

## **Part II**

# **Data Analysis: Hearing the Voices of Persons From Culturally Diverse Families**

As I have shown in the two previous chapters, the experiences of multi-cultural individuals can be daunting. Persons who are “different” are not always received hospitably by those around them. What is it like to be placed in this situation? More critically, what is it like to grow up in an environment in which many of the people you encounter consider you to be odd at best, or evil at worst? The only way to understand the perspective of people in this situation is to hear their voices. In this section, we will do exactly that: hear the voices of people from diverse cultural backgrounds, and attempt to understand the experience of growing up in a culturally diverse environment.

The section will be divided into five chapters. In Chapter 3, I will introduce the respondents in the study who described their multi-cultural childhoods. Chapter 4 will focus on the problems they described and will attempt to classify them into types. Chapter 5 will focus on a major dimension of multi-culturalism: the need to reach a sense of identity – a sense of “who I am” – in the face of many other people who are demonstrably different. Chapter 6 focuses on the social environment and its impact on the problems of multi-cultural individuals, and shows how their experiences varied greatly, depending on the setting in which they lived as they were growing up. Finally, Chapter 7 will focus on the families in which these multi-cultural respondents lived: How did these families cope with the environment? Were they able to raise their children to be healthy and productive individuals, in spite of the often inhospitable social environments in which they lived? What was useful and what was not?