

# **Comparing Attitudes of Chinese Students when Entering English-medium and Chinese-medium universities on the Chinese Mainland**

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## **Littlewood's Three Hypotheses and Ten Predictions Concerning Learner Autonomy in East Asian Contexts (from Littlewood 1999)**

Hypothesis One – 'East Asian learners see themselves as interdependent with other students'

*Prediction One* – 'East Asian students will have a strong inclination to form in-groups which work toward common goals.'

*Prediction Two* – '(They) will be eager to engage in activities which involve discussion in groups.'

*Prediction Three* – '(They) will be concerned to maintain harmony within their groups.'

*Prediction Four* – 'In the open classroom, (they) will be reluctant to 'stand out' by expressing their views or raising questions.'

Hypothesis Two – 'East Asian learners are strongly aware of status differences in the classroom'

*Prediction Five* – 'They will perceive the teacher as an authority figure whose superior knowledge and control over classroom events should not be questioned.'

*Prediction Six* – '(They) will see knowledge as something to be transmitted by the teacher rather than discovered by the learners.'

*Prediction Seven* – '(They) will see the teacher, as the holder of authority and knowledge, to be responsible for the assessment of learning.'

Hypothesis Three – 'East Asian students are ambitious to achieve and prepared to put a lot into their learning'

*Prediction Eight* – '(They) will show strong motivation to follow through learning tasks which have been set, provided they see the practical value of those tasks.'

*Prediction Nine* – '(Their) motivation will be strengthened when success contributes to the goals or prestige of significant in-groups.'

*Prediction Ten* – '(They will be) very concerned to perform well and correctly in what they do in class.'

## **Adaptation of the Ten Predictions for the Survey Questionnaire**

### *Prediction One*

I like activities where I am part of a group which is working toward common goals.

I like activities where I am working on my own, working toward goals I have decided myself.

### *Prediction Two*

I like to take part in activities which involve discussion within a group.

I like to take part in activities which involve the entire class, such as listening to the teacher.

### *Prediction Three*

When I am working in a group, I like to help keep a sense of harmony within the group.

When I am in a group, I believe it is important to evaluate ideas and opinions (both my own and those of others), even if I disagree with other people from time to time.

### *Prediction Four*

When I am in a class, I hesitate offering my own opinions or asking questions because I am afraid of 'standing out'.

I believe it is important to ask questions and offer my own opinions in class.

### *Prediction Five*

My classroom teacher is the most important language learning resource I have.

I can use many resources for my language learning – my classroom teacher is one of them.

### *Prediction Six*

I believe that knowledge is something which is 'transmitted' by the teacher.

I believe that knowledge is something which I, as a learner, should 'discover'.

### *Prediction Seven*

I expect the teacher to evaluate how much I have learnt.

I expect to evaluate myself on how much I have learnt.

### *Prediction Eight*

I am motivated to complete a learning task when it is clear to me that it has some practical benefit for me.

I am motivated to complete a learning task if it is interesting, even if it is not clear how it is beneficial to me.

### *Prediction Nine*

I am motivated to work hard when my own success contributes to the prestige of other people who are important to me, such as my family or a group of which I am a member.

I am motivated to work hard when my own success contributes to my learning.

### *Prediction Ten*

In the classroom, it is important to me that I perform well and correctly in the things I do

I believe making an effort in class is the most important factor in classroom participation, even if that means I make mistakes or errors from time to time.