Name

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Course

Date

Informative Speech on the History of Tattoos

The history of tattoos can be traced back 5000 years ago when they were initiated. Afterward, they were spread across various countries with the intent of allowing people from various communities to demonstrate their varying cultures. While the creation of the tattoos may be accidental where people discovered permanent marks on the body while cleaning wounds with ashes and soot from fires, they realized how people were strongly attached to these marks. Currently, the practice has become common as people get tattooed across the world. Once tattooed the mark stays on the body permanently (Laumann, Anne, and Nicolas). No evidence has been put in place in regards to erasing the mark. When discussing this topic, it is necessary to understand its content. Therefore, people should learn that tattoos are permanent body art forms. In my speech, I am going to inform my readers about the history of tattoos by identifying the person who discovered the art, its acceptance rates, stigmatization against people who embrace this idea.

**History**

The history of tattoos, specifically human tattoos dates back between 3100 BC and 3370 BC. Otzi the Iceman is believed to be the first person to be seen with tattoos. His body had an aggregate of 61 tattoos in different sections. He had a naturally preserved and mummified body granting him as the oldest human mummy in Europe. While he was thought to be the first person to have these permanent scars, tattoos were still inexistent. Other ages and eras throughout history confirm a substantial and long history of tattooing (Hunter). The evidence can be traced from more than 49 different locations across the world where there is a discovery of tattooed remains and mummies. Some of these locations are Egypt, China, Alaska, the Philippines, and Greenland alongside other regions.

Various theories are behind the idea of the newly-evident skin tattoos that were discovered during ancient civilization. These theories highlight the cultures and the sites of the civilizations regarding tattoos. One of the theories that focus on China and Asia is connected to the ancient Chinese literature that considered folk heroes and bandits to having tattoos. The theory also clarifies that people with these permanent scars, especially on their faces were convicted criminals who could not be trusted (Hunter) (Gabriele). This was also somewhat similar to Greece and Rome as people with tattoos were thought to be criminals and war prisoners. Another theory on tattoos focused in Egypt illustrated that tattoos on mummies were designed for decoration. Research done by Daniel Fouquet concluded that tattoos in ancient Egypt were meant for medical treatment.

Tattoos started becoming common during the mid-20th century. This was the time when people from various communities began embracing the art. Its acceptance by society has seen its transformation marked with popular styles. For instance, they began serving as ink for entertainment. An example of a person who used tattoos as entertainment was John O’Reilly, a tattooed Irishman who had various complicated tattoos covering his body. Emma de Burgh is another person who tattooed her body for entertainment, she works with her husband who also had a tattooed body. They used tattoos to stimulate their performance within Europe, and this influenced the popularity of their performance across the region (Gabriele). The transformation of the tattoos over the years was because of their varied implications. For instance, during 1920, tattoos were a form of popular makeup on women who would tattoo their faces with the trending makeups. However, throughout the 1950s these permanent marks served as a symbol of masculinity.

While tattoos embodied a dedicated celebration towards a specific culture and significant endurance, it was met with stigmatization. People with tattoos are currently stigmatized across the world and the workplace is not an exception. This also accounts for why it is difficult for people with tattooed bodies to secure jobs. Stigmatization prompts stereotyping, and this demonstrates why people associated the people with tattooed bodies with certain identities (Laumann, Anne, and Nicolas, p.16). For instance, most employers are reluctant to employ people with these permanent scars because they feel that they are not classy, unprofessional, distracting, and inappropriate. This makes us reflect on the history of tattoos. As said earlier, people with tattooed bodies were thought to be criminals and sailors and these stereotypes are still common today.

**Conclusion**

As I conclude, I want to remind you that Tattoos are an intrinsic part of various cultures. While some people, especially women may use it as a decoration, others specifically men would use them to demonstrate their masculinity. Tattoos have a fascinating history. History confirms that they were discovered by people who used ashes and soot from fires to clean the wound. Times have changed and paper to have changed their perceptions towards people with tattooed bodies. They tend to associate them with bandits and criminals.

Works Cited

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