics.

Chapter 4. Immigration in Manresa

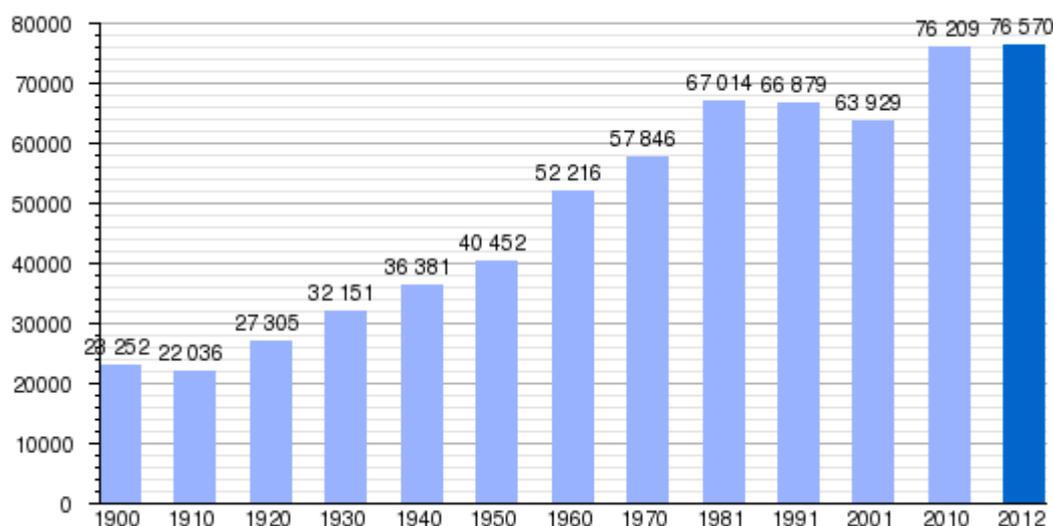
4.1. Evolution of the population in Manresa

The city of Manresa was ranked seventh in the urban Catalan hierarchy in 1860, with 15,000 inhabitants and in 1897 occupied a fourth place, never attained before, with a population of 25,121.

In the first third of the 20th century, Manresa went back in the ranking in the year 1930 with a population of 32,151. The year 1937 sent back the capital of the Bages in the seventh place with 36,478 inhabitants. After the Civil war and the first postwar period, Manresa began to fall again in the ranking of Catalonia: in 1950 it occupied the eighth position with 40,452 inhabitants that it maintained in 1960 thanks to an immigration superior to the Catalan one.

Nowadays, Manresa, capital of the Bages County has a total population of 76,570 inhabitants.

Figure 7. Evolution of the population of Manresa between the year 1900 and 2012.



Source: INE population census.

Population of Manresa:

1939-1959

During this period, the population grew weakly because of the Civil war and the first postwar. Between 1937 and 1940, the population decreased by 4,632 inhabitants, and in the postwar period (1941-1949) it increased by about 6,128 inhabitants. During the war there were the maximum decreases of the 20th century.

The absolute growth of 6,128 and the 6,34 % increase in the forties can be explained by the recovery of the birthrate, and the positive incident of immigration, due to the fact that the official restrictions on immigration were lower for the Bages.

1959-1960

In these two years the Bages recorded a major population growth, although it was not a very high or explosive growth as at the Catalan level. In 25 years, the population of Catalonia had increased by 75 %, while in Bages population had increased by 39,27 %. Nevertheless it was the major growth in the county in the entire century, in absolute terms, with 44,859 new inhabitants.

The first reason for this growth was the immigration and the structural transformations caused by the natural growth of the population.

In the case of the Bages, the absolute population growth took place between 1950 and 1960 with 24,832 inhabitants, which represent a 24.14 %. The economic traditional activities in the county (textile, metallurgical, etc.) motivated an intense immigration in the fifties.

1991-2012

Going a bit back in time, in 1991 the population totaled 66,879 persons but the mortality rate lowered this number as the population of Manresa was aging. This is when the immigration entered in action in Manresa. The population increased since 1999 thanks to the arrival of foreign migrants. In the year 2001, there were 63,929 inhabitants because of the negative factors previously mentioned. In the year 2002, there were 3,950 immigrants in Manresa according to the socioeconomic report of Manresa of the same year.

Figure 8. Immigration in Manresa by region of origin - 2002

	Men	Women	Total	% of total foreign population
European Union	102	176	278	7%
East Europe	99	62	161	4%
Rest of Europe	20	27	47	0,5%
Morocco	1567	717	2284	58%
North Africa	65	13	78	2%
Sub-Saharan Africa	74	34	108	3%
Asia	64	50	114	3%
Latin America	406	452	858	22%
North America	10	11	21	0,5%
Oceania	1	0	1	0,02%
Total	2408	1542	3950	100%

Source: Data from the 2002 socioeconomic report of Manresa.

In 2000 Manresa adopted a Plan of Immigration and Citizenship. As a consequence of this plan, diverse projects emerged targeting children and young people, such as reception facilities, neighborhood advisory services and many other projects with the aim to manage a more diverse society.

In the year 2004, the number of registered immigrants in Manresa increased to 6,793. The total population in Manresa was 68,000, a record in the history of the city. According to the last number of the National Institute of Statistics in 2008 the population had increased approximately by 13,000, totaling 76,635 inhabitants a significant growth comparing with the numbers of 2001.

With the crisis that hit the entire country, the population of Manresa decreased in 2011 below 77,000 inhabitants, according to the figures provided by the Town hall of Manresa. In Manresa, there are mainly immigrants from Morocco, Romania, China, Senegal, Ecuador, Bolivia and Colombia.

Figure 9. Population by place of birth. 2012

	Manresa	%	Bages	%
Catalonia	50,558	66	133,224	71
Rest of Spain	11,517	15	28,956	16
Foreigners	14,495	19	23,904	13
Total	76,570	100	186,084	100

In the year 2012, the population of the town totaled 76.570 inhabitants and the population of the Bages 186.084 inhabitants. We can observe from the table above that the percentage of foreign population in Manresa is higher than in Bages County.

Integration in Manresa

The town hall of Manresa has chosen the football for the immigrants' integration, especially among the young ones, which helps the social and cultural exchange between the population and the foreign residents in Manresa, through football tournaments. The "Mundialito Intercultural" initiative promotes the integration of the immigrants who live in Manresa. In this sporting event there are selections from Spain, Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Gambia, Morocco, Paraguay, Peru and Senegal. In Manresa, football has turned into a sport of conviviality thanks to the "Mundialito Intercultural" initiative, which in the past ten years has assembled immigrants from different countries in the various world selections. It should be mentioned that there are many autochthonous persons who help very much to carry out this process.

Racism in Manresa:

The crisis has worsened the issue of racism in Manresa, and numerous racist acts against foreigners have been reported in Manresa, including in schools as can be seen in the three articles annexed. This situation has made the town hall and affected neighborhoods take action against racism by promoting dialogue in order to look for solutions to fight against racism, as can be read in an article published in 2012 in *La Vanguardia*: “the arrival of immigration has caused, especially in the last two decades, obvious changes in Manresa’s neighborhood. The most striking example of the economic, social, demographic and cultural changes took place in the old town of Manresa”.

4.2. Manresa: Self Experience

I come from Cuba, a small socialist Caribbean island, where I was living with my mother’s family and had my group of friends. My father left the country, when I was a child, looking for economic stability. His profession as a doctor in Cuba, was not well paid and couldn’t give us a comfortable life. He worked for the Cuban government as a doctor in Africa and Nicaragua, but it was not enough to support the family. Later he decided to go to France, where he formed a family with a French woman and a few years later they moved to Spain.

My father has been living in Manresa for 8 years, and he reunified me when I was 12, so I could study and be able to have a career, something that was difficult to do in my country. This is how I arrived to Catalonia on February 14 2008. I did not know much about Spain, except for what they had taught me in my classes of History in primary school, and I did not even know that Catalonia existed, and that there was a language called Catalan. I was oblivious to all this matter.

I still remember the first time I arrived. It was much more modern than where I came from. Everything looked so advanced. I imagined I was in the future as in the science fiction films. Everything surprised me, and of course when winter came, I suffered from the cold and found difficult to adapt to the weather. Manresa did not become what I expected, but I still feel comfortable, although it is a town with little nightlife. When I got here, the closest people were my dad’s friends, which were all Cubans, for this reason I felt like I was at home.

A month after my arrival, I began school, where I met other students of different countries and different cultures with whom I made a lasting friendship. I quickly began to get by in Catalan and could understand it because it had some similarities with Spanish. In class, I was feeling out of place, some of my classmates tried preventing it from happening and others went on with their daily tasks as if nothing happened. To this day, I do not speak Catalan perfectly, since I relate much more with immigrants that only speak Spanish, but I can express myself so others can understand me. One difficult thing I found was that in my house we speak Spanish, English and French, apart from my two little brothers that they know Catalan perfectly, because they were raised in Manresa since they were children, and this was a complication for me because of the mix of different languages.

In my daily life, and at home and with my friends I always speak Spanish, I only use Catalan in school, because it is required. Like I mentioned before, all my friends are foreigners like me, because I feel more identified with them, since we share the same expectations which we came to fulfill in Manresa.

I witnessed racist comments and acts although not towards me, but towards my friends. The older kids always made fun of our accents, or made tasteless jokes, even they managed to offend strongly one of them by calling him a "Chinese crap" referring to his origin, or with the phrase "immigrant, go back to your country ". They even threw stones to one of them only for the fact that he was Rumanian.

All this made us to be known as a bad influence, simply for the fact that we were immigrants. There were times that Catalans wanted to be part of our circle of friends, but they were warned that we were a very bad influence on them and they should stay away. Another of the difficulties that I encountered was making friends outside the circle abroad.

I have been living here in Manresa for 4 years, and I still do not have many Catalan friends, only acquaintances. I always had a hard time to make friends. I spend more time with immigrants, and of course half of them are Cubans. My expectations of integration have not been fulfilled completely, but I am decided to make major efforts to live up to these expectations and further integrate in this society.

Chapter 5. Catalonia viewed from the outside

As part of my work, I wanted to know how immigrants residing in Catalonia see their host community. I was interested in their adaptation, difficulties encountered that made their integration more difficult, their knowledge of Catalan language and political situation, etc.

I designed a questionnaire that I distributed to 80 immigrants, friends of my family, acquaintances, and friends of friends. The surveys had a total of 13 questions (see annex) regarding the reasons why they left their country, their integration, expectations, difficulties, social life, knowledge about Catalonia and of course the language barrier.

Only 32 people responded the survey (40%), which is not a significant figure. This low response rate may be due to a lack of interest and time among people I sent the surveys to.

The surveys were answered by people from 14 different nationalities: Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, France, Honduras, Ireland, Morocco, Nigeria, Paraguay, Poland, Senegal, United Kingdom and Dominican Republic. The nationalities of the people surveyed do not correspond to the distribution of immigrants mentioned earlier in the report, since they are part of our circle of friends here in Manresa.

Figure 10. Nationality of respondents

Country of origin	Number
Argentina	4
Bolivia	1
Bulgaria	2
Colombia	1
Cuba	10
Dominican Republic	2
France	2
Honduras	1
Ireland	1
Morocco	1
Nigeria	1
Paraguay	1
Poland	2
Senegal	1
United Kingdom	1
Total	31

Figure 11. Age of respondents

Age	Men	Women	Total
<18	1	1	2
18 - 24	3	5	8
30-40	0	4	4
41-50	5	8	13
51-60	1	1	2
>60	1	1	2
	11	20	31

Respondents were aged between 17 and 65 years old, with a higher number of women than men, as described in the table above.

Figure 12. Year of arrival in Catalonia

Years	Number of respondents
1988-1991	3
1992-1995	0
1996-1999	2
2000-2003	6
2004-2007	14
2008-2010	6
Total	31

It is interesting to observe that the largest number of respondents arrived in Catalonia between 2004-2007 during the economic boom, reflecting the good health and attraction of Catalan economy. The crisis is also reflected in these data, since none of the respondents arrived after 2010.

Figure 13. Reasons for leaving their homeland

Reasons for migrating	Number of respondents
Job-related	19
Family reunion	11
Other	8
Total	38

* Some respondents gave more than one reason for migrating, which is why the total is above 31.

In the surveys, the main reason for leaving their countries is economic or job-related. Out of the 31 respondents, 19 said that they chose Catalonia for economic reason or to look for a job, improving their quality of life for them and their families. The second reason mentioned was family reunion, respondents having been reunited by relatives that had lived here for many years. Other reasons that also influenced their migration were insecurity, need for a change, studies, learn the language, adventure. Some also got married to Catalans and built a family here.

Reception and integration

In terms of their reception into Catalan society, most of the respondents (23 people) said that they felt well accepted by people in Manresa, although at the beginning making friends with Catalans has been a little difficult, some of them admitted that learning Catalan had helped them to integrate more. Only five people did not feel well accepted.

Expectations upon arrival

Expectations varied according to the respondents' place of origin, their age, family structure. For example, Europeans expected to live in a nicer place with better weather, learn a new language and meet new people and learn new customs. People from Latin America mentioned freedom and safety, and support their families economically. They shared these expectations with respondents from Africa. The youngest respondents expected to be able to study and get a job, and people with children expected to give them more opportunities and a safe environment.

When asked if their expectations had changed over time, 18 out of 31 respondents said they did not change. Those that said their expectations changed blame the crisis.

Difficulties encountered

Regarding difficulties encountered by respondents, language was mentioned by 10 respondents (30%), who saw it as a barrier to integrate in society. Cultural differences were also mentioned, to a lesser degree, along with Catalans' idiosyncrasy. Some respondents see them as a little narrow-minded, and several had difficulties making friends with Catalan natives. The weather is also an issue for some, since most of the respondents come from warmer climates, and the sudden change from summer to winter and cold temperatures can be difficult to adapt to.

All respondents from Latin America also suffered from being separated from a very tight family structure, as they left their country to look for a better life in Manresa or Catalonia to support their families.

The Catalan language

The language, as I said earlier, is a key element for the integration of foreigners into the host society. In the surveys responded, most people did not find any difficulty to learn the language. In fact, their knowledge of Catalan language ranges between beginners' level and C level. Respondents found some similarities with French and Spanish. Besides, others have learned the language in their daily life or have learned it with Catalan friends and relatives. There was only a minority of respondents that said that they have experienced difficulties in learning the language.

Social life

Two thirds of the respondents are satisfied with their social life. They say they feel fully integrated, but they lack time, because of their studies or work. Some feel Catalans as they build a family here with Catalan spouses. Most feel well connected to Catalan society but they feel that their social life in their host country is very different from their social life in their home country.

Respondents have more friendship with immigrants, as they belong to the same group. Half of the immigrants surveyed said they have friends from all over (Catalans, Spanish and immigrants) although they mention having more Catalan friends than Spanish.

Suggested changes about Catalonia

One of the questions that some answered more openly is question 11 that asks about the changes that they would make in Catalan society. Some of the changes mentioned were: upgrading Catalonia's educational system and providing students with a more personalized education; talking less about political issues regarding Catalonia's independence, which diverts people from a more cultural and international life. Some wish Catalonia could be independent. Some say that if Catalans would be less cold and have better manners, Catalonia would be a better place to live, while others wish Catalans could be more open-minded. Racism is another issue that came up in the surveys and that should be eradicated. Some respondents also criticized the fact that immigrants, whether foreign or national, must learn Catalan. This being said, many respondents said that they would not change anything about Catalonia.

Catalonia's political situation and its impact on immigrants

The last questions of the survey dealt with the knowledge and interest towards Catalonia's political situation and how it could affect them. Respondents expressed very different opinions.

Few said that it was a little frustrating not being able to vote, but still they are interested about the political situation of Catalonia and its path towards independence, although it brings about instability and many discussions. Some think that Catalonia has to defend its language and culture which deserves respect.

Some did not want to express their opinion about Catalonia's political situation, although they said they were interested about it. Those that responded said that the political situation of Catalonia could affect them directly or indirectly, since they have assets in Catalonia and their integration in the host society depends on the country's politics. Some said they were worried about the impact on the economic environment and on jobs, if there was an economic blockade, although it would affect all inhabitants in general. Others say that it would have a personal impact. Others don't know how it could affect them.

Conclusion

Immigration has been characterized by the exodus of part of a population with the aim of achieving a better quality and status of life. Immigration, by itself, represents changes in the population, whether demographic, economic, social, and family.

My personal conclusion for this work is that immigration should be seen as an enriching process, a starting point to promote multiculturalism and diversity among national and foreign members of a society, which will be a positive element in the course of history.

What motivated me to do this work, is that immigration is a hot topic that is the object of numerous professional studies and analysis. If immigration is not controlled it can bring negative consequences for the evolution of a society either economic or demographic. Whenever I talk about immigration, I find it a complicated issue but it is a topic with which I am familiar with, since I am myself an immigrant and I am surrounded by hundreds of them, and we all share reasons, expectations, dreams, realities and language including culture, which is the reason why I feel especially identified with this project.

To do this work I have used books from Manresa's public library. I've looked through pages on the Internet, and I also used videos dedicated to the issue of immigration, as well as newspaper articles. I have also design and conducted a survey, to evaluate and look at the perception of some immigrants in Manresa, inside the circle in which I interact.

Immigration is a sensitive subject that can bring conflicts and benefits depending on the way it is handled and on the degree of tolerance displayed by each of us. If we can rid ourselves of the prejudices, we will enjoy an enriching diversity in language, culture and origin.

Bibliography

Books:

La inserción de los inmigrantes: Luces y sombras de un proceso. (Francisco Torres), Editorial Talasa (Madrid)

Inmigrantes entre nosotros (Francisco Checa y Encarna Soriano), Icaria Editorial S.A., 1999

Les condicions de vida de la població immigrada a Catalunya, Fundació Jaume Bofill - Institut d'Estudis Regionals i Metropolitans de Barcelona (Marc Ajenjo, Amand Blanes, Jordi Bosch, Sònia Parella, Albert Recio, Josep San Martin, Elena Sintes)

L'Estat de la immigració a Catalunya. Anuari 2007, Editorial Mediterrània, Fundació Jaume Bofill

Sociedad Multicultural e integración de los inmigrantes en Cataluña (Jordi Garreta Bochaca), Edicions de la Universitat de Lleida, 2009

Websites

Statistics on foreign residents in Spain on 30 June 2013, Gobierno de España, Secretaría general de inmigración y emigración at <http://extranjeros.empleo.gob.es/es/index.html>

Colectivo Ioé, Intervención sociológica, La sociedad española y la inmigración extranjera, at http://www.colectivoioe.org/investigaciones_articulos.php?op=articulo&id=72, full article at <http://www.grupohasa.com/inmigrantes/pdf/6.pdf>

España entre los diez países con mayor número de inmigrantes, Antena 3, 11 September 2013 at http://www.antena3.com/noticias/sociedad/espana-diez-paises-mayor-numero-inmigrantes_2013091100314.html

Datos e información sobre la inmigración del Departamento de Bienestar social y familia, at http://www20.gencat.cat/portal/site/bsf/menuitem.ce32baba3744d8fa172a63a7b0c0e1a0/?vgnnextoid=80d8b5e22c5a4210VgnVCM1000008d0c1e0aRCRD&newLang=es_ES

Revolutionary Catalonia, Wikipedia, at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revolutionary_Catalonia

Immigration in Spain, Wikipedia, at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigration_to_Spain

Political organization of Catalonia, Generalitat de Catalunya, at <http://www.gencat.cat/catalunya/cas/coneixer-orgpolitica.htm>

European Network against Racism at <http://www.enar-eu.org/>

Seven ideas that explain the current situation in Catalonia, Diplocat, Consell de diplomàcia Pública de Catalunya at <http://ccescocia.wordpress.com/2013/04/08/diplocat-i-largumentari-catalan-diplomacy-abroad/>

Europe's Stateless Nations in the Era of Globalization - the Case for Catalonia's Secession from Spain, By Josep Desquens, The Bologna Center Journal of International Affairs, John Hopkins University, at <http://www.jhubc.it/bcjournal/articles/desquens.cfm>

Catalonia vs. Spain: A Resident's Perspective, Barcelona Freak Blog, February 11, 2011, at <http://barcelonafreak.wordpress.com/2011/02/11/catalonia-vs-spain/>

Statistics and data from Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya, at www.idescat.cat

Videos:

Inmigrantes, los más afectados por la crisis económica de España, at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SvTQhyxIYF0>

Sin papeles en España, at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hgMgnlXb5nA>

Inmigración Independencia, at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ma2l9gbl1aY>

HISTORIA DE LA IMIGRACIÓN CATALANES, at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZjHDr7TIbQ>

Un lloc estrany, pag interactiva <http://www.tv3.cat/unllocestrany/>

Un lloc estrany, video <http://www.tv3.cat/videos/398639->

“La situación económica de una Cataluña independiente sería desastrosa”
http://www.antena3.com/especiales/noticias/elecciones-catalanas/2012/situacion-economica-cataluna-independiente-seria-desastrosa_2012112200201.html

Appendices

Appendix 1. Survey Questionnaire

Model

Residents:

Name:

Age:

Sex:

Nationality:

Profession:

1. How long have you been living in Catalonia?
2. Which was the reason for you to left your homeland?
3. Do you feel integrated and well received in your local country, in this case Catalonia?
4. Why did you choose to move to Catalonia?
5. What did you expect when you arrived to Catalonia?
6. Have those expectations been changed?
7. What was the most difficult thing to get used to? Why?
8. Are you learning Catalan or are you planning to learn Catalan? Is it hard?
9. How is your social life nowadays?
10. Do you spend more time with Catalan, Spanish, or with immigrant people?
11. If you could change one thing about Catalonia and the Catalans, what would it be?
12. What do you think about the political situation of Catalonia?
13. Are you interested?
14. How can it affect you?

Appendix 2. Articles against racism

Article 1: Ataques racistas contra musulmanes en Institutos de Secundaria

Carta de un agredido en un instituto de Manresa

Source: Web Islam

29 October 2008

Soy el chico que fue víctima de una agresión con un martillo por parte del padre de otro alumno del instituto Lacetània, de Manresa. Mi origen es marroquí y eso, en este país, puede representar tu sentencia de muerte. Escribo esta carta para aclarar los hechos ocurridos el 14 de octubre, martes. El día antes, haciendo tutoría en clase y mientras hablaba con unos compañeros, R. S., un alumno al cual no conocía, me faltó al respeto por haber nacido en otro país. Me defendí, y entonces él se levantó y haciendo un gesto nazi, dijo: "Heil, Hitler. Putos moros de mierda".

Al salir del centro, vino a buscarme y me preguntó: "¿Quieres que lo solucionemos ahora?". Yo ya había olvidado lo de antes, pero respondí a la provocación. Nos peleamos en la calle, hasta que la conserje vino a separarnos. Él recibió un mordisco en el pecho, y yo, un puñetazo en el ojo y arañazos. No hubo ningún desmayo, ni nada de lo que él declaró.

El martes, la clase discurrió con normalidad, pero a las 10 de la mañana nos reunimos con la jefa de estudios para hablar de la pelea. R. S. afirmó: "En todos los colegios que he estado he tenido problemas con los extranjeros. Yo, a los extranjeros los ignoro; con ellos no me relaciono". Se decidió hablar con un mediador. A las 11.30 horas, después de acabado el descanso y estando ya en clase, entró un hombre con un martillo en la mano, seguido por R. S. El hombre miraba a todo el mundo nervioso, hasta que dio un martillazo en la mesa que tenía más cerca, preguntó: "¿Dónde está el moro, dónde está el puto moro, dónde está el puto moro que pegó a mi hijo ayer?". R. S. me señaló y le dijo: "Es ese". Avanzaron los dos hacia mí y el hombre me dio un martillazo en la cabeza. Por suerte, pude amortiguar el golpe y no me reventó el cráneo. R. S. también me golpeó, no sé con qué. Por fin, un compañero empujó al hombre y lo derribó, y entre todos lo redujeron. Después llegaron los profesores y los Mossos.

A causa de los golpes se me desprendió la retina; el médico dice que hay riesgo de que pierda el ojo si corro o levanto peso. Tengo miedo de caminar por Manresa. Me han expulsado del instituto, no sé si definitivamente. Vivo aquí desde que tenía 4 años; pienso en catalán. ¿Es este el precio que tengo que pagar por querer ser uno más?

Article 2 : QUATRE NEONAZIS DETINGUTS PER FURTAR I AGREDIR UN JOVE SENEGALÈS A MANRESA

7 November 2009

Source : www.antifeixistes.org

‘Anàvem a buscar problemes amb immigrants’, va admetre un dels neonazis detinguts per agredir Mamadou B., un jove senegalès de 19 anys a qui van apallissar i furtar una bossa plena de cds i dvds. Els quatre agressors, tres xics i una xica, Cristian M. G., Juan José S. C., Laura M. C. i un menor, són de Sant Vicenç de Castellet, una població de 7.000 habitants a la comarca del Bages, on ja hi han hagut altres agressions racistes, la més greu en 2002, quan 10 neonazis van tractar d’assassinar una família marroquina incendiant sa casa amb còctels molotov. En aquest cas els neonazis van ser jutjats i condemnats. Els Mossos acusen ara els quatre detinguts d’un delictes d’agressió xenòfoba i robatori amb intimidació. Un dels skins anava armat amb una porra elèctrica.

Article 3: Arrestado otro menor por la agresión racista contra un matrimonio marroquí

19 June 2002

Source: www.abc.es

Los Mossos d'Esquadra detuvieron ayer en Manresa a otro menor por su presunta implicación en la agresión racista perpetrada el pasado sábado contra la vivienda de una familia marroquí de Sant Vicenç de Castellet (Barcelona). Con el arresto de este segundo menor, ya son 14 los jóvenes detenidos, todos ellos miembros de un grupo de «skins», por estos incidentes xenófobos.

BARCELONA. Según fuentes de la policía autonómica, el menor arrestado ayer en Manresa pasó inmediatamente a disposición de la Fiscalía de Menores. Los Mossos d'Esquadra no descartan nuevas detenciones entre los miembros de este grupo de «skins» que desde hace una año tiene atemorizada a la mayoría de los siete mil habitantes de Sant Vicenç de Castellet (Barcelona), con sus actos vandálicos y sus palizas contra los inmigrantes del municipio.

Con la detención de este segundo menor, también vecino de Manresa, ya son trece los arrestados por los Mossos acusados de los delitos de lesiones graves y de incendio, con las agravantes de racismo y de vivienda ocupada. El otro joven de menos de 18 años, que fue detenido el pasado martes, también ha sido puesto a disposición de la Fiscalía de Menores y ya se encuentra internado en el centro de menores Els Tilers de Mollet del Vallés. De los otros 12 jóvenes detenidos por esta agresión racista, 10 ingresaron ayer en prisión y dos quedaron en libertad, uno de ellos imputado.

Por otra parte, el alcalde de Sant Vicenç de Castellet, el socialista Jaume Montsech, mantuvo ayer una tensa reunión con familiares de algunos de los 13 jóvenes detenidos por su presunta implicación en el ataque xenófobo. En la madrugada del pasado sábado, un grupo de jóvenes «skins» arrojó un cóctel molotov contra una vivienda en la que dormían 9 magrebíes, entre ellos 4 menores, y propinaron una paliza a Mustafá Saloui, cuando este salió a la calle para recriminarles la agresión. Saloui se recupera favorablemente en el hospital de Manresa del traumatismo craneoencefálico y fractura del brazo izquierdo que sufrió en la agresión racista.

Tras la reunión con los familiares de los detenidos, el alcalde explicó que había sido «larga y tensa», pero realizó una valoración positiva del encuentro. «Se trata de que todos trabajemos para que estos chicos puedan abandonar su estética skin y dejen de ser influenciados por personas adultas de la ultraderecha de fuera de la localidad».

Article 4 : El crecimiento del racismo en Manresa activa al vecindario a promover el intercambio y el diálogo

Source: www.lavanguardia.com

27 October 2012

La crisis ha agravado el problema del **racismo** en **Manresa**, donde la población inmigrante representa un 18% de la ciudadanía. Este sábado, el **vecindario** de Manresa y el ayuntamiento organizan una jornada con el objetivo de encontrar herramientas para mejorar la convivencia ciudadana y la integración de los recién llegados. Bajo el lema *Sociedad y nueva ciudadanía. Realidades y estereotipos sobre la diversidad*, el evento intentará hacer frente, reflexionar y hablar del **crecimiento** del racismo en Manresa, así como buscar soluciones para el futuro.

La llegada de la inmigración ha provocado, especialmente en las dos últimas décadas, evidentes cambios en los barrios de Manresa. El barrio antiguo es el mejor ejemplo visible de los cambios sociodemográficos, económicos y culturales producidos en este período. Fruto de estos, la actitud racista se ha hecho presente en las calles de la ciudad. Con las jornadas de este sábado se quiere abrir un espacio para la reflexión y el debate que pretendo poner sobre la mesa aquello que hay de cierto, pero también los estereotipos creados alrededor de la llegada de inmigrantes comunitarios y extracomunitarios y los cambios que han comportado para la ciudad.

En la presentación del evento realizada esta semana, Mercè Rosich, concejala de Servicios Sociales y Cooperación de Manresa, explicó que la inmigración en la ciudad representa en estos momentos un 18,1% de la población, proporcional al conjunto de Catalunya. Además, agradeció a las entidades sociales y vecinales su colaboración para lograr que el proceso de integración de los recién llegados sea una realidad y no una utopía. Por su parte, Francesc Navarro, presidente de *Bages per a tothom*, cree que estas jornadas “ayudarán a potenciar la reflexión y a extraer conclusiones sobre la opinión que tiene la gente respecto la inmigración”. Por otra parte, Enric Martí, presidente de la Federación de AAVV de Manresa espera que el evento “aporte, no soluciones, pero sí formas de comportar-se hacia los inmigrantes”.

Las jornadas *Sociedad y nueva ciudadanía. Realidades y estereotipos sobre la diversidad* se llevarán a cabo este sábado de 9:30 a 1:30 de la mañana en la *Casa per la Solidaritat i la Pau Flors Sierera* y constarán de dos partes. Inicialmente, distintos profesionales darán su perspectiva sobre las migraciones y, posteriormente, se organizarán grupos de trabajo para reflexionar y detectar necesidades, así como proyectos de futuro. Joan Baeza, presidente de la AAVV del barrio de la Balconada afirma precisamente, que este encuentro puede servir “no para hacer cosas para los recién llegados sino con ellos”.