

1 Introduction: Examining the Transnational Masspersonal Communication (TMC) of Diaspora Communities from the Horn of Africa 1

1.1 Problem Statement: Bridging Gaps in the TMC of Diaspora Communities 1

1.2 Research Questions, Objectives, and Methodological Approach 3

1.3 Structure of the Study 4

2 Social Constructionism and Symbolic Interactionism: “Two Parts of the Same Theory within Communication” 7

2.1 Social Constructionism from a Communication Perspective 8

2.2 Symbolic Interactionism 12

2.3 Process of Social Construction in Communication 14

2.4 Interim Conclusion: The Process of Social Constructionism and Symbolic Interactionism in Communication 19

3 Diaspora and Community as Social Construction 21

3.1 Diaspora Community from an African Perspective 21

3.1.1 Etymology of Diaspora and its Definitions 21

3.1.2 Concepts of Diaspora Community 28

3.1.3 Characteristics and Categorization of Diaspora Community 31

3.2 State of Research: Cause of Migration and Diaspora Formation of Communities from the Horn of Africa 34

3.2.1 The Struggle for Nation-State Formation as a Cause for Migration 35

3.2.2	The Horn from 1935–1991	40
3.2.3	The Horn from 1991–2018	43
3.3	Interim Conclusion: Diaspora Community, its Formation and Working Definitions	50
4	Collective Identity in the Diaspora	53
4.1	Collective Identity and its Construction in the Diaspora	53
4.1.1	The Concept of Collective Identity	54
4.1.2	Ethnonational-based and Nationality-based Collective Identities	56
4.1.3	Self-identification and External Identification as per a Diasporic Identity	57
4.1.4	Construction of Collective Identities in Diaspora	60
4.1.5	Role of Communication in the Construction of Collective Identities	62
4.2	State of Research: Collective Identities of Diaspora Communities from the Horn of Africa	65
4.2.1	Collective Identities and their Construction in Diaspora Communities	65
4.2.2	Communicating Nationalism to Construct Collective Identities	76
4.3	Interim Conclusion: Collective Identities in the Diaspora and the Role of Communication in Constructing Identities	81
5	Transnational Communication in the Diaspora and the Connection to the Homeland	85
5.1	Transnationalism, Memory, and Masspersonal Communication	85
5.1.1	Transnational Communication	86
5.1.2	“Communicative Memory” in Transnational Communication	87
5.1.3	The Concept of Masspersonal Communication	91
5.2	Diasporas’ Transnationalism for Homeland Connection	100
5.2.1	Homeland Connection in Cyberspace	100
5.2.2	Virtual Mobilization on Homelands’ Issues	102
5.3	State of Research: Transnational Communication and Homeland Connection of the Horn’s Diaspora Communities	106
5.4	Interim Conclusion: Transnational Communication, Social Media, and Homeland Connection of the Horn’s Diaspora	111

6 Diasporic Identity Construction in Transnational Masspersonal Communication Model (DICTMCM)	115
6.1 Content and Relationships for Construction of Collective Identity at Intra-Diaspora Communities	119
6.2 Content and Relationships for Deconstruction of Collective Identity at Inter-Diaspora Communities	121
6.3 Interim Conclusion: The Model for Constructing Collective Identities at the Intra-DC-TMC and the Inter-DC-TMC	122
7 Research Design and Methodology for Empirical Research	125
7.1 Social Constructionism as Qualitative Inquiry Framework for Communication Research	127
7.2 Mixed Purposeful Sampling Strategies	129
7.2.1 Sampling Diaspora Communities, Interview Participants, and Social Media Platforms	130
7.2.2 Ethical Standards of the Research	134
7.3 Data Generation: Social Constructionist Interview and Extracting Content from Social Media Platforms	144
7.3.1 Semi-Structured Interviews and Data Transcription	146
7.3.2 Generating Social Media Data	149
7.4 Content Analysis: Description of Content and Interpretation for Relationships	150
7.4.1 Linking Research Design to Data Analysis as a Strategy	150
7.4.2 Coding and Category Formation for Analysis	151
7.4.3 Description of Content and Interpretation for Relationships	154
7.5 Presenting Social-Constructionism-Driven Qualitative Findings	155
7.6 Interim Conclusion: The Research Design and Methodological Approach for the Comparative Analysis	157
8 Research Findings: Comparative Analysis of the Construction of Diasporic Collective Identities of Communities from the Horn of Africa via TMC	159
8.1 Becoming a Diaspora, Communication Spaces, and Homeland Connection	159
8.1.1 Communicating Memories and Becoming a Diaspora	159

8.1.2	Self-definitions as per Diaspora and Disagreement Regarding the Term	166
8.1.3	Heterogeneity and Interests in the Diaspora Communities	173
8.1.4	Feeling “at Home” in Diasporic Communities and the Homeland Connection	179
8.2	Media and Content in <i>Virtuelle Öffentlichkeit</i> of the Diaspora	183
8.2.1	Preferences Regarding Public Virtual Spaces	184
8.2.2	Purposes of Preferring the Public Virtual Spaces	186
8.3	Content and Relationships in Public Virtual Communication of the Diaspora	189
8.3.1	Talking Politics of Homelands and of the Neighbors	189
8.3.2	Virtual Mobilization through Interaction for Communal Cohesion and Division	193
8.4	Consensus in Lieu of Discord Among the Diaspora Communities	204
8.4.1	Political Change and Rule of Law to Maintain <i>Eritreaweyan</i>	204
8.4.2	Unity to Maintain <i>Ethiopiawinet</i>	211
8.4.3	Self-determination and Secession to Maintain <i>Oromummaa</i>	217
8.4.4	Securing Peace and Emancipation from “Clan Supremacism” for <i>Somalinimo</i>	223
8.5	Discord in Lieu of Consensus Between the Diaspora Communities	231
8.5.1	Conflicting Memories on Geohistorical Narratives	233
8.5.2	The <i>Others</i> Political Discourse for the Deconstruction of Collective Identities	242
8.5.3	Symbolic Identity for the Deconstruction of Collective Identities	249
8.5.4	Interaction on the Cross-border Politics and Interests ...	255
8.5.5	Virtual Mobilizations and Alliances	266
8.5.6	Self-determination, Secession, and Sovereignty as a Remedy	273
8.5.7	Dialogue and Reconciliation as a Resolution	277

Contentsxi

9

Summary, Conclusion, Limitations, and Recommendations

279

9.1

Summary of Theoretical and Empirical Findings

279

9.2

Conclusion to the Research Findings

305

9.2.1

Content and Relationships in Answering
the Research Questions

306

9.2.2

Reflection on the Two Assumptions Under the Two
Forms of TMC

307

9.3

Limitations of the Study

309

9.3.1

Sample Strategy

309

9.3.2

Language of Data Collection

310

9.4

Recommendations

310

9.4.1

Further Research on the TMC of Diaspora
Communities from the Horn of Africa

311

9.4.2

Sampling Strategy and Language of Data Mining

311

9.4.3

Recommendations for Policymakers

312

References

313