The Acculturation of Taiwanese Exchange Students in the United States

Annie (Ya-Ping) Lee, National Chengchi University¹
Lienti Bei, National Chengchi University²
Sharon A. DeVaney, Purdue University³

The purpose of this phenomenological study was to examine the acculturation of Taiwanese students who attended universities in the U.S. as exchange students. Hofstede’s four dimensions of culture provided the conceptual framework for the study. Interviews with eight students revealed a low power distance between American professors and students, American students were more relaxed in regard to uncertain situations, students competed as teams, on class projects, and in other ways, and participation in class reflected individualistic behavior. Some exchange students were anxious in the beginning but all said they adjusted to the Socratic learning method and performed well.

Endnotes

¹ Annie (Ya-ping) Lee, MBA, National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan, ann1210@ms17.hinet.net
² Lienti Bei, Ph.D, National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan, lienti@nccu.edu.tw
³ Sharon A. DeVaney, Ph.D., Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, sdevaney@purdue.edu