

# Cultural Dissonance and Identity Confusion: The Mediating Role of Bicultural Integration




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E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Izet Pehlić  Full professor for Educational sciences, Islamic pedagogical faculty of the University of Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina izet.pehlic@unze.ba	<b>Reviewer 1:</b> Masoud Asadi  Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Counseling, Arak University, Arak, Iran. Email: m-asadi@araku.ac.ir <b>Reviewer 2:</b> Stephen C. L. Lau  Professor (Assistant) at Washington University in St. Louis, United States. Email: lauc@wustl.edu

## 1. Round 1

### 1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The phrase “Bicultural individuals often straddle cultural norms...” in paragraph one could be expanded with a concrete example (e.g., language or values conflict) to ground the conceptual exposition in tangible experience.

In the paragraph following Table 2, the manuscript states that BII “plays a potential mitigating role.” This should be revised to reflect that SEM confirmed this mediation role statistically, rather than merely suggesting potential.

The SEM fit indices in Table 3 are well reported, but the manuscript omits the significance level (p-value) for the chi-square statistic, which is standard in SEM reporting.

In the sentence “Bicultural identity integration emerged as a crucial buffer...,” the manuscript should elaborate on whether this finding supports or extends existing theoretical models (e.g., Benet-Martínez’s BII framework).

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The sentence “This dissonance impairs identity development...” would benefit from specifying what is meant by “incompatible expectations”—are these related to family, peers, education, or societal norms?

The final paragraph of the introduction acknowledges a gap in studies conducted in Iraq. This important justification should be expanded to include how Iraq’s post-conflict sociopolitical conditions uniquely shape bicultural identity development.

The statement “subjective integration is more determinative of psychological outcomes than the mere presence of cultural conflict” may overstate the case. Consider rephrasing to reflect that integration is a critical factor, not necessarily the most determinative.

The mention of Iraq’s socio-political complexity is important, but the article should include specific examples (e.g., ethnic divisions, displacement, sectarian dynamics) to concretize this context.

The claim “older participants showed higher levels of BII” would benefit from a reference to specific age-related statistical differences in the results section or at least a descriptive comparison.

The discussion references educational and institutional implications but should include more actionable recommendations, e.g., bilingual curriculum development or bicultural training for counselors in Iraq.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

## 2. Revised

Editor’s decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.