

## Culture Shock: Insook is a Korean immigrant in the USA

On TELEVISION, and on **her** rare, alarmed ventures on the streets, she watched American women with wonder. "Oh, but they were such marvelous creatures! I would see them.....driving cars... talking. They were so confident! Free! Carefree! Not afraid! And I was...me."

The prospect of these women made English itself infinitely desirable. Korean was the language of patriarchy and submission, English, the language of liberation and independence. Insook had school-English. It worked on paper; she could write a letter in it, even, with some difficulty, read a book. But its spoken form bore hardly any relationship at all to the English spoken on American streets. She followed the news programmes on TV and parroted back the words as the announcers said them. She practiced, haltingly, in the stories.

I said that I marveled at her articulacy now. "Oh, it is so much easier for a Korean woman to learn than for a Korean man. She can afford to make mistakes. When a woman makes mistakes. It does not draw any attention. She's just a girl she's being "cute" so she can do things that a man wouldn't begin to try, for fear of making a fool of himself."

It was still three years before she felt "comfortable" about leaving the house, and four before she began to make her first American friends. She had gone to stay at the family house of a cousin in Bellingham, where she went to college to study for a diploma in nursing.

At Bellingham, Insook began to go on dates with American men. "My brothers came to see me. They felt betrayed. Korean males (*you must know this*) are the most conservative on this earth. For me to be seen in a café, talking to a white American, that was a deep, deep insult to them. I was insulting their maleness, insulting their pride, insulting everything that "Korea" meant to **them**. They threatened me."

A year later, Insook announced her engagement to an American. "My father said: 'I will disown you.' She smiled a sad, complicated shrug of a smile. So, I said..... For the first time since we'd been talking, she produced a pack of cigarettes and lit one. I said: I am sick and tired of this family. Ok, disown me. Please disown me!"

**Jonathan Raban, Hunting Mister Heartbreak.**

### I-READING COMPREHENSION: (8 pts)

#### A-Are these statements true or false? Justify with relevant passages from the text. (3pts)

1-Insook seems to be familiar with the way American women are living.

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2-Korean women are allowed to make more mistakes than Korean men.

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3-Insook's family accepted her engagement with an American man.

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**B-Fill in the chart below with information from the text (2pts)**

LANGUAGES	CHARACTERISTICS
Korean language	4. ....
English language	5. ....

**C- Tick(v ) the correct option (2pts)**

**6-Make a fool of himself means:**

a-mock someone b-feel stupid c-disturb people

**7-Disown means:**

a-reject someone b-disrespect someone c-insult someone

**8-Carefree means:**

a-careful b-serious c-unworried

**9-Go on dates means:**

a-go to a rendez-vous b-start a love affair with c-get married with

**D-Who or what do the following words refer to in the text? (1pt)**

**10-Her (paragraph 1):** \_\_\_\_\_

**11-Them (paragraph 4) :** \_\_\_\_\_

**II-LINGUISTIC AND COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE( 8 pts)**

**E-Two friends Aly and Abdou are talking about immigration. Complete their conversation meaningfully. (2,5 pts)**

**Aly:** I think immigration is our only way out , life here is very difficult.

**Abdou:** No. I don't think so. It's high time young people \_\_\_\_\_(12.stay) and worked in their countries.

**Aly:** If we stay, do you think we will \_\_\_\_\_?

**Abdou.(14)** Sure. Even if you don't find a job, you can create your own \_\_\_\_\_.

**Aly: With** what? Where \_\_\_\_\_ the money?

**Abdou:** You can borrow it from the bank.

**Aly:** Stop \_\_\_\_\_( dream)! Banks only lend to rich people.

**F-Put the verbs in their right tenses and forms (2,5pts)**

Insook \_\_\_\_\_(17.arrive) in the USA in 2007. Before that, she \_\_\_\_\_(18. live) in Korea for 20 years . Now, she \_\_\_\_\_(19.work) as a receptionist in a New York hotel. Two years ago, she \_\_\_\_\_(20.get) married to an American man despite her parents disapproval. Her father said that if he

had known, he \_\_\_\_\_ (21. not/let) her go abroad.

**G-Choose the correct link word to complete the sentences below (1pt)**

22-Immigration brings new discoveries . \_\_\_\_\_, it can change the customs.

**( However- Despite – Due to)**

23-\_\_\_\_\_her parents did not agree with her, she got married with an American. **(In spite of - Although- Because)**

**III-Writing: Choose one of the topics and write between 150 and 200 words (6 pts)**

**Topic 1:** One of your friends is dreaming of going abroad illegally . Imagine a conversation in which you try to convince him/her not to do so.

**Topic 2 :** More and more young Senegalese people are migrating to Western countries for better living conditions. What are the causes and the consequences of this phenomenon in our countries? What solutions do you propose to encourage them to stay and make a living in Senegal.