

***Social Representations Of Illegal Immigrants From The Sahel States
In Algeria - An Exploratory Field Study In The City Of Tebessa –***

**التمثلات الاجتماعية نحو المهاجرين غير الشرعيين من دول الساحل الإفريقي
-دراسة استطلاعية بمدينة تبسة-**

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Abstract:

This field study sets out to define and identify the social representations of illegal immigrants from the countries of the Sahel, according to the Central Core Approach of Jean-Claude Abric, using the Descriptive Approach, Relational Network Analysis techniques, Pre-investigation and The distinguishing forms, applied to an intentional sample of 95 people from the city of Tebessa, within different Socio-professional classes, who have or had a contact with illegal immigrants.

The study found out that the representation of illegal immigrant's concept was centred on a set of idioms and words of a social, economic and security character, which forms a negative particular attitude and public way towards them.

Keywords: *Countries of the Sahel ; Illegal immigrants ; Immigration ; Relational Network Analysis techniques ; Représentations ; Social représentations ; The Central Core Approach.*

ملخص:

هدفت هذه الدراسة الميدانية إلى محاولة معرفة التمثلات الاجتماعية نحو المهاجرين غير الشرعيين من دول الساحل الإفريقي وفق مقاربة النواة المركزية لجون كلود أبريك، بالاعتماد على المنهج الوصفي وتقنيات الشبكة الترابطية والتحقيق المسبق والاستمارة التمييزية طبقت على عينة قصدية تتكون من 95 فرد من مدينة تبسة من مختلف الفئات السوسيو مهنية الذين لديهم إحتكاك بالمهاجرين غير الشرعيين. وتوصلت الدراسة إلى أن التمثلات حول مفهوم المهاجر غير الشرعي تتمركز حول عبارات وكلمات ذات طابع اجتماعي واقتصادي وأمني بدرجة خاصة، مما شكل موقف واتجاه عام سلبي تجاههم. **الكلمات المفتاحية:** دول الساحل الإفريقي؛ المهاجرين غير الشرعيين؛ الهجرة؛ تقنية الشبكة الترابطية؛ التمثلات؛ التمثلات الاجتماعية؛ مقاربة النواة المركزية.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Immigration, whether individual or collective, voluntary or forced, is one of the oldest social phenomena and one of the most important images and models of coexistence between individuals and groups of different genders, ethnicities and cultures, which contributed to building ancient or modern societies, most notably the American and European society, the latter was one of the biggest beneficiaries of the arms and minds of immigrants from different countries of the world, especially African countries, to rebuild cities after the First and the Second World War, however the great influx of these immigrants, especially at the beginning of the eighties, and the mixing of this phenomenon with other parallel phenomena such as drug crimes, arms trafficking and even terrorism led European countries to make laws and agreements, including the Schengen Agreement, which restricted the access to its territory by legal means, as a result of the increase of conflicts, struggles and wars in the Middle East and the African continent, many of these people used other illegal methods through illegal immigration, in search of safe places to work and improve social and economic conditions, we have witnessed a great influx of many illegal immigrants, especially from African countries of the Sahel towards Europe through the countries of the Maghreb, which were transformed from transit countries to countries of stability, the number of immigrants in these countries became comparable to their number in European countries, Algeria as well, due to its strategic location and security stability, has transformed from a transit country to a country of stability for illegal immigrants. This phenomenon has become more prevalent in many cities of the country, especially the border cities, where “the city of Tebessa, due to its border location, witnessed the influx of many illegal immigrants of different nationalities, Mali and Nigerian, coming from the Southern cities through the “Assaska” route from the state of Niger, then Ain Guezzam via Tamanrasset to the city of Ouargla, then moving to the rest of the country cities, the Nigerian immigrants is the largest group in the city of Tebessa, with 255 foreign nationals in 2018, and 65 illegal immigrants in 2019. (Tebessa Police Office, 2019)

Theoretically, the increase of these immigrants may affect the perceptions and representations of members of the local society about this phenomenon, which could generate a marginal person or an individual integrated into the society, in the same context, the general representation of illegal immigrants may differ among the population of local societies according to their status and social position.

But, do the members of the host society carry actually the same ideas of cultural clash and the idea of rejecting the other? This is what this study tries to know by searching for perceptions, opinions and tendencies of the members of the local society, which constitutes in its entirety a symbolic system that forms social representations on these illegal immigrants, thus, the following question can be posed: **What are the representations of the community of Tebessa on illegal immigrants from the African countries of the Sahel?**

Since this study is one of the exploratory studies that seeks to reveal the social representations on illegal immigrants, we will be satisfied to start from questions instead of hypotheses, by asking the following questions:

- What is the concept of illegal immigrant among the individuals of the Tebessian community?
- What is the structure of the social representations of the Tebessian community on illegal immigrants?
- What are the tendencies of the Tebessian community towards illegal immigrants?

1. Objectives of the Study:

This study related to the representations of the society of Tebessa on illegal immigrants from the African countries of the Sahel aims to reveal the concept of illegal immigration among the members of the society of Tebessa, and to know the structure of their social representations, as well as their tendencies towards illegal immigrants, whether they are positive, negative or neutral.

2. Importance of the study:

The scientific importance of this study lies in the importance of the issue of illegal immigration, which has become a phenomenon that has imposed itself in various parts of the world, and has become a fact that cannot be overlooked and that affected the social, economic and cultural structures of societies, which required conducting many studies and scientific research in order to find solutions to this phenomenon.

The scientific importance of this study also lies in the importance of enriching the theoretical and sociological heritage in the fields of studies related to social representations that can support researchers to recognize this phenomenon more, especially in the field of social representations on illegal immigrants that can be used in other studies related to the integration of immigrants in the receiving societies related to the representations and perceptions of the members of local societies on this phenomenon.

3. Limits of the study:

To find out the content of social representations of the society of Tebessa on illegal immigrants, this study included intentional samples of individuals who have contact with illegal immigrants in the city of Tebessa.

4. Study concepts:

4.1 Countries of the Sahel

Sahel, Arabic Sāḥīl, semiarid region of western and north-central Africa extending from Senegal eastward to Sudan. It forms a transitional zone between the arid Sahara (desert) to the north and the belt of humid savannas to the south. The Sahel stretches from the Atlantic Ocean eastward through northern Senegal, southern Mauritania, the great bend of the Niger River in Mali, Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta), southern Niger, northeastern Nigeria, south-central Chad, and into Sudan. (The Editors of Encyclopaedia ,2020)

“The region is one of the world’s climate change hotspots. Increasingly unpredictable weather patterns, more frequent droughts and floods and land degradation threaten the livelihoods of a population in which the majority relies on agriculture for survival. Environmental shocks, insecurity, chronic hunger and malnutrition have a dangerously symbiotic relationship in the Sahel. A spike in armed conflict and violence worsens the Sahel’s chronic hardship and has led to new peaks in displacement across the region. Lack of opportunities and unemployment, deteriorating security, economic and social inequality expose youths to risks of radicalization and recruitment. Many seek brighter prospects elsewhere, fueling the global migration crisis”. (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs ,OCHA ,2016)

4.2 representations:

This concept has been employed in the field of social psychology and in the educational and pedagogical studies, it has an intense presence which changed different studies, researches human and social knowledge fields, and among its most prominent

pioneers in sociology: the role of Durkheim and Moscovici in Social Psychology, as the latter is considered the most prominent practitioner on this concept. (Belhadj Ahmed, 2017)

Emile Durkheim used the concept of representations in 1898 in writing individual and collective representations. This concept moved from sociology to social psychology through the study conducted by Moscovici in the French society, which appeared in his book "Psychoanalysis, Its image and Its Public, 1976", where he defined it as: "Bringing something back to consciousness again despite its absence in the physical sphere." (Hamida, 2016-2017, p. 46)

Max Weber defined it as a traditional concept taken from philosophy, which represent in its original meaning a group of ideas, images, procedure and an organization of knowledge, which are somewhat present in the human conscience. (Ali Ahmed Boumaaza, 2010)

4.3. Social representations:

"Abric" defines social representation as an interconnected group of information, attitudes, beliefs, and tendencies on a topic socially produced and crystallized, carrying all the values of the social and ideological system and the history of the group that adopts which is an essential part of its vision of the world. According to "Flament" It is an organized group of perceptions organized in a differential way which starts from the most important to the least important. Jodelet adds that these perceptions are concrete elements of information, knowledge, ideologies, beliefs, standards, values, attitudes, opinions and images which are different so that it is difficult to separate the emotional from the cognitive aspect. (Beghalia Hadjer, 2018-2019)

4.4. Immigration:

Immigration means the movement of individuals from one region to another, whether it is within the borders of the country, which is called internal migration, or migration outside the borders of the state, which is called international immigration, immigration may take place legally or through the immigrant's infiltration into the destination country by illegal means. (Department of PublicStatistics, 2015)

4.5. Illegal immigration:

Whereas the European Commission considers illegal immigration to be any entry by land, sea or air into the territory of a member state in an illegal manner, by means of false documents, or with the help of organized crime networks, or through entry into the Euro zone "European Union" in a legal manner through the approval of the authority by giving a visa and then staying after the end of the specified period, or changing the purpose of the visit, so they remain without the approval of the authorities, and finally there are asylum seekers who do not receive approval of their application but remain in the country. (Naima Bouziane, 2018) .

4.6 Network Analysis techniques:

The associative network is a very attractive technique for both respondents and researchers because it is easy to understand and it is both flexible to administer and to adapt to the research's purpose. The "open" and "unstructured" nature of the technique tends to make the subjects more interested and willing to respond. In research that involves a combination of associative network and more structured techniques (such as questionnaires), subjects are more interested in responding to the associative network than in filling in a long, structured questionnaire. Unlike the questionnaire, the associative network does not cause subjects to worry that their competence concerning some objective problem is being tested. Nor do subjects, whatever their age (the technique has been used with schoolchildren), socio-cultural background or nationality, have any difficulty in understanding the tasks involved in

the associative network technique. As well as having this administrative flexibility, the associative network can be adapted to different types of research projects and, by varying the stimulus word, to an almost infinite number of research objects..

4.7. the Central Core Approach

It was Abric (1987, 1994) who introduced the central core theory (CC) in the study of social representations.. According to him “the central core provides two essential functions: A generative function: it is through the central core that other elements in the representational field acquire meaning and specific value. An organizational function: it is the central core that determines the nature of the relationships that these elements maintain with each other. It is, in this sense, the unifying and stabilizing element of the representation”.

(Moliner, P., & Abric, J. 2015)

4.4. Previous studies:

Studies related to the phenomenon of immigration in the social sciences in the Anglo-Saxon world led to the birth of theoretical models for the sociology of immigrations after the studies conducted by William Isaac Thomas and Florian Znaniecki (“The Polish Peasant in Europe and America” (Monograph of an immigrant group) which was published in a book in 1918 which focuses on the situation of the Polish peasants in their original homeland, then their situation after their immigration to America, and the attempt to know their lifestyle in Poland, then what happened to their lifestyle after their immigration to America, and try to monitor the patterns and forms of interaction and relationships with immigrants belonging to different races and ethnicities, this requires the discuss of the issue of integration and fusion, the issue of values and social norms, and the manifestations of social disorganization and reorganization.

This study, which produced many concepts such as the concepts of “individual attitudes” and “social values”, as well as the concept of “Definition of the Situation” and the concept of “Poor Social Organization”, where they distinguished between social values and attitudes, which they considered as the subjective characteristics of a particular group individuals, and that The situation is a set of thoughts and emotions that turn; for the individual, with time into constant behaviours, allowing him to issue the same reaction when facing the same stimulations, and in a similar way always”. (Abderrahmane Al-Maliki, 2019)

The matter was different on the French side, as no field of immigration study emerged despite Durkheim’s largest and most lasting legacies (which was not interested in studying migrations except for M. Halbwachs) as well as the Marxist school of thought that focused on analysing social classes, likewise studies related to collective representations of French society, especially those related to Colonialism Memory , until, the emergence of the organic ethnologist of Algerian migration, Abdelmalek SAYAD, who contributed to the formation of an authentic sociology in the study of migrations on the basis of epistemological, theoretical and methodological foundations, through his various works (family, politics and religion), and emphasized the study of the phenomenon of migration in the origin countries and countries of migration alike, henamed the three ages of the Algerian migrations to France. (Sidi Mohammed Mohamedi, 2013)

From another angle that Abdelmalek SAYAD did not took into consideration, it is the impact of migration on the origin countries, and the representations of the local communities of migrants ‘like the study conducted by “RuiYuan” On “Media Representation of Immigrants in Canada Since WWII”, which assumed that public discourse on immigration to Canada is generally ethnic in the use of ideological language when assessment , selection and judgment of immigrants as to whether they are culturally, socially or economically desirable in

Canada, where Social-Economic conditions play an important role in judging immigrants in Canada, through the use of critical discourse analysis of press articles on immigration in a Canadian newspaper "The Globe and Mail" in four historic stages after the end of the WWII.

This study examines how the contents of "desirable immigrants" have changed throughout history. Questions were raised about whether some political and social affairs in one country, or any extreme economic situation, such as high unemployment rates, might change social boundaries to exclude immigrants from certain racial and ethnic backgrounds, and allow more direct and exclusionary racist expressions in their speeches and messages. It concluded that the general public perception of the cultural and social values of non-white immigrants, as a reason for undermining European-Canadian traditions and identity, and there was another type of prejudice and misrepresentation of immigrants, which was focused on Asian immigrants in particular. (Rui yuan, 2013)

The study of "BATISTA, Roberta Rangel y BONOMO, Mariana" on Social representation of immigration and immigrants in British, French and German newspapers at the year of 2012, which aimed to identify and analyse social representations of the immigration and immigrants in British French and German newspapers in 2012, throughout 127 reports of Europe Continent's well-known newspapers, were then collected and analysed by the software Alceste. The study concluded that the social representations of newspapers on the immigration and immigrants are linked to topics and groups of lower social status. The migrant is portrayed as undesirable, which can lead to rejection and so keep the group in an unfamiliar situation. (Roberta Rangel Batista. Mariana Bonomo, 2017).

And the study by Alicia Rochira*, Roberto Vasanelli** and Anna Liguori titled: "Same people, different images. The social representations of migrants in a local community", conducted on 494 inhabitants of Nardo (51% of women), in the south of Italy, which aimed to understand the differences between immigrant representations, and their relationship to the community experience (the feeling of belonging to the community) and ethnic bias. The results indicated that the social construction of the targeted migrants tends to be consistent across different societal groups. While the local community representations differed between groups of residents who have positive or negative attitudes towards society and immigrants. (Alessia Rochira & Roberto Fasanelli & Anna Liguori, 2015).

As for Arab societies, Nouredine Harrami discussed in his study, "The Social Representation of French Residing in Morocco", the issue of "The Homeland" in Morocco: Representations of French Immigrants in Confronting the Views of Moroccans, a program of research on international migrations of Moroccans", who has sought at to respond to the way in which the French presence is considered and welcomed From the Moroccans' point of view, because it reproduces the results of a quantitative survey conducted among 500 people on the forms of Franco-Moroccan representation. This study concluded that respondents considered the French to be the most integrated national group in Morocco, and they support the foreigners to settle in Morocco, in particular coming from France, Algeria, Germany and Senegal (Nouredine Harrami (Edi), 2014). As for Arabic studies, Mohcen Adali and Aziza Assou have discussed in their study "Social representations of immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa in Morocco: the model of the city of Tetouan" in 2017, which sought to know the nature of the relations between immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa and the Tetouan local authorities and the representations of both parties, we found that most of the local population supports the idea of immigrants settling in like other native citizens, and they also expressed their rejection of the idea of deporting immigrants. (Aziza Assou & Mohcen Adali, 2018), Kouache Zahra's study on "The problem of African migration in Algeria" which dealt with the causes and forms of African migration to Algeria, its positive and negative effects on the individual and the origin and immigration community, she considered that the economic motives of unemployment, living low standards and instability occupies the forefront of reasons of immigration. (Kouache Zahra, 2019)

The study of Abdelkader Khalifa: immigrants of Sahel countries in desert Algerian cities: From a transit road to a space of stability (Ouargla City - Algeria), which was based on a field approach of the most important migration passages for the citizens of the Sahel Saharan countries currently residing in the city of Ouargla, through an anthropological approach from a human perspective, which considered that immigrants change their strategy to continue their adventures, or settle, even temporarily, waiting for the opportunity to go to Europe, and that migration routes have become involved in the human smuggling networks that exploit them most of the time. (Abdelkader Khalifa, 2015)

II. II. Methods and Materials:

1.Approach:

Since its initial formulation by Moskowitz (1961), the theory of social representation, (TSR) has witnessed a vast international development and regular scientific events have taken place, bringing together researchers from several countries to exchange new conceptual and methodological contributions and to report on the usefulness of this theory application. This scientific enthusiasm has made it possible to reach different conceptual directions, each contributing to the understanding of social phenomena. Due to their specificity, each of these guidelines has its own methodological tools. (Rateau. P. & Lo Monaco, 2013).

In social representations, we deal with phenomena that can be directly observed or reconstructed through scientific work. In recent years, phenomena have become a major subject of the humanities, a domain which field of research has its own concepts and methodology. (Denise Jodelet, 2003)

And since this study is considered one of the exploratory studies, as it seeks to know the representations of the Tebessian society of illegal immigrants and to know the nature of these representations, along with the various factors involved in determining these representations, that is, this study is one of the qualitative studies that seek to understand, identify and analyze these representations, especially since this study is from an anthropological aspect, and we know that the most appropriate method for this kind of studies is the descriptive one "it is an approach based on describing, interpreting and analyzing a phenomenon, in order to reach its causes and the factors that control it" (Muhammad Al-Sawy. Muhammad Mubarak, 1992) .We will rely on a quantitative method of collecting semantic data for social representations and a qualitative method for data analysis through the content analysis tool.

2.The study sample:

The study sample is represented by members of the of the local Tebessian population, it is consisted of an exploratory sample of 50 intentionally chosen individuals, with whom the Opinion poll technique was applied as part of a preliminary survey, the original study sample consisted of 45 individuals, chosen intentionally, 10 of them were a subjected to The associative network technique, 35 representing the rest of the sample received the Characterization questionnaire.

3.Means and tools:

In this study, we relied on one of the most important techniques used in the study of social representations, namely:

3.1.Associative Network Technique :

Which was designed in 1995, by the researcher Anna Maria du Rosa, which aims to define the concepts related to representations and to determine the acceptable polarity and

neutrality indicators in the field of social representations meanings, it is an easy to use and understand technique by the researchers and the surveyed individuals, because each surveyed person is invited to write around the centre of the paper, all the words that come to mind when putting down the word illegal Immigrant, he should takes advantage of all the space in the paper, with numbered words according to their priority in the mind, then the respondent is asked to arrange the words according to their importance.

3.2.Pre-Investigation:

This tool fits in a multi-methodological approach;it is a pre-investigation to construct the Characterization questionnaire, we have carried out interviews with a group of local residents from various socio-professional classes, in order to find out their point of view about illegal immigrants in the city of Tebessa, the answers after being collected, has been analysed and divided into 3 categories, each including expressions indicating the type.

3.3.Discriminatory form :Characterization questionnaire:

The Characterization questionnaire consists of items whose number must be multiples of 3, chosen by selecting 3 items from each of the categories obtained from the above mentioned Pre-Investigation, finally we got 9 items, then each individual from the sample is asked to choose from among the nine items, Three items which seem to him/her the most distinguished, and three items that are the least distinguished, then correct the questionnaire by coding each item as follows:

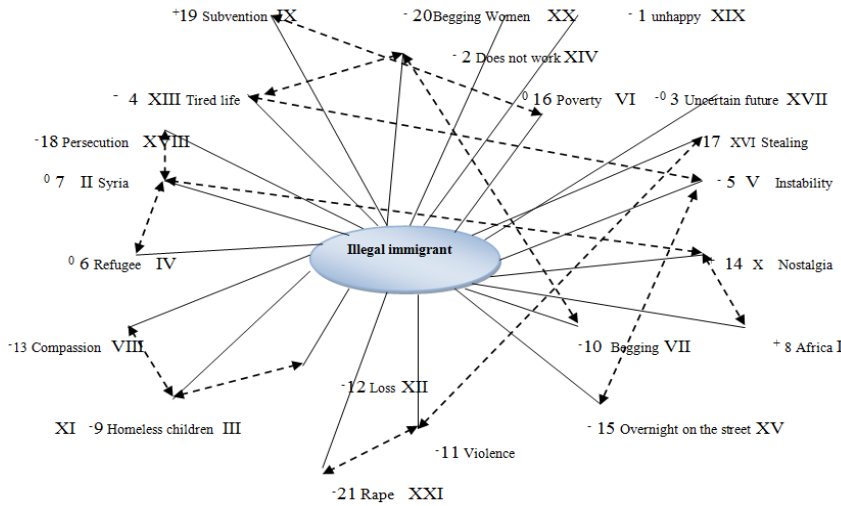
The most distinguished items (+) are ranked 3, the less distinguished items (-) are ranked 1, and the unselected items (+ -) take the rank 2. To find out the central, peripheral and contradictory items of representation, we drew the curves for the items, where the "J" shaped curve portray the central elements of representation towards illegal immigrants, considered as the most distinguished items. While peripheral elements of representation are portrayed by the "bell-shaped" curve, considered as the items of medium importance and the contradictory items are represented by the "U-shaped" curve.

III. Results and discussion :

1.Display the results of the associative network:

The associative network was built after it was distributed to 10 members of the sample, where we obtained 10 associative networks that include the discriminatory words of the respondents, then the neutrality and polarity indicators were calculated, and the figure below shows the associative network model for the first respondent and how to calculate the neutrality and polarity indicators.

Figure (1) : represents the construction of the associative network For the first respondent:



The Source :Prepared by the Researcher through the general results of the Associative Network

1.1.Calculation of polarity and neutrality index as a measure of the implicit trend:

The polarity index is a measure of the assessment and implicit orientation components in the domain of perception.

1.1.1.Calculation of the polarity index:

The number of positive words (+)is 03 +the number of negative words (-) is 15, the number of neutral words is (0) is 03. $P = - 0.597$

$P =$ belongs to the range $[-1, -0.5]$, it can be indicated by the value 1, which means that the most of words have negative connotations.

1.1.2.Calculate the neutrality index N:

$N = -0.71$. Nbelongs to the range $[-1, -0.5]$, it can be indicated by the value 1, which means that few words have a neutral connotation (weak neutrality rate). Since the first respondent polarity and neutrality index showed that most of the discriminatory words have a negative direction, this means that the first respondent's perception of illegal immigrants is negative.

1.2.Analysis of the evolution of social representations of illegal immigrants:

Table (1) :presents the general results of the associative network with the calculation of the polarity and neutrality index:

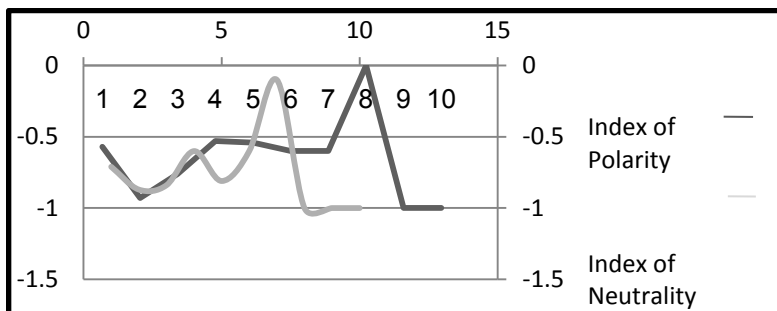
Case	Number of	Number of	Number	Number of	Polarity	Neutrality index
1	21	3	15	3	- 0.57	-0.71
2	16	0	15	1	-0.93	-0.87
3	13	1	11	1	-0.76	-0.84
4	15	2	10	3	-0.53	-0.6
5	11	2	8	1	-0.54	-0.81
6	10	1	7	2	-0.6	-0.6
7	10	2	8	0	-0.6	-0.1
8	15	1	14	0	-0.86	-1

9	2 1	0	2 1	0	-1	-1
10	11	0	11	0	-1	-1
TOTAL	134	2 1	111	11	-0.73	-0.83

The Source: Prepared by the Researcher through the general results of the Associative Network

The table above allowed us to convert the qualitative data obtained by applying the associative network technique to sample cases, by calculating the total number of positive discriminatory words and the number of negative ones, and the calculation of the polarity and neutrality index for each case, the total column showed the trend of social representations towards illegal immigrants, where the total of the words with a positive direction is 12 words, 111 words with a negative direction, 11 neutral word. According to the polarity index of all cases ($P= 0.73$), who belongs to the range $[-1, -0.5]$, can be indicated by the value 1, it means that most of words have a negative connotation who means that the proportion of % 82.83 of the discriminatory words with a negative connotation about the phenomenon of illegal immigrants, out of 134 discriminatory word, an index of neutrality for all cases around (-1.83) belongs to the range $(-1, -0.5)$, it means few words have neutral connotation (weak neutrality), with a rate of 8.20 % of the total of the discriminatory words, which shows that the representations of the individuals of the sample towards the illegal immigrants have a weak neutrality, as shown in the following figure:

Figure (2) : Polarity and Neutrality Index of social representation towards illegal immigrants
Values of Polarity and Neutrality Index



The Source :Prepared by the researcher through the general results of the Associative Network

1.2.1. Categorical Analysis:

By classifying the sentences according to their meaning in order to place them in the form of different categories using the technique of content analysis, so that each category includes a group of words or phrases that denote or approximate the meaning, we obtained six categories, shown on the after-mentioned table:

Table (2) :shows the categories according to the meaning of the terms for the semantic field

Category	Repetition	Importance
Social conditions	41	9.19
Begging	28	6.96
Diseases	9	6.26
Delinquency	39	8.88
Character traits	12	7.26
Nationality	5	4.16

Total	134	42.71
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Source :Prepared by the Researcher According to meanings of sentences of the semantic field

1.2.2. Typical analysis:

The modular analysis depends on the intersection of the frequency and importance factors, for this we calculated the arithmetic mean of the occurrences (the total of the occurrences divided by the number of categories, i.e. $134/6 = 22.33$), and calculated the average order of importance (the totalranks of the importance for each category over their number, or the totalranks of the importance), divided by the number of different words (61 words) or $42.71 / 6 = 7.11$, we get the following table:

Table (3) : shows the structure of social representations with of illegal immigrants (the central nucleus and the peripheral system)

	Medium importance rank $R < 7.11$	Medium importance rank $R \geq 7.11$
Repeat	Elementary elements (1)	Peripheral elements (2)
F 22.33 \geq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social conditions Delinquency behaviour
Repeat	Minor Items (3)	Distinctive elements (4)
F 22.33 <	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diseases Nationality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Character traits

The Source :Prepared by the researcher through the general results of the Associative Network

Through the model of the discriminatory words technique proposed by Vergés, the intersection of the orders of importance and frequency allows us to obtain four elements, the begging represented the central core of social representations of illegal immigrants, meaning that the term beggary was more frequent among the sample individuals with the most important choice, which is represented by the first column (1), that expresses the most frequent and more important elements, while the social conditions and delinquency behaviour represented the peripheral elements of social representations of illegal immigrants, which was represented by the second column that expresses the most frequent and less important elements, and the third column expressed the less important elements And the most frequent ones are diseases and the nationality of the immigrant, while the Personal Character traitsof the immigrant represented the differential elements of the social representations of the immigrants, which were expressed by the fourth column, which includes the less important and repeated elements.

1.3. Presentation of the results of the Characterizationquestionnaire:

Table (4) : Displays the Characterization questionnaire

Items	The most	Unselected	The least
Homeless	20	11	4
Beggar	20	10	5
Criminal	2	5	28
Needs	15	17	3
Poor	25	9	1

Black	5	20	10
Forger	3	7	25
Crook	1	8	26
Suffering	21	15	8

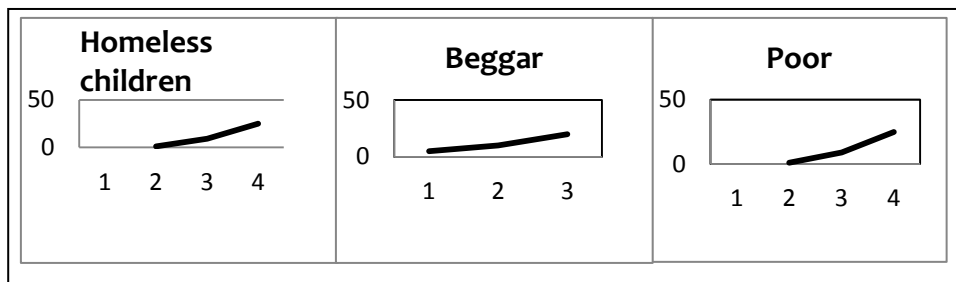
The Source: Prepared by the Researcher through the Characterization questionnaire

Through the table above, which represents the choices of the individuals of the sample for the items of their social representations of illegal immigrants, where the most remarkable items represent the central core, and the least remarkable items represent the contradictory items or rejected and unselected items that represent the peripheral system, which can be presented as follows:

1.3.1. Elements of the central core:

Through the data in the above table, it was found that the elements of the central core of representations of illegal immigrants consist of three elements: a beggar, homeless children, poor and sick. This is shown by the graph in figure (2).

Figure (3):represents the elements of the central core



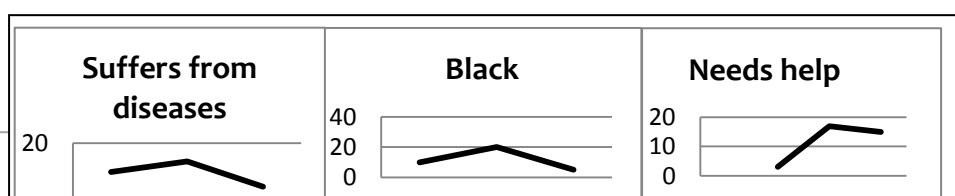
Source : Prepared by the Researcher through the Characterization questionnaire

Through the above curves it is evident that 25 individuals of the sample considered that the concept of (poor) is one of the most distinctive concepts. It expresses the elements of the central core to represent them towards illegal immigrants, while 20 individuals from the sample stated that homeless children are among the most distinctive elements, while 15 One of the sample reported that immigrants suffer from many diseases as a more distinctive element, which all contribute to form the central core of their representation towards their concept of illegal immigrants.

1.3.2. Elements of the peripheral system:

The elements that make up the peripheral system can be known through the shape of the peripheral system, which resembles the shape of a bell, which are represented by the items: black, needs help and suffers from diseases, and this indicates that the illegal immigrant is black and needs help and suffers from diseases, they are the peripheral items that Identify and model representations of the Tebessian community of illegal immigrants.

Figure (4):Represents the peripheral items

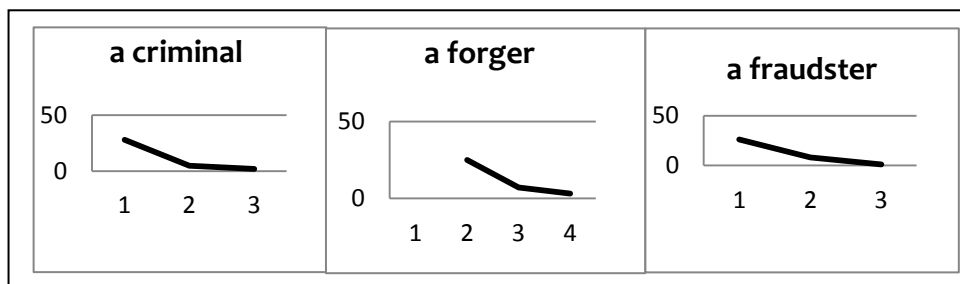


The Source :Prepared by the Researcher through the Characterization questionnaire

1.3.3. Contradictory items:

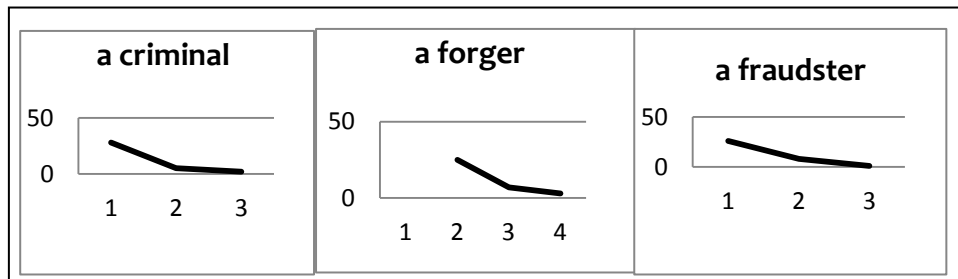
These are the elements that can be represented by curves on a shape of “ U”, Objects represented by: a forger, a criminal and a fraudster, as shown in the following figure:

Figure (5): represents the Contradictory items



The Source : Prepared by the Researcher through the Characterization questionnaire

Figure(6): represents the Contradictory items



The Source : Prepared by the Researcher through the Characterization questionnaire

Through the two above-curves, it was found than the sample individuals considered the illegal immigrant to be a forger, a fraudster and a criminal are less distinctive items for them, and they are included among the contradictory items in their minds about the representations of illegal immigrants, this means that individuals of the sample do not consider illegal immigrants as forgers or criminals.

1.4. results:

In order to achieve the objectives of the study, which aimed to identify the social representations of the Tebessian community about illegal immigrants from the countries of the Sahel, and to know the concept of illegal immigration among the individuals of the Tebessian community, and to know the structure of their social representations, as well as their attitudes towards illegal immigrants, whether they are positive, negative or neutral, After applying Maria Rosa’s Associative Network Technique, which relies on the free association method, Pre-investigation Technique, as well as the Characterisation Questionnaire, we obtained a set of results regarding social representations of illegal immigrants:

The results obtained after the application of the Associative Network Technique showed that the number of discriminatory words is 134 words, and the number of different

discriminatory words is 61 words, and through the diversity index, which represented a value of 0.45, it was found out that the sample individuals used different and varied words in their expressions on the concept of illegal immigrant, most of them are words of a socio-economic nature such as (refugee, loss, unhappy, isolation, suffering, begging children, charity, homelessness, Harrag, illegal immigration), this can be explained by the difference of concept according to the individuals socio-professional and cultural classes, as well as the influence of the religious and media factor, regardless of the conceptual and attitudinal view of the illegal immigrants, identified by Abric in his definition of social representation "as an interconnected set of information, attitudes, beliefs and trends on a topic, socially produced and crystallized, bearing all the values of the social and ideological system and the history of the group that adopts it, which is an essential part of Her vision of the world (Beghalia Hadjer, 2018-2019, p. 16) Since the elements of the central nucleus are the core of representation, and are also recorded in the social norms system, the results of applying the Associative Network and the Characterisation Questionnaire on two different samples proved the emergence of beggary among the central items of social representation of illegal immigrants, as well as the two items of poverty and homelessness. This shows that the individuals of the Tebessian community consider that illegal immigrants are primarily beggars, poor and homeless, that is, the term beggary, which also expresses poverty and homelessness as basic elements characterized by stability in the structure of representations, which have become entrenched in their system of social norms through the processes of objectivation and anchorage, suggested by Moscovici as two processes through which representations emerge, and this is due to the fact that most of the illegal immigrants from the Sahel countries in Tebessa depend on begging in the streets and public places, especially the category of children, which was expressed by the respondents through the interviews during the Pre-investigation, where they expressed that most of the beggars use some religious phrases as a means of pleading with people in order to help them.

By applying the Associative Network Technique to the sample individuals, it was found that 82.83 % of the discriminatory words have a negative connotation about the phenomenon of illegal immigrants, out of 134 discriminatory words, meaning that the Tebessian community's view of illegal immigrants is negative, as delinquent behaviours represented 39 words out of 134, in the Associative Network Technique, which explains the prevailing fear they have of the delinquent behaviours practiced by these illegal immigrants from the Sahel countries, crime, fraud, assault, theft, rape and hostility as they say, which were represented by the peripheral elements in the Associative network, and the contradictory elements of the Representations structure by applying the Characterisation Questionnaire technique, where it was found through the interview during the Pre-investigation that the category of immigrants of Arab nationalities is more acceptable to the society, unlike illegal immigrants from the Sahel countries.

The results of this study are in line with the study conducted by Rui Yuan on "Media Representation of Immigrants in Canada Since WWII", which concluded that the representation of immigrants is unwanted and undesirable, along with the study of "BATISTA, Roberta Rangel y BONOMO, Mariana" on Social representation of immigration and immigrants in British, French and German newspapers at the year of 2012, which found the existence of prejudice and misrepresentation of immigrants.

This indicates a negative trend towards immigrants.

Our current study is inconsistent with the study of Alicia Rochira and Roberto Vasanelli on the inhabitants of Nardo, southern Italy, whose results indicated that the local community representations differed between groups of residents who have positive or negative attitudes towards immigrants.

IV. Conclusion:

This study aimed to identify the representations of the local population of the Province of Tebessa towards illegal immigrants from the countries of the African Sahel, which expresses a group of opinions, beliefs, images, attitudes and trends towards these illegal immigrants, have been shown to be centred around the connotations of expressions of a social, economic and security aspect in particular. The social and economic character represented by the centralization and organization of their representations around central expressions, namely begging, homelessness and poverty, while the security character represented in the expressions indicating the illegal immigrants' delinquent behaviours and pathological infection in the peripheral system, within the differentiating elements of the structure of their representations of criminality, forgery and fraud, which represents a negative particular attitude and public way towards these illegal immigrants through the amount of information acquired about them, worsened by the current conditions of the Corona epidemic, and rising fear of pathological infection, in addition to the current security situation which is witnessing an increase of some immigrants' criminal and delinquent behaviours, through the processes of Objectivation and anchorage, that excluded the affective religious dimension and consolidated the social and security attitudes.

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