Essay

In your daily routine you often interact with people from different countries, for example in shops, at the sports club or at school. What sort of effect do these interactions have on you?

First of all we have to admit that some people avoid talking to foreigners and, like this, start discriminating them. Besides, diverse cultures and traditions, which all too often include alien clothing or behaviour, and poor knowledge of the language are reasons for people from different countries not to be integrated into society. An example of being discriminated against is being bullied at school. When foreign pupils differ from the native inhabitants because of their appearance there will always be people who think of that as being reason enough to tease this person. So ignorance leads to bullying and that is a severe problem for people with migrant background.

In addition to that, some migrants do not like to integrate themselves into society. They abide with migrants or people who come from the same country instead of getting to know new people and making more friends or joining a local organisation. In my hometown there's a place for teenagers where almost all of our city's foreigners meet up and build unions. To sum up, also young people with a migrant background are asked to take a step forward.

Honestly, everybody can learn how to interact with people who do not perfectly speak the native tongue of the country. This is an advantage for the migrants as well as for the natives, because they learn how to understand someone by also using gestures and facial expressions. And with practising it, talks will surely be conducted in a constructive spirit. I only experienced a situation like that last year when I talked to my Spanish exchange partner's mother: I tried to explain issues by using my hands and feet.

My final point is if you often have to interact with migrants and get to know different cultures and backgrounds, you stop judging people because of their appearance and stop forming a negative attitude towards others at first sight. Like that, people get more open minded while talking to foreigners and a multicultural dialogue can be developed. That would be a benefit for both sides.

To sum up, people from different countries interacting with each other surely face some challenges, but I think that those can easily be met. Of course, nobody can be forced to talk to people from different countries, but in my opinion a multicultural dialogue brings along many advantages. Let's get started – let's talk!

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