



UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG

Toward an Integrated Sweden?

A study of the Syrians' ambition of
integration in Swedish society

Thesis in Master in Communication

Rami Marshli

University of Gothenburg
Department of Applied Information Technology
Gothenburg, Sweden, June 2015
E-mail: rami.maraschli@gmail.com
Address: Gropegårdsgatan 5 41715 Göteborg

Abstract

The last three years have witnessed an intensive immigration of the Syrians to Sweden due to the armed conflict in their country. This flow of Syrians into the Swedish society makes it important to take the first step in investigating their ambition of integration and to study their communication in different social activities. This study will choose one specific social activity, which is civic-orientation classes in the city of Gothenburg, and in which different aspects of the Swedish society are introduced to the new Syrian residents. The questionnaire and the video recording that were used as methods, were analyzed using a theory of Activity Based Analysis, patterns of communication and a theory of cross-cultural adaptation.

The study used three research questions. First question tries to describe the communication of the Syrians in the classroom of civic-orientation classes, as well as some differences between some of the Syrian and Swedish communication patterns in this particular context. An important example of the results is that the Syrians communicate in a more formal way in classroom, and use more eye-contact compared to Swedes. Second question tries to examine the ambition of the Syrians to integrate in the Swedish society. Results indicate to a promising ambition of integration. This can be derived from their intention to commit not only to the obligatory activities but also their intention to continue their education, entering the job market, and develop social relationships with the Swedes.

Third and last research question tries to highlight the relation between the macro-level of analyzing integration, which is represented by the cross-cultural adaptation theory and the micro-level of the analysis, which is represented by the Activity Based Analysis theory. Results show that studying the communication of the Syrians will give access to information about their culture, behavior, and set of mind which contribute to a high extent in predicting their integration in the Swedish Society.

Keywords: *Communication, Patterns of communication, Integration, New residents.*