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Option B

Mary Catherine Bateson's *Peripheral Visions* coincides with ideas, education, and values in the film *The Namesake*. Both cultures value learning, education, and continuing challenges of the self throughout the film. Bateson's work supports the perspectives in *The Namesake* especially when dealing with the notion of change and adaptation between two different cultures. Bateson's work focuses on the importance of education over one's life that is mostly informal in nature and requires participation of learning by the individual, but the film *The Namesake* stresses the importance of both informal education and formal education without forgetting the cultural roots from where an individual comes from in learning how to grow and adapt to the environment that surrounds them.

Learning is a life-long process that is driven by the cultural influences that are part of that individual's life or by the culture that surrounds them. Bateson (1994) states, "Looking at the place of learning in other societies and times from this vantage point, it is reassuring to know that everywhere most of learning occurs outside the settings labeled as educational" (pg. 9). The quote emphasizes that learning among cultures is mostly informal types of learning and that learning is not limited to a certain study and is a life-long process. This is shown by a few examples in the movie including when Ashima is told by Ashoke how to turn on the stove in their apartment, how Ashima is given advice how to drive a car, and how both Ashoke and Ashima are alerted that they cannot leave the hospital unless they give a name to their newborn son (Gogul) on the birth certificate. These are great references to show that most learning is on the spot, informal, continuing, and is based on cultural standards of that country. Both cultures value learning whether it be from cultural traditions, beliefs, ceremonies, like in Indian culture, or from more formal institutions such as Gogul attending school and ultimately attending college to study architecture because of American expectation that students move onto college to study a particular craft. Regardless of what culture influences the individual, participation is key to learning throughout one's life if any form of learning is to take place.

Bateson exemplifies that learning will have an effect on any individual, especially if it driven by the beliefs or practices of a culture. Bateson (1994) writes, "In all learning, one is changed, becoming someone slightly- or profoundly-different; but learning is welcome when it affirms a continuing sense of self" (pg. 79). The quote echoes that learning influences any individual either in a minute or monumental way with the driving force for that learning being a willingness to try a over one's lifetime to better themselves. For example, in the film *The Namesake*, when Ashoke moves to the United States and gets a job, buys a home, and has an increased social acceptance because of his job, this is a great American cultural influence that had a profound effect on his learning and his family. Also, when Gogul learns of the death of his father (Ashoke), he realizes his cultural routes and traditions of marriage, family ties, and cultural beliefs. The examples from the film are both profound and influential from both cultures, but at different times in the family's life. Since learning is a life-long process that must be based on involvement of individual, it is selective, based on the influence of one's culture and different stages of their life.

Bateson's work in *Peripheral Visions* acknowledges that learning is a life-long quest that is influenced either by the individual's cultural upbringing or by the cultural beliefs that surround the individual in a different environment. Learning is something that an individual must adapt to, change from, and also assimilate ideas from different cultures if they move forward with their quest of fulfillment. Learning between different cultures that are both equally important and have a profound effect on the learning taking place, whether it is formal education, informal education, or participation in a belief, practice, or task, in which a person is influenced and learns by that experience.