

## SI Application

Symbolic interaction theory to me means the way we adapt to the new changes that happen throughout our lives through interaction with other people. As we interact with other people we change the way we act/ behave based on our interaction in this world.

When reading the Pearson & VanHorn article I began to understand how this article can be a Symbolic Interaction theory. Due to the experiment testing how people from the age of 67-97 years of age perceived their **gender identity** as they grew up and had more life experience, they're able to provide more accurate information on how they viewed their gender identity throughout the years. When reading the article, the people who volunteered from this experiment were asked certain questions that would describe how they **viewed their gender role**. As these volunteers answer the questions that were given you started to get an understanding to why some began to question their **self-role as a male or female**. Since most of the participants grew up in a time where males were considered the **dominant gender** and do all the hard labor work. Whereas girls worked inside their homes, cleaning dishes and the house. For an example one of the participants who is 76 years old now. Worked on a family farm. As male middle child he worked outside on the farm. As time goes on he had to take up both the house work and farm work. To him this didn't change the way he viewed his gender. Once he left the farm and got married he never cleaned the dishes or the house after leaving the farm. One thing I picked up in this article was it mentioned how some theorists think gender roles are based on how people are raised and brought up in their life. Parents may have an impact on how males and females view their **role in society by their gender**. For some people certain **outcomes** or **situations** that occurred in their lives made them take up a new role even though it isn't suited for their gender. One lady said in the article that her husband was in and out of the hospital making her the dominant person in the family.

One event that happened in my life that I think would be a good example of symbolic interaction is when I first got my heart broken. My father after the first day of the breakup told me to man up and get over her. To me that didn't make sense because when my older sister who is 26 years old now, broke up with her boyfriend. My father never said those words he said to me to her I think **gender role** had a say when it came to my dad. He allowed her to cry and be upset. Whereas for me I had to man up and get over. I think my father believed that men don't cry over girls it's been like that for many years. Only the girl should be the one upset and cry. Crying is considered a **feminine side** and not just a normal **human instinct** when you're sad. Ever since my father told me to "man up" I always thought it was bad to cry since I'm a guy. I felt as if my father was **self-minded** to what he just said to me, during this type of situation. If I was to go back to that moment and use the looking glass theory and view how my father looked at me. He would probably view me as a little girl for crying and be sad over a breakup. Ever since that I was **self-sufficient** in the sense that crying is a feminine trait and only girls can cry. This all happened over 4 years ago, but in the last year and a half I started to turn away from that view and tell myself that anyone can cry no matter what **gender** you are.