Abstract
This article presents an analysis of the experiences, ideas, and social processes that shape the construction of ethnic and racial identities of the second-generation Zapotecs. This work concentrates on the experiences of the children of Yalálag Zapotec immigrants, henceforth, the second-generation Yalaltecos. The discussion that follows is divided into two sections. The first one explores second-generation Yalaltecos’ perceptions of ethnic identity based on their identification with two national identities: the Mexican and the American. The second section focuses on the construction of identity as it refers to ethnicity and race. A major argument leads the discussion here: while second-generation Yalaltecos are becoming Americans by being Mexican Americans, their sense of identification as Yalálag Zapotecs or Yalaltecos is the weakest among the others: Mexican, American, Mexican American, and Oaxaqueños.

Keywords
Yalálag Zapotec immigrants, Mexican Americans, First & Second Generation Immigration