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I'm Elisa Sorbello, an international relations student from Pisa. Upon arrival at the workshop, my intention was to explore how economic and social conditions influence people's opportunities. Since poverty is an ongoing issue, I wanted to deepen my understanding, particularly because this topic intersects various fields such as economics, politics, culture, and sociology.

In my opinion, the workshop was extremely interesting and exceeded my expectations. Through group activities, I was able to explore the topic from different perspectives, significantly expanding my knowledge.

The first working group focused on how media outlets portray poverty. When describing an event or situation, it can be portrayed positively or negatively, reflecting a specific viewpoint rather than an objective truth. The social construction of poverty heavily depends on perception and political discourse. Newspapers and media play a crucial role in shaping narratives through language, influencing whether poverty is seen negatively or sympathetically.

Following this idea of media influence, we analyzed several articles discussing Latin America, written predominantly by Western journalists. These articles frequently adopted a paternalistic tone, portraying Latin America as disadvantaged and in need of help, while positioning Western countries as benevolent and charitable. Specific language was used to evoke particular emotions, especially fear. Another notable aspect was the reliance on extensive data to lend greater credibility and authority to their arguments.

The second group took a more sociological and sociolinguistic approach, discussing migration—a topic that has recently become particularly interesting to me. This discussion significantly enhanced my understanding of migration, a crucial issue on both EU and national agendas.

There is a widespread fear surrounding migration among Europeans. African migration, for example, is often simplistically viewed as driven solely by poverty. However, this overlooks the phenomenon known as "brain drain," where highly educated and skilled individuals leave their home countries seeking better living and working conditions abroad. Interestingly, this is precisely what many young people from my country, Italy, are doing. Yet, as Europeans, our actions are often perceived positively—as brave efforts to improve ourselves, unlike migrants from poorer regions who are viewed negatively.

Undoubtedly, poverty and migration are interconnected, fueling societal fears that newcomers either take away jobs or add to pockets of poverty. This idea suggests

that an influx of migrants inevitably means someone else must become impoverished.

These days at the workshop were intense but incredibly rewarding. Initially, I hadn't fully recognized how relevant the topic of poverty was to my academic interests. I assumed it was mainly about the economic divide between rich and poor countries, but I now understand its broader implications, especially in relation to migration. This workshop proved exceptionally beneficial, allowing me to uncover new dimensions of poverty and greatly expand my understanding.