

Support international student's wellbeing by understanding the culture and language differences

focus on the Chinese student cohort

Nick Ko – Deakin University

Jack Yang – Bridging Translation



DEAKIN
UNIVERSITY



BRIDGING
TRANSLATION

The works of an interpreter





HAVE YOU EATEN?



Difficulties for Chinese students to adjust to Australian Culture

Around 28% Chinese international students in Deakin. Similar ration across Australia.

Some common issues we see students encounter:

- Language difficulties
- Social behaviour differences
- Network of support
- Adjustment to style of teaching



We will discuss the areas in:

1. Factors affecting the use of language
2. Language Proficiency
3. Transitioning and Mental Wellbeing





1. FACTORS AFFECTING THE USE OF LANGUAGE

1. Factors affecting the use of language

PRESSURE

- Source of pressure
- They understand you, but can't express their thoughts in English due to pressure



1. Factors affecting the use of language

CULTURE DIFFERENCES

- Saying “huh?” than “Pardon” or “Excuse Me”?
- Always address tutors / staff as “Teacher” to show respect



1. Factors affecting the use of language

CULTURE DIFFERENCES

- The way students interact with tutors / staff
 - Does not use greetings such as “How are you”, “Please”, etc.
 - I want...



A photograph of two men sitting in a cafe. The man on the left is wearing a checkered shirt and has a laptop on his lap. The man on the right is wearing a grey t-shirt and jeans. They are both smiling and appear to be in conversation. In the background, there are other people working at tables and a chalkboard with some text and a ship's wheel drawing.

2. Language Proficiency

2. Language Proficiency

**DO ALL OVERSEAS STUDENTS HAVE
PERFECT ENGLISH SKILLS?**



2. Language Proficiency

Direct Translation

- Next next week
- Open / Close the light
 - Play with you
 - No Why



2. Language Proficiency



BODY LANGUAGE



2. Language Proficiency



What do you see?





3. TRANSITIONING AND MENTAL WELLBEING

3. Transitioning and Mental Wellbeing

IT WON'T BE AN INSTANT CHANGEOVER

- It takes time
- Every student is different
- Familiarity helps with the mental wellness



3. Transitioning and Mental Wellbeing

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Pre-departure
- Orientation
- Easing into the Australian way
- Post orientation
- Staff awareness



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QUESTIONS?

