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The effect of socio-demographic variables on acculturation of Albanian immigrants in Greece

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Abstract

Since the early 90s a migratory wave began overwhelms Greece. The majority of immigrants were from Albania. The Greek community, having a very high national and religious homogeneity faced immigrants with negativity. The aim of the present study is to explore the effect of demographic variables on Acculturation of Albanian immigrants in Greece. The sample was constituted of 306 Albanian immigrants in Greece. The results showed that Integration of immigrants is positively affected by female gender. The old age of immigrants was found to lead them to Separation, while the long stay in Greece lead to Assimilation. The 2nd generation immigrants were found to experience more Assimilation and less Separation and Marginalization than the 1st generation immigrants. The length of studies in Greece showed to improve Assimilation and simultaneously to reduce Separation and Marginalization.

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1. Introduction

Human migration in the 21st century remains one of the most contentious and enduring social and political concerns worldwide. In Europe, given its long-standing history of population movements, migration has become a central issue in the political and economic agenda (Hatziprokopiou, 2004). Immigration to Greece was at a high rate during the 90's. According to the Hellenic Statistical Authority (2013) in 2011 lived in Greece 911,929 foreign citizens, who accounted for 8.5% of the total population, which stood at 10,815,197. Most of the foreign citizens were economic migrants. The majority of migrants (52.7%) were from Albania, who estimated at 480,587 people. The majority of them arrived in Greece illegally. Albania is a neighboring country with Greece. In its southern field live citizens of Greek origin. Thus, a part of Albanian immigrants have Greek origin. Because of proximity and contact of the two nations they have many common cultural characteristics.Here introduce the paper, and put a nomenclature if necessary, in a box with the same font size as the rest of the paper. The paragraphs continue from here and are only separated by headings, subheadings, images and formulae. The section headings are arranged by numbers, bold and 10 pt. Here follows further instructions for authors.

The Greek community, having a very high national and religious homogeneity faced immigrants with negativity. According to Eurobarometer polls, public sentiment towards immigrants in Greece is intolerant and xenophobic (Levinson, 2005). Albanian migrants have faced different and various forms of exclusion and racism (Lazaridis & Psimmenos, 2000). Hatziprokopiou (2004) reports that among other aspects influencing immigrant's incorporation are racism and xenophobia. Nevertheless Hatziprokopiou (2004) claims that the extremes of the first half of the 1990's are fading now, or at least this is not the general rule. Although at the general official level immigrant minorities seem far from being integrated into Greek society (Baldwin-Edwards, 2005), at the informal everyday life immigrants and natives seem to coexist amicably without tension (Kokosalakis, & Fokas, 2007).

In Acculturation theory context, Acculturation is defined as "*the general processes and outcomes (both cultural and psychological) of intercultural contact*" (Berry, 1997: 8). Moreover, Acculturation is a "*phenomena which results when groups of individuals having different cultures come into continuous first-hand contact with subsequent changes in the original culture patterns of either or both groups*" (Amer, 2005: 5-6). According to Berry (1997), Acculturation theory has been widely used to explain the adaptation patterns of immigrants. This theory explains how immigrants have developed in one cultural context and managed to adapt to new contexts resulting from migration. Berry (1980) claims that there are four types of Acculturation strategies: Integration, Assimilation, Separation, and Marginalization. These four strategies are considered the results of immigrants' efforts for adapting into new cultural contexts and the extensiveness of relationships to new and old societies. Integration is when individuals maintain their cultures and are able to accept and adapt to the host's cultures. In contrast, Assimilation is when individuals fully adapt to the host's cultures, while they become more alienated toward their own cultures. On the other hand, Separation is when individuals become alienated toward the host culture and separate themselves from the main society. They mainly prefer to socialize with persons from their own culture. Marginalization is when individuals become alienated toward both their own and the host cultures (Culhane, 2004). Berry (1997) suggests that among the four strategies of Acculturation, Integration is the most successful and Marginalization is the least while Assimilation and Separation are intermediate.

Gender differences are likely to affect Acculturation. Empirical evidence from several studies has begun to show that females acculturate at a quicker pace than males (Portes & Hao. 1998; Portes & Rumbaut. 2001; Waters, 1999). Tang and Dion (1999) investigated gender and Acculturation in relation to traditionalism in immigrants University students and determined that men were significantly more traditional and tend to assimilate less easily. Additionally Fokkema and de Haas (2011) argue that female gender has a strong, significantly positive and robust effect on socio-cultural integration. Thus, our first hypothesis could be formed as follow:

H1. The female gender is positively correlated to Assimilation and Integration and is negatively correlated to Separation and Marginalization.

Regarding the relationship of immigrants' age and Acculturation, Fennelly (2006) reports that younger immigrants generally adapting more easily and more quickly to a new environment. Papademetriou (2003) explains that younger immigrants integrate with greater ease as a result of earlier exposure to the new culture and less ingrained customs from their culture of origin. Regarding length of stay in host society, de Palo et al. (2007) state that social relations of immigrants tend to increase with their length of stay in the host country. Alba and Nee (2003) refer that literature suggests that with the length of one's stay in the receiving country and the increasing determination to stay, immigrants become gradually more integrated. Wada (2013) underlines that second-generation immigrants are essentially indistinguishable from the general population. Gualda (2007) refers that second generation immigrants, as several researchers have shown, seem to exhibit a greater variety in ways of Integration than the first generation. There are different meanings of term "Second generation immigrants". On this study we use the view that the term is referred to immigrants children who were born in host country (Gualda, 2007). Therefore, the following hypotheses could be developed:

H2. The increased age of immigrants is positively correlated to Separation and Marginalization and is negatively correlated to Assimilation and Integration.

H3. The length of stay of immigrants in the host society is positively correlated to Assimilation and Integration and is negatively correlated to Separation and Marginalization.

H4. The 2nd generation immigration is positively correlated to Assimilation and Integration and is negatively correlated to Separation and Marginalization.

In reference to the effect of marital status on Acculturation Nauck (2007) argues that inter-ethnic and bi-national marriages are often used as an especially "strong" indicator for the state of inter-ethnic relationships in a society and for the degree of Assimilation of immigrant minorities. Walters et al. (2006) point out that the non marriage persons show lower level of Integration in the host community than the marriage persons, but no in a statistically significant level. According to Hamermesh and Trejo (2010) immigrants with young children are less likely to engage in activities that they believe may be assimilating. So, the following two hypotheses could be considered for examination:

H5. The marriage is positively correlated to Assimilation and Integration and is negatively correlated to Separation and Marginalization.

H6. The number of children of immigrants is positively correlated to Assimilation and Integration and is negatively correlated to Separation and Marginalization.

European Union (2007) considers education, among others, as mean of fostering immigrants' participation in their host societies. Papadopoulos et al. (2009) claim that students who belong to minority groups perceive fewer discriminations taking place against them. Berry et al. (1977) found a statistically significant positive correlation of Integration attitudes with education. Kalter and Granato (2000) argue that low educational level result barriers to further structural Assimilation. According to Mouw and Xie (1999) language usage may be an important indicator of Acculturation level. Stevens (1999) points out that research has shown a clear positive influence of Assimilation mode on the host language proficiency. Based on the discussed arguments, the following hypotheses could be stated:

H7. The level of education is positively correlated to Assimilation and Integration and is negatively correlated to Separation and Marginalization.

H8. The length of study in host society is positively correlated to Assimilation and Integration and is negatively correlated to Separation and Marginalization.

Regarding to economic status of immigrants Berry et al. (1977) found statistically significant positive correlations of Integration attitudes with income. Ataca and Berry (2002) argue that the low socioeconomic status couples in Canada endorse the Separation, whilst the high socioeconomic status couples prefer the Integration and Assimilation. According to the same authors, the homeownership in the host country is correlated to both, high economic status and intension to stay. Constant et al. (2007) argue that immigrants with a stronger commitment to the host country are more likely to achieve homeownership. Van Tubergen (2006) argues that generally, immigrants

have higher unemployment rates than natives which limit their social Integration into networks of native colleagues. Accordingly, the follow hypotheses could be examined:

H9. The high economic status is positively correlated to Assimilation and Integration and is negatively correlated to Separation and Marginalization.

H10. The home ownership in the host country is positively correlated to Assimilation and Integration and is negatively correlated to Separation and Marginalization.

H11. The unemployment is positively correlated to Separation and Marginalization and is negatively correlated to Assimilation and Integration.

The aim of the present study is to explore the effect of demographic variables on Acculturation of Albanian immigrants in Greece.

2. Methodology

Sample

The sample consisted of 306 Albanian immigrants in Greece (N=306). The 212 of them are males and 84 females (10 did not declare their gender). The age average is 32.29 years (S.D.=10.82). The average length of stay in Greece is about 13 years. The 13.1 per cent of participants considered as 2nd generation immigrants because they have been born in Greece. The 56.3 per cent are married, and the 39.7 per cent are singe. The 43.6 per cent has children and the 56.4 per cent had not children. The 56.1 per cent are unemployed, and the 17.9 percent are homeowners in Greece.

Instrument

The instrument consisted of 42 items divided in two sections. The first section identifies the social-economic data of immigrants with 11 items related to gender, age, country of birth, marital status, number of children, length of stay in Greece, economic status (on a 5/point scale, 1=very bad, 5=very good), unemployed, homeownership in Greece, level of education (6 levels), length of studies in Greece.

The second section measures the immigrants' Acculturation. The "East Asian Acculturation Measure" (Barry, 2001) has been employed after a proper modification and adjustments. This instrument consisted of 29 items that are specially designed to measure the Acculturation process in the four dimensions of Assimilation-ASM (8 items), Integration-INT (5 items), Separation-SEP (7 items) and Marginalization-MAR (9 items). The translation of the instrument from English in Albanian language became with the back-translation method. The answers are given on a self-rating 5/point Likert scale from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree".

Scale validation

In order to test the instrument's validity, a Confirmatory Factor Analysis (CFA) was performed on "East Asian Acculturation Measure" (Barry, 2001). In CFA the Chi-Square value is the traditional measure for evaluating overall model fit. A good model fit would provide an insignificant result at a 0.05 threshold (Barrett, 2007). For RMSEA a cut-off value close to a stringent upper limit of 0.07 considered an indication of fair fit (Steiger, 2007). Values for the SRMR range from 0.0 to 1.0 with well-fitting models obtaining values less than 0.05 (Diamantopoulos & Siguaw, 2000). The results did not confirm the validity of the instrument ($x2$=135.332, RMSEA =0.135, Standardized RMR =0.085). The failure of confirmation may be due to cultural differentiation of Albanian immigrants in Greece with the East Asian immigrants in the United States, on which the instrument was tested firstly. Greece and Albania are two countries with common borders. Thus, it is very easy for Albanian immigrants to visit their home and renew the contact with their culture. Greeks and Albanians are two neighboring populations who lived together in the past and have many common cultural characteristics (Hart, 1999). For instance, the Greek and the Albanian languages have 2,000 words in common (De Rapper, 2007). In contrast, East Asian immigrants arrived in the United States from very distant countries and have major cultural differences with the inhabitants of

host society. Thus, some item of "East Asian Acculturation Measure" (Barry, 2001) may have different meaning for Albanian immigrants in Greece.

Subsequently an Exploratory Factor Analysis has been performed. The extraction of factors was done with the method of Principal Component Analysis using Orhogonal rotation of the axis with the use of Varimax method which is one of the most popular methods of Orthogonal rotation according to Sharma (1996) and Hair et al. (1995). To examine if the data is appropriate for factor analysis, the Bartlett's test of sphericity has been performed. Furthermore, the Measure of Sampling Adequacy (M.S.A.) of Kaiser-Mayer-Olkin (K.M.O.) was used. This is the most popular diagnostic measure and it includes the degree to which some variables belong to the same factor (Sharma, 1996). Sharma (1996) suggests that K.M.O. has to be greater than 0.8, however degrees over than 0.6 are acceptable. In order to determine the number of factors the criterion of Eigenvalue was used. Factors whose Eigenvalue is over than one are selected. The factors have been developed according to loadings of the related items. Hair et al. (1995) underlines that sample sizes of more than 150 individuals, a loading more than 0.45 is considered as significant. Reliability is one of the most important criteria for evaluating research instruments (Chu & Murrmann, 2006) and refers to the extent to which a variable or a set of variables is consistent in what it is intended to measure (Hair et al., 1995). The test of reliability was done with the use of Cronbach's alpha index which measures the internal consistency among variables. Values of Cronbach's alpha greater than 0.7 are considered as valid (Nunnaly, 1978). After removing 11 items a model of four factors have been developed. The K.M.O. index was greater than 0.7, the significant of Bartlett's Test of Sphericity was 0.00, the loadings were ranged between 0.54 and .81 and the total variance explained was about 58%. The Reliability Analysis confirmed the construction of factors, although the Cronbach's a value in the case of Integration is limited (a=0.698). The results of EFA and Reliability Analysis are presented in the Table 1.

Table 1. The results of Exploratory Factor Analysis and Reliability Analysis.

Factors and Items	Loadings			
MAR-Marginalization (M=2.733, S.D.=1.059, a=0.806)				
1 There are times when I think no one understands me	.650			
2 I some time find it hard to communicate with people	.757			
3 I sometimes find it hard to make friends	.743			
4 Sometimes I find it hard to trust both Greeks and Albanians	.691			
5 I find that both Albanian and Greeks often have difficulty understanding me	.668			
6 I find that I do not feel comfortable when I am with other people	.593			
SEP-Separation (M=3.091, S.D.=1.127, a=0.760)				
1 Most of the music I listen to is in Albanian language.		.778		
2 If I were asked to write poetry, I would prefer to write in Albanian language		.738		
3 I would prefer to go on a date with an Albanian than with a Greek		.637		
4 I feel more relaxed when I am with Albanians than when I am with Greeks		.627		
ASM-Assimilation (M=2.853, S.D.=1.106, a=0.750)				
1 I get along better with Greeks than Albanians			.729	
2 I feel that Greeks understand me better than Albanians			.754	
3 I find it easier to communicate my feelings to Greeks than to Albanians			.783	
4 I feel more comfortable socializing with Greeks than I do with Albanians			.710	
INT-Integration (M=3.643, S.D.=0.966, a=0.698)				
1 I think as well in Greek as I do in Albanian language				.703
2 I have both Albanians and Greeks friends				.652
3 I feel that both Albanians and Greeks value me				.730

4	I feel very comfortable around both Greeks and Albanians	.805

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy = 0.778

Bartlett's Test of Sphericity Approx. Chi-Square = 1589.58

df = 153

Sig. = 0.000

Total variance explained = 57.77%

3. Results

To investigate the gender's effect on the Acculturation of immigrants (1st Research Hypothesis), a t- test of equality of means was performed (Table 2).

Table 2. The relationship between gender and Acculturation.

	Gender	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	Sig. F	t	Sig. (2-taided)
ASM	Men (1)	2.819	1.1249	.036	.850	-.601	.548
	Women (2)	2.906	1.1174				
INT	Men (1)	3.483	.9478	.496	.482	-3.952	.000
	Women (2)	3.961	.9089				
SEP	Men (1)	3.160	1.1343	.065	.799	1.213	.226
	Women (2)	2.982	1.1296				
MAR	Men (1)	2.673	1.0086	4.479	.035	-.828	.441
	Women (2)	2.786	1.1827				

The results show that Albanian women are more integrated in the Greek society than Albanian men ($t<0$, Sig. (2-taided)=0.0<0.01), in acceptable statistically significant level. Therefore, the 1st Research Hypothesis is merely acceptable.

Investigating whether the age, the length of stay in Greece, the number of children, the length of studies in Greece, the economic status, affect the Acculturation of immigrants (2nd, 3rd, 6th, 8th and 9th Research Hypotheses), a Correlation Analysis was performed (Table 3).

Table 3. The effect of age, length of stay in Greece, number of children, length of study in Greece, and economic status, on immigrants Acculturation.

Socio-economic data		ASM	INT	SEP	MAR
Age	Pearson Correlation	-.096	-.010	.235[**]	.094
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.108	.870	.000	.113
Length of stay in Greece	Pearson Correlation	.124[*]	.019	-.004	-.017
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.036	.752	.941	.780
Number of children	Pearson Correlation	-.129[*]	.024	.175[**]	.158[**]
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.028	.682	.003	.007
Length of studies in Greece	Pearson Correlation	.172[**]	-.019	-.311[**]	-.240[**]
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.004	.751	.000	.000
Economic status	Pearson Correlation	.128[*]	.153[**]	-.158[**]	-.085
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.031	.009	.008	.153
*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).					

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The results reveal that the age is positively correlated, in statistically significant level, to Separation (Pearson Correlation>0, Sig. (2-tailed)<0.01). That is, the older the immigrant, the higher the level of Separation. According to results the 2nd research hypothesis is merely acceptable.

The length of stay in Greece is positively correlated, in statistically significant level, to Assimilation (Pearson Correlation>0, Sig. (2-tailed)<0.05). Therefore, the longer a migrant stays in Greece, it is more likely to be assimilated in the Greek society. According to relative result the 3rd research hypothesis is merely acceptable.

The number of children is negatively correlated, in statistically significant level, to Assimilation (Pearson Correlation<0, Sig. (2-tailed)<0.05) and is positively correlated, also in statistically significant level, to Separation (Pearson Correlation>0, Sig. (2-tailed)<0.01) and Marginalization (Pearson Correlation>0, Sig. (2-tailed)<0.01). That is, the more children the immigrant has it is less likely to be assimilated in the Greek society, while it is more likely to experiences Separation and Marginalization. Thus, the 6th research hypothesis is rejected.

The length of studies in Greece is positively correlated, in statistically significant level, to Assimilation (Pearson Correlation>0, Sig. (2-tailed)<0.01) and is negatively correlated, also in statistically significant level, to Separation (Pearson Correlation<0, Sig. (2-tailed)<0.01) and Assimilation (Pearson Correlation<0, Sig. (2-tailed)<0.01). That is, the longer studies in Greece, the greater likelihood of Assimilation. According to results the 8th research hypothesis is merely acceptable.

The economic status is positively correlated, in statistically significant degree, to Assimilation (Pearson Correlation>0, Sig. (2-tailed)<0.05) and Integration (Pearson Correlation>0, Sig. (2-tailed)<0.01) and it is negatively correlated as well, in statistically significant degree, to Separation (Pearson Correlation<0, Sig. (2-tailed)<0.01). Thus, the higher level of economic status, the higher Assimilation and Integration and the lower Separation. After the above, the 9th research hypothesis is merely acceptable.

Trying to explore the effect of generation of immigrants on their Acculturation (4th Research Hypothesis), a t-test of equality of means was performed with factor the country of birth of immigrants (Table 4).

Table 4. The effect of generation on Acculturation.

	Generation	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	Sig. F	t	Sig. (2-taided)
ASM	1st	2.774	1.0953	.143	.706	2.882	.004
	2nd	3.338	1.2007				
INT	1st	3.643	.9645	.267	.606	-.620	.536
	2nd	3.538	.8949				
SEP	1st	3.256	1.0858	.012	.913	-5.736	.000
	2nd	2.164	1.0320				
MAR	1st	2.767	1.0193	1.540	.216	-3.291	.001
	2nd	2.168	1.1176				

The results show that the 2nd generation of Albanian immigrants who were born in Greece are more assimilated (t>0, Sig. (2-taided)<0.01), less separated (t<0, Sig. (2-taided)=0.01) and less marginalized (t<0, Sig. (2-taided)<0.01), in statistically significant level, than the 1st generation immigrants who were born in Albania. Therefore, the 4th research hypothesis is merely acceptable.

The effect of marital status of Albanian immigrants on their Acculturation (5th Research Hypothesis), has been analyzed using Analysis of Variance (ANOVA), with the use of Bonferroni's Multiple Comparison Test (Table 5 & 6).

Table 5. The effect of marital status on Acculturation.

	Marital status	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	Sig. F
	Unmarried	2.965	1.1263		
ASM	Married	2.751	1.1225	1.458	.235
	Divorced	3.056	1.0902		
	Unmarried	3.530	.9554		
INT	Married	3.693	.9726	1.056	.349
	Divorced	3.521	.8010		
	Unmarried	2.793	1.1519		
SEP	Married	3.347	1.0667	9.134	.000
	Divorced	2.778	1.1356		
	Unmarried	2.509	1.0300		
MAR	Married	2.785	1.0764	4.119	.017
	Divorced	3.244	.5799		

Table 6. Multiple comparison among different marital status of immigrants.

Dependent Variable	(I) Marital status	(J) Marital status	Mean Difference (I-J)	Sig.
SEP	Married	Unmarried	.5546*	.000
MAR	Divorced	Unmarried	.3166	.062
	Married	Unmarried	.2768	.089

*. The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

As we can see in the table, the results confirm that married immigrants are more separated, in statistically significant level, than unmarried (Sig.<0.01). In the dependent variable of Marginalization no statistically significant differences among groups has been found. The results support the rejection of 5th hypothesis.

In order to investigate the effect of immigrants' level of education on their Acculturation (7th Research Hypothesis), an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was performed (Table 7 & 8).

Table 7. Results of ANOVA among immigrants' different educational level.

	Educational level	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	Sig. F
	Elementary	3.098	1.0349		
	Secondary (3 years)	2.871	1.1449		
ASM	Secondary (6 years)	2.720	1.1320	.824	.511
	Professional	3.068	1.1994		
	University	2.875	1.0430		
	Elementary	3.506	.9165		
	Secondary (3 years)	3.546	.9542		
INT	Secondary (6 years)	3.775	.9875	1.127	.344
	Professional	3.477	1.1150		
	University	3.511	.8255		
	Elementary	3.348	.9221		
SEP	Secondary (3 years)	3.326	1.2057	3.898	.004
	Secondary (6 years)	2.943	1.0381		

	Professional	2.500	1.1990		
	University	2.636	1.1066		
	Elementary	2.699	.8445		
	Secondary (3 years)	2.988	1.1377		
MAR	Secondary (6 years)	2.442	.9085	4.957	.001
	Professional	2.288	1.2826		
	University	2.439	.9380		

Table 8. Multiple comparison among immigrants' different educational level.

Dependent Variable	(I) Level of Education	(J) Level of Education	Mean Difference (I-J)	Sig.
MAR	Secondary (3 years)	Secondary (6 years)	.54636[*]	.001

* The mean difference is significant at the 0.05 level.

The results show that the Albanian immigrants who completed the first part of secondary education (3 years) are more marginalized, in statistically significant level, of them who completed both of parts of secondary education (6 years) (Sig.<0.01). Therefore, the 7th research hypothesis is merely acceptable.

To investigation the effect of home ownership by immigrants on their Acculturation (10th Research Hypothesis), a t- test of equality of means was performed (Table 9).

Table 9. The effect of home ownership on Acculturation.

	Homeowner	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	Sig. F	t	Sig. (2-taided)
ASM	Yes	2.922	1.0494	1.005	.317	.440	.660
	No	2.846	1.1331				
INT	Yes	3.724	.9690	.793	.374	.902	.368
	No	3.592	.9388				
SEP	Yes	2.788	1.0433	1.017	.314	-2.367	.019
	No	3.195	1.1311				
MAR	Yes	2.742	1.1237	.798	.372	.052	.959
	No	2.733	1.0371				

The results show that the home ownership by immigrant is negatively correlated, in statistically significant level, to Separation (t<0, Sig. (2-tailed)<0.03). Thus, the 10th research hypothesis is merely accepted.

The influence of unemployment on Acculturation (11th Research Hypothesis), has been explored using t- test of equality of means (Table 10).

Table 10. The relationship between Acculturation and unemployment.

	Unemployment	Mean	Std. Deviation	F	Sig. F	t	Sig. (2-taided)
ASM	Yes	2.794	1.1659	1.771	.184	-1.072	.285
	No	2.938	1.0469				
INT	Yes	3.615	.9493	.004	.949	-.300	.764

SEP	No	3.649	.9224				
	Yes	3.212	1.0873	.403	.526	1.607	.109
	No	2.997	1.1360				
MAR	Yes	2.658	1.0314	.130	.719	-1.151	.251
	No	2.803	1.0610				

The results show that the unemployment is not correlated, in statistically significant level to any dimensions of Acculturation (Sig. (2-tailed)>0.05). The result does not support the 11th research hypothesis.

On the Table 11 presents the summary of results.

Table 11. Summary of results

	Affective variables	ASM		INT		SEP		MAR	
		+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-
1	Female gender			√					
2	Age					√			
3	Length of stay in Greece	√							
4	2nd Generation	√					√		√
5	Marital status: Married					√			
6	Number of children			√		√		√	
7	Level of education (secondary 3 years)							√	
8	Length of studies in Greece	√					√		√
9	Economic status	√		√		√			
10	Home ownership					√			
11	Unemployment								

4. Conclusions

The aim of the present study was to explore the effect of demographic variables on Acculturation of Albanian immigrants in Greece. The Integration of immigrants is positively affected by female gender. This finding is in line with corresponding of Fokkema and de Haas (2011), who suggest that female gender has a strong, significantly positive and robust effect on socio-cultural integration. The old age of immigrants leads them to Separation, while the long stay in Greece leads to Assimilation. In parallel, the 2nd Generation of immigrants is found to experience more Assimilation and less Separation and Marginalization than the 1st Generation. These findings together maybe indicate that the immigrants who came relatively recently to Greece in a advanced age have difficulty to integrate into host society, and experience more Separation, than immigrant who came in early age or have born in Greece, who experience more Assimilation. Previous studies support our conclusions (Minoura, 1992; Tsai et al. 2000). Cheung et al. (2011) suggests that the younger immigrants were at the time of immigration, the more rapidly came identify with host society. Moreover, the 2nd generation immigrants except the more Assimilation, show lower level of Separation and Marginalization than the 1st generation immigrants. This finding is in line with Wada (2013), who point outs that second-generation immigrants are essentially indistinguishable from the general population.

Contrary to what was assumed, the married immigrants experience more Separation than the non-married while the number of family's children leads to Separation and Marginalization and militates Integration. It seems that the choice of Acculturation strategies change when the Albanian immigrants create family. Perhaps the interpretation of this finding lies in the country of origin. According to Bilefski (2008), for many centuries the Albanians lived in

closed-off and conservative society. Hasani and Elezi (2013) report that parents in Albania, especially mothers exercise violence toward children during their adolescence as a protective measure to protect them from several viruses that have infected our society days. Our findings show that only 6.7 per cent of married participants in our study were divorced or separated. All above allows characterize the Albanian family as cohesive, but simultaneously as closed and conservative.

The level of Education of Albanian immigrant in Greece did not found to affect, in a important degree, their Acculturation. Only the immigrants with nine years of studies show more Marginalization than the immigrants with 12 years of studies. In opposite, the length of studies in Greece seems to improve Assimilation while simultaneously reduces Separation and Marginalization.

Regarding to economic situation of immigrants, the findings reveal the positive correlation of high economic status with Assimilation and Integration and the negative correlation with Separation. Approximately in the same conclusions reached Drydakis (2012), who suggests that Assimilation and Integration are positively associated with immigrant wages, while Separation and Marginalization are negatively associated with immigrant wages. Ataca and Berry (2002) argue as well that the high socioeconomic status couples prefer the Integration and Assimilation. The ownership of a home in the host country found to deter Separation. The unemployment did not found to be correlated to Acculturation.

Integration is the most preferred approach and produces the best results in the immigrant's adaptation during Acculturation. Marginalization produces the worst results in the immigrant's adaptation. Between the two strategies-procedures are Assimilation and Separation (Berry et al., 2006). The findings of the present study show that the female gender and the high economic status lead to Integration. The number of children of Albanian immigrants' families and their low educational level led to Marginalization, while prevent it the birth in Greece and the length of studies in Greece. Five demographic variables led to Assimilation. The length of stay in Greece, the birth in Greece, the length of studies in Greece and the high economic status, while blocks it the number of children of Albanian immigrants. Finally to Separation led the advanced age, the marriage and the number of children, while militate it the birth in Greece, the length of studies in Greece and the home ownership in Greece. It is obvious that demographic variables relative to length of stay in Greece, education in Greece and economic status improve the accession of Albanian immigrants in the Greek society.

This study is subject to certain limitations mainly due to its small sample and because the collection of questionnaires was only of medium urban and rural areas of Greece.

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