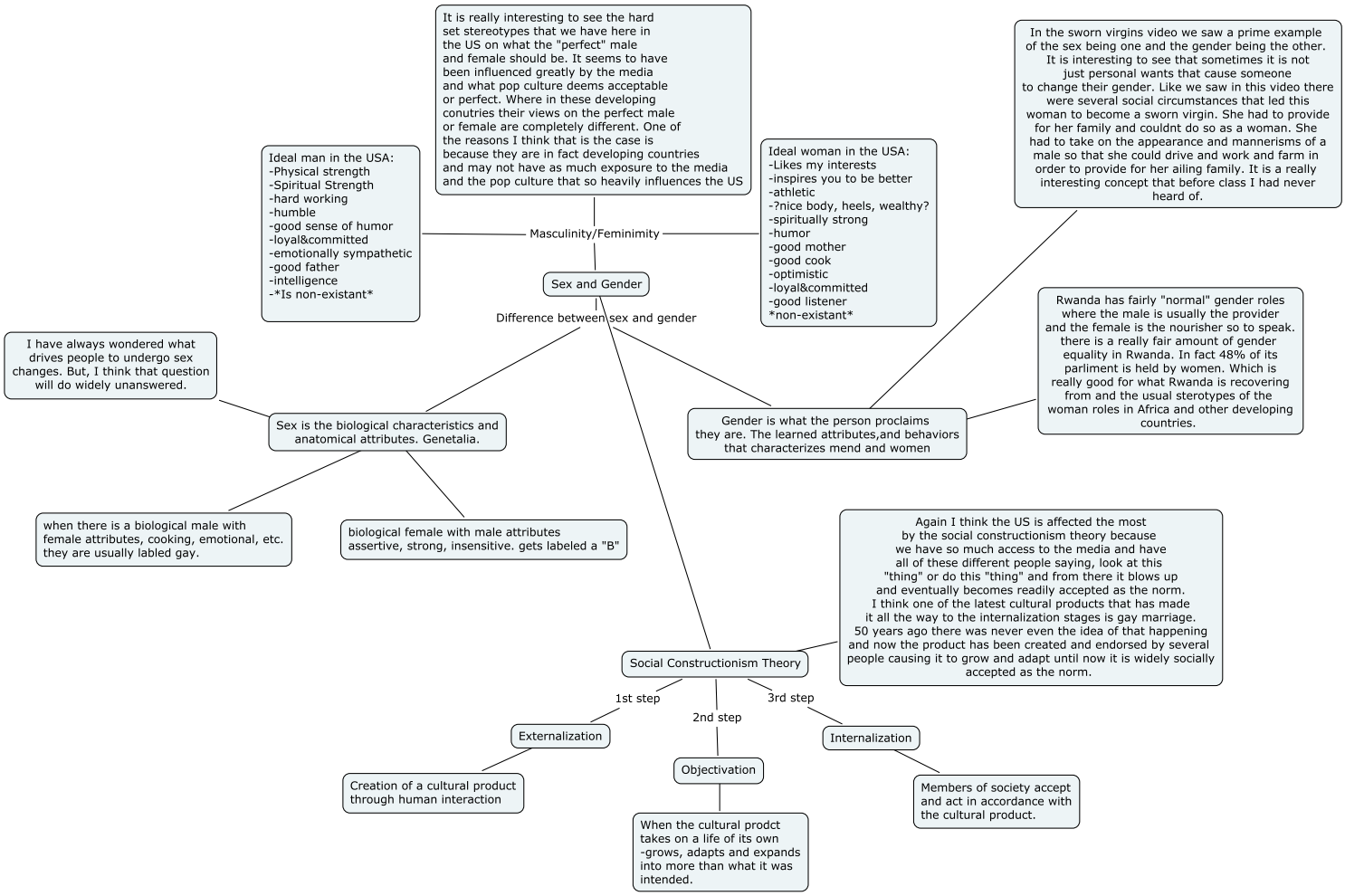
It is really interesting to see the hard set stereotypes that we have here in the US on what the "perfect" male and female should be. It seems to have been influenced greatly by the media and what pop culture deems acceptable or perfect. Where in these developing conutries their views on the perfect male or female are completely different. One of the reasons I think that is the case is because they are in fact developing countries and may not have as much exposure to the media and the pop culture that so heavily influences the US
Ideal man in the USA:
-Physical strength
-Spiritual Strength
-hard working
-humble
-good sense of humor
-loyal&committed
-emotionally sympathetic
-good father
-intelligence
-*Is non-existant*
Masculinity/Feminimity
Ideal woman in the USA:
-Likes my interests
-inspires you to be better
-athletic
-?nice body, heels, wealthy?
-spiritually strong
-humor
-good mother
-good cook
-optimistic
-loyal&committed
-good listener
non-existant
In the sworn virgins video we saw a prime example of the sex being one and the gender being the other. It is interesting to see that sometimes it is not just personal wants that cause someone to change their gender. Like we saw in this video there were several social circumstances that led this woman to become a sworn virgin. She had to provide for her family and couldnt do so as a woman. She had to take on the appearance and mannerisms of a male so that she could drive and work and farm in order to provide for her ailing family. It is a really interesting concept that before class I had never heard of.
Sex and Gender
Difference between sex and gender
I have always wondered what drives people to undergo sex changes. But, I think that question will do widely unanswered.
Sex is the biological characteristics and anatomical attributes. Genetalia.
Gender is what the person proclaims they are. The learned attributes,and behaviors that characterizes mend and women
Rwanda has fairly "normal" gender roles where the male is usually the provider and the female is the nourisher so to speak. there is a really fair amount of gender equality in Rwanda. In fact 48% of its parliment is held by women. Which is really good for what Rwanda is recovering from and the usual sterotypes of the woman roles in Africa and other developing countries.
when there is a biological male with female attributes, cooking, emotional, etc. they are usually labled gay.
biological female with male attributes assertive, strong, insensitive. gets labeled a "B"
Again I think the US is affected the most by the social constructionism theory because we have so much access to the media and have all of these different people saying, look at this "thing" or do this "thing" and from there it blows up and eventually becomes readily accepted as the norm. I think one of the latest cultural products that has made it all the way to the internalization stages is gay marriage. 50 years ago there was never even the idea of that happening and now the product has been created and endorsed by several people causing it to grow and adapt until now it is widely socially accepted as the norm.
Social Constructionism Theory
1st step
2nd step
3rd step
Externalization
Objectivation
Internalization
Creation of a cultural product through human interaction
When the cultural prodct takes on a life of its own -grows, adapts and expands into more than what it was intended.
Members of society accept and act in accordance with the cultural product.