

**A PLACE WHERE CULTURES INTERLACE:  
AN INTERVIEW STUDY OF PERCEPTION AND  
INCOMPREHENSION TOWARD CULTURAL  
IDENTIFICATION AT WENZAO URSULINE UNIVERSITY  
OF LANGUAGES, TAIWAN**

By

**Adelynn Belicia Sinaga**

辛立霞

Submitted to the Faculty of  
Department of International Affairs in partial fulfillment of  
the requirements for the degree of  
Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs

Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages

2024

WENZAO URSULINE UNIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

This senior paper was presented

by

Adelynn Belicia Sinaga

辛立霞

It was defended on

November 16, 2024

and approved by

Reviewer 1: Philipp Fluri, Visiting Professor, Department of International Affairs

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer 2: Yuan-Ming Chiao, Assistant Professor, Department of International Affairs

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: Mark W. Lai, Associate Professor, Department of International Affairs

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright © by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga 辛立霞

2024

**A Place Where Cultures Interlace:  
An Interview Study of Perception and Incomprehension Toward Cultural Identification  
at Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, Taiwan**

Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, B.A.

Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, 2024

**Abstract**

With the growth of the education system and its rising popularity for offering quality education, Taiwan has become a popular choice for international students from various countries to pursue their studies abroad. This also happens at Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, located in southern Taiwan, the country's second-largest city, Kaohsiung, where many international students begin their academic journeys. This study explores the perceptions and challenges of cultural identification at Wenzao University, focusing on how cultural differences create opportunities for mutual understanding and barriers to communication, affecting students' academic journey, social interactions, and sense of identity. Using open-ended, in-depth interviews method with both local and international students, the researcher examines how cultural connections form, uncovering perceptions, stereotypes, and misunderstandings that emerge in this diverse campus. The author engages directly with students to understand their experiences and confirms the findings through discussions with professors at the university. By exploring these experiences, the research aims to show that cultural diversity is not a threat but a learning opportunity in a globalized academic environment and offers insights into creating greater inclusion.

**Keywords: international students in Taiwan, cross-cultural communication, cultural perception and incomprehension, globalized higher education**

文化交織的地方：

文化認同之感受與理解

在台灣文藻外語大學的訪談研究

Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, B.A.

文藻外語大學, 2024

### 摘要

由於其教育體系的成長以及受到好評的高品質教育，台灣成為國際學生尋找求學機會的重要選擇，文藻外語大學就是其中之一。文藻外語大學位在南台灣，全國第二大都市高雄，過去幾年，許多國際學生在這裡開始了他們的學術路程。本研究探詢學生們在文藻大學對於文化認同的感受與挑戰，主要專注於文化差異如何開創機會增進互相理解並製造溝通障礙、由此影響了學生的學術路程、社會互動、以及認同的感知。使用了深入且無設定的針對台灣當地與外籍學生的訪談研究，作者審視文化連接形式重新發現了在校園內出現的感受、成見、與誤解。作者直接與學生交談以理解他們的經驗並且確認了與學校教授討論之後的心得。藉由探詢這些經驗，研究者試圖展現出全球學術環境下的文化多元性對於學習機會並非威脅，本研究提供建議以創造更大的包容性。

**關鍵字：** 國際學生在台灣、跨文化溝通、文化感受與理解、全球化高等教育。

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	1
Background .....	1
Motivation .....	4
Research Purpose .....	4
Research Question.....	5
Significance.....	5
Limits .....	5
LITERATURE REVIEW .....	7
Stereotype, Perspective, and Cultural Identification.....	7
Perception towards People from Other Countries.....	9
Discrimination and Racism towards People from Other Countries .....	11
The Concept of Culture .....	15
The Relations Between Culture and its Components.....	16
Summary .....	18
METHODOLOGY .....	19
Research Design.....	19
Research Process .....	20
Sources of Data .....	21
Data Collection.....	21
DATA ANALYSIS.....	23
Reporting Data .....	23
Decision-Making Process.....	24
Life in Wenzao University .....	26
Cultural Gap .....	29
The Biggest Obstacle in Communication: Language Barrier .....	33
Cultural Differences: A Lesson, Not a Threat.....	36
Discrimination Exists: Unveiling the Reality.....	40

Key Steps in Cross-Cultural Understanding .....	43
CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.....	46
Bibliography .....	48
APPENDIX A.....	51
INTERVIEW QUESTIONS .....	51
Interview Questions for Wenzao Student Interviewee .....	51
Interview Questions for Wenzao Professor Interviewee .....	53
APPENDIX B .....	55
CONSENT FORM.....	55
APPENDIX C .....	56
INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT .....	56
Interview Transcript with Wenzao Professor 1 .....	56
Interview Transcript with Wenzao Professor 2.....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student 1.....	71
Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student 2.....	82
Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student 3.....	97
Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student 4.....	107
Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student 5.....	120
Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student 6.....	147
Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student 7.....	159
Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student 8.....	172

## List of Table

Table 1. Interviewee List .....	22
---------------------------------	----



## List of Figure

Figure 1. International Students' Country of Origin in Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages .....	3
Figure 2. Illustration by Guérin-Méneville from Dictionnaire pittoresque d'histoire naturelle et des phénomènes de la nature 1838.....	13
Figure 3. International Students from English Speaking and Non-English Speaking Countries in Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages .....	34

# INTRODUCTION

## Background

Taiwan is renowned for its friendliness and open culture towards foreigners, particularly international students seeking to pursue education in Taiwan. Citing data from the Foundation for International Cooperation in Higher Education in Taiwan (FICHET), based on their survey conducted during 2022-2023, and with 9 options for motives of studying in Taiwan, 44.9%—which represents the highest percentage of choices—of respondents selected "friendly and welcoming culture" as their reason for studying in Taiwan.<sup>1</sup> In addition to Taiwan's openness to foreigners especially to international students, scholarships also serve as one of the reasons Taiwan has become one of the top destination lists for those pursuing higher education. Because of the implementation of government programs from last September 2023, the distribution of scholarships toward international students has also been increased as part of their goal to encourage international students to stay in the country and attract 320,000 international students to pursue higher education in Taiwan by 2030.<sup>2</sup> This fact encourages international students to remain in Taiwan to continue their studies and pursue further careers.

Diverse options of cities and universities become one of the struggles for soon-to-be international students, which one will be their new home. One globally renowned university stands out as a top destination known for its distinguished history. Located

---

<sup>1</sup> Foundation for International Cooperation in Higher Education in Taiwan (FICHET), "2022-2023 Study in Taiwan Survey Report - 財團法人高等教育國際合作基金會," *www.fichet.org.tw*, March 6, 2023, <https://www.fichet.org.tw/en/news/1/1225>.

<sup>2</sup> Kayleigh Madjar, "Many Foreign Students Want to Work in Taiwan - Taipei Times," *www.taipeitimes.com*, January 4, 2024, <https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2024/01/04/2003811587>.

in southern Taiwan, a city known as "The Harbor City" serves as one of the destinations for international students to pursue their studies. The city is called Kaohsiung City. Located in the heart of the city, Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages stands as Taiwan's first institution of higher education dedicated exclusively to the instruction of foreign languages, founded in 1966 under the auspices of the Ursulines of the Roman Union of the Order of St. Ursula, stands as a globalized campus, serving as a home for international students and a center for multiculturalism.<sup>3</sup>

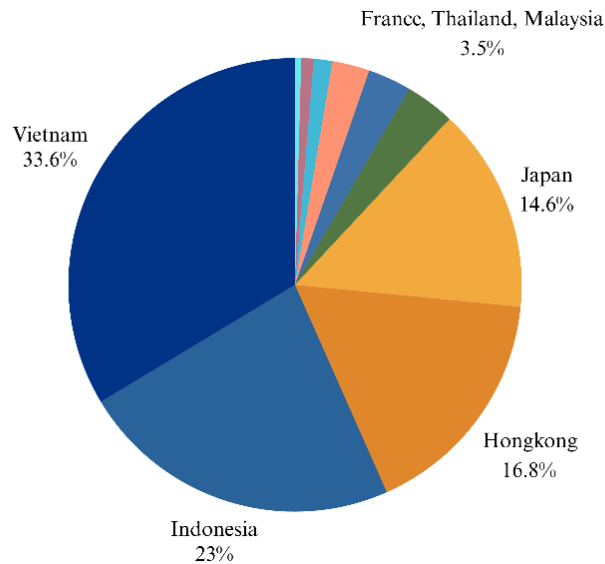
With a substantial presence of international students from nearly every corner of the globe, this campus serves as a platform for the exchange of information and knowledge among diverse cultures. The culture mentioned here does not pertain solely to the arts, crafts, and similar aspects of a country; rather, it encompasses the cultural identity of a group of people representing their nation, serving as a benchmark for others regarding the cultural heritage of individuals or groups and their respective home countries.

The table below highlights the number of international students in Taiwan and their respective countries of origin. Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages hosts students from 40 different countries, making it a hub for cultural exchange and interaction. According to data from the 112-2 academic year, Vietnam has the highest number of international students with 76, followed by Indonesia with 52, Hong Kong with 38, and Japan with 33. France, Thailand, and Malaysia each have 8 students enrolled. Other countries, such as the United States, Italy, India, the Philippines,

---

<sup>3</sup> Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, “文藻外語大學,” *a001.wzu.edu.tw*, 2015, <https://a001.wzu.edu.tw/english/briefHistory.html>.

Germany, the Netherlands, and South Africa, contribute between 1 to 6 students each, showcasing a diverse international presence at the university.



*Figure 1. International Students' Country of Origin in Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages*

*(Organized by Author)*

*(Source: Wenzao, Section of Overseas Student Affairs (SOSA))*

In this paper, the author aims to understand cultural awareness among international students on this campus and their perspectives along with stereotypes about cultures and other countries. The author also aims to ascertain the cultural identifications held by international students and the cultures they bring and shape in Taiwan, thus potentially shaping perceptions among various groups, including fellow international students, faculty, local people/community, and even those beyond the campus community.

## **Motivation**

To identify someone as a whole is the easiest way to take a guess and put on a stereotype of what a country is or should be like. Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages as a globalized campus and as the center of multiculturalism, should have a narrower, broader, and more in-depth perspective of stereotyping and identifying one as a culture. As an international student who is involved in engaging with other international students from all over the world, having opinions about other countries without knowing much about them is like being lost in a maze.

In today's era where education is an accessible matter for students, especially for those pursuing higher education, helping everyone feel included and appreciated no matter where they're from breaking down stereotypes, and encouraging everyone to explore different ways of seeing other cultures is not a difficult thing. This campus can be a place where we celebrate our differences, learn from each other, and get ready to be part of a global community.

## **Research Purpose**

The purpose of this study is to see how cultural identification occurs in today's world and to identify different groups' points of view of other countries or representatives' cultures, behaviours, and lifestyles.

Furthermore, through the presence of this paper, a fresh perspective and understanding regarding cultural identification and the issues experienced by students of a globalized campus will be raised as an example, to recognize mutual understanding and appreciate cultures of other countries or individuals whom we may have previously misinterpreted.

## **Research Question**

In this paper, the author will ask a question related to the cultural awareness among international students in a globalized campus and their perspectives along with stereotypes about cultures and other countries:

How does a variety of international students in a multicultural society see, understand, and deal with other cultures from a stereotypical perspective?

## **Significance**

Many individuals, including university students, study culture and cultural identification. However, without realizing it, when confronted with real-life situations despite the existing theories, elements of misunderstanding and negative prejudices frequently arise towards an individual or group, especially when they represent a particular country. Through this paper, the author aims to unravel prejudices and misunderstandings, aiding fellow global citizens in achieving peace among races and cultures, while also working to break down stereotypes and encourage everyone to adopt diverse perspectives on the world. The author hopes that this globalized campus can serve as a space where people can celebrate their differences.

## **Limits**

Due to the author's limitations as a student, the author may have some difficulty in writing the paper because of time limitations the author has. This research is based on interviews/experiments with international students from all over the world, so the access to meet interviewees might be limited due to time and schedule differences.

### **Delimits**

Due to the author's limitations as a student, the study population may only be limited to 1-2 students of Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages as a representative of a specific country. These study populations were chosen since Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages is the representative of the so-called globalized campus and if the author needs to study the research in more than one university, it will be a boundary to produce a good outcome of research.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

### **Stereotype, Perspective, and Cultural Identification**

Culture has become a familiar term to the ears of globalized individuals, especially for students who are enrolled to study in a globalized campus, where interaction with other cultures is an integral part of daily life. In today's era, despite the ease of seeking and obtaining information through technology and the internet, one individual's knowledge of another country's culture, especially for students who interact daily with people from foreign countries, is often limited by the sources available online. They prefer to observe and draw conclusions from their own experiences, which is why stereotypes and perceptions exist.

Stereotypes can be defined as a generalized belief, meaning that a category is generalized and used as a representative to evaluate a large group of citizens such as a country, while in reality, that group of people does not represent the entire population. This belief can be observed through the use of words like "most," "many of," or "the majority" in a case where many people believe that it is natural so, stereotyping occurs when a perception of traits of a specific social group is formed.<sup>4</sup> For instance, in a globalized campus such as Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, it can be observed that stereotypes of students fall into several categories: intelligence, where international students from America and Europe are perceived as more intelligent due to their willingness to stand out from other students; personality, with students from the Philippines and Indonesia tending to be more friendly to other students; physical

---

<sup>4</sup> James W. Rinehart, "The Meaning of Stereotypes," *Theory into Practice* 2, no. 3 (June 1963): 136–43.



appearance, where students from Eswatini, with darker skin, attract the attention of Asian students more.

Along with the existence of stereotypes, perceptions toward someone or some groups also appear. Perception is often thought of as a brain system that is developed to show us what's true about things around us.<sup>5</sup> In other words, perception is a phenomenon that facilitates our interpretation or understanding of something, even though it may not represent the literal meaning. Stereotypes and perceptions that were made by social groups toward other social groups can form a rough visual of what someone or something is like.

With the existence of stereotypes toward a nation or population, followed by people's perceptions about particular individuals, the explanation of the existence of cultural identification and why it exists can be understood. Cultural identification is a process in which people differentiate and identify where a cultural element originates from and who are the subjects and culture itself plays a crucial role in presenting a perspective that every individual is unique and always interconnected.<sup>6</sup> A concept of cultural identification suggests that every social group should not prioritize their nationality but rather strive for equality in the form of social strata, social class, language, etc. This is also intertwined with having power and advantages, affected by close connections, and worked out through talking and understanding each other.

As the globalized campus continues to expand and the number of international students coming to Taiwan for studies increases, a growing chart of differences

---

<sup>5</sup> Gregory Hickok, "The Interface Theory of Perception: The Future of the Science of the Mind?," *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review* 22, no. 6 (September 21, 2015): 1477–79.

<sup>6</sup> D. A. Jameson, "Reconceptualizing Cultural Identity and Its Role in Intercultural Business Communication," *Journal of Business Communication* 44, no. 3 (July 1, 2007): 199–235.

becomes obvious, constituting a diversity that has never been exposed before, and these emerging identities will be recognized by other individuals or social groups. These identities evolve and will directly influence cultural practices such as daily life, student life, peer groups, and so forth, within social interactions that utilize specific cultural elements such as language, traditions, clothing styles, speech patterns, and other cultural components.<sup>7</sup>

### **Perception towards People from Other Countries**

When individuals or social groups are placed in a new environment where they are faced with various people from countries they have not encountered before, it is at that moment that they begin to form impressions and develop perceptions about individuals or social groups from those countries. We already know that what we see from one individual or social/cultural group does not represent the entire nation and population, but the perceptions we form and the stereotypes that arise depend on the cultural characteristics of the individual or social/cultural group in question. Perceptions of a country can become biased when they pay special attention to a feature that distinguishes their country from others.<sup>8</sup>

The argument talking about bias in the perception towards foreign nations can be found in a journal article by Michael A. Hogg, a British psychologist renowned for his work in social psychology. He serves as a Professor of Social Psychology in the Department of Psychology at Claremont Graduate University in Los Angeles and also

---

<sup>7</sup> Eduardo de Gregorio-Godeo and Ángel Mateos-Aparicio Martin-Albo, *Culture and Power* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014).

<sup>8</sup> Joseph P. Forgas and Michael O'Driscoll, "Cross-Cultural and Demographic Differences in the Perception of Nations," *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology* 15, no. 2 (June 1984): 199–222.

holds an honorary position as Professor of Social Psychology at the University of Kent in the UK. In his book "Social Identity Theory", the sub-category "Contemporary Social Psychological Theories", he explains a dynamic that becomes visible during the formation of perceptions about individuals belonging to a particular group (referred to as the ingroup) and individuals who do not perceive membership (referred to as the outgroup).<sup>9</sup> Individuals or social/cultural groups are more likely to appear more influential and powerful when they are included in particular groups; this is where the ingroup can be identified.<sup>10</sup> In contrast, the opposite occurs for the outgroup, where prejudice and discrimination are directed towards this group, manifesting in forms such as racial bias, negative stereotypes, and differential treatment.

In "Managing People's Values and Perceptions in Multicultural Organizations," Richard Holden (2001) addresses the challenges of managing diverse workforces, especially within multinational companies. Drawing on his experience as an HR director, Holden illustrates how cultural differences can create misunderstandings and divergent perspectives among employees, affecting organizational unity.<sup>11</sup> Holden's insights on managing diverse perceptions within organizations are highly applicable to academic settings like Wenzao University, where students from varied cultural backgrounds converge. His suggestions for addressing cultural misunderstandings through targeted training and cultivating an open-minded environment provide a framework for fostering a supportive academic atmosphere. This approach aligns with

---

<sup>9</sup> Dominic Abrams and Michael A Hogg, "Social Identifications," *Contemporary Social Psychological Theories*, June 7, 2006, 111–36.

<sup>10</sup> Jerry Z. Park et al., "Exceptional Outgroup Stereotypes and White Racial Inequality Attitudes toward Asian Americans," *Social Psychology Quarterly* 78, no. 4 (October 12, 2015): 399–411.

<sup>11</sup> Richard Holden, "Managing People's Values and Perceptions in Multi-Cultural Organisations," *Employee Relations* 23, no. 6 (December 2001): 614–26.

the goals of reducing miscommunication in multicultural educational settings by encouraging cultural awareness and adaptability, which can strengthen students' cultural identities and contribute to a more inclusive campus environment.

Not only that, there is an insight from ICERI (International Conference on Education, Research, and Innovation) in the journal by Alexandra-Monica Tama about “The Perception of the Other in Multicultural Classrooms: Cultural Stereotypes Reflected Through Language”, ICERI findings reveal that digital media, while crucial for intercultural communication, often exacerbates social exclusion, particularly among marginalized communities. Although digital platforms provide a space for identity expression and community-building, they can unintentionally reinforce biases rather than diminish them.<sup>12</sup> This dynamic presents a challenge in multicultural environments like universities, where digital communication is a central means for interaction, yet may lead to misinterpretations among culturally diverse students. Additionally, ICERI research emphasizes that digital literacy plays a big role in supporting inclusivity in academic and social spaces. On international campuses, students from various backgrounds depend on digital tools to connect and enhance cross-cultural understanding. However, disparities in access and literacy levels can lead to communication barriers, impacting perceptions and often leading to misunderstandings.

### **Discrimination and Racism towards People from Other Countries**

Racism is no longer an unfamiliar concept to cultural citizens, and it has become a common consumption every now and then. It has been previously discussed that

---

<sup>12</sup> Alexandra-Monica Toma, “THE PERCEPTION of the OTHER in MULTICULTURAL CLASSROOMS: CULTURAL STEREOTYPES REFLECTED through LANGUAGE,” *ICERI Proceedings*, November 1, 2023.

perceptions towards individuals or social/cultural groups might be biased, and the resulting impact could lead to the beginning of racism and discrimination within particular groups. Racism itself is defined as a disrespectful act indicating discrimination towards individuals or social/cultural groups of different races based on the belief that the race of the so-called discriminator is the most powerful.

A common attention-grabbing example that everyone is likely familiar with, and may have experienced or even been involved in, is the issue of racism based on skin color and race, which we commonly recognize as the distinction between black people and white people. In the book "Indigenous Races of the Earth; Or, New Chapters of Ethnological Inquiry; Including Monographs on Special Departments," it is written that in the 19th century, some Western scientists debated whether the intelligence of white races exceeded the black races' intelligence.<sup>13</sup> This debate was supported by an illustration from Guérin-Méneville's work, "Dictionnaire pittoresque d'histoire naturelle et des phénomènes de la nature," published in Paris in 1838 (located in the Natural History Museum Library, London), which depicted a significant contrast in the evolution of white races and black races. The illustration suggested that the skulls of black races more closely resembled those of monkeys than did those of white races and it later became a paradigm that in today's era, black races are perceived as less intelligent compared to white races.<sup>14</sup> However, the biological differences between these races were later found to be insignificant and not worth considering.

---

<sup>13</sup> Josiah C Nott, George R Gliddon, and Alfred Maury, *Indigenous Races of the Earth, Or, New Chapters of Ethnological Inquiry: Including Monographs on Special Departments of Philology, Iconography, Craniology, Palaeontology, Pathology, Archaeology, Comparative Geography, and Natural History* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1857).

<sup>14</sup> David Isaacs, "Racism or Racial Tolerance: Vive La Différence," *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health* 52, no. 5 (May 2016): 475–76.

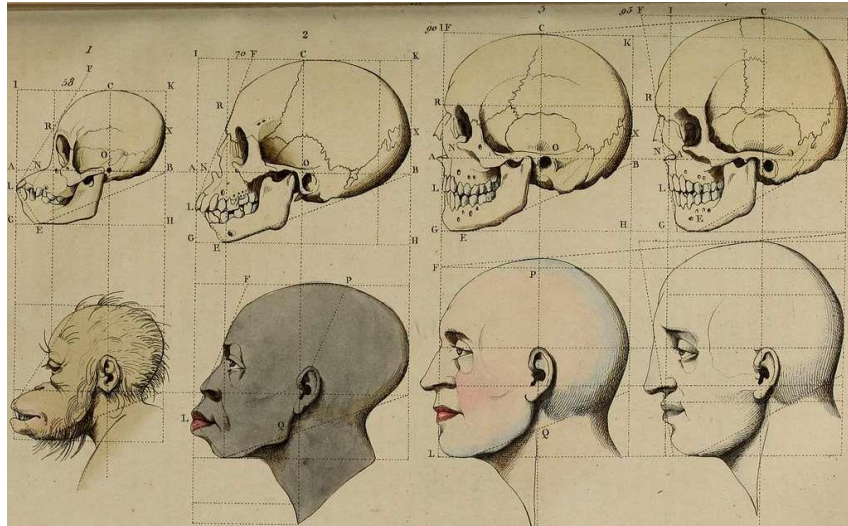


Figure 2. Illustration by Guérin-Ménéville from *Dictionnaire pittoresque d'histoire naturelle et des phénomènes de la nature* 1838

(Source: Internet Archive)

The issue of racism based on skin color and race not only covers issues regarding intelligence but also extends to slavery and even infectious diseases. Slavery can be considered a form of racism because, although not simply based on skin color, individuals or social groups typically subjected to slavery come from specific demographics. According to history, the enslavement of black races by white races represents a dark and long chapter of sorrowful history. Additionally, discrimination against black Americans and Australian Aborigines due to the paradigm that these particular groups are more vulnerable to viruses or diseases than white races become a subject of debate.<sup>15</sup> This phenomenon is caused by the infection within these particular groups is believed to happen because of the worsened social disadvantages. Justification or claims are not yet proven but it is significantly harmful to the psychological and mental well-being of those particular groups.

<sup>15</sup> Giovanna Campani, "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind Di Yuval Noah Harari, Harvill Secker, London, 2014," *DOAJ (DOAJ: Directory of Open Access Journals)*, July 1, 2018.

Discrimination and racism can have a significant impact on individuals and groups, particularly those from specific countries. These negative behaviours are often shaped by societal attitudes and stereotypes, leading to exclusion and microaggressions, especially in diverse settings like Wenzao University. It's important to recognize that such discrimination is often rooted in broader systemic issues rather than just individual biases.<sup>16</sup> Individuals or social groups that have experienced discrimination will develop feelings of isolation especially if they are minority groups, complicating their sense of cultural identity. Students may feel pressured to fit into the dominant culture, causing inner conflicts about who they are. As we all know already, discrimination and racism are pressing social problems that often show up as unfair treatment of people from certain countries or cultural backgrounds. These negative attitudes can form because of long-standing historical issues and societal stereotypes that unfairly label specific groups. It is shown in a journal by Roslyn Arlin Mickelson (2003) "When are Racial Disparities in Education the Result of Racial Discrimination? A Social Science Perspective" that social groups or communities frequently face not only obvious forms of discrimination—like being excluded from social opportunities—but also more subtle everyday biases, such as insults, casual prejudice, and social avoidance. These experiences can create significant obstacles to feeling accepted and integrated into society, which can seriously harm the mental health and well-being of those affected, especially in diverse environments like universities.<sup>17</sup> People from racialized backgrounds often encounter systemic biases that limit their access to education, jobs,

---

<sup>16</sup> Josephine Cornell and Shose Kessi, "Discrimination in Education," *Routledge EBooks*, July 14, 2021, 167–83.

<sup>17</sup> Roslyn Arlin Mickelson, "When Are Racial Disparities in Education the Result of Racial Discrimination? A Social Science Perspective," *Teachers College Record* 105, no. 6 (August 2003): 1052–86.

and representation in society. This kind of institutional discrimination reinforces negative stereotypes, making it even harder for these individuals to break free from cycles of disadvantage and even structural inequalities.

### **The Concept of Culture**

All the topics discussed regarding stereotypes, perspectives, and even discrimination leads to a central point, which is culture. Culture is the fundamental source from which these concepts emerge. Quoting from the book "Intercultural Communication" by Holliday, A. R. (1999), in the sub-chapter 'Small Cultures,' culture is distinguished between 'large' cultures—such as national or ethnic cultures—and 'small' cultures, which refer to the cultures of smaller, more specific social groupings like families, offices, or organizations.

Multicultural issues often require an understanding of various cultural contexts. By recognizing both large and small cultures, we can appreciate that culture is not confined to broad national or ethnic boundaries. Rather than seeing culture as a fixed set of traits associated with large ethnic or national groups, it is encouraged to see culture as fluid and dynamic, varying across different contexts and social/cultural groups. This perspective helps avoid stereotypes and acknowledges the complexity of cultural identities.<sup>18</sup> Not only that, multicultural issues often arise in various settings like workplaces, schools, or communities. Understanding that small cultures (such as those in hospitals, research groups, or offices) have their unique dynamics helps in addressing issues specific to these environments. It supports the idea that solutions to

---

<sup>18</sup> Adrian Holliday, Martin Hyde, and John Kullman, *Intercultural Communication: An Advanced Resource Book* (London: Routledge, 2004), 59–65.



multicultural challenges need to be tailored to the specific cultural context of each social/cultural groups.

Related to the author's topic, the setting in a school or university becomes an example of a small culture. There are undoubtedly many dynamics within the small culture of a university, especially if it is a globalized campus where representatives from numerous cultures gather in one place. Therefore, the solutions created must be tailor-made to relate and address the social/cultural groups' problems faced in this globalized campus. Recognizing the existence of small cultures within larger cultural frameworks assist in understanding how intercultural interactions occur on multiple levels. For instance, an individual's behaviour in a family setting might differ from their behaviour in a professional setting. Understanding these nuances is key to addressing multicultural issues comprehensively. Nonetheless, emphasizing both small and large cultures promote a new understanding that every social/cultural groups, regardless of size, contributes to the cultural fabric of society.

### **The Relations Between Culture and its Components**

The elements of culture and its components highlight the diversity within a region. Many people might deny engaging in or thinking racist thoughts or actions, justifying their behaviour in various ways. However, sooner or later, these actions will become a benchmark for how one social/cultural group treats other social/cultural groups. Research has shown that racism and discrimination have a long, dark history, which might have become part of an individual's identity. However, these can certainly be countered or eliminated because such behaviour is not appropriate. To encourage unity in a globalized world, understanding each culture is crucial. This can be achieved

through comprehensive education, which includes not only academic knowledge but also moral education and can be applied from the smallest scope, such as family and relatives.

The study by Graham et al. (1994) offers insights into the interplay of cultural dimensions within negotiation behaviours. Through their research involving participants from various cultures, they found that cultural factors shape approaches to negotiation, with distinct norms and values influencing behaviour patterns. These events show the importance of understanding specific cultural elements, such as individualism versus collectivism, that dictate interactional expectations.<sup>19</sup> Variations in these components lead to distinct approaches to authority and respect, shaping negotiation strategies in multicultural settings. This perspective supports the idea that understanding these cultural nuances is essential to prevent misunderstandings and foster successful cross-cultural interactions. Cultural identification at Wenzao University may similarly shape perceptions and interactions, where varying cultural norms may lead to challenges or enrichment in inter-student dynamics and cultural exchange.

It has also been known that language and culture are inseparable in forming social infrastructures. Language not only conveys cultural values and norms but also sustains a community's historical identity and worldview. The complex plays between language and culture shows that cultural identity is dynamic, evolving through daily interactions and shared symbols among community members. It is also mentioned in a journal by Sayed Aqa Musafar (2021) "Link between Language and Culture" that language operates as a key element of culture, acting as both a means of communication

---

<sup>19</sup> Helmy H. Baligh, "Components of Culture: Nature, Interconnections, and Relevance to the Decisions on the Organization Structure," *Management Science* 40, no. 1 (January 1994): 14–27.

and a carrier of cultural identity. In a higher-education setting, language's role as a cultural component becomes very important, especially in multicultural settings, like Wenzao University, where linguistic diversity can deepen cultural understanding or introduce challenges.<sup>20</sup>

### **Summary**

The theories have been revealed and come into practical insights into the challenges and opportunities within multicultural environments, specifically focusing on cultural identification, perception, and the impact of incomprehension. Some scholars may argue that while stereotypes can make group distinctions, they frequently obstruct authentic cultural understanding, especially when they are unconsciously ingrained and unchallenged. Cross-cultural communication is also a necessary skill within multicultural institutions, bridging gaps between diverse groups. It is important to engage cultural awareness and flexibility in fostering a respectful academic environment where students can learn from differences rather than perceive them as obstacles. In this research, I aim to explore whether there are additional insights to be gained from the diverse perspectives of people from various backgrounds. It is commonly observed that many individuals or social/cultural groups struggle to accept and integrate with new people from different countries. In today's world, where advanced technology is widely launched and used by many people, they are becoming more open-minded and progressive, blurring the lines of differences, it raises the question: will these differing views continue to persist?

---

<sup>20</sup> Sayed Aqa Musafer, "Link between Language and Culture," *International Journal of Advanced Academic Studies* 3, no. 2 (2021): 83–87.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The author seeks to gain a deeper understanding of various cultures by engaging with international students at Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages. Often, people form opinions about other countries without truly knowing them. The author aims to create an environment where everyone feels included, respected, and valued, regardless of their background. The goal is to establish a space where students can freely share their cultures and engage in open discussions. By doing so, the author hopes to dismantle stereotypes and encourage diverse perspectives. Understanding these interactions is crucial as they highlight the diversity of this globalized campus and help identify potential issues. This paper will emphasize the importance of multiculturalism in making the campus a place where differences are celebrated, mutual learning occurs, and students are prepared to join the global community.

### **Research Design**

The author will use an open-ended in-depth interviews method to collect data, to get in-depth information and understanding from a different student's perspective. This will examine how cultural diversity impacts individuals' perceptions of one another and how they interact with each other's cultures at Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages. The study focuses on the phenomenon of the increasing number of international students joining Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, leading to new dynamics where many cultures coexist. Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages serves as a multicultural center where various cultures intersect. The university hosts a diverse community with individuals from different backgrounds, each bringing and

integrating their national identities. This setting is ideal for studying cultural diversity and observing how different social groups respond to this environment.

### **Research Process**

The research will investigate the interactions and perceptions among international students from different countries or the so-called social groups. The study population to be researched are professors, local students, and international students enrolled in Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages. The sampling strategy which is a purposive sampling will be used to select individuals who are involved in the campus area and the sample size will include approximately 10-12 interviewees from different countries representing their countries, origin, and ethnicity.

Firstly, an in-depth interview of Wenzao student interviewees with the code WS will be conducted to collect detailed personal stories and insights. Secondly, an in-depth interview of Wenzao professor interviewees with the code WP will be conducted to gain deeper insights from professionals and to cross-check the accuracy of phenomena faced and shared by student interviewees. The interviews will be held at Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages or nearby locations like the library, open spaces, or coffee shops, and will be conducted in person. All sessions will be audio-recorded with the participant's consent.

## Sources of Data

The data for the interviews is collected from 8 students at Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages from various countries to represent their origin, followed by interview session with 2 professors at Wenzao University from Taiwan and Thailand, both professors are acknowledged as professional in the higher-education setting and are people who is more familiar with the campus setting and environment. While the specific questions may vary for each interviewee, they all center around the same theme of cultural identification which include cultural differences and perception at Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages. The interviews will be conducted both face-to-face and online platforms depending on the interviewee's circumstances.

## Data Collection

The interview questions were developed based on the literature review. English was used as the medium for the interviews, as it is the common language for daily communication. In late June, the author contacted the interviewees to schedule and confirm appointments for the interview sessions. The interviews were conducted from late June to September for data collection.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Year in</b>	<b>Field of</b>	<b>Interview</b>
<b>Name</b>				<b>School</b>	<b>Study/Major</b>	<b>Length</b>
						<b>(mins)</b>
WS1	Japanese	23	Female	Senior	English	56
WS2	Eswatini	21	Female	Sophomore	International Affairs	44
WS3	Indonesia	22	Male	Senior	International Affairs	31

WS4	France	21	Male	Junior	International Business Management	34
WS5	Taiwan	22	Male	Senior	Foreign Language Instructions	74
WS6	Honduras	22	Male	Sophomore	International Affairs	28
WS7	Vietnam	27	Female	Senior	English	51
WS8	Russia	23	Female	Senior	International Affairs	78
WP1	Taiwan	-	Male	Professor	International Affairs	15
WP2	Thailand	-	Male	Professor	Southeast Asian Study	29

*Table 1. Interviewee List*

All interview sessions were recorded and transcribed. A thorough review was conducted to ensure the accuracy of the transcriptions. The author then employed thematic analysis, organizing the data into codes to identify patterns within the research.

## **DATA ANALYSIS**

### **Reporting Data**

The author accommodated the interviewees' preferences for either face-to-face or online interviews due to factors such as their schedules and the different locations of both parties that are currently not in Taiwan during the summer vacation. As a result, in-person meetings were not always possible. However, when face-to-face interviews were conducted, locations close to or within the Wenzao University campus were chosen to create a conducive atmosphere for the interview.

There were 10 total interviewees with 8 Wenzao student interviewees from 8 different countries and 2 Wenzao professors from 2 different countries, carefully selected by the author to represent each continent. Although it is acknowledged that each country cannot fully represent its continent, the selection aimed to provide a broad range of perspectives and insights, particularly regarding local knowledge unique to their regions. All student interviewees were sophomores, juniors, or senior students, as freshmen were not chosen due to their lack of experience and familiarity with the academic and cultural environment. The author believes that students with more experience would be able to provide more valuable insights.

All interviews were audio-recorded, lasting between 20 to 70 minutes, with the consent of each participant. During the data collection process, the author ensured that the interviewees felt comfortable by engaging in casual conversation beforehand, discussing topics like their current activities and summer vacation. Recording began only once the atmosphere became more relaxed and less formal. To express appreciation, the author provided small gestures of hospitality, such as snacks, drinks, and walks with the interviewees, as a sign of respect and gratitude for their participation.



The interviewees appeared comfortable with the process, offering valuable insights and being highly responsive during the discussions.

The author believes that there are no right or wrong answers in these interviews, as most responses are based on the interviewees' personal experiences. The author validated each experience, whether positive or negative, as these represent the genuine feelings of the participants and cannot be judged or compared. However, in some cases, the author cross-checked certain experiences with other interviewees to see if they were aware of or had encountered similar situations. This approach helped to broaden the discussion and verify if certain events were commonly experienced among participants.

To support the making of data analysis, the author also makes the transcript from all the interview records to help the process of theme finding and to make it easier to compare and/or find similarities between all interviewees. Whilst transcribing the interview records and re-listening to them, the author finds some correlation between each person and also some phenomena that intertwine one culture or social group and another. Not only that, certain cultures, individuals, or social groups often hold varying perspectives, which, interestingly, resonate with different interviewees in separate interviews. In other words, there are some striking similarities shared by the interviewees, and they all seem to have experienced them unknowingly.

### **Decision-Making Process**

All of the student interviewees (except those from Taiwan) are currently enrolled as an international student and also identify themselves as international students pursuing their degree abroad, in this case at Wenzao University, Taiwan. Some interviewees see Taiwan as a country with a strong educational system, particularly due

to its well-structured academic programs and the availability of both public and private scholarships. Many chose to study abroad in Taiwan specifically to take advantage of these scholarships, offered either by the government or by campus institutions like Wenzao University, which provides attractive opportunities for international students. Additionally, Taiwan was selected by some interviewees because they wanted to experience something new that they couldn't find in their home countries. Among the interviewees, there were some differences in familiarity with Taiwan. Some were somehow already familiar with the country, having previously participated in student exchange programs or summer camps, or having relatives who had studied there. Others, however, knew about Taiwan only through information they found online.

For Taiwanese students, Wenzao University is recognized as a prestigious private institution with a strong reputation, particularly in language studies, as it is well-known for its language programs. However, despite its place as a prestigious private university, many local students consider Wenzao University as their second or even third choice, preferring to attend public universities in Taiwan. Due to insufficient grades or other factors, private universities often become a more suitable option for them. The author frequently engages with local students at Wenzao University, and many of them are genuinely interested in the majors, courses, and programs offered by Wenzao University, such as Foreign Language Instruction, International Affairs, and various language departments like German and English. While international students often find that Wenzao meets their expectations and provides the study-abroad experience they dream of, local students may not fully share the same sentiment or relate to this perspective.

“...To be honest, I would say Wenzao, because this is a private school. So if I want to say the impression of it, I would say the yeah, the cost of it is very high and...For the resources of the school is, pretty lame...And also there's a lot of

teacher, I think, I think because of our generation, the the young people, they don't. Like there's a lot of teenagers that are just being nonchalant right now, and so there's a lot of teacher, they don't put efforts and like put times into teaching students...”<sup>21</sup>

The author understands that one person’s experience cannot fully represent the entire population of local students. However, based on the author’s observations and classroom experiences over the three years of studying at this university, the statement made by WS5 holds true. It remains a mystery why some local students at private universities have a somewhat weird attitude, as is often observed at Wenzao University. From the author’s observations, it is indeed the case that some local students take the university as something unimportant and/or unnecessary task. Not only that, but some students leave the university, stating that they already have jobs or enough money to live on and consider completing their bachelor's degree and obtaining a diploma as unimportant, believing they will end up competing or working alongside those without a degree anyway.

### **Life in Wenzao University**

Like how college student life is supposed to be, there will be ups and downs while pursuing studies at a university. These challenges include not only academic problems but also non-academic issues such as friendships, relationships, adaptation, and many more. As expected, one of the most difficult aspects of entering a new environment is learning how to adapt. For local students, there may not be too many surprises other than adjusting to the specific environment which is the university environment itself or Kaohsiung city environment since local students who studied in

---

<sup>21</sup> WS5, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 5, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 11, 2024.

Wenzao University are not all originally from Kaohsiung but they came from other cities and county, as they are still in their home country. However, the experience is quite different for international students. In addition to adjusting to the new campus environment, they must also adapt to everything that comes with living in a new city and country, such as time differences, seasonal changes, language barriers, different lifestyles, and more. When we think about it, adapting to such a vastly different world can be extremely difficult for international students. However, in reality, this process is made easier thanks to the support and facilities provided by the university for international students. With the availability of English-taught programs at Wenzao University, which are an appealing option for international students, they can enjoy the learning facilities without the language barrier posed by Chinese, which is used in other departments. Even before the actual university experience begins, several organizations are already providing support to make it easier for international students to understand the process and help them transition smoothly until they set foot on the campus. Some of these organizations include the Ministry of Education (MOE) and Wenzao's Section of Overseas Student Affairs (SOSA).

From personal experience as an international student at Wenzao University, SOSA was incredibly helpful, especially during the initial arrival and adjustment to life in Taiwan and at Wenzao University. The author recalls back in 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic, how SOSA representatives assisted Indonesian international students, helping us coordinate a group arrival schedule, arranging bus rentals from Taoyuan Airport to Kaohsiung, booking quarantine hotels for three weeks, and basically helping us start life in a new country. Other than that, the department where the author is enrolled in, the Department of International Affairs, is incredibly supportive, with 99.9% of the people inside are able to speak English and offering

substantial help when it comes to the academic challenges faced by international students. Not only the author, but other international students also happen to share a mutual feeling.

“...So far we've been treated so good and anything we need. The school is just happy to help us. So, so far it's been good. It's been good...”<sup>22</sup>

“...It has ups and downs...If we're being frank here, Wenzao is lazying you down. So you become more relaxed, and then it's a bit hard to go back and become the person you were because it's so chill here...”<sup>23</sup>

Despite the support from organizations and the university, these efforts don't mean anything if the elements and components within the environment do not work together in harmony. In a multicultural environment like this, there are often new aspects or information that international students were previously unaware of, leading to intersections where different cultural components meet and contrast. From these interactions, new perspectives and perceptions are formed. Inside campus life, many challenges arise that make it difficult for students and social groups to coexist due to differences. However, some students and social groups take these differences as valuable lessons, using them as an opportunity to broaden their knowledge and view the world from new perspectives.

During their time at Wenzao University, both local and international students encounter new experiences unique to a higher education setting. Many student interviewees mentioned facing situations that they hadn't encountered in their home countries or at other universities, making these experiences new and sometimes challenging. These experiences often relate to interactions between students, such as working in groups, but also include adapting to campus life and its specific lifestyle.

---

<sup>22</sup> WS2, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 2, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 6, 2024.

<sup>23</sup> WS8, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 8, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 17, 2024.

“...I don't like working in groups with Taiwanese...most of them don't really care about their mark, while for me I it messes the marks because I have to keep my grades good so I can get my scholarship and everything...”<sup>24</sup>

“...If the class is in English, Taiwanese will tend to don't work that much...I have a bad experience...I work with them, and in fact, they just make their things in 5 minutes by using ChatGPT. And so for the presentation, obviously it was like kind of you give them the instructions, they don't obey to follow the instruction you give...”<sup>25</sup>

“...I feel kind of like highlighted... I'm not gonna lie, I like I like attention, yeah, so it doesn't feel bad. But too much attention also doesn't feel so good...”<sup>26</sup>

“...You can see that everyone is in the phones during the classes...I think like in Russia, we would also have like back rows only back rows... Yeah, this kind of stuff is everywhere I think, but predominantly like the whole class seating and being in the phone...”<sup>27</sup>

### **Cultural Gap**

It has been acknowledged that different countries will have different cultures and it will be brought everywhere by the person who goes around. The same phenomena also happen at Wenzao University when a lot of social groups from different countries come and bring their own cultures and beliefs and use them as their attributes as if it is a clothing attributes. However, the desire to change and fit in is bound to arise. For example, following fashion trends, someone might want to look like people in Korea or Japan and change their appearance to resemble those cultures. Similarly, a fair-skinned person might want a tanned complexion and change their appearance to have a more exotic look. But the question is, should we abandon the attributes we already have and replace them with something new, or should we adapt certain attributes according to the situation and condition? For some people, including

---

<sup>24</sup> WS2, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 2, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 6, 2024.

<sup>25</sup> WS4, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 4, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 11, 2024.

<sup>26</sup> WS6, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 6, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 13, 2024.

<sup>27</sup> WS8, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 8, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 17, 2024.

international students at Wenzao University, it is difficult to let go of their cultural attributes to fit into this new environment. The opposite also occurs, where individuals and social groups with different cultures prefer to hold onto their own without any desire to learn about or understand other cultures. This creates a gap or a high barrier that separates individuals, or even entire social groups, from one another.

In the middle of student life in a multicultural environment, the author observed a recurring issue: international students often face challenges interacting with local students. This difficulty was reported by interviewees from Japan, Eswatini, Indonesia, and Vietnam. In these cases, international students not only struggle academically but also face social challenges due to the barriers they encounter when trying to form relationships with local students. Local students at Wenzao University—which is believed to reflect the general attitude and behaviour of local students in Taiwan—tend to be shy and hesitant to open up to individuals, social groups, or unfamiliar environments. According to international students, the cultural differences between their countries and Taiwan make communication difficult, which, in turn, complicates their ability to form relationships.

“...So the environment for international students, it's good in the sense of having others or fellow international students, but with the local students, it's it's OK.”<sup>28</sup>

“...It is so hard to make new friends with the local people...Because sometimes when we try to, to communicate with the local people, they avoid us like they're scared to us. And then I haven't figured out how to communicate with the local people, except you have to learn Chinese...”<sup>29</sup>

“...That's a bit hard to make friends... They are willing to help you, but it's actually a little bit hard to get close to them...”<sup>30</sup>

---

<sup>28</sup> WS2, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 2, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 6, 2024.

<sup>29</sup> WS3, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 3, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, June 21, 2024.

<sup>30</sup> WS7, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 7, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 14, 2024.

“...I would love to have more Taiwanese friends...”<sup>31</sup>

Interestingly, when discussing cultural differences, each international student brings their own distinct culture. Yet, it's a mystery why international students find it easier to interact with each other, despite their cultural differences. This can be attributed to a key difference in mentality between local and international students—the mindset of adapting to a new culture. Local students might not view themselves from an outsider's perspective, so they may not understand what it's like to deal with individuals or social groups who don't have the emotional experience of surviving in a foreign country and finding ways to integrate into a new environment. In contrast, international students share a common mentality—they all know what it feels like to survive in a foreign country, and as a result, they can relate to one another's experiences.

Other cultural gaps may seem minor but have a significant impact, such as differences in personality and behaviour. According to local students, international students tend to be more confident, talkative, and outgoing. On the other hand, international students perceive local students as being more reserved, often keeping things to themselves without expressing them. This lack of communication results in no clear goals or outcomes from discussions or relationships, whether between individuals or social groups. The author also observed that local students tend to struggle with being direct. They often complicate things when trying to express themselves. One influencing factor is their tendency to 'go with the flow' and their lack of firm personal convictions, which makes it difficult for them to communicate or make decisions.

“...Like a Taiwanese, they are not very direct. They will not tell you directly. How they feel about something. And sometimes I can feel that they are, they're mad at me, but when I though they act very weird, but when I asked them what

---

<sup>31</sup> WS8, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 8, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 17, 2024.



happened or did I do anything wrong, they never say anything they will say oh, maybe I am a little bit busy...”<sup>32</sup>

“...Foreigners and Taiwanese have big difference because I think...Education background is totally different and the and the parenting...How to say that the mindset of Taiwanese parents is just, you need to study, you need to study hard and you should get good grades so you can get a good job in the future...They cannot thinking outside of the box and having their own thoughts. So that's why there's a lot of Taiwanese they just keep following the flow. And like, like just liking what other people is liking and following other peoples what like following what others people is doing...”<sup>33</sup>

This cultural gap may seem like a minor issue, and not everyone may act the same way. However, when several individuals from a particular social group exhibit similar traits and behaviours, those stereotypes can unconsciously become ingrained in our minds. This leads us to assume that such traits or behaviours define individuals or social groups from certain countries. As this cultural gap grows, it can result in different treatments toward individuals or groups from various countries, potentially leading to misunderstandings, conflict, or even discrimination if it escalates. While it is true that every country and individual brings their own unique cultural values, shaped by their family background or the environment in which they grew up, it is often difficult for these traits to be separated from the individual. However, it would be beneficial if everyone developed a sense of general knowledge or universal treatment that can be applied to anyone, minimizing confusion. This is similar to basic manners we practice globally, such as greeting, saying thank you, apologizing, showing respect, etc. Having a sense of general treatment or knowledge can make it easier for individuals and even social groups to react appropriately and understand what actions to take when faced with situations requiring cross-cultural cooperation and communication.

---

<sup>32</sup> WS7, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 7, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 14, 2024.

<sup>33</sup> WS5, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 5, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 11, 2024.

## **The Biggest Obstacle in Communication: Language Barrier**

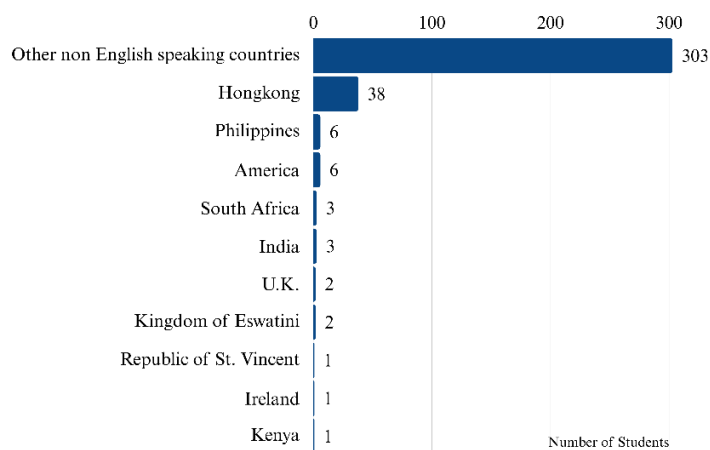
As the author has previously mentioned, every individual and social group brings their own cultural attributes into the new environment which is Wenzao University, where all these differences come together. In the middle of these differences, there is one key way to express thoughts and feelings toward others and that is through communication. At Wenzao University, within the context of cultural diversity, it is often the international students who make the effort to integrate and/or approach the local students. This is somewhat similar to what happens in France. When tourists visit, the locals prefer not to converse in English; instead, they want the tourists to speak in the local language rather than in English.

“...But it's a real French mentality, to be honest. It's like in France, when we saw foreigner, when we see foreigners come in our country, we expect that the foreigners will get adapt to our culture and speak French...”<sup>34</sup>

The author fully understands that local students are not used to and may feel nervous about speaking, especially in English, with international students. The author also acknowledges the fear and difficulty of connecting with international students due to the language barrier. However, the key point here is that most international students at Wenzao University come from countries where English is not their native language. In other words, English is not the first language for the majority of international students at Wenzao. Ideally, we should all come together and recognize that most of us—both local and international students—are communicating in our second or even third language. In this sense, international and local students are essentially the same when we are on this campus.

---

<sup>34</sup> WS4, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 4, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 11, 2024.



A total of 63 out of 303 students have English as their first/official language

*Figure 3. International Students from English Speaking and Non-English Speaking Countries in Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages*

*(Organized by Author)*

*(Source: Wenzao, Section of Overseas Student Affairs (SOSA))*

The author researched the languages spoken in the home countries of the international students at Wenzao University. The results, as of May 2024 during the 112th academic year, second semester (spring semester), show that there are 303 international students from 40 different countries, excluding those participating in exchange programs. Of these 303 international students, only 63 are native speakers or come from countries where English is the official language. This data highlights the fact that the remaining 240 international students do not have the same level of English proficiency as those 63 students whose official language is English.

With this data, it should encourage an understanding that many international students experience similar struggles as local students when living and studying in an English-speaking environment. However, the social group with the greatest communication barrier is between international and local students. Despite international students coming from different countries—many of which do not have English as their official or native language—they often use English as a bridge to

facilitate cross-cultural communication. In contrast, for local students, English often serves as a high barrier that hinders their ability to communicate. It is important to note that not all local students share this mentality, but this sentiment is frequently expressed by the international student interviewees, who identified the language barrier as a major issue between local and international students. There are also some local students who are eager to engage with international students, but primarily for the purpose of practicing their English skills. While this is not inherently negative, the main objective for these interactions is not necessarily to foster daily communication but rather to use international students as a means to improve their English language abilities.

“...depends on what kind of local friends...Like there are those who just want to practice English...There are those who think that you're a tourist no matter what, and they introduce the culture, which I love by the way...Local people teaches me something, but hanging out with international friends is more, real hanging out, it depends. But of course you need the language barrier is huge to connect and feel like someone is a friend. You're supposed to speak freely both freely, right?...”<sup>35</sup>

And the other thing is, what is the point if you not only cannot but are also unwilling and make no effort to speak English when you choose to attend a language-focused university? At Wenzao University, students will sooner or later face various situations that require cross-linguistic communication, with English often serving as the medium of instruction. Based on the author's observations, many local students isolate themselves and refuse to try communicating in English, often due to irrational fears. Despite international students making considerable efforts to break down or overcome this barrier, these attempts become meaningless without mutual efforts from local students in cross-cultural communication—in this case, English as the medium.

---

<sup>35</sup> WS8, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 8, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 17, 2024.

## **Cultural Differences: A Lesson, Not a Threat**

When people encounter a new culture, curiosity often drives them to explore its origins and elements, with some even going as far as studying it. However, the presence of stereotypes within our environment, often unconsciously embedded in our minds, can cause us to perceive other cultures as uninteresting or irrelevant in a multicultural environment. However, it is extremely difficult to erase stereotypes that have unconsciously taken root in our minds.

“...Stereotype cannot erase because it's always happening. It's always happening everyday...We really cannot change. It's their personality, it's their perspective, it's something inside their mind and we cannot change their mind. They need to change their mind. We cannot change. They need to change themselves...”<sup>36</sup>

“...We are a reflection of human nature. We like to approach the rich people. We will keep a distance with some people with no interest on that or maybe a relatively furious the economic condition...”<sup>37</sup>

In a multicultural environment with diverse cultural differences, cooperation from both sides is needed to create a harmonious and peaceful atmosphere. While it may be impossible to fully change or erase the stereotypes within individuals or social groups, what can be done is to focus on self-improvement. People can either shift their mindset and expand their knowledge to avoid being influenced by existing stereotypes, or they can work on themselves by behaving well and proving that these stereotypes are just perceptions and do not reflect the reality for most people. What often happens in multicultural environments is sadly the opposite, where these interactions can lead to discrimination and cause people to form negative perspectives about certain social groups, even though we understand that one individual does not represent the entire population. In the case experienced by WS5, who works at a restaurant frequently

---

<sup>36</sup> WP2, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Professor Interviewee 2, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 24, 2024.

<sup>37</sup> WP1, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Professor Interviewee 1, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 24, 2024.

visited by foreigners, there have been some incidents involving customers from India. These customers often try to get a free pass or avoid paying the entrance fee by claiming to know the restaurant owner, even though this isn't true. WS5 has developed a stereotype that people from India are stingy and cheap, though this is something WS5 keeps to themselves. However, as more Indian visitors exhibit similar behaviour, WS5's belief in this stereotype has only grown stronger, reinforcing the perception based on personal experiences.

“...They just keep saying that...They just keep showing things to match my stereotype about them...”<sup>38</sup>

Cultural differences are, in fact, one of the most valuable learning experiences, as they often teach us lesson we don't get in the classroom. By understanding and learning from the cultural diversity within a campus, which serves as a prime example of a multicultural environment, this experience can become a valuable training ground. It helps prepare us for the future when we may have to engage on an international scale, where theoretical knowledge alone is insufficient, and cross-cultural communication skills are essential.

In addition, the author found some common opinions among several interviewees who stated that Taiwanese people, at least those they encountered at Wenzao University, seemed somewhat uncultured and uneducated. This perception arises from the fact that they tend to rely on stereotypes or media sources, without truly understanding or possessing even basic general knowledge about international matters, especially when it comes to the interviewee's home country or race.

“...Maybe they don't have much culture...”<sup>39</sup>

---

<sup>38</sup> WS5, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 5, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 11, 2024.

<sup>39</sup> WS1, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 1, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, July 1, 2024.

“...So I think on the part of them not being educated enough to know more about Africa...”<sup>40</sup>

This is further supported by a statement from a Taiwanese student interviewee, WS5, who mentioned that, essentially, Taiwan is a small island. Due to its circumstances, Taiwan doesn't have much history or interaction with other countries or cultures, which makes them feel somewhat "isolated" in their own world. Taiwanese people only gain knowledge of global issues or international matters through the theoretical history taught in schools, without experiencing it firsthand.

“...I think most of the local students, they are like that...I think Taiwan is a country that is uncultured...all we learn is about something about history that we can know the origins of some country and that's it...So that's why so many people, we don't know much about outside world...”<sup>41</sup>

This issue becomes very apparent in classroom settings or during interactions between international and local students. The questions asked by local students often seem to be based on stereotypes, as if they are unaware of what is actually happening in the global world. For example, they may ask international students from African countries if they have access to clean water, ask Indonesian students whether they can eat pork, question Thai students about why their skin is light, or inquire Russian students about the state of war in their country. This leads to misunderstandings between both sides. On one hand, Taiwanese students, being less familiar with other cultures as previously mentioned, ask such questions simply out of curiosity, not with the intent to discriminate, since they lack broader global awareness. On the other hand, international students may feel offended by these stereotypical questions, as they reflect how little attention or understanding the local students have towards their race and culture. To address this, the author conducted interviews with several professors at

---

<sup>40</sup> WS2, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 2, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 6, 2024.

<sup>41</sup> WS5, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 5, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 11, 2024.

Wenzao University, experts in their fields, to cross-check the accuracy and dynamics of these intercultural relations.

“...Who stay away from the international student is actually very sophisticated. There are many reasons. They are too shy...They don't have the sufficient the enough, the courage to increase the foreign student...They are language efficiency is not good enough. Lack of confidence...The world a certain country, especially we do have the certain kinds of bias...We have the over generalised to beautify the Japan. They are always rich American. They are always rich and the people from Vietnam or Indonesia or the Philippines they many of them they are poor...”<sup>42</sup>

“...We should change from the young generation. Yes, from the baby...Not change from the university student, of course the university student we cannot change their mind for sure. So we can change only the young generation, not about the professor, not about the local student...It should be about the MOE...”<sup>43</sup>

It is indeed very complex to navigate situations like this, especially when we play a role in this multicultural environment. The best approach is to embrace the differences, respect one another, and view every moment as an opportunity for growth and learning. However, as one Wenzao professor interviewee, WP2, mentioned, stereotypes cannot simply be erased overnight. It is not easy to change the mindset of adults, in this case, university students. The key lies in addressing the issue at its root—starting with the younger generation. By educating and providing them with sufficient knowledge, we can help them develop their own understanding without being swayed by stereotypes, which could lead to racism, incomprehension, or even discrimination in the future. Additionally, the author also asked Wenzao student interviewees to share their advice or messages for future generations who will pursue their education at Wenzao University or in Taiwan.

“...I'll say that you have to prepare very well, like the language, you have to learn. It will be better if you learn Chinese before you come to Taiwan...Even

---

<sup>42</sup> WP1, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Professor Interviewee 1, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 24, 2024.

<sup>43</sup> WP2, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Professor Interviewee 2, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 24, 2024.



though you are inside of the English environment like in the Department of International Affairs that use English all day, all courses are in English...But, Chinese is important in here...”<sup>44</sup>

“...The language barrier probably...How you act is related with our own culture. So when you come here, it's they will probably make the same mistakes. And me, I made two years ago that thinking that because you have the globalisation, so everything is the same and looks similar but is not true...”<sup>45</sup>

“...follow the rules and everything will be OK...”<sup>46</sup>

“...I know that Taiwanese people are not very like they will not go to you and ask you to be friend or to hang out or something and you had to do it first... And yeah, they should have the courage to make friend because it would be beneficial for them to practise the language and then the second one is that we should respect them first...”<sup>47</sup>

### **Discrimination Exists: Unveiling the Reality**

When discussing discrimination, it often sounds and appears as something negative with a strong, unfavorable connotation. In reality, much of what is encountered in environments, especially in Taiwan and at Wenzao University, involves stereotypes. However, many of these stereotypes can lead to racism and eventually become acts of discrimination. This is evident in testimonials from Wenzao student interviewees who state they are treated very well, as this is a globally oriented campus welcoming to international students. Yet beneath this positive reception, the author recognizes subtle differences in perception among international students. This raises the question: do they genuinely not experience discrimination, or are they simply unaware of it? Most of the student interviewees expressed that Wenzao University treats them exceptionally well, even providing the assistance they need, which they find very positive. They also feel

---

<sup>44</sup> WS3, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 3, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, June 21, 2024.

<sup>45</sup> WS4, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 4, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 11, 2024.

<sup>46</sup> WS6, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 6, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 13, 2024.

<sup>47</sup> WS7, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 7, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 14, 2024.

that, socially, the community treats them kindly. However, this positive treatment does not entirely escape or distance itself from the stereotypes prevalent within the social environment.

Taiwan is known for its open-mindedness. However, in terms of cultural openness and acceptance of foreign cultures, Taiwanese society is still somewhat reserved. Taiwan has a complex history with Japan, yet instead of holding grudges, Taiwan has adopted and learned a lot from Japanese culture, especially in technology and lifestyle. This is reflected in how Taiwanese people interact with Japanese individuals. For example, WS1, an international student from Japan, notes that they experience fewer stereotypes and little discrimination, partly because they share Asian cultural traits, such as light skin and a similar background. In terms of language, many Japanese international students find it easier to learn Chinese than English, which facilitates communication with local students. A similar experience was shared by WS4, an international student from France, who mentions experiencing "positive discrimination" due to being a white foreigner. There is indeed a certain privilege associated with being Western or white in Taiwan. WS4 believes this may be partly because Taiwanese, especially local students at Wenzao University, view Europeans and Americans differently, perhaps due to historical ties when these countries provided support and protection for Taiwan. This historical connection might explain why Westerners, especially Caucasians, are more readily accepted in Taiwan and face fewer stereotypes and less discrimination compared to foreigners from other regions, particularly Southeast Asia.

“...Actually it happens, but it's not a popular phenomenon. Now it's just like that in a society basically thing is very peace, very safe. But for the one who actually encounter about criminal act, they will complain...You also need to

access the and respect the other culture, but is there any kinds of bias and the towards certain kinds of the discrimination? Yes it still exist...”<sup>48</sup>

“...When we tell something about Southeast Asia, they we feel like the topic is so far away from them, why we need to know something about Southeast Asia, why we need to know something about Thailand. This topic is not that interesting like that...”<sup>49</sup>

As mentioned by one of the professors at Wenzao University, while some students may not experience discriminatory treatment, subtle discrimination still exists, even if it is not widespread. This can be attributed not only to specific ethnic perceptions but also to individual behaviours, such as good manners and personal conduct. This observation is supported by statements from WS3 and WS7, both international students from Southeast Asia, who have felt a difference in treatment from the Section of Overseas Student Affairs (SOSA), the department responsible for supporting international students at Wenzao. They noted instances of perceived racism, including some staff members displaying friendlier attitudes toward Caucasian foreigners compared to those from Southeast Asia.

“... I think it was started 2 years ago when the staff was changing. I feel the white people was treated better and always get the best service from SOSA. while me as an Asian sometimes get ignored...But as time goes by I heard other international students who's not white people feel and experienced the same thing...”<sup>50</sup>

“...I heard about it and I can feel that on their website, they're always pictures. Maybe I didn't find any Asian pictures or Asian people, but I think the picture on their website would be mostly Western people...”<sup>51</sup>

This phenomenon clearly demonstrates that discrimination does indeed exist, although it is not experienced by everyone—particularly not by foreigners who do not

---

<sup>48</sup> WP1, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Professor Interviewee 1, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 24, 2024.

<sup>49</sup> WP2, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Professor Interviewee 2, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 24, 2024.

<sup>50</sup> WS3, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 3, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, June 21, 2024.

<sup>51</sup> WS7, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 7, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 14, 2024.

belong to minority groups. The experiences of certain individuals and social groups who encounter differential treatment by university institutions complicate the statement made by an experienced professor, showing that this issue is indeed present in real life. This discrepancy can be observed not only within administrative settings but also in classroom situations. When international students from different backgrounds are required to participate, debate, or share opinions, the voices of students from Western countries tend to be given more attention and recognition compared to those from Asian countries.

“...For example, we make the conversation...And then, he think he’s strong so I cannot convince him...I maybe just had to keep up with him. And then I didn't share my thoughts... How to say their source is really strong...”<sup>52</sup>

### **Key Steps in Cross-Cultural Understanding**

In a multicultural environment, especially in higher education, understanding the importance of cross-cultural awareness is crucial. While lectures from professors teach us about the significance of cross-cultural communication on a global scale, we can often feel confused when faced with real-life situations and may not know how to respond. This highlights the need to recognize, understand, and appreciate the differences that come from the diverse cultural backgrounds of international students. In several interviews with Wenzao University students, common experiences emerged regarding challenges in building relationships with local students, including misunderstandings during cultural exchanges. These experiences show the importance of bridging cultural gaps and fostering understanding among different perspectives, ultimately leading to greater unity and integration. The author asked all Wenzao student

---

<sup>52</sup> WS1, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 1, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, July 1, 2024.

interviewees what actions or words they would suggest for thriving in a multicultural environment, and here are their responses.

“...Try to know their culture first...”<sup>53</sup>

“...Being open-minded and flexible...Enjoy being in a different environment and be good...”<sup>54</sup>

“...Fun...Being in Wenzao, meeting different cultures, it’s fun...”<sup>55</sup>

“...Patience...耐心...”<sup>56</sup>

“...Enjoy...”<sup>57</sup>

“...Open your eyes...”<sup>58</sup>

“...Integrate don’t assimilate...”<sup>59</sup>

“...Treat everyboy like your brother and sister...”<sup>60</sup>

In today’s globalized world, it’s common to encounter ideas and beliefs that might seem to conflict with our own. However, harmony within diversity won’t arise unless we take certain key steps to have understanding. First, we should avoid putting too much trust in biases. As the name implies, bias often presents information in a one-sided way, favoring only certain perspectives. To promote harmony, it’s important to be well-informed and capable of seeing issues from multiple angles so we can determine what’s positive and what to avoid. Second, we can start with self-improvement. By building a solid foundation of global knowledge, we’re less likely to fall into stereotypes. While stereotypes may serve as initial impressions when learning

---

<sup>53</sup> WS1, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 1, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, July 1, 2024.

<sup>54</sup> WS2, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 2, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 6, 2024.

<sup>55</sup> WS3, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 3, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, June 21, 2024.

<sup>56</sup> WS4, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 4, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 11, 2024.

<sup>57</sup> WS5, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 5, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 11, 2024.

<sup>58</sup> WS6, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 6, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 13, 2024.

<sup>59</sup> WS7, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 7, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 14, 2024.

<sup>60</sup> WS8, Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 8, interview by Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 17, 2024.

about social groups or even entire countries, they aren't necessarily true. With a strong foundation and a well-grounded perspective, we can genuinely understand diversity and find ways to live harmoniously within it. Self-awareness is also something very important but has been forgotten in cross-cultural understanding. When we reflect on our biases and identify where they come from, we're better equipped to question and adjust them. This reflection can involve acknowledging our assumptions and considering how our personal background might influence our interactions. Finally, it's essential to have a spirit of acceptance and adaptability. Although not always necessary, this attitude is a positive contribution we can make to any multicultural environment.

Another key element in creating harmony within diverse environments is open communication. It's important to actively engage in conversations with people from different backgrounds. This doesn't only improve language skills but also deepens our understanding of their unique perspectives, histories, and values. By asking questions and sharing experiences, we reduce misunderstandings and go all the way for stronger connections. Rather than avoiding challenging topics or cultural differences, engaging respectfully and with curiosity allows us to learn and grow together.

In the higher education section such as universities, they could also provide platforms for discussing global issues, other than what has been lectured in class, giving students a chance to see how different cultural backgrounds shape viewpoints. These contributions will not only enrich the educational environment but also prepare students for an increasingly interconnected world, equipping them with the skills to navigate diverse environments with respect and empathy. By approaching these situations with patience and a willingness to adapt, students can strengthen their ability to thrive amid diversity. Embracing change, practicing empathy, and remaining open-minded make it easier to overcome obstacles and find common ground.

## CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Wenzao University provides a generally welcoming atmosphere, but international students, particularly those from non-Western backgrounds, still encounter subtle discrimination and stereotyping. Local students and faculty sometimes base their perceptions of different ethnic groups on stereotypes rather than on actual understanding, leading to disparities in acceptance. For example, a tendency toward “positive discrimination” seems to benefit certain groups, like Western or Caucasian students, revealing a cultural preference that makes acceptance uneven. Interview responses reflect how adjusting to Taiwan’s cultural and academic environment can be complex; although Taiwanese society is open-minded in many ways, there are still gaps in cultural understanding, especially regarding unfamiliar foreign cultures. This creates a challenging space where diverse cultures converge but often remain only partly understood, adding a layer of difficulty for international students to navigate.

The author suggests that integration is complicated by historical and social biases that may affect students from Southeast Asia or Africa differently. Building stronger institutional support for diverse student groups is one way to promote inclusivity. Offices like SOSA should ensure equitable treatment for all international students, regardless of their background. Training staff in multicultural sensitivity can help improve the experience for students from underrepresented regions and address the issue of “positive discrimination”. Additionally, Wenzao University could promote projects that encourage collaboration between local and international students, fostering meaningful connections beyond stereotypes. Group assignments, cultural events, and mentorship programs would provide valuable platforms for cultural

exchange, helping to reduce communication barriers and build a more inclusive environment.

If the author may offer some suggestions and recommendations, the author would address several key points. First, for future researchers interested in studying a similar topic, it's beneficial to include more than one interviewee to represent a single country or ethnicity. Doing so allows for a broader perspective and additional insights, as one individual alone cannot fully represent an entire country or cultural group. Second, the author suggests that international students considering higher education at Wenzao University or anywhere in Taiwan, with its rich cultural diversity, prepare by learning about the region, its culture, language, and traditions. This preparation offers not only practical knowledge for living and adapting but also helps students avoid actions or opinions that could unintentionally offend or misrepresent the local community, in this case, Taiwanese society. Third, a suggestion goes out to both junior international and local students, especially local students: do not be afraid or shy about speaking up and sharing your opinions. As the famous Indonesian adage goes, "*Malu bertanya sesat di jalan*" or if being translated into English it will sound like this, "If you're too shy to ask, you'll be lost." This emphasizes that communication is essential. By engaging in open dialogue, we can gain valuable knowledge and imply stronger connections, as humans are fundamentally social beings who thrive through interaction and support from one another.



## Bibliography

- Abrams, Dominic, and Michael A Hogg. "Social Identifications." *Contemporary Social Psychological Theories*, June 7, 2006, 111–36.
- Baligh, Helmy H. "Components of Culture: Nature, Interconnections, and Relevance to the Decisions on the Organization Structure." *Management Science* 40, no. 1 (January 1994): 14–27.
- Campani, Giovanna. "Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind Di Yuval Noah Harari, Harvill Secker, London, 2014." *DOAJ (DOAJ: Directory of Open Access Journals)*, July 1, 2018.
- Chang, Te-Sheng, Yin Bai, and Tsai-Wei Wang. "Students' Classroom Experience in Foreign-Faculty and Local-Faculty Classes in Public and Private Universities in Taiwan." *Higher Education* 68, no. 2 (November 29, 2013): 207–26.
- Cornell, Josephine, and Shose Kessi. "Discrimination in Education." *Routledge EBooks*, July 14, 2021, 167–83.
- Eduardo de Gregorio-Godeo, and Ángel Mateos-Aparicio Martin-Albo. *Culture and Power*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014.
- Forgas, Joseph P., and Michael O'Driscoll. "Cross-Cultural and Demographic Differences in the Perception of Nations." *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology* 15, no. 2 (June 1984): 199–222.
- Foundation for International Cooperation in Higher Education in Taiwan (FICHET). "2022-2023 Study in Taiwan Survey Report - 財團法人高等教育國際合作基金會." [www.fichet.org.tw](http://www.fichet.org.tw), March 6, 2023.  
<https://www.fichet.org.tw/en/news/1/1225>.
- Hickok, Gregory. "The Interface Theory of Perception: The Future of the Science of the Mind?" *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review* 22, no. 6 (September 21, 2015): 1477–79.
- Holden, Richard. "Managing People's Values and Perceptions in Multi-Cultural Organisations." *Employee Relations* 23, no. 6 (December 2001): 614–26.
- Holliday, Adrian, Martin Hyde, and John Kullman. *Intercultural Communication : An Advanced Resource Book*. London: Routledge, 2004.
- Isaacs, David. "Racism or Racial Tolerance: Vive La Différence." *Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health* 52, no. 5 (May 2016): 475–76.

- Jameson, D. A. "Reconceptualizing Cultural Identity and Its Role in Intercultural Business Communication." *Journal of Business Communication* 44, no. 3 (July 1, 2007): 199–235.
- Madjar, Kayleigh. "Many Foreign Students Want to Work in Taiwan - Taipei Times." [www.taipeitimes.com](http://www.taipeitimes.com), January 4, 2024.   
<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/front/archives/2024/01/04/2003811587>.
- Mickelson, Roslyn Arlin. "When Are Racial Disparities in Education the Result of Racial Discrimination? A Social Science Perspective." *Teachers College Record* 105, no. 6 (August 2003): 1052–86.
- Musafer, Sayed Aqa. "Link between Language and Culture." *International Journal of Advanced Academic Studies* 3, no. 2 (2021): 83–87.
- Nott, Josiah C, George R Gliddon, and Alfred Maury. *Indigenous Races of the Earth, Or, New Chapters of Ethnological Inquiry : Including Monographs on Special Departments of Philology, Iconography, Cranioscopy, Palaeontology, Pathology, Archaeology, Comparative Geography, and Natural History*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1857.
- Park, Jerry Z., Brandon C. Martinez, Ryon Cobb, Julie J. Park, and Erica Ryu Wong. "Exceptional Outgroup Stereotypes and White Racial Inequality Attitudes toward Asian Americans." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 78, no. 4 (October 12, 2015): 399–411.
- Rinehart, James W. "The Meaning of Stereotypes." *Theory into Practice* 2, no. 3 (June 1963): 136–43.
- Roberts, Amy, Prudence Chou, and Greg Ching. "Contemporary Trends in East Asian Higher Education: Dispositions of International Students in a Taiwan University." *Higher Education* 59, no. 2 (May 23, 2009): 149–66.
- Statista. "Taiwan: Foreign Students in Taiwan by Study Type 2022." C. Textor, October 6, 2023. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/1092764/taiwan-number-of-foreign-students-in-taiwan-by-course-type/>.
- Toma, Alexandra-Monica. "THE PERCEPTION of the OTHER in MULTICULTURAL CLASSROOMS: CULTURAL STEREOTYPES REFLECTED through LANGUAGE." *ICERI Proceedings*, November 1, 2023.

Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages. “文藻外語大學.” a001.wzu.edu.tw, 2015.  
<https://a001.wzu.edu.tw/english/briefHistory.html>.

WP1. Interview Transcript with Wenzao Professor Interviewee 1. Interview by  
Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 24, 2024.

WP2. Interview Transcript with Wenzao Professor Interviewee 2. Interview by  
Adelynn Belicia Sinaga, September 24, 2024.

WS1. Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 1. Interview by Adelynn  
Belicia Sinaga, July 1, 2024.

WS2. Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 2. Interview by Adelynn  
Belicia Sinaga, September 6, 2024.

WS3. Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 3. Interview by Adelynn  
Belicia Sinaga, June 21, 2024.

WS4. Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 4. Interview by Adelynn  
Belicia Sinaga, September 11, 2024.

WS5. Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 5. Interview by Adelynn  
Belicia Sinaga, September 11, 2024.

WS6. Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 6. Interview by Adelynn  
Belicia Sinaga, September 13, 2024.

WS7. Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 7. Interview by Adelynn  
Belicia Sinaga, September 14, 2024.

WS8. Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 8. Interview by Adelynn  
Belicia Sinaga, September 17, 2024.

## APPENDIX A

### INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

#### Interview Questions for Wenzao Student Interviewee

##### Background

1. Can you please introduce yourself? Where do you come from (name, age, nationality, how long have you stayed in Taiwan) and from which department are you enrolled in this campus?
2. How do you know Taiwan and its education system and program?
3. What makes you come to Taiwan to pursue a higher degree?
4. How do you know about Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages and what makes you choose to study here?

##### Profiling Cultural Diversity

1. How do you see yourself and your social group as a foreigner in Taiwan in general? (what are you in your opinion)
2. How do you see yourself and your social group as an international student on campus?
3. How do you feel about living and having a lifestyle in the campus area? (lifestyle with other foreigner friends)
4. What are the cultural differences you feel from your country's culture toward Taiwanese or other international students? (can be cultural behaviour, social-life behaviour, religious behaviour, educational behaviour, etc)
5. Which country do you feel is more close or similar in terms of the people and the culture?
6. What are some new experiences you faced during your time here in Taiwan and Wenzao University? (can be culture shock experience, new information, etc)

##### Discriminating Cultural Diversity

1. Have you ever been treated wrongly or disrespectfully inside or outside the campus area?
2. What do you think about discrimination toward a race or social/cultural groups in Taiwan?
3. How do you deal with a disrespectful situation if you face one?
4. What are some actions you feel is a discrimination but become normalized and now people look down at it and think that it's not discrimination?
5. In your opinion, what influences people to discriminate against people only based on their perspective?

### Understanding Cultural Diversity

1. Do you think one person from a specific country can represent the whole country? Why and why not?
2. How do you deal with a situation where you are faced with working together with other international students from different countries?
3. When do you acknowledge that people coming from different countries and/or backgrounds are difficult to understand one another in terms of acceptance toward each other?

### Challenges

1. What are some challenges you faced when contributing in the multicultural environment?
2. In your opinion, what future challenges might be faced by the younger/next generation from your country who will come to Taiwan?

### Conclusion/Ending

1. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experiences or knowledge from your perspective?
2. If there is only one thing to be said or done by people from all over the world who live in a multicultural environment, what would that be?

## **Interview Questions for Wenzao Professor Interviewee**

### Background

1. How long have you been a professor at WZU?
2. What makes you become a professor at WZU and is there any specific reason why you choose WZU?
3. Do you have any other teaching places? Do you see any differences in the workplace in terms of how student-student and student-professors interact?
4. Do you find difficulties when you work/teach in your 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> language / has language been an obstacle for you when teaching?
5. Do you find it challenging when a student cannot speak English/Chinese?
6. Do you treat students differently based on their country of origin?
7. Do you face difficulties when grading students from different countries?

### Profiling Cultural Diversity

1. What are the cultural differences you feel from your country's culture toward Taiwanese or other foreigners? (can be cultural behaviour, social-life behaviour, religious behaviour, educational behaviour, etc)
3. Which country do you feel is more close or similar in terms of the people and the culture?
4. Did you have culture shock when you first came here?
5. I have concluded that discrimination does not seem to directly target individuals on the Wenzao campus or in Taiwan in general. What factors do you think contribute to this?

### Discriminating Cultural Diversity

1. Have you ever been treated (or seen any) wrongly or disrespectfully inside or outside the campus area?
2. What are some actions you feel is a discrimination but become normalized and now people look down at it and think that it's not discrimination?

3. What is your opinion about the location of Asia? Do you think racism or discrimination occurs less frequently here compared to countries outside Asia? (Is it because of the education, lifestyle, or cultural environment that it happens?)
4. What influences people's perceptions or thoughts about other races?
5. In classroom situations or in campus areas where students interact, have you ever seen any discrimination between them?

### Understanding Cultural Diversity

1. How do you deal with a situation where you are faced with working together with people from different countries?
2. Everyone tends to have impressions or stereotypes about people from certain countries. In your opinion, how can we overcome these instincts? How can we erase such stereotypes from our minds?
3. How can we train ourselves not to have these stereotypes?
4. When major conflicts arise between two groups, such as locals and foreigners, do you think, that the issue might stem from the foreigners, meaning it's not necessarily the locals who are being racist?
5. I have heard from some local students too that in high school they didn't learn enough about culture or life outside the country, meaning that they are not rich in knowledge about other countries and that is what makes them afraid to interact with international students, is it true? And what is your opinion about this? Do you have any advice or solution to this problem?
6. International students need someone who can speak English and local students want to hang out with Chinese-only speakers / afraid to talk to people who speak English, what solution can you offer to this problem, or in your opinion, what solution can Wenzao offer?

### Conclusion/Ending

1. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experiences or knowledge from your perspective?

# APPENDIX B

## CONSENT FORM

### Consent Form for Participation in Research Study

**Title of Study:** A Place where Cultures Interlace: An Interview Study of How Cultural Identification Being Perceived at Wenzao University

**Researcher:**

Adelynn Belicia S. 辛立霞

[adelynnbs@gmail.com](mailto:adelynnbs@gmail.com) / +886 908 584 153

Department of International Affairs, Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages, Kaohsiung, Taiwan

**Purpose of the Study:**

This research aims to gain insights into the experiences and perspectives of individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds within the campus community.

**Procedures:**

If you agree to participate in this study, you will be asked to take part in an interview that will last approximately 30-60 minutes. The interview will be conducted in person or via Google Meet and will include questions about your cultural background, experiences on campus, and perspectives on cultural identification and discrimination.

**Confidentiality:**

Your responses will be kept confidential. Any information that is obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential. Pseudonyms will be used in place of real names to protect your identity.

**Voluntary Participation:**

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may refuse to participate or discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

**Risks and Benefits:**

There are no known risks associated with participating in this study. While there are no direct benefits to you for participating, your responses will contribute to a better understanding of cultural identification and discrimination in a globalized campus environment.

**Contact Information:**

If you have any questions or concerns about this study, please contact Adelynn at [adelynnbs@gmail.com](mailto:adelynnbs@gmail.com). If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the WZU Department of International Affairs at [intl.affairs@mail.wzu.edu.tw](mailto:intl.affairs@mail.wzu.edu.tw).

**Consent:**

By signing below, you indicate that you have read and understand the information provided above, you have been allowed to ask questions, and you agree to participate in this study.

	Participant		Researcher
Signature:	_____	Signature:	_____
Name:	_____	Name:	_____
Date:	_____	Date:	_____



## APPENDIX C

### INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT

#### Interview Transcript with Wenzao Professor Interviewee 1

Researcher	So, WP1, how long have you been a professor in Wenzao University?
WP1	14 years. Yeah, of or. This is my 15s. Fifteenth OK.
Researcher	And do you have? OK. And do you have other workplace to teach as a
WP1	Yes, I have been teaching in some of the. Other university before.
Researcher	Can you name the university where you teach?
WP1	Now there's something confidential, OK, there's because some courses that I have the port with a certain level of political sensitivity. OK.
Researcher	And is it the same environment the other place you teach is also multicultural environment.
WP1	Yes or no, they are. Let me tell you the truth. I teaching some military institution in Academy and certain other advanced courses in the Ministry institution. Of course they do have international officers from other countries, but they are not.
Researcher	Oh.
WP1	As the diversify us, what we have seen in Wenzao. Wenzao you are basically regular student. They come here the programme that I taught is a graduate level, but most of them is only maybe three months. Maybe the, you know, half year courses. It's not a degree courses, OK.
Researcher	Uh-huh. OK, I see. And so, as the multicultural environment, I have interviewed other students from different countries and it seems that Wenzao or like Taiwan and also wenzao specifically.
WP1	Yeah.
Researcher	We don't have like a lot of discriminations or racism happen in this campus, do you think? What factors contribute to this? You know, phenomena that I mean if you see like in different country there will be a lot of racism discrimination. But in here it seems that people really you know accept and respect each other a lot.

WP1	Well, there's several points I would like to address on your questions. First, you make a very strong assumption that Wenzao has nothing. The appear like the discrimination or bias. The answer is no, actually it happens, but it's not a popular phenomenon. Now it's just like that in a society basically thing is very peace, very safe. But for the one who actually encounter about criminal act, they will complain. Oww, this is a terrible society. So you cannot make a strong assumption. Say that's a perfect that's not as perfect. Because you are lucky you never encounter something like that. But one of the reasons you are lucky because you also behave well because these kinds is interactive. You have a very bad manners that people bring the also negative manners on you. So it will become a negative recursive the process. You treat the other worse you treat others bad and others return in worse and back and forth, they become so something very have turned out to be very ugly. So I would say there's a several features for contributor first, this is the school they focus on studying foreign language. So they are open to, they expect and ready to impress the international student and otherwise how can they understand? Second by teaching foreign by teaching foreign language. You also need to access the and respect the other culture, but is there any kinds of bias and the towards certain kinds of the discrimination? Yes it still exist, for example if the some the the male student come from you know the relatively rich country and people got the imagination. All this is the good they are got a lot of girlfriends, but if people who come there with the coloured skin and go come from the relatively poor country and by scholar to come here, they got little girls will, you know, will get.
Researcher	Then sometime.
WP1	Hey, we are a reflection of human nature. We like to approach the rich people. We will keep a distance with some people with no interest on that or maybe a relatively furious the economic condition. So this is only a reflection of human nature. So it's not the the general aspect. Luckily, in this aspect, because this is the in 1966, is actually established by the foreign. The the sisters that come from other country, the Catholic sisters. So this is one of the the you're lucky you never encountered things like that.
Researcher	Yeah. Yeah. So you as a WP1 like in a in campus or in classroom situation, have you seen any kind of, you know disrespectful situation?
WP1	Yes, few times that.
Researcher	A lot?

WP1	But you cannot generalise as a certain kinds of country people from a certain country who is bad. It's always to be individual. I have encountered students that you know very impolite, very rude and shouting afterwards and something like that, but we cannot generalise all those people from that country, which is bad. That is the that the student. He got a very miserable home background, family background. So he not well treated in their own home and with a good family education. So there are many factors caused these kinds of misconduct. So you cannot over generalise. All people come from that. But there is a general aspect, for example like the people from your country, Indonesia. They are most of them. They are very pleasant, you know, like to engage with the WP1 from time to time. We do have the some student is over enthusiastic to engage. Yeah, these are terrifying the WP1s, but also most of the Japanese students come here you know, there's a cultural thing. They are much more polite and in many ways they they are keep a distance. They will say hello and then a salute to the WP1. So something you can generalise but. Individual negative cases. I don't think they would be clever to general over generalise.
Researcher	And I mean every human. And I mean everyone here have, like, a stereotype of several people from this country. It has been like in our brain, in our mind, from generation to generation.
WP1	Yes, especially, you know, at the beginning a lot of people, they saw all the people come from Indonesia. They should be Muslim. But actually that's not the case. You do have a big the Christianity. And you know, the Catholic the back, you know, community in your country, but people, there's a general over general over. Over simplified some issue. OK.
Researcher	Do you think how can people erase those kind of stereotypes from, you know, their mind?
WP1	No I think It's hard. It's hard. You need to brainwash them. Yeah, I need to call my wife.
Researcher	Is hard. Brainwashed them, OK.
WP1	Hang on, you go. Go on.
Researcher	OK. OK, some.
WP1	We keep we keep on. How many questions do you still have?
Researcher	Actually a lot, but I can make it simple. So I have heard from some local students that some people in local people like in high school they didn't learn enough about culture or life outside the country, so they don't have a lot of rich knowledge. So when they come here and they see a lot of culture, people from foreign country.
WP1	Yes, of course.
Researcher	They're like some way afraid and don't want to have, you know.

WP1	Oh, the factors The Who stay away from the international student is actually very sophisticated. There are many reasons. They are too shy. They are. They don't have the sufficient the enough, the courage to increase the foreign student they are. They are language efficiency is not good enough. Lack of confidence. There are many factors that and also there's certain kinds of bias you know. The world a certain country, especially we we do have the certain kinds of bias as. I mentioned you know. We have the over generalised to beautify the Japan. They are always rich American. They are always rich and the the people from Vietnam or Indonesia or the Philippines they many of them they are actually poor otherwise they will come while they come here become the you know the how to say. The the immigrants, the the, the workers here. So there's a lot of, you know, over generalised since. So there's a certain kinds of misperception on that.
Researcher	So do you have any solution for that kind of problem, both for local student and also for international students?
WP1	I would like to. As many years ago, you know I do man encounter, they do a student which is colour. Actually he's a VIP, his own country and then nobody really care about but only one girl student. He found that they then become his the girlfriend and they from what I understand eventually. They have a good marriage. And suddenly they found that. He's the billionaire that a story which happened in other university, you know? So Please remember when you meet someone who looked very handsome, gentle and black from Africa.
Researcher	Yeah.
WP1	He might be the he might be a son of a chief.
Researcher	You might be a billionaire.
WP1	You never know. Ah.
Researcher	Yeah. So don't judge the book by by its cover, right?
WP1	Don't judge a book by its cover and don't judge the about the wealthy, the number of the pages. Now, according to the paper, the cover as well, yeah.
Researcher	Yeah, OK. And also WP1 like? Yeah. And as you know, I mean local people in here have this one.
WP1	You. That story, right? Yeah.
Researcher	Hurdles which are language barriers and also international students who come here, and not all of us, but most of us, are struggling with Chinese language. Right. So they that's like a very huge barrier between these two groups, international students and local students. What? Kind of solution or something you want to tell to the students that can help between these cultures interaction.
WP1	To appreciate the differences that are are between the culture and the use the body language, smile, attitude. In many cases that you can feel about some someone is kind to you. OK. If you raise a pet before you cannot communicate with the pet.
Researcher	Yeah.

WP1	But you know that the the dog is good, the dog is taking care of you, right? Yeah. So that's the same. So one of the channel or the vehicle, we cannot communicate each other is language. But there are other features like body language like the feature like the smile is.
Researcher	Done.
WP1	Expression no. Would be hard to make the expression.
Researcher	OK. That's that's true. Yeah, a lot of.
WP1	You like this answer right?
Researcher	Yeah, I like it. And. The last one. WP1 is not here. Yeah, right. Do you think the location of Asia will be a place where discrimination not really happened more in Asia other than?
WP1	Yeah.
Researcher	Other continents like Western countries.
WP1	The answer is the in you. You are the member of Asia. Yeah. Asia is very successful about this. You always emphasise we do it in Asian way. Asian is very diversified, right? Yeah. But you can still get along with that. So the answer is should be provided by you, not by by me. If you follow the example is very by us. Here Asia is not perfect, but at least it's relatively successful in some ways. A lot of people they envy about EU, but EU there is a strong discrimination but.
Researcher	OK. Hmm.
WP1	That it's hard to find, of course, Singaporeans really cheap. But have you ever heard about Singaporean discriminate, about the neighbours that Indonesia or Malaysia? No. Right. So there is something. Even that they they are more tolerable about Burma or you know, Vietnam even that's a socialist state. So how they are actually more successful than you?
Researcher	OK. Thank you so much, WP1. OK. Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.
WP1	The answer is in your hand.

## Interview Transcript with Wenzao Professor Interviewee 2

Researcher	What makes you become a professor in Wenzao?
WP2	Actually, at at the very first time it was just like the part time teacher. Just at that time, they're looking for a new Thai language teacher.
Researcher	Oh.
WP2	And then I just apply and then after that they change the policy they want someone to work as a full time and luckily I got my PhD and then you can apply for the full time Professor and that my journey to be professor in Wenzao.
Researcher	Oh. Ohh. So you were. A part time professor when you take the PhD.
WP2	Yes.
Researcher	Oh.
WP2	Yeah, after PhD and then they want me to be a full time.
Researcher	Umm. And do you have other options other than Wenzao I mean?
WP2	I mean, after I finished my PhD, I got three job offers from Thai University University in Thailand. But I compared the benefits. It's better to stay here.
Researcher	And why is that?
WP2	That yeah, that I I reject all the of all the job offer.
Researcher	Oh, and right now, I mean 10 years already in Taiwan. So you already like the environment.
WP2	Yeah, 10 year already in Taiwan, yes. Yes, of course. But just for something, not all the things, yes.
Researcher	Some things. So you only teach in Wenzao, right, or OK.
WP2	Yeah only in Wenzao, because of the regulations, because I employ as a full time, it means you like 24 hours in Wenzao you can't go anywhere else to work.
Researcher	So what? What classes do you have to lecture?
WP2	Normally. It's something about the, of course, because I'm a professor. Belonged to the Southeast Asian department, so I tell something about Southeast Asia focused on the economic development, business in Southeast Asia. And let's say because it in economic around like 60% and another 40% is for the Thai language and culture.
Researcher	Oh. Ok. And so you teach mostly Southeast Asian students.
WP2	Taiwanese students, I mean, I teach something about Southeast Asia to Taiwanese student, to local students.
Researcher	Oh. Uh-huh. Ah, OK. And you use your second language, your third language.
WP2	Actually I use English when I teach like something about Southeast Asian economies or Asian economic development or investment policy in South Asia. I use English, but when I teach Thai like 50% English and another 50% in Thai.
Researcher	Oh, and when the student learns Thai did they learn very fast?

WP2	Actually not that fast if it compared to Vietnamese language and compared to Indonesian because the Vietnamese and Indonesian you don't really have some kind of the consonant or the alphabet you the English right. But in time we have our own alphabet, there's still need to start from the very beginning with.
Researcher	It's difficult. Yeah.
WP2	How to like the time for like that for Indonesian you don't need to like learn how to the ABC you know.
Researcher	Yeah, it's easy.
WP2	Really. Really, you know. You just go very slow. Slowly. Not that fast.
Researcher	OK. And is it difficult or you have any difficulties when you teach in
WP2	Actually, for me it's about the language barrier. Not all local students can speak English, so sometimes I teach Thai using English to the Taiwanese student and kind of the language barrier sometimes.
Researcher	Oh yeah.
WP2	I need to put so much effort on my teaching material.
Researcher	Yeah. Uh. So it's, I mean, like in the classroom situation it's a challenge for you, right?
WP2	Right. Yes. Good challenge. Yeah. And really it's like some student, they really want to learn Thai. Yeah, but some students just come for the credit. Yes. You know, like, different personality, different perspective of the student. They different expectation.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah. So like in the classroom, if the student can't understand English like for example the economic class that you have, it's in English, but they don't understand it. Do you? I mean, do you see the students that don't understand or you just oh, it's OK. I'm just here to teach them. And that's it.
WP2	I try my best to explain them in person like after the class and some student to come to me and OK, I don't really understand this point. Can you explain more? Something like that and actually. I use English when teaching and I saw my slides also in English when I always upload my slide my teaching material before the class, so student that they not really fluent in English, maybe they can review the translate before the class letter and when we have like the final exam or the midterm exam, I give them two options.
Researcher	Oh Yeah.
WP2	Oh, you can write down your answer in English, or you can write down your answer in Chinese. I don't want to put so much pressure to the student.
Researcher	Good professor. And if they do it in Chinese, so you have to check it.
WP2	Yeah, I I have a TA.
Researcher	I thought you're going to check everything by yourself, OK?
WP2	Yes, yes, yes. And I get the google translate, yeah.
Researcher	Ohh very smart. Yeah. Yeah. OK. And so in the classroom, most of the students are Taiwanese. Or do you have other?
WP2	I also have the exchange student with from French from Japan, but they're fluent in English.

Researcher	Do you see any difference between international students when they have interaction in the classroom?
WP2	Yeah I think that international, more active and they look like this like that, but for like the local student, maybe they can pay attention to the class just only 10 minutes after 10 using cell phone or something like that, yes, but for the international student, always active like that, especially for the student from the Western country in the European countries, much more active, but locals they're not so good. But I think like when we tell something about Southeast Asia, they we feel like. The topic is so far away from them. Why? Why we? Why we need to know something about Southeast Asia, why we need to know something about Thailand. This topic is not that interesting like that.
Researcher	Have you ever asked about that to the students or I mean it's just your like?
WP2	It's just my opinion, yes.
Researcher	Opinion. Yeah. OK. And I mean, in the classroom, you you said that most interactions are made by the Western students like they have, they're more active in the classroom.
WP2	Yes. Not not only from from the Western student, but also from the local student, but only student will have fluent in in English student. Student that not fluent in english, they also try their best to have a discussion with me, but sometimes they they feel so shy when they give them a microphone and I don't want the microphone like that.
Researcher	OK. Uh-huh. Like that, OK. And uh, I mean, as a professor, I mean, I also a teacher in a cram school. I like it more when students are smart. I like more when students want to interact with me. Does it also happen to you as a professor?
WP2	Yes, yes. Yes, I was like that kind of student actually being a teacher, you know, like when to teach something you need. You need student to, like, participate to read something with you, not just like, keep silent, not keep quiet like that. Yes. I always like motivate them like.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah. That's true.
WP2	You try your best. English is just something to communicate. If I understand you and you understand me, that's fine.
Researcher	Yes, that's right.
WP2	And just see you later. My English also not good. We both are not from the native English speaking country and we can try with it and don't be shy. Don't be afraid like that. Just show your best.
Researcher	Yeah. Yeah. So do you have any different treatment towards?
WP2	Not at all in my not at all. Even though when we have the midterm or final exam, there's no determination or no bite in school. If you write in English you will give extra point. No, not that they will they they will treat equally.
Researcher	Yeah, that's good, very good. So you have no difficulties when grading students.



WP2	No, no. Yes, a lot. Because at that time, not so many international student in my university or in my class and I feel something that for Taiwanese especially for the Taiwanese friend at that time when they refer to international student or international friends, they mean someone with a brown hair. Yellow hair. Not someone from from southern Asia. So at that time it's kind of difficult for me to find a local friend. They don't want to be friends with me, but it is. I don't know the reservation, but in my feeling like, I feel like they don't want to be friends with me. They always group with like someone from France, someone from Italy like that. So for me I just have only one friend and that friend also from Indonesia.
Researcher	Oh, it's like me and.
WP2	Yeah, yeah, yeah. Because no one wants to be friends with us. Everything like that. And even, like my professor also, just come and ask me and my Indonesian friends. Do you got a college kit? Did you get a scholarship? Do you have a laptop? Do you have a cell phone like that? I think like, maybe in their eyes, someone from Thailand or someone from the maybe. Like from a poor family or something like that. That my feeling at that time. And in terms of of the culture shock, even in Thailand, we don't really speak loudly, but in Taiwan, when you go to the market people. Something like that thing that they they will be like someone fighting each other and being like, actually know their culture. That my culture shock.
Researcher	Yeah, I saw that too. I thought they were fighting, but actually they were just talking
WP2	Yeah, there was just normal talking. Yeah, I just feel ohh.
Researcher	How about the social life behaviour like? Any differences between Thailand and?
WP2	In Taiwan. If I didn't feel that because we are in Asia and something looks similiar. No, no, no, no social life differences. Only the way the people talk to each other, they're different, yes.
Researcher	Yeah. OK. So you mentioned before you have made friends with Indonesian friends in your university like this. So in terms of people and the culture, you think Indonesia is the most similar country to Thailand or do you have other countries in mind?
WP2	Yeah, Indonesians. Yes, I think that should be Indonesian, we are in the same region we are and so we understand each other, right? Yes. Yeah. I think like Indonesia is much more like the Thai people and easy to make friend. I think we we have something inside. Yeah. Connect. Yes. Yeah, yeah.
Researcher	Connection. OK, so you still get in touch with?
WP2	Still still, and he will come to visit me next month. Oh, he's from Surabaya. That's currently working in Malaysia. He is Indonesian Chinese but cannot speak Chinese. Yeah, yeah.
Researcher	Ah ohh wow. Yeah. Chinese. Yeah, it it happens a lot like, yeah. Face looks like chinese.
WP2	They feel like a Chinese like 100% Chinese, not Indonesian at all, but cannot speak Chinese.

Researcher	That happens a lot in my country, OK. And so I have interviewed some students in Wenzao University before. Most of them are international students, and some of them. Our local students and I asked them about, like, have you ever experienced discrimination in the campus or outside the campus? And most of them? I mean, almost all of them never experienced any discrimination like verbally or physically destructive, and compared to their countries, which are countries from all over the world, it's totally different. Some of them I forgot from a western country. They told me that. In my country, if you see some. One walk you will get like not bullied but like people will yell at you something like that. But in Taiwan and also in Wenzao they said that it's considered as a safe place and they never get any racism. Yeah.
WP2	Oh. And maybe maybe they are from the Britain country, not from Southeast Asia. If they are from Southeast Asia division, the answer?
Researcher	OK. And yeah, I think. Asian countries. Less discrimination will happen more than Western countries. Do you think? What contribute to this event or phenomenon?
WP2	It's very hard to find the answers. Maybe we could our culture and it just said we have something to connect and then we we understand each other like Asian country, we understand each other and maybe like. Because of the religions and the Christian and the Buddhists, for the Buddhists, we were taught to care each other like, be kind to each other and behave nicely to each other like that. Everyone is human, no matter what race you are like that you disappear like that. Think the culture. The religions are the most important thing.
Researcher	And so inside the campus, I mean, you are a professor, but inside the class. As a professor, you never treat the students differently. Yes, but have you ever seen the students treat each other differently or disrespectful?
WP2	To the professor or to the student. I never seen that, yes.
Researcher	The students never seen yet, but how about you as a student back then, when you were still on PhD?
WP2	Hmmm. I only have some problem when I need to contact the office. We got the office assistant. She cannot speak English, English. So when I come to the office and looking for someone to help me or and looking for some paper, something like that I can see her face. Like this. Not happy to see me at all having like me like and and the problem maker something that I will bring her a lot of problems. Something like that. So I think that that then when I bought a PhD student I think the office the office staff the office lady treat someone differently. Treat the local student better than the international students? Yeah, just just my feeling at that time.

Researcher	And I think I we have like something similar in here. I mean I'm an international students, my most of my friends are also are also foreigners. We have this similar situation like professor. But it's more like this office lady will be more respectful or smile and be happy when they meet. Student from Western country white people and et cetera. But when they, yeah. And I mean they're they're in charge to help international students, but when they see students from Southeast Asian countries, they will not happy to see us here? Do you think us if you if you can give like a solution to this situation, what can you say or what can you give?
WP2	Actually, I think this we totally cannot change people. We really cannot change. It's their personality, it's their perspective, it's something inside their mind and we cannot change their mind. They need to change their mind. We cannot change. They need to change themselves. Yes.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Yeah, yeah. Uh-huh. It's also like us as stereotypes for everyone.
WP2	Yes, the real type. Someone from South Asia must be a labour. Might be from a poor family or something like that. Yes, like it's kind of. They have the titles stereotype in their eyes, so it's it's it's really hard to change their mind. And they said, yeah, even the university, we have, the policy is at the the staff or the professor have to treat the student equally. Even we have the policy. And if you break the policy or if you violate the policy there will be some punishment, but it still happened. Yeah. And then he still happen. It's it's something about their mind. So we cannot change. They need to change their mind.
Researcher	Yeah. And I mean, I don't know how this stereotype has been influencing our brain like everyone in this world has difference. Yeah, and.
WP2	From generation to generation.
Researcher	I mean, in your opinion, can we erase those stereotypes from everyone's brain and how to make everyone think ohh, we are all the same?
WP2	As first, Southeast Asian people, especially for those who are right now in Taiwan, you should be have likely be a good people. Show them that OK, we are Southeast Asian people. We have a beautiful culture. We also have money and something like that. But you know, like sometimes there is a time for the Thai Thai tourist on the Thai worker to do something bad. They do something bad and then. You know, they also remember Thailand again Indonesian again, which means again something like that. So it's stereotype cannot erase because it's always happening. It's it's it's always happening everyday or something?
Researcher	Yeah, but it's I mean. Because, for example, local people only see one person from Thailand, so they think that every yeah.
WP2	That just it all, all of the people may be like that. For example, like we, you know, like Thailand, we have the kind of the the sex worker, the sex in the tree like and the and the the Westerner or even the Taiwanese people like the Thai Lady, all the Thai girl come to Taiwan. Maybe if they're doing something about the sex service, something like that, no matter you come here being a professor? No. They said maybe you have sex service or something like that. Yeah. Yeah. The bad thing. They just want people.
Researcher	Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

Researcher	Uh. Yeah, but I mean we cannot change like for example, I'm in Indonesian and for example, I have local people who has a Indonesian women as the housemate and maybe the house helper is not good. And then my local friend will think that all indonesian are the same. Yeah, but can we, like train ourselves to erase those stereotypes? Or maybe if. As a professor. Do you think what can you as a professor offer or the campus offer like education about?
WP2	It's not about the professor. It's not about the school. It should be MOE. It's higher than that we cannot teach university student to change their mind.
Researcher	Uh-huh.
WP2	Because they they cause a lot of like stereotypes about ageing already. We should change from the young generation. Yes, from the baby like that. Not the change from the university student, of course the university student we cannot change their mind for sure. So we we can change only the young generation, not about the professor, not about the local student, not about when we should be about the MOE. Yes, MOE.
Researcher	Yeah. That's true. If you can tell something to the, or if you are one of the MOE members, what what will you do?
WP2	I think they. Should have some kind of curriculum or the subjects that your subject. I mean like to be world citizen, something like that. About the world is different. That taught make this young generation to understand each other. Yes, there's not just one little need in this world or not. Just only white people in this world. But we also have black people. We also have the tan skin people. Still have people from Southeast Asia like that. Yeah, yeah.
Researcher	I recognise one of my local friends also the interviewees. He told me that in high school. I mean, in high school, the education should be higher than of course, junior high and elementary school. But when they are in high school, they don't really have a lot of lessons about. Countries outside Taiwan, so they don't have a rich knowledge about ohh what happens outside Taiwan? Yeah. So what do you think we can do to change that?
WP2	Yes. MOE can do, MOE can do everything. They just, like, make a new curriculum for the kindergarten student, for the like a primary school student they can do.
Researcher	Does it have something to do with the? What is it? The bilingual 2030? Bilingual country, I mean Taiwan wants to make bilingual plan, yeah.
WP2	In English, at the official language you got the EMI. But you know you so focus on English, yeah. English is Britian, it's not about Southeast Asia. They cannot change their mind.
Researcher	Yeah. OK, so it's maybe not their goals yet.

WP2	But it's I think Wenzao, Wenzao. Had tries a lot too late to promote Southeast Asia to Taiwanese because we have the USR project (Universities Social Responsibility) that focus on the Southeast Asia country don't help Southeast Asia people to show their culture, to show their food, to show their language. Something like that. So, Wenzao had tried a lot to introduce Southeast Asia to the local people, especially for my department. So we have tried a lot to promote some with Asia like. We are not that poor. Of course we are not that bad. We have everything that Taiwan has. Yeah, even better sometimes in some aspects, even better. Our economy is also is not that bad compared to Taiwan.
Researcher	Yeah. Yeah.
WP2	You still have tall building, you still have high speed train in Indonesia and you still have MRT. We also have everything. You have it. We have everything you have, yes.
Researcher	Yeah, we have. OK. And with the USR programme, does it have benefit for Southeast Asian Department or maybe you have like her benefits from the students?
WP2	I mean like about the feedback like to feedback. Yes, yes, because there's some, some sometimes the local people, they don't know where is Thailand and Indonesia, they still they still think that all every house in Thailand they have elephant or something like that. Actually we don't have the elephant. Elephant only at the zoo or in the jungle. So, we can change their mind. We can change like a picture of Southeast Asia in their mind.
Researcher	What kind of project that USR have like inside the campus or outside?
WP2	Both inside and outside. Ohh, we got a lot of the budget from the government, yes.
Researcher	From the MOE or a different kind of institution.
WP2	I'm not so sure from what military and let's say maybe Moe may. I'm not so sure about the sort of the budget, but we just we got a lot from the government, OK.
Researcher	OK. And I mean, we all know that the language barrier like what happened in your classroom, like local students don't really want or don't. Can't really speak English and international students. Most of us can't speak Chinese, right? And there's a huge wall that separate us between local and international students. And do you have any solution or advice to students about this? Like we know that Chinese students, I mean local students, are very shy. Yeah. Yeah. Like what you said. I mean, most of the people here, I mean, bachelor degree, not exchange because exchange change a lot. Most of us come from a country that English is not our native. Yeah, so. I mean, you don't have to be shy or afraid because me also, I did not speak English because it's not my mother language. So do you have any advice or solution to both sites?

WP2	As an international student. For me, yeah. Or international professor. You should learn Chinese because you are living in a Chinese speaking country. Yeah, you should learn the language. But for the local student. I Think. University should have some benefits, for example, like in my department, if a student can get a very good score in English, they get extra point or they get the reward. Something like that. And in my class. In my class, of course the local student, they are not so fluent in English. I think that OK if you read your idea, you have a discussion with me. I will give you the extra point. OK then. So it can be like kind of the motivation for the students to speak out with English like that. Yeah. Yeah.
Researcher	Ohh.
WP2	I think being a student, score is very important. Yes, everyone wants to score, so if you give the extra point extra point, OK, they will try their best to speak English. English more time, yeah.
Researcher	So that's always happen in your class. Extra point everyone, yes.
WP2	Yeah, always, always extra for everyone and everyone. Student want the point. Want that score to say I want to answer. Also, I want to answer. No matter, the answer is good or not, but if they try to speak English, yeah.
Researcher	And they need the extra points.
WP2	Because they need extra point.
Researcher	OK. And if you can only say one thing or? Maybe only one activities? Or how can I say this one things to be said or done in this multicultural environment? What can it be? Maybe you can like quote something from? From your how can I say from like a quote from your country or do you want to make your?
WP2	Own word quote let me think about the quote. Uh.
Researcher	I have a Vietnamese interviewees, she said that.
WP2	Yeah. What what, what? The quote.
Researcher	What is it integrate, don't as simulate?
WP2	Yeah, it's very deep. It's very deep. For me, the court or the solution, if you want to, that's something. Just caring each other, carrying each other, trying to understand each other. Yes. And don't judge the people because of we have a different language. We don't just caring and don't get the people. That's my code. People by using the language or based on the nationalities.
Researcher	OK, if you want to say something in Thai.
WP2	Oh, I'm gonna say something in Thai.
Researcher	Like very popular phrase in Thai.
WP2	<i>อย่าตัดสินคนอื่น เพราะว่าเราพูดภาษาที่แตกต่างกัน</i> Yeah, that's important.
Researcher	OK. And what does it mean?
WP2	But don't judge people. It's because we use the different languages or different nationalities, yes.
Researcher	Is it the one that you make or something popular?

WP2                    Something popular right now in Thai society and we have we we have the campaign that don't just the people based on their faith-based on their education level of based on their job like that because we can we just care each other caring is better caring and sharing like that.

---

Researcher        Oh. Oh. Ah. Yeah, that's true. OK, thank you so much, professor. That's the end for today. Thank you, professor.

---

WP2                    OK. Yes, finally. OK. If you have anything I can.

---

### Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 1

WS1	Oh, I have stayed in Taiwan for... 4 years and a half and oh I'm from the English Department.
Researcher	Okay, so how do you feel about English Department? Are you happy there? Is it good for you?
WS1	I think I learned something about English, or business English, or something like that.
Researcher	Oh, yeah I see. So, how do you know about Taiwan and education system in Taiwan?
WS1	Because when I was in High School, there was a program of Taiwanese student and Japanese student, like a sister school, and then I come to Taichung for a few days.
Researcher	When you were in high school?
WS1	Yeah.
Researcher	Oh! it sounds great!
WS1	And then I went to their school and then have a conversation in English, and then I realized Taiwanese English is really good. At this time, I didn't know. Yeah, and then one of my friends also thinking about going to Taiwan, university or not, and then at that time I was also thinking about leaving the city and then going to other universities in other cities in Japan. So, I think this is a good option to choose Taiwan University, so I chose here.
Researcher	Okay interesting story, I didn't know about that and... uh... In the end, why did you actually, like finally come here what did you decide, okay I will come here and have a plan to move here, why?
WS1	Because I wanted to go to the language college and then just in Taipei and Taichung, I think I remember The language school only two in Taiwan And then I don't really want to go to the urban area So I don't choose Taipei So just went there.
Researcher	So you know that there are two language schools in Taipei and Kaohsiung and then you choose in... Wenzao?
WS1	Kaohsiung.
Researcher	You choose Wenzao because you don't want to go to urban are right?
WS1	Yeah.
Researcher	Okay, now next question, how do you see yourself and your social group as a foreigner in Taiwan? Like when you first come here, do you meet a lot of Japanese also? Or like it's hard to find Japanese friends.
WS1	Ah, because when I came here for the first time, I was in CLC, Chinese Language Center.
Researcher	Oh, so you didn't come here for bachelor?
WS1	Yeah, like half a year I was staying there. And then, because that time is March and then start from September, right. So that's why I just learn Chinese first and then... bachelor.



Researcher	Oh. Uh-huh.
WS1	But there's not many Japanese, so that time I also can't speak English... a little bit. *laugh* So they accept me, my classmate. And I was talking to them. And then, we're still friends.
Researcher	OK. And like after that you finally... do you have like a Japanese groups of friends?
WS1	In CLC
Researcher	In CLC or in like after you come to the bachelor, and you have Japanese friends and they hang out together.
WS1	Ah yes. I was in the English department and there was 5 Japanese.
Researcher	Okay.
WS1	And then one of my friends is really close to me, so I always go out with her like two of us.
Researcher	Okay. And uh, how do you how do you see yourself like uh. Do you think if people in Wenzao see you, did they see you as a Japanese students or like... did they see you as a Taiwanese?
WS1	I think they think I'm really Japanese.
Researcher	Oh you have the Japanese face.
WS1	Yeah. *both laugh* Because I don't know. My clothes and makeup.
Researcher	Mm-hmm.
WS1	Is it obvious? Is it OK to say? *laugh* so I think they realize, oh, she's maybe foreigner. Like that.
Researcher	Mm-hmm, okay, i see. So how do you feel about living and having a lifestyle on campus like having after you finally meet like other Japanese friends, and then you you have other international student friends, right?
WS1	Yeah.
Researcher	Did you experience that when you were in Japan? Like having people like friends from other countries.
WS1	Hmm, no. Yeah, first time.
Researcher	How do you feel about that?
WS1	Because when I when I was in. Japan, I feel like... how to say...they are really conservative.
Researcher	You mean the other international students?
WS1	Yeah. Well, like the environment of the school is just, what is it, how to study and then go to university like directly so... there's no many like...there's no foreigners at all. Because my city also so small, so not many foreigners.
Researcher	No many foreigners in your...?
WS1	School and city. And how do I feel right?
Researcher	Yeah. Happy?
WS1	So that's why I feel. Because the time I also, learning English and I feel so fun. So I wanted to make foreign friends. But there's like no foreigners, so I feel like finally I got a friend here like that.

Researcher	So, where are your foreign friends came from?
WS1	Indonesian, Thai *laugh*, and one of my friends is from Ecuador.
Researcher	Ecuador is...
WS1	South America, and Philippines also.
Researcher	Do you have a lot of Taiwanese friends?
WS1	Not the many though. *laugh* Foreigners? Vietnam.
Researcher	Outside Asia?
WS1	Outside Asia, not many actually. I knew Americans, but not so close.
Researcher	Yeah. Okay... okay, and then after you finally, like making friends with people from other countries and also like with Taiwanese and for other foreign students, do you feel any cultural difference? Between you and them.
WS1	Any time?
Researcher	Yeah, and anything like, behaviour, social life, education.
WS1	For Taiwanese, I feel like...
Researcher	Not much? Or a lot?
WS1	Yeah, a lot different. Hmm, sometimes really similar to Japanese because they also, how to say... polite... and behaviour. Hmm, like there are so many cultural differences. For example, they don't really care about what you looks like.
Researcher	You mean Taiwanese? In Japanese it's different?
WS1	Yeah hmmm... for women, I think they always make up and go to the convenience store like, yeah.
Researcher	Oh, in Taiwan, you don't feel so?
WS1	Yeah, like really... dress up also.
Researcher	Yeah, but I feel that too. People in here don't really care what to wear.
WS1	Yeah. It's good, but not good also.
Researcher	Yeah. I feel. Also happen the same to me. I like to like in Indonesia people are always like... how to say it, really care about other peoples problems like for example you see like news in TV and usually this like a mom or grandma like oh, she really wear like a short and it's not polite and whatever, but it's like it's not your business.
WS1	Uh. Yeah, yeah, but still care, right?
Researcher	Yeah, but yeah, but in here, you wanna wear like bikini or something? Just whatever. We don't care, right? Yeah, I feel that too.
WS1	*laugh*
Researcher	So, that's it? No other, like behaviour?
WS1	Social life? Or like, how they use a chopstick?
Researcher	Uh-huh, is it different? Yeah, with Japanese and Taiwanese and foreigners?
WS1	Yeah, no, no, Taiwanese, even Taiwanese. Because in Japan we learn how to grab the, how to use the chopstick when I was kid. But like, maybe they don't have much culture.
Researcher	Uh-huh. So how, how are different like?

WS1	Maybe like... I saw my friend is like grabbing like this *showing a gesture of gripping chopstick with palm of the hand not with fingers* and then eat.
Researcher	Like the two chopsticks?
WS1	Yeah. And then grab like this *showing a gesture of gripping chopstick with palm of the hand not with fingers* and then like this. That was shocking to me
Researcher	Really? Is it a guy or a girl?
WS1	Girl. *laugh*
Researcher	Oh... really? *laugh* But not everyone right?
WS1	Not everyone but still sometimes it feels...
Researcher	Weird?
WS1	Yeah, weird.
Researcher	But you will not never see that thing in Japan?
WS1	Yeah. Yeah. Never.
Researcher	That's a little bit weird. *laugh* Okay and, which country do you feel it's more similar to Japan. In terms of like culture or environment, weather. I think... Korea?
WS1	Oh! Yeah, true.
Researcher	Do you have Korean friends? Do we have Koreans in here?
WS1	No, I never see. Ah! but I got just one here, but she already quit.
Researcher	Also in English department?
WS1	No. She was in Spanish.
Researcher	Oh.
WS1	But it's like two years ago or. three years ago. So.
Researcher	Ah, so she quit the school.
WS1	Yeah, so I don't really know her.
Researcher	Hmm, I feel like Taiwan is also similar to Japan.
WS1	Yeah, but here... too freedom?
Researcher	Ohh really?
WS1	I think so.
Researcher	You mean like the? People or the or the what is it the? Like government thing.
WS1	Yeah the people. Hmm, government thing? Hmm, let's say for example, don't bring the drinks here, but they still bring like that.
Researcher	Mm-hmm. Oh yeah, but in Japan?
WS1	Yeah. Totally not.
Researcher	Will you get like punishment or something?
WS1	I don't know actually. I think some store is like, the first they say maybe don't bring this one like that.
Researcher	Ah... So people in here, it's like like. A little less careless than the Japanese?
WS1	Yeah, I think so.

Researcher	And do you have any experience you have in Wenzao you've never experienced before in Japan, like culture shock? Like new information that shocked you.
WS1	Hmm, do you, do you have you have example?
Researcher	Oh, this is like an example about my culture shock, but it's not culture with people. But uhm, I don't know about the trash thing here.
WS1	Ah, yeah.
Researcher	And also like the people in here don't really smile.
WS1	Oh, really?
Researcher	Yeah, like the difference with my country is that when you just randomly walk somewhere and then like, you walk pass someone and then you, like, smile to each other and it's totally fine
WS1	It's so sweet.
Researcher	Yeah, but I mean, you can see the appearance of the people, if the people looks homeless, it's scary. But other, you do like this *showing a gesture of smile and bow* and then you smile to each other. It's like, oh, it's normal. But in here, if you smile to someone, it will look... people will look at you like a crazy people. Yeah like that.
WS1	Ah. Yeah. Yeah. Okay.
Researcher	Like, for Taiwanese they are friendly. They say thank you, and like, 不好意思, for everything. But with the smile, I think it's really different.
WS1	Hmm for me, in Japan it's not really hot, so there's no cockroach outside and inside also.
Researcher	Really? That's nice.
WS1	Yeah, it's good.
Researcher	And how about the, I don't know how to say that the... you know outside the buildings there are like, in the street, where you find some stinks. Do you have that? Wait. *showing a picture of street drain* But other than that, like other cultures strong about the people, do you have that?
WS1	People, I think appearance it's appearance.
Researcher	With, with who?
WS1	With Taiwanese.
Researcher	Oh, Taiwanese and Japanese, different appearance? What kind of apperance that shocks you?
WS1	Hmm, looks like pajama, not really. Let's say just T-shirt and then...
Researcher	Ohh but I usually see, like Taiwanese girls, like dress up.
WS1	Uh yeah, but sometimes no makeup at all. It's different the girls. But I can see someone they don't shave the hair.
Researcher	You mean Taiwanese girls?
WS1	Taiwanese don't don't really shave...
Researcher	You mean body hair? Really?
WS1	Yeah, yeah!

Researcher	Like even this short *showing WS1 example of short arm hair*, you also shave it?
WS1	Yeah, because I think Japan, many girls doing this like.. uhh.. permanent.
	Ohh Uh-huh. Even the the hair is not that much, you still do it?
WS1	Yeah.
Researcher	Ohh for like whole body? Or i mean like...
WS1	Yeah. Whole body. Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. But they don't say at all. Even they wear like... tanktops.
Researcher	How do you know that? I mean did you see other people's hand?
WS1	Yeah, yeah. And then I was talking to my Japanese friend, and then they she also realized they don't shave, yeah... that's shocking also.
Researcher	It's also shocking to me.
WS1	Is it only in Japan?
Researcher	Maybe. Okay, now we move to the next one. As a Japanese in here, you say that people look at you as a foreigner, right? Because some Japanese they look like Taiwanese, look very similar, yeah, but for you, you have more Japanese features.
WS1	Yeah I think so.
Researcher	Have you ever like feel like a bad treatment from other people because you are Japanese? Bad treatment... Like discrimination, like they don't respect you. Inside or outside Wenzao it's okay.
WS1	Uhhh... I feel like Taiwanese, really see people, like stare.
Researcher	Ohh really?
WS1	Yeah. And then maybe my looks? How to say... I don't look like Taiwanese. That's what they stared at me like, mostly Grandma and Grandpa.
Researcher	Oh yeah. Yeah, but like younger people don't really do that or it's the same. Only grandparents?
WS1	Yeah, I think so. Yeah, older people. I feel like uncomfortable sometimes.
Researcher	They like, really stare like that?
WS1	Yeah. Yeah. Watching on my face.
Researcher	Okay. But do you know, like your other Japanese friend, also feel the same? Same, uh, like discrimination like that? Or do you know, like, your other Japanese friend have different discrimination?
WS1	Ohh like appearance?
Researcher	Yeah, maybe. Yeah. Maybe appearance or anything.
WS1	Or maybe. Like Taiwanese, Taiwanese, they speak. That's it, joking, but I don't really get. Language barrier.
Researcher	Ohh, OK, OK.
WS1	It's not really discrimination...
Researcher	But I mean like is it like when you're having like a? Group discussion and then like you and Taiwanese, Taiwanese and then they just talk with

themselves. And then like you're left behind? Because of the language barrier?

WS1	Yeah, I don't get it.
Researcher	And if you feel that like, how do you handle it? People look like stare at you. What do you do like you do nothing, right?
WS1	Yeah, I do nothing.
Researcher	And if like like you say, the language barrier you feel like? You. Feel like for example, there are three of you, and there's two people just talk with themselves and then you feel like, oh, they didn't talk with me. How do you, how do you deal with that.
WS1	I will ask, I would ask what does that mean? But uhm... They are talking right? So I don't want to stop them. Oh, yeah. So, like, I always care about other people.
Researcher	Yeah. So nice.
WS1	So like, I don't really ask.
Researcher	You just like when they laugh, you laugh too.
WS1	Like, it's not really good though. No good habit.
Researcher	But have you ever tried to like, hey guys, what that mean? And then they explained.
WS1	Yes. Yeah.
Researcher	That's good. And do you think there are other other action that is actually discrimination but people think that it's normal that happened to you or your Japanese friends.
WS1	Like they. It's not discrimination like that to me.
Researcher	Like for example I don't know. Uh. Is it a thing? But. I I do this with my friends. Sometimes we will see people and. Ohh, they're so thin. But we didn't like talk straight to their their face, but we just like something like that. Like. OK, it's not really discrimination because that people were talking about, they didn't see us, right. But actually it is a discrimination because we we looked down. Yeah, we think about, yeah.
WS1	Already think.
Researcher	Yeah. For me, the Japanese is the Asian has the Asian standard. Tall, skinny white. Yeah. It's like the Asian beauties that like every Asian wants to be like Japanese, Korean girl. Yeah. So I think for me, when we see Japanese, there are nothing to judge from me like. Ohh you you guys are already so pretty. I want to be like you, so. Umm, but that's nice if you never have any like discrimination though.
WS1	Yeah, that's right.
Researcher	Because other people, especially like not not Asian people when they come here, they will like receive a lot of discrimination because the culture and even their appearance is really different with Asian.
WS1	Yeah.
Researcher	But if you don't have any discrimination, it's really good and and you.

WS1	I think I have, but I don't come up.
Researcher	But only like a few, you don't really experience this a lot?
WS1	Uh, OK. Taiwanese, when I was going out with my Taiwanese friends. And then I went to the beach. We went to the beach and then. There's some foreigner group and inside the group there's Taiwanese, and my friend told me that the girl is, look so same with... uhm, how to say..
Researcher	With the foreign. The foreigners, like white people, right?
WS1	Yeah. And then that woman is always look same because they get tanned and dark hair.
Researcher	Uh-huh. You mean like they think?
WS1	She thinks.
Researcher	They think she thinks that, oh, I oh, I get it. You you go with your Taiwanese friend and then you guys see, like, a group of white people. But they are like Taiwanese girls inside and then your friends say, like, oh, the Taiwanese just wants to be like white people. They want to fit in. And like that, is it not a good thing?
WS1	How to say? That group and then if there is other group and also looks same as the girl like looks similar.
Researcher	So. So you think it's a discrimination. But people normalised. Make it like normal.
WS1	Umm. Uhh. She think, get tanned and the black hair is like, like difference between normal Taiwanese because they want to look white like that. So it's like. She don't really. She doesn't really care about, oh how to say..
Researcher	Or like yeah, your friend is like questioned like is like confused like why that Taiwanese girl wants to have dark skin something like that?
WS1	Uh. She thought the girls who always with white guy, is the same.
Researcher	Same with the girl?
WS1	Get tanned and the black hair. You know what I mean?
Researcher	Oh. OK. Wait. You mean like? Taiwanese girls who wants to like be with a white guy is all the same, all like same type. The game is always going to have a dark skin and. Oh, I get it.
WS1	So it's. Uh, how to say. She has that kind of image. Like a typical image. So it's kind of like not good.
Researcher	Oh, OK, I get it. Yeah, I get it. OK, I get it. So if there are like. Taiwanese girl who has dark skin, they only wanted to like date like. Not every Taiwanese girl with OK, I. With it? Yeah. Black hair. Yeah. OK. But your friend is Taiwanese?
WS1	Yeah. So not really like her.
Researcher	OK. For example, let's have your Taiwanese friend as an example.
WS1	Hmm.
Researcher	Why do you think she, why do you think she has this image? To discriminate other people, just from their own thinking and their own views?

WS1	Uh. I feel like she's really typical Taiwanese. And she only speak Chinese and 臺語(local Taiwanese language). So, I'd say.
Researcher	So, like a little bit conservative?
WS1	Oh, yeah, conservative. So like maybe they are family also like really Taiwanese. And then the culture also.
Researcher	The culture shaped her to be, yeah. That.
WS1	And she's also. I went to Korea with her, but she was the first time to going to outside of the Taiwan. So yeah, yeah.
Researcher	And she was surprised. Surprised about like other worlds?
WS1	Yeah, I think so. Like maybe the food because Taiwanese doesn't eat seafood.
Researcher	Ohh. Like like what? Really.
WS1	Like the fresh, the uncooked.
Researcher	Don't they eat sushi?
WS1	They eat sushi. Yeah, but sometime some Taiwanese don't really sushi, like aburi.
Researcher	You mean they only want to eat that or they don't want?
WS1	No, they don't want to eat the fresh one.
Researcher	Ohh. Ohh I get it. And your friend is surprised.
WS1	Umm for the first time to eat the crab like that *laugh* and their appearance also.
Researcher	Ohh yeah, but I agree with you, but maybe. How our like family or how or where we live will shape our opinion about people.
WS1	Yeah. Yes.
Researcher	OK. And have you ever work together with other international students at campus? Do you have any difficulties?
WS1	Uhh, sometimes, for example, we make the conversation, they say in Chinese, and then, he think he's strong so i cannot convince him.
Researcher	Is it Taiwanese, or?
WS1	Foreigners.
Researcher	Oh, where is he from?
WS1	Uhm, Netherlands. He's the same grade like me
Researcher	Oh i see. So he thinks he's the best. Like no one can change her, his thought.
WS1	Yeah.
Researcher	And then what happened?
WS1	So I maybe just had to keep up with him. And then I didn't share my thoughts.
Researcher	Oh. That's too bad.
WS1	Hmm, yeah. How to say their source is really strong?
Researcher	Yeah, I don't know how to say. That but I understood.
WS1	Personality maybe?
Researcher	Do you think it's like a typical Western people It's like that?
WS1	I think so.



Researcher	Because I think Asian don't really do that.
WS1	Yeah, don't really that. By now, yeah, western.
Researcher	But only one time you have the like, group work with him?
WS1	No. Only one.
Researcher	So when you when you in the same group and like he don't want to listen your opinion. How do you how do you handle it?
WS1	Uh, OK. As I try to say, but he speak so. I don't speak that much at the time.
Researcher	So at the end, you just give up?
WS1	Yeah. Give up.
Researcher	OK. Anything else? No, no, wait. And. OK. So is there any challenges you faced in multicultural environment? I mean you say that you have a language barrier challenge right? But is the language barrier only, only for the one story you say they are joking and you don't understand is the language barrier, is there any other thing?
WS1	Hmm. Uhh.. Getting into the Taiwanese group. It's challenge, I think.
Researcher	You mean like trying to get into the like friends group, right?
WS1	Uh-huh friends group.
Researcher	It's challenging and you tried before?
WS1	Hmm yeah.
Researcher	And you succeed?
WS1	One is not success. *laugh*
Researcher	And the other one? *laugh*
WS1	Other one. Not really, I sometimes one-on-one it's so easier to like, try to speak Chinese, but if group. I really can't.
Researcher	I mean your your Chinese is good right now. I mean it's...
WS1	It's like in a yeah, in a normal.
Researcher	So that's the challenge to fit in with Taiwanese groups. OK, now is the last one, OK? If you can tell people one thing about living in a a multicultural environment place, what would that be? Only only one word or one thing. I asked my friend before if you live in a multicultural means like a lot of culture in one place, a lot of differences in one place, and there are a lot of discrimination going on. What is the one thing that she wants? I asked my friend and she say understanding. So understanding each other understanding. Friends is like important. What do you think, how about you?
WS1	Oh, try to know their culture.
Researcher	Like understanding, understanding the conversation? Try to talk to people?
WS1	Yeah, yes.
Researcher	Umm. OK. And that's all?
WS1	Something about giving... Yeah, I don't come up with.
Researcher	OK. Alright. Yeah. Thank you very much. Thank you. I hope I, I mean your answer is very much help my research. Thank you very much.
WS1	Ohh really? Thank you.

---

### Additional/Follow-up Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 1

---

Researcher	Can I ask you some additional questions from our last interview?
WS1	Yeah, sure.
Researcher	Has language (Chinese) affected the knowledge you've gained during your studies at Wenzao? And also do you understand the English used by professors during classes?
WS1	Yes in better way and bad? I could know Chinese and gradually could communicate with Taiwanese students. Because of the new language I am easy to forget English, it's hard for me because both languages are not my native language so hard to keep language in my brain (it's mixed up easily).
Researcher	Yeah.
WS1	Yes. I don't remember when the class has just started when I was in freshman year, but I think I get used to from that point. Sometimes it's hard for me to get Taiwanese professors' English accents.
Researcher	OK. I see. *laugh*
WS1	Yes. They asked me what's your culture? What's the situation in my country... more than Taiwanese students. Or some of the teachers know Japanese so they talked to me in Japanese. *laugh*
Researcher	OK. That's all, thank you!
WS1	If you still want to ask, you can ask me anytime.

---

## Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 2

WS2	Right now it's been a year and this is this, the start of the new semester will be my second year.
Researcher	OK, good. And you're from DIA and OK, so I remember there are only few students from your country, right Eswatini. So how do we know Taiwan? And you know, the education system, the program? And how do you know Wenzao?
WS2	OK, so about the scholarships and opportunities to study in Taiwan, we know back in my country, my country Eswatini has some good relations with Taiwan. So we have the ICDF and MOFA scholarships. So usually every year they send this out and Swazi students or the youth of Eswatini they get the chance to apply for the scholarships, and that's how we know Taiwan. And then how do we know about Wenzao? Actually I didn't know about when I only found Wenzao when I was looking at the list of schools in the MOFA scholarship.
Researcher	Ah.
WS2	So I saw they're offering the course, or rather major that I wanted, so I applied to the school.
Researcher	OK, so you're looking for like, so you're interested in some kind of, you know, international relations, politics and some things, so. Oh, and Wenzao is a good choice.
WS2	Yes. *laugh*
Researcher	OK. *laugh* And how do you feel about Wenzao so far it's been one and a half year. How is it so far?
WS2	Mm-hmm. So far it's been good here with I've got me and the other Swazi students because there's two of us is in the master program. So far we've been treated so good and anything we need. The school is just happy to help us. So, so far it's been good. It's been good.
Researcher	OK, so when you come here, you came alone or with the one friend from the masters degree.
WS2	No, no. I came first and then he came a few days after me.
Researcher	Oh, so at first you didn't know each other.
WS2	No, no, we just know each other when we got here in this school and we formed a bond, yeah.
Researcher	OK, I see. So other than the you know you said that your country and Taiwan has a sort of good relationship and they offer scholarship program, other than other than that scholarship thing, what makes you choose Taiwan and when to to, you know, continue your degree here?

WS2	OK, first, because the education system in Taiwan, it's pretty good. Yeah. So I like the idea of it. It is pretty good compared to other countries or in my country. And I chose Taiwan because I wanted to study abroad in Taiwan presented the opportunity and I was accepted in Wenzao with the scholarship so I took the opportunity to study and when I checked the reviews about Wenzao, what school it is and everything. It's a good school for me and so I enjoy it.
Researcher	Mm-hmm. OK, thank you. OK, we, I already know you. Now your background is pretty interesting. You know, now, you know, actually Wenzao is a small university compared to other university in Taiwan, right. But as a you know, language school, language university we actually have a lot of numbers of international students who come here in Wenzao and you are one of the international students as well as me. So, umm, how do you see yourself and also your social group? Uh, your Eswatini friends as a foreigner in this campus?
WS2	Well, in this campus. What can I say? It is good, especially since as you say, there's quite a number of international students, so it's good because now you have people that can relate to you more, so the environment for being an international student is good. And then other thing is you can make friends with other people from other countries and have friendships and bonds, and if they're not feel lonely and their homes sick that much. So the environment for international students, it's good in the sense of having others or fellow international students, but with the local students, it's it's OK.
Researcher	OK.
WS2	For me, I bond more with the international student.
Researcher	So you feel like, uh, it's easier and you're more comfortable to, you know, hang out with umm, international students more than local friends, right?
WS2	Yeah, yeah, it is. It is. And also remember, we also have the language barrier, so communications between international students and local students, it's quite hard, its easier for international students to just form one group and get along.
Researcher	OK. Hmm, that's true. OK, so, uh, how how do you feel about Um, living in Taiwan right now, especially for the lifestyle in maybe inside or outside the campus area? Like you mentioned before, that you hang out more with international students, but in general, how is the lifestyle?
WS2	In general, the lifestyle, it's good, it is good. You can get everything you need around the corner or even when you need it, it's easy for you to access it and you have people that can help you. So inside and outside campus. It is the lifestyle is quite good. It's good.
Researcher	Mm-hmm. There are no such like, differences inside the campus and outside the campus like it's all the same?
WS2	Well, not the same in on campus. There's nothing much that is different, which is all the same, just maybe the communications, and outside, well, I haven't had one bad experience that much, but my fellow Swazis, they share their experiences.

Researcher	Mm-hmm.
WS2	There might be some sort of like because they can understand Chinese much better. So when anything happens they can see and it's not the same. Honestly, with the level that the people outside. It's not the same. It's not the same.
Researcher	Hmm. And uh, do you have like, a lot of people or students from Eswatini outside the campus? Like, do you have, like, Eswatini community in Kaohsiung, for example, do you have it?
WS2	No, you know, we don't have that, but you end up knowing them you met them on the MRT, bars, or on the street in. Yeah, there's there's no one group like in a society, yeah, we don't have that.
Researcher	OK, but at least you know someone from same country.
WS2	Yeah.
Researcher	OK. So do you have any kind of cultural differences that you feel is like really different from your country? And when you come here in Taiwan, it can be like a social life behaviour or like a cultural behaviour, educational, religion, anything like, just totally different from your country and you're like shocked. *laugh*
WS2	*laugh* Uh. Yes, there was cultural differences. Mm-hmm. But with with the education, no, there's nothing much different. There's nothing much different. But there are things that we were culture shock to me like, one that shocked me to the core. Is the way they use their bathroom system. I was that was a shock for me. The squats. That was a shock though. Even now I stay away from those.
Researcher	Uh-huh. You you don't, you don't have the squat toilet in Eswatini?
WS2	We don't have that. *laugh*
Researcher	All the seating toilets.
WS2	Yeah. We have the seating toilets, so it was a shock to me and then also here it was a shock to me the way how people speak Chinese because when my country comes from, we speak English a lot, but we do speak Eswatini language. But when it comes to doing things, you speak English and when you go on the street or when you want to buy something, mostly you use English, but here in Taiwan people on the street you wanna buy food, most of them the the people, the citizens, they speak Chinese, the board and in time is when you buy food and you eat, the bag maybe like the ingredients are start it's in tiny. So that was a shock for someone who's not from this country, you have to use Google Translate so you can know what this thing is. Otherwise you won't know unless you have someone who's gonna say "Oh, let me help you out." Yeah, and also Taiwan, there's a lot of street cameras everywhere. There's a camera. You turn the corner, there's the camera that was a shock too and...
Researcher	I'm sorry. What kind of camera? You mean, like people taking picture of you or like a street camera?
WS2	Street cameras.
Researcher	Like a CCTV?
WS2	Yeah. Yeah, it's CCTV.

Researcher	Ohh yeah yeah yeah.
WS2	Yeah. Those were quite shocked, shocked to me. And on the food well on the food, I won't say much. I honestly enjoy the Taiwanese cuisine. I love their food. There wasn't that much of a shock , just kind of different foods, so I love most of it.
Researcher	OK, I'm I'm really curious. How do you you know when you see this squat toilet? Do you like do you happen to manage to like, ask your friends or like Google it how to use this squat toilet or you just like, OK, I'm going to use it.
WS2	Hmm, well, I don't use it. At first when I see it. I just try to. The western toilet and if they have it, then I'd rather use it, but for this one I kind of figure it out that you just have to squat. There's no other choice you have once, so I only asked them afterward that you guys, how can you manage with that type of toilet and like, no, you just get used to it. Just how it is.
Researcher	*laugh* That's cute. That's really cute. Actually. It's I. I mean, I didn't know. I thought, like some other country also have this squat toilet. But I didn't know about this. Yeah. OK, so that's it. The culture shock that you feel.
WS2	Yeah. Yes. *laugh*
Researcher	OK, so I think for your country cause Um. Like it's really different from Asia, right? So I feel like the there are a lot of cultural differences. Right. But after meeting some friends in Wenzhou, or like international friends in Taiwan, which country do you feel is like more similar with Eswatini?
WS2	I'll say African countries are more similar, especially from the South of Africa. Those all are they are similar, we have similarities. In other countries, you know, once they are just African countries, especially from the South. Yeah, because my country is from the South, so, yeah.
Researcher	Hmm. Yeah. So when you like, meet other foreign students from Africa, you will be like, Oh my God, I feel you so much, something like that.
WS2	Yeah, yeah, yeah.
Researcher	OK. And do you have like, you know new experience you faced during your time here in Taiwan or in Wenzao University. Like uh, kind of, you know, experience that includes yourself, like, for example, the the squat toilet thing it it includes yourself, but you know, you didn't really got affected by that right. But another experience that you got affected by it.
WS2	Oh, let me think and experience that. Is it bad a good way or what?
Researcher	Both you can you can tell me good one or a bad one. Up to you.
WS2	Oh my... can you give me an example?

Researcher	Like... a new information. OK, in in my country I just have to if we have a trash in our house, you just like, put it in a plastic bag and then throw it outside the house. And then like, maybe like every morning or once in the two days like. A huge truck will go over our houses and take the trash, but in here you have to, you know. Um, differentiate the trash like this is plastic. This is food. This is paper. This is boxes and you have to throw it according to the section. And there's no one to, you know, we have to wait for the truck. But in my country, the truck will go to our houses. It's like a new information. That and the experience is like I got. I got scolded by, you know, there's like an old guy in our campus, the old man, who always hang out in the trash area.
WS2	Hmm.
Researcher	Yeah. I I just throw my trash casually and they called it me because there are plastics, foods and like paper in one plastic trashes and they and they like you have to, like, put it here, put it here. You can't just, you know, put it together in one plastic. Something like that.
WS2	Well, OK, OK, Now I get it I can go on that part, here we don't have garbage cans on the street so that we have not, I guess it's a good thing how not to throw your trash on the street. Just keep it with throw it away when you get a trash can because there's none on the street and then you do get most of the time it's clean. So like the only one who just drops the paper on the floor. So that told me that. OK, if I have to throw out maybe a sweet or having a sweet now. I was having candy and I was like, we're gonna throw this and just put it in my bag when I see a trash can yeah, that one that I throw it up. And um, what you say it again in my country, when you live in the rural areas, we don't have the truck that comes to pick up the trash. We just some you dig up the hole in your home where you just throw your trash. And when it fills up, usually burn it. That's what we do. When I take out my trash like you said, I don't differentiate it. I just put it in the trash when it's full it out and it just burning and in the city like you said, like you guys just take it, put it in the street and the truck comes, picks it up and again there's no differentiate recycle.
Researcher	Yes.
WS2	And what do I? Yeah, we we don't have that. What else? Also I think, having to be independent here in Taiwan as international students, that experience has taught me how to save and be careful with my finances because obviously I have to be able to pay the bills and also school and food and everything.
Researcher	Yes.
WS2	So that too has taught me how to be a more savvy person and just look after my finances. Yeah, yeah, yeah. And be a nice person because Taiwanese are nice people. And when they get up, they say hello when they get off they say 謝謝.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS2	I've learned to be nice to people and to just be open minded, yeah.

Researcher	OK, so now we get here as a place of multicultural place, you know. A lot of close minded, I can say close minded person. And you can find it everywhere, anywhere in this earth. So discrimination happened, right. So um, in Taiwan in general or in Wenzao, or anywhere in Taiwan area, have you ever been treated, you know, disrespectfully by someone else's or like, some other groups?
WS2	So personally I didn't have that experience and also like going to school, I've had the best experience, a really good one. I didn't have unfettered means whatsoever. Personally, I didn't have that. But outside, like I said, I have fellow Swazis that can understand. So they've had cases or instances where they felt like they were being treated unfairly by the local people and they were saying something bad about them, but in Chinese and them, and because some of them think when they speak Chinese, you cannot hear them, but unfortunately they can understand things, they understood what they were saying about that. So personally I didn't have them. But others have shared that so that they would not get feeling. And others have asked me if I've experienced such things that maybe someone wants to ask me if I've had experience where I got on the pass that down. And somebody didn't want to sit next to me. They just moved. Rather move and they sit next to them. They just rather move and go somewhere else or say something bad about you or give you think. I I didn't have that. But it's experiences that they they. Yeah, that's it.
Researcher	Hmm.
WS2	I mean. But inside school? No, none of them we all just be like, so far in the school it's been treated good just outside sometimes.
Researcher	Ohh yeah, I see. So yeah, maybe like the the events your friends feel it's like not like it's not physically, but more like verbally, you know, like local people just say something in Chinese and they feel like, oh, she don't understand. So you know...
WS2	Yeah, not physically. Verbally. They say something and then you can tell.
Researcher	OK so, because you didn't haven't like, I hope you didn't have this discrimination event, but I mean, your friends that experienced it before, do you know how they kind of deal with the situation or in the future if I hope you did not, if you get like discriminated uh, how do you deal with it?



WS2	I just gonna leave it for what it is, because not everyone is gonna like you or understand you for me. I told the thing that if I don't know you and you don't know me, you're not that important for me to consider what you did to me was so much in this world. And I've met so many nice people here in Taiwan that *indistinct chatter* By this one person say that to be a great person to me. So if I were to face discrimination, I really wouldn't let it bother me, or just even. It is easy. You're the one who has a problem, the problem, and this is how this friend of mine took care of the situation, they just know that this person is saying they support them and other people heard just that the way the way Taiwanese are they rather keep quiet. So you just let it be that there is that because I don't know you, so I shouldn't let something deeper. Someone I don't know who doesn't have value in my life say something that's going to bother me so.
Researcher	Yeah, that's true.
WS2	Yeah, so many Taiwanese people are actually very nice. It's just those few that really. But also we usually don't let let one person say good for the minority, for the major part.
Researcher	Yeah, I agree with. You. Totally agree with you. OK, so like what you mentioned before, like for example like local people did. Then physically discriminate, but they verbally discriminate. I feel like those kind of actions has been normalized by people as not a discrimination. So when you're just like, you know *showing gesture of eyeroll* with your friends, you're just something like that and oh, we're not discriminating. It's not racist. We're just talking about you. Or something like that. Do you? Do you feel like is there any other things like that that is actually like a discrimination or an act of racism, but has been normalized by people?
WS2	Uh. I don't know. I've never thought of it that way, but you know, some people will come to you and ask you about Africa, for example in you about "Ohh you don't have water in your in your in Africa" they say like... don't have water in Africa? and others have come to say, "Oh, I don't have so many kids like you. You have so many kids." Why would you say that? *laugh*
Researcher	What? *laugh*
WS2	Things like that. And others ask about the accent because other African countries have an accent with where they think they like. But you don't have an African accent because some people just like, hey, my brother *speaking with African accent*, you know that accent, right? *laugh*
Researcher	Uh. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. *laugh*
WS2	Don't they don't hear in there. Some of them are shocked, like you're supposed to be talking like this, but I'm not. And I'm not even from that part of Africa where this is how from the South. So I think on the part of them not being educated enough to know more about Africa, it just makes it like, um... no, no.

Reseacher	Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, I agree with you. I also have like some, there's this one island, one big island in Indonesia. It is known as like a rain rainforest island. Like, I don't know how to say it. So the other islands in Indonesia are like populated. It's like a big city, but this one specific island is like... like maybe I can say like 80 or 70% of the island was covered by forests. So when you have people from that island, it's also Indonesian, they will ask like, do you have water in there? How do you survive? How do you like, drink? How do you take shower? Or something like that. Yeah. Yeah, yeah.
WS2	Yeah. Uh-huh.
Reseacher	I totally agree. And, you know I've heard about those things too. Not just Africa, but, like, just uneducated people from all over the world. Yeah. OK. So I think I've. I found an answer to the next question. It's about uneducated. You know. My next question was, Um, what influences people to discriminate against other people and you know, the answer may be some people are just like, not well educated.
WS2	Yeah, they are not well educated and not in a bad way, as much as we all use the media love it, but it also feeds the people with wrong information and if you as a local want to learn more and see if is this really true, you won't know. You'll just take what the media says. OK, like what? You will see some other pictures or video on the internet about African countries that have suffered droughts. You know, because of global warming, we and they don't have water. If you knew more, you'd know that. OK, there are things such as natural disasters, like a drought that people we don't, and yes, some areas in Africa is really they don't have water, but that's not something you come out and say to everyone who sees this, they'll say, oh, you don't have water there. Yeah. And some people I'd see, I say from Africa. So this one is usually funny. I found it to be funny, "Oh Wakanda!" and I'm like...
Reseacher	*laugh*
WS2	You know that's just the movie, everybody's know there's no Wakanda in Africa, yes, the black and everything, but don't say Wakanda *laugh*
Reseacher	Oh my God. *laugh*
WS2	You know more and you ask me precise questions than all when I say this and some people again, I I usually laugh at this one. It's so funny when I say, oh, I'm from Eswatini and they ask, they ask where is that? And I told them that ohh in the southern part of Africa and they say ohh, I know somebody from Nigeria. Nigeria is in the northern... I don't know... It's far from where I live, so there's no way for me to make unless they move to the South, to my country. Still, I wouldn't. I don't buy with people everything. So if people would get more educated on those things and not just take everything on the media, they see.
Reseacher	Hmm.
WS2	That is...
Reseacher	Yeah, the Wakanda one is actually really funny. Did someone actually ask you that?

WS2	Yeah, they have. Actually. Last semester there was an exchange student from Indonesia and he, he he when me and the other guy I think you know we, me and my friend, oh we're from Africa, and the guy goes "Wakanda", you're in you you are in university. They don't say you are.
Reseacher	Ohh my gosh, that's embarrassing.
WS2	For him to, yeah, the answer to the lock it up and then we correct it.
Reseacher	That's literally so embarrassing. I feel bad for him, for not, you know, even though it's a joke, it's like it's a bad joke. Yeah.
WS2	It's a very bad joke because like don't be proud of saying something like that.
Reseacher	Yeah. OK. So umm. How do I say? Have you ever... go to other country other than Taiwan?
WS2	Um. No, actually no. I was just all my life in Eswatini and the other, the only time I was out of it was when I I went to South Africa cause that way I changed my flight to Taiwan, and that was the time I was outside of my country.
Reseacher	Ah. OK. So you haven't feel or experienced any physically or verbally discrimination by other people. So when you, you know when you hang out with other international friends in Taiwan, and maybe somehow you get, you feel, some kind of bad experience from them, like for example, uh, they accidentally, like uh unintendedly, they kind of say that you're, oh, you're from Africa or something like that. But they're they're not, you know, it's an accident that they say that or any other bad or good experience from your relatives and friends in Taiwan, do you think that one specific person kind of represent the whole country, like for example, there's this one Taiwan people who, uh, kind of bully me, and then I say that ohh all Taiwanese people are like that, I don't want to be friends with Taiwanese something like that but it's actually only this one specific person who bullies me something like that. What do you think?
WS2	Um. So I didn't have one where somebody came out like that and made it sounds bad and make a mistake. No. Usually they just, they're only like excited and they start telling me about countries that's been in Africa or countries they know like, nice to meet you. And they tell me. Oh where where are they from? Maybe Asia, Europe or the US where. So I haven't had an experience with one. Say no, I no, we I don't have any personal experience of that. I have any of any from my friend. Usually we just go and have a good relation, yeah.
Reseacher	Mm-hmm. OK.
WS2	Oh. One with a fellow black person. Yeah, that one, though. They didn't take it seriously because it was somewhat, and they studied in Wenzao and they told me that they feel like no, because of what they shouldn't be associating because now they were making it a big thing. That was like, no.
Reseacher	Uh-huh.

WS2	I was just saying hi to you, because we're in the same department and you're actually friend of a friend. But anyways, like I overlooked it like yeah. There's a I can see they're not into, they don't have the idea, or whether they don't want to associate themselves with somebody. Like I'm saying was black as well, so. Yeah, yeah.
Researcher	OK, so so far your relationship and friendships has been, you know, I mean with friends has been good and positive, right.
WS2	Looking good.
Researcher	Do you think? Is it difficult or easy for you and your friends from other country to understand each other in terms of, you know, acceptance toward each other, for example, when you, I don't know, I just make it up when you for example, go to your friend's house and then they have, like, their culture, they bring from their country, like for example, you have to take out your shoes, you have to wash your hands, you have to, you know, the kind of understanding between friends. Do you have any like difficulties in that way?
WS2	Actually I don't have difficulties. We have similarity.
Researcher	Oh!
WS2	When we complained together about the Taiwanese is like, why would they do this? Honestly, they feel the same. Take them off or shoes, the bathroom, the kitchen, those have been the same. You just have similarities in that aspect that all we do this and we don't do that. And I guess because we're international students. Who are more mind up and that OK we have, I have my culture and you have the only two things differently for me. So whenever I see something differently, I don't think it better just say OK, this is how they do things and.
Researcher	Right.
WS2	It's all of us. We do that. But for the more part, for the bigger part, which is I can relate. We we have more things in common. The things the same other than that, like last semester back I was in the dorms, there was this one student from Slovenia, yeah, yeah, that is the way they do things in the bathroom. It's just driving us crazy...
Researcher	What is it? What is?
WS2	Like how will they take the shower? They leave the bathroom floor wet in the with the the sanitary in the toilet is different from the way things are actually coming to each other that Oh my God, they're driving me crazy. And like, yeah, mine too. So that's what we usually have more than communicating about each other.
Researcher	Uh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, actually, living in a dorm is like. Uh, I've never. I've never lived in. Uh, I mean, with people from different country. But, you know, even living with people. As you know, living with. Other Indonesians in the same room. Also, you know, we have differences in everything and I cannot, like imagine if you have to live with people from different country, it will be, you know, more difficult, right?
WS2	I think if I also live with fellow Swazis, the people that experienced what you experienced that.

Researcher	Mm-hmm.
WS2	We we would have these differences because to be told back home, we've had those when we, whenever we slept together and from. If we attended the same college, you'd have those that you didn't do this. You should do this like this, but because my roommates like Taiwanese and international student. Most of it we just be open minded other than I think it's different. I think it's different but in your case if I were to share a room with Swazi, I think probably I'd have a different experience.
Researcher	Yeah. OK. So that that are like one experience and challenges in your dormitory lives, right? Do you have other challenges you faced? You know, when you contribute to the multicultural environment, like for example during group works or like um, I don't know teamworks or anything.
WS2	Well, the group works. Personally I don't like working in groups with Taiwanese.
Researcher	WS2, I'm so sorry. Someone is calling the door. I have to open the door first for my friend. I'm sorry. I will be back. Wait, wait, wait for me. I didn't end the call. OK, wait for me. I'm so sorry. *laugh*
WS2	Yeah yeah sure. *laugh*
Researcher	OK. It's you, right, you want to say something.
WS2	With, the group works and everything.
Researcher	Yep, go ahead. *laugh*
WS2	*laugh* So working in groups, I prefer working with international students over working with the local students because. Like I said before, we have the language barrier and with them being shy and everything it makes it hard for us to work with them and most of them don't really care about their mark, while for me I it messes the marks because I have to keep my grades good so I can get my scholarship and everything. So for them they just pull back, you know?
Researcher	Yeah.
WS2	It's quite for you to find local students that are in the work and they can put in the effort and also, like I said, they just don't care about their mark that much. And also they don't come to classes that much. So you'll find that you have to work on a group works and somebody's not here.
Researcher	Yeah.

WS2	Difficult and also the language the language makes it difficult. I heard what where I worked with Taiwanese and I was the only one international student because there's not much of us. So they usually divide us and our professor divided us. OK, yeah. Each have any international student, each group. Because there's I think there's 9 or 10 of us. Each one of us had one in their groups, and in my group we divided ourselves, OK, according to work, and who's going to present because we had I think 5 minutes to do our presentation, so we decided some of them are going to present and others to PPT and everything, and the ones that were chosen to do a presentation with me, they backed out just the day before and evening and it was around 10:00 PM and I was asking 2 slides, one and two. You just said. And I'm like, oh, no, I cannot do the presentation tomorrow.
Reseacher	Uh-huh.
WS2	And I said, why are you telling me this right now? We're. Presenting tomorrow you've had a whole you say this thing, it was really bad in that sense that they just...
Reseacher	Yeah.
WS2	It was really bad. I got so angry for that. It was really bad. That right now you just backing out right now. That, you know I cannot out. So that makes it all bad. Yeah. And no, no, I prefer international students over there because, like I said, we can relate that...
Reseacher	Yeah.
WS2	The ideas we have, they are good. They can understand me. I can understand them. We work all together and it's usually fun, honestly.
Reseacher	Yeah. So how's the presentation on the next day in that case? So you present by yourself?
WS2	There was a student who, who was good in English, she was also actually mad, but then she took it upon herself to do the presentation and I think there was five of us there. So the other two, because three of us had to present and the other two other work, they took it upon themselves to say, OK. Which is going to present with you, even though those ones that they did good, they actually I don't know, they said they're gonna sort it out. It's just like come out. I don't wanna work with you but yeah also the groups and they also sometimes like given the vote is the intelligent students to be the group leader. And you have to help them out. And it's hard to help someone who's not even telling you what they need help with you ask them. OK. You understand, they say mm-hmm *showing gesture of nodding head*. But when you ask them, OK, can you give me your ideas about this and this? About the topic we were discussing and they just say so, yeah, it's really hard.
Reseacher	Yeah. Uh.. OK, so after I mean this is just like a personal question. I want to ask after you finish your degree in Wenzao, do you? Want to stay still, want to stay in Taiwan or you want to go back to your country or? You want to continue masters or?
WS2	Well, that question my plan is to get it to masters. So my...
Reseacher	Uh. In Taiwan also?

WS2	First option is try another continent or another country. If the presents itself on taking it, but also I wouldn't mind. doing it in Taiwan, I won't mind, so I think. I'll explore what? Options that OK if I get a university and scholarship in another country, I'll take it, but then again. If not, I don't mind continuing doing it in Taiwan.
Researcher	Yeah. OK. So in the future? Do you think is there any you know any other challenges or like some challenges is the same might be faced by the younger or next generation from your country who will come to Taiwan?
WS2	Uh, what? I I won't say, though, face, OK? The only challenge that I think in the future they will face is probably right now we have the opportunity of working is English teachers and in the when Taiwan becomes a bilingual country and there's not that much. Need for foreign English teachers? Probably for them having that opportunity, they won't have it like us. Right now we have it, but then probably that opportunity. Will be long gone. Because probably might region the Taiwanese population, they'll be good and speaking English, and they'll have their own Taiwanese people teaching English. But I think in that. In fact, not even for owning my country, just internationals, because most of us we find in teaching English. But then in the future, I think that opportunity will be there. Too will be closed.
Researcher	Uh. I see.
WS2	Other things, but then. Again, when the country becomes bilingual, it will open other opportunities because that means not only internationals will only teach English, but now they can go into work in different aspects and different. What do you call it?
Researcher	Subjects. Lesson?
WS2	Yeah, yeah, they can do something else, you know, not only teach English. They can if they have, like your masters from you can now use it somewhere else. OK, because now the word you you can use the English and like now the language becomes too much that you can speak Chinese and they need the language. And really when you look at it, it's going to be hard. How are you going to work with people when you cannot speak the language? You need to help the people? So I think it's going to be...
Researcher	Hmm.
WS2	Much better than that.
Researcher	OK, so you're working as an English teacher too right now.
WS2	Yeah, yeah.
Researcher	Oh, that's good. OK, so before we end the interview, do you have any other things you want to share?
WS2	Not not nothing much really. We've covered everything.
Researcher	OK, now this is the last one. If there is only one thing, only one thing to be said or done by people from all over the world who live in multicultural environment, what would that be?
WS2	One thing that will be?

Researcher	That would be said or done by people that live in a multicultural, multicultural environment. What would that be? For me, I would say for me, I would say one thing that should only be done if I can. I mean, if I can only say one thing, it would be understanding for me, yeah. How about you?
WS2	For me it will be. Being open minded.
Speaker:	Hmm.
WS2	Actually, yeah. For me, I'll say just be flexible.
Researcher	Yeah, be open minded. I agree with that too. What people? What I mean if people are close minded they you know they will not. Get anything that we said they will not be able to understand that you know? The generations are changing. A lot of things changing there will be like. Old-brained, I don't know how to say that the brain will. Be.
WS2	Yeah.
Researcher	Like you know, left behind in the I don't know, 1717.
WS2	Like this somewhat touching your own experience because you have a bad experience with your closed minded. So be your open mind.
Researcher	Yes.
WS2	You enjoy yourself being in a different environment.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS2	You enjoy yourself. Honestly, you just enjoy it and be good.
Researcher	Yeah, I agree with that, OK. We're done. Thank you very much. It's it's really. I really got a lot of, you know, insights from this interview and I hope it will be a good one. I will write a good one from your interview.
WS2	Thank you. I hope you don't have too much stress about the GP and good luck.
Researcher	Yeah. Thank you and good luck for your you're now uh sophomore. Right. Good luck with the sophomore year.
WS2	Yep. Thank you so much. Thank you!
Researcher	And enjoy the rest of, well, the summer's ending. So enjoy the next semester. Cry. OK. And I will. I will meet you next week. Right? So, yeah, I will find some times to meet you in person and.
WS2	Oh. Yeah!
Researcher	You know, send the gratitude for you. OK. Thank you very much, WS2.
WS2	Thank you. You. Thank you. Have a good night!
Researcher	Have a good night and have a good semester. Bye bye.
WS2	Bye!

### **Additional/Follow-up Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 2**

Researcher	Hii can I ask some additional questions?
WS2	Sure.
Researcher	Has language (chinese) affected the knowledge you've gained during your studies at Wenzao? And also do you understand the English used by professors during classes?



WS2	In what ways? Yes, their English is good.
Reseacher	Like maybe u will gain more if u learn in certain languages.
WS2	No, learning in Chinese is difficult because I can't understand the language and it's too much work having to ask someone translate to English
Reseacher	OK. I see that. How about this, do you feel that you are treated/perceived differently by professors?
WS2	Hey sorry for the late reply. The professor just treat me like everyone, no discrimination, if anything they're good

### Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 3

Researcher	OK. Can you tell me about yourself?
WS3	Hi, my name is WS3 and I am now 22 years old and I'm from Indonesia.
Researcher	And how long have you been in Taiwan?
WS3	I've been in Taiwan for four years.
Researcher	OK. And you are in Department of International Affairs, right?
WS3	Yes, that's right.
Researcher	OK, so before we start, I want to know how did you know about Taiwan and the education system in here?
WS3	How did I know it's from... my brother, because he have been in a college Taiwan like, eight years ago, so I a little bit know about the education system in here.
Researcher	I see. OK. And uh, you decide to come to Taiwan to follow your brother or it's your own decision.
WS3	Maybe it's my old decision because I like to go abroad country and then try something new like out of my comfort zone.
Researcher	OK, that's really fun. And how do you know about Wenzao University?
WS3	I know from my previous high school because, they offer me scholarship so I can get a full scholarship and I don't have to pay anything.
Researcher	Oh, that's good. So you do you have any other options beside Wenzao University or you just choose this university?
WS3	No. The one and only.
Researcher	OK. So umm. Now I want to know about your profile as an international student in this university. First things I want to know, how do you see yourself and your social group as an Indonesian in Taiwan?
WS3	I see myself like. We often go like Indonesian people like two or two or three people go in. Together and then it is so hard to make new friends with the local people.
Researcher	Ohh really?
WS3	Yeah, because sometimes when we try to, to communicate with the local people, they they avoid us like they're scared to us. And then. I haven't figured out how to communicate with the local people, except you have to learn Chinese. You can use English but, they don't really want to talk to you if you talk in English.
Researcher	OK. So you're saying that, yeah, you are like you're not, you don't really fit in with local people, right?
WS3	Yes. That's right.
Researcher	And how about your lifestyle in the campus? Like, for example, you have a group work or in the classroom situation? How do you fit yourself in that kind of social group?
WS3	I prefer to, if I have a group work in the class, I prefer to be with my Indonesian students because I think it's more comfortable and then we can do the work with our own language and then define the works equally.

Researcher	Uh-huh.
WS3	Because I have an experience working with, this is a bad experience working with Taiwanese people. I have one economic class and it is like a group work. We have to make some essay. I forgot what we have to make but. My Taiwanese team, my Taiwanese people, is like just copy and paste from the ChatGPT and then from the Google.
Researcher	Oh really?
WS3	Yeah. And then it is a final paperwork. So...
Researcher	Ohh.
WS3	The grades will be the same one group.
Researcher	Yeah. So it's like not fair for you, right?
WS3	Yeah, that's right.
Researcher	OK. And may I know, did you live inside the campus or outside the campus?
WS3	I live inside the campus in the dormitory.
Researcher	OK, so then I want to know how do you feel about the lifestyle living in campus like so you meet a lot of other foreign students in the dorm maybe or in the campus. How is your lifestyle?
WS3	My lifestyle is like. Is me being me and then not interrupting each other because I live in a dormitory with four people. All of them are Indonesian so...
Researcher	Oh.
WS3	I think I have no problem with that.
Researcher	Oh, OK.
WS3	And I don't often I don't talk with my. How do I say neighbour or yeah, yeah.
Researcher	Neighbour room.
WS3	Yeah, neighbour room? Mm-hmm.
Researcher	OK, so from what I see here you are very like uh. You or you mostly hang out with Indonesian group, right?
WS3	Yes.
Researcher	OK. So when you come to Taiwan, when you first come to Taiwan, do you have any cultural differences that you notice between your country and in Taiwan, it can be like an environment or the people or like the education or anything like it shocks you when you first come here.
WS3	Yeah, I have it, but it's not shock me because what I see is when you put your things like. When you forgot, bring your phones in the toilets in the public toilets or public restroom. 15 minutes. You come back to the place, to the exact place where where you live your phones. It's still there in my country. You leave your phone like just for two minutes...
Researcher	It's gone?
WS3	Yeah. And it's gone.
Researcher	Ohh. And it's. OK, and what else?

WS3	Maybe the school? The campus environment? Because in Indonesia, all of the campus have to it is required to wear the long pants and then a proper clothes, but in here.
Researcher	Ohh yeah. Like like a like T-shirt.
WS3	Yeah. Yeah, T-shirt and then, yeah, yeah, something like that. Yeah. But in here, you can wear anything you want. And then the professor is just like, OK, it's fine. Maybe it's because. I mean, in Wenzao, has so many cultural differences. So many people come from different countries and then they trying to adapt with outside culture.
Researcher	Oh. And how about do you know like maybe you have friends outside Wenzao University? Do they have the same culture as Wenzao? Do you know about that?
WS3	Oh. Let me think. Yeah, I have one friend. He studied in I-Shou University and then he said that they have to wear proper clothes.
Researcher	Really.
WS3	Yeah.
Researcher	Uh-huh.
WS3	And then. They also have, like the buildings for the International College and then the Chinese College. So it is, it's a separate buildings not like Wenzao.
Researcher	Ohh...
WS3	So in Wenzao we have like, all of the department is in the same building, but there if you have, if you choose the department that use English for the courses, then you go to this building, but if you use Chinese, you go to the other building.
Researcher	Oh... So like your friend. They don't have a chance to meet a lot local people or?
WS3	Yeah, something like that. Because if you use English courses and then you will meet all of the international students. And then they can they speak English.
Researcher	Oh, so, like, um, so most of the people who go to the international building is foreigners. Do they have like local people or like people who speak Chinese to go there?
WS3	Yeah. Only a few people.
Researcher	Oh, OK. And what do you think about that like. If you have, I mean you say that you prefer to hang out with your Indonesian friends, right? And if you think about the I-Shou University, it's like it's like. It's like, really good. You have separate buildings between international students and local people. Is it a good way to live your campus life or you prefer in Wenzao where everyone just, you know, gather together in one place?
WS3	I'll say it will be better like Wenzao, because. I know it is hard to make friends with local people, but at least you can try because every day you meet them in one class and you try to talk with them. Yeah, even though they don't want to talk to you.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS3	But at least we can try.

Researcher	Mm-hmm. Yeah. OK. That's that's a very good motivation. Now you, you met obviously a lot of foreigners friends in Wenzao, right? Do you think which country do you feel has? I mean, the country that is more similar to your culture and your country.
WS3	More similar maybe? I'll say the Malaysian.
Researcher	OK. Do you have a Malaysian friend?
WS3	Yeah. Yeah, I have it. And the culture is like. It's almost the same because we are the neighbour country, right? And then they also speak Melayu and it's kind of similar with the Indonesian language.
Researcher	Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. So that is in terms of the language, how about like the culture or like the behaviour of Malaysian people? Is it like you can relate to them like for example, I have like a friend from South Southeast Asian country and I can like relate to them. Because of the, our behaviour is the opposite from the local people, something like that.
WS3	The behaviour I think. It's same because. I would say that. Because we talk the same language, not the same, but the similar language so. We talk in English, but they he talk in Melayu and I'll talk in Indonesian and I can understand some words. So it kind of...
Researcher	Oh. I see. OK.
WS3	No language barrier for me.
Researcher	Mm-hmm. OK, so it's Malaysian. Do you have any new experience you have during your time here in Taiwan or in Wenzao University, like literally something new that you've never known before?
WS3	Something new. I. Think. I have it. Uh-huh. It is like. You go abroad and then you fall far away from your parents and then your country, and then you have to adapt with the new foods in here. And I'll say that the foods in Taiwan is.
Researcher	Mm-hmm.
WS3	Not that salty like in Indonesia, so I have to adapt like for two... two years. And then, yeah, it's it's so long because.
Researcher	Two years?
WS3	I don't really like the flavour from from the Taiwan food, but I don't say it's bad, but there are. There are food that also great to good to eat, but for the daily.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Is this not your style?
WS3	Yeah.
Researcher	So only the food? Or is there something else?
WS3	I think only the food.
Researcher	OK, so now we know that in winter we have a lot of international students. It is a place where a lot of cultures are bringing together in one place. And as we know, when there are a lot of like culture meet together, people will, you know, have a discrimination, racism. Something like that. And you, as an indignation, as an international student, do you have any or have you ever been treated badly or disrespectfully with other people or by other groups.

WS3	Thankfully, I never been treated badly from the local students or by the other. People from the different countries. So yeah, I haven't.
Researcher	OK. OK. So is it a good thing for you?
WS3	Yeah, of course. It's a good thing for me. *laugh*
Researcher	OK. So. Have you ever seen any other social groups or any other people being treated badly or being discriminated by other people so it it doesn't have to include you, but maybe like you see your friend being being bullied by other people or you just hurt someone else. Is bullying or like talking bad about someone elses in the campus?
WS3	Yeah, I heard about my classmates. I wouldn't say that. I actually I don't know if they are bullying these people or not, but I heard that, people talking bad about this people.
Researcher	OK.
WS3	So. Yeah.
Researcher	Can you tell me a little bit about that? I mean, so you think that it is something disrespectful thing, right?
WS3	Mm-hmm.
Researcher	Can you tell me like what kind of disrespectful situation is it?
WS3	It is like you don't really know the situation from the people that getting bullied and then you talk bad about her or about him. And I think that's not a good point.
Researcher	Oh. OK.
WS3	Yeah, you you have to see what, why he or she become the person like this is maybe is not her, but maybe it's us the wrong.
Researcher	Ohh OK yeah.
WS3	Yeah.
Researcher	OK. So. Uh. From your experience, like you see, uh, maybe your friends getting, like, bullied by other people or like, you know your classmates or anything. Why do you think that thing happen is it can I? Can I ask is it like discrimination? Between races or? Like is it like local people discriminating local people or local people discriminating, you know, international students? Is it like because of the race, because of the country background or what?
WS3	What I see is the in my case is local people like talking bad to the local people, yeah. So maybe it's because the.
Researcher	Oh.
WS3	Bad attitude, yeah.
Researcher	OK. So do you think it has something to do with culture?
WS3	Oh, I don't think so.
Researcher	Oh OK, I see. And uh, so you never have any discrimination experience, right. And also, so this case is local people discriminating local people. How about like international students? Have you ever see any any situation? Like that.
WS3	No, I haven't seen that.

Researcher	OK so. If this is just if you got discriminated by other people or, you are in a situation that got bullied by someone else. How how will you handle the situation?
WS3	How I handle the situation? Yeah. Maybe I don't really care about it because it don't give me the advantage. Just give me a burden to think, then to think and then that's bad for me, so.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS3	So, if someone talking bad to me or I being discriminated as long as that's not bothering my grades and then my activities with my friends so it doesn't matter at all.
Researcher	OK, that's a very good thing. And now it comes to the next question, because you never have any discrimination experience, which is good for you. I want to know in your opinion. Do you, do you think like any actions that you think is a discrimination, but it has been normalised by people? Like for example, I have a friend from from Thailand, and her skin is like, very, very white. And then when she meets other people in Wenzao and she, she told us that, oh, I'm from Thailand and those people will say ohh why your your skin is so. So it's like those people think that people from Thailand are usually have darker skin, right? And because she's my friend and we think that that is kind of a discrimination because people think people from Thailand should be dark skinned. And they are like surprised that there are white people from Thailand. So that is kind of a discrimination, but it has been normalised by people. Do you have any opinion about that or do you have you ever heard or experienced something like that?
WS3	Yeah, I've experienced like, but it's kind of different from your experience because I have experience in Indonesia that people call me like hey Chinese, something like that, yeah.
Researcher	OK.
WS3	I mean, in Indonesia, if someone called Chinese to me, it means that you being discriminated by the people because most of them is not Chinese. But in here when someone says that are you from, are you Chinese or are you from Taiwan?
Researcher	OK.
WS3	Are you Taiwanese? I mean, that's fine. People can can...
Researcher	Ohh yeah yeah yeah.
WS3	Can say that, oh, that guy is Chinese, something like that. So I think that's it.
Researcher	So this discrimination that has been normalised is the one that you. faced in Indonesia, right?
WS3	Yes. That's right.
Researcher	OK so. Why do you think people who discriminate you when you're back in your country think like that. Like uh. What makes they say hey, you're Chinese to you?
WS3	I mean, I think. Because I'm different from the other people. So I have. I don't have a big eyes and then a darker skin and I have white skin and then it's.

Researcher	Yeah.
WS3	Maybe they think I'm from a different world, so yeah. Other races.
Researcher	OK. OK. That's a very interesting case because, you know in the other part of the world, people want to be white. They want to have a small eyes and then the other part of the world, they discriminate those people. And then the opposite, some people in other country, they want to have. You know dark skin and then the opposite. Sometimes people just discriminate people who have dark skin, right? What do you think about that?
WS3	Yeah, that's right. OK, so.
Researcher	The next question will be do you think if you know actually there are a lot of countries list in Wenzao like I mean people who come from a lot of country. But even though there are not many people in one town, there are not many international students compared to other bigger university in Taiwan. Do you think one person from one country can represent the whole country? Like for example decision is that this is just an example like for example there are only one people from Netherlands in this university and then for example this Netherland friend treated you badly. Do you think all the Netherlands people are like that or you know, you have a positive thinking that, oh, it's just this one person. Not all Netherlands are like that.
WS3	I don't think so because, for my previous example, like I have the Taiwanese people, Taiwanese friends that working together with me, yeah, in the group works and they just copy and paste the work from Google and the ChatGPT. But I also have Taiwanese friend that they do work really well. Actually it's back again to the people itself, yeah.
Researcher	Oh.:Yeah.
WS3	The... If people have different attitudes and different, like habits, so...
Researcher	Mm-hmm.
WS3	I don't think that one person can represent their countries.
Researcher	OK, so in your, you mentioned that you enjoy working together well with Indonesian people, right? But have you ever, you know, in the same group work with in other international students that are not Indonesian?
WS3	Yeah, I have.
Researcher	OK, now how do you handle working together with a group full of international students?
WS3	Maybe you have to work harder. I say that it's because. You don't know the culture from their countries because my Indonesian friends and if we have a good group work together, let's say the deadline is, um, the professor gave the deadline for one week and we can work uh, one day before the deadline, and then it still works, but you can't do that with other people from the different countries.
Researcher	Other. OK.
WS3	You have to think about the deadline, what you should have, what you should do step by step and then tell them what we are going to do.



Researcher	OK. So do you notice any any difficulties in accepting your friends from other countries? Like for example in your case it's like a group work and then the due date is on one week. If you work with an Asian people you can say like oh we can do it one day before, but then maybe other other friend from other country we'll be like, OK, we have to do it from today from like a week before months before. Do you have any difficulties? And accepting accepting each other, you know accepting that their culture is different from you.
WS3	No, I haven't. I don't have any difficulties accepting that, because, I know that I, I'm stepping in into the departments that have so many people from other countries and have to work with them so. I have to accept the consequences.
Researcher	OK. So when you are faced in a multicultural environment, you know a place where there are a lot of culture in one place. Do you have any challenges or any difficulties when you are in there, for example, maybe your voice are not really heard because you are from a Southeast Asian country and then the other people from, let's say Western country are heard by people. Something like that. Do you have any experience about that?
WS3	As long as I'm studying in Wenzao, I don't have that kind of experience because every, every voice is matter to us.
Researcher	OK.
WS3	Yeah, because you have a different idea one, each each person have a different idea and different perspective. And I think that's a good point. From a group work.
Researcher	OK. And also uh, you are now in your senior years, right? And do you hang out well with your juniors maybe?
WS3	Sometimes, but not that often.
Researcher	OK, so uh. I mean, we all know that there will be some other people from Indonesia who will come to Taiwan and come to Wenzao University maybe. Do you have? Any idea of what kind of challenges they will face in the future, like their future for your future generations?
WS3	You I'll say that you have to prepare very well, like the language, you have to learn. It will be better if you learn Chinese before you come to Taiwan. Even though you are inside of the English environment like in the Department of International Affairs that use English all day, all courses are in English. If you're talking to professors, they can talk in English. But...
Researcher	Oh.
WS3	I'll say that. It. Chinese is important in here. Yeah. You have to learn Chinese.
Researcher	So you will suggest to your juniors that even though you will speak in English, but you still need to learn some Chinese, right?
WS3	Yes, right.
Researcher	OK. So before we end this interview, do you have anything else you like to share like your experience or maybe like what you've learned like, you know, a life lesson that you got from your four years living in Taiwan, maybe.

WS3	What I learn, what I get from this four years is like you have to respect each other. You have to respect people from different countries, might have a different culture. From you and you have to accept it and you have to learn.
Researcher	Hmm.
WS3	And if you want to learn about their culture, maybe they can learn about our culture and. Maybe I have to learn more Chinese to talk with the local people, local friends.
Researcher	Ohh, OK. Yeah.
WS3	Yeah.
Researcher	OK, so the last thing, if you could only say one thing like maybe one word or one sentence about living in a multicultural environment, what would that be for me? I will say understanding, how about you?
WS3	I'll say fun.
Researcher	Fun, OK. Can you explain what do you mean by fun?
WS3	Yeah, because. For the past 19 years I've been living in the Indonesia that have a only, one culture. They have the same culture and then I have to go to here that have different culture. Each person have a different perspective, different ideology, and then something like that. So I'll say that it's fun. From, met new people from different countries and then I can learn about their countries.
Researcher	OK.
WS3	And it opens my eyes to the world.
Researcher	OK, OK. All right. So thank you very much your insights and your experience today. It's really helpful for my, for my essay and my GP, I hope. You also have a good time in Taiwan and I will see you soon.
WS3	Thank you.

### **Additional/Follow-up Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 3**

Researcher	Hey, can I ask you some additional questions from our last interview?
WS3	Yes.
Researcher	Has language (chinese) affected the knowledge you've gained during your studies at Wenzao?
WS3	I believe my low Chinese ability has affected me in some way during my studies here. Although all the classes I took were conducted in English but there were more than that. Such as some information and knowledge was shared in a casual conversation that might be in Chinese, I don't feel like having an obligation to understand the convo but that actually important and insightful.
Researcher	Oh. Do you feel that you are treated/perceived differently by professors?
WS3	I kinda feel that way but in a good way. I believe it's because I get a pretty good score and try to engage in class discussion and try my best to behave in class. The prof must feel respected by me thus they treat me the same way. I think it is not only because I am a foreigner but also because of my hardwork. This things also applied to local student whom work hard in class.

Researcher	Mm-hmm. And do you understand the English used by professors during lectures?
WS3	Mostly I understand but some of them I have to pay extra attention and not only to their explanation but also to the ppt or module aka written materials so I could understand it from the context. at my first year I remember that was hard enough to learn in English and its harder because I have to familiarize myself with every prof's dialect or accent or way of speaking. but throughout the years I make it until now.
Researcher	Do you feel there is a difference in facilities provided by the university for local and international students? Or even differences in the facilities provided for international students from various countries?
WS3	Between the locals and international students, I only remember 1 difference. in the system to add and drop courses, international students can use the locals system and also the international students only system. while locals have to be fast in order to get in a course, international students don't really have to be fast because we have separate system.
Researcher	OK.
WS3	While between other international students from different country I faced a different treatment from one of the office in our school known as SOSA. I think it was started 2 years ago when the staff was changing. I feel the white people was treated better and always get the best service from SOSA. while me as an Asian sometimes get ignored and so. Since I already know most of the school system I don't really give it a thoughts. But as time goes by I heard other international students who's not white people feel and experienced the same thing. I also heard lately SOSA will improve their service to treat all international students the same way. Let's hope for the best I guess.
Researcher	Oh, I see. OK. And do you think what kind of support should be provided for international students who come here without much knowledge about the place?
WS3	What place to be exact? Is it refer to Kaohsiung or like our university?
Researcher	Yes. Wenzao.
WS3	I think the orientation program for new students that we have these last two years was quite effective. the most important is they know about the regulation regarding arc, insurance, etc and the system in our school. Probably adding the SOSA staff will also be useful since they seems like their hands are full.
Researcher	OK. <i>Terima kasih banyak.</i>
WS3	<i>Terima kasih.</i>

### Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 4

Reseracher	OK. So hey, can you tell me a little bit about yourself, like your name, nationality, age?
WS4	So my name is WS4. I come from south out France and I'm 23 years old, and now I'm in Taiwan for three years and I am studying international business.
Researcher	OK, so before you come to Taiwan, how did you know about Taiwan and the, you know, education system?
WS4	I discovered Taiwan when I was when I was in high school in history and it's there, I learned about the difference between the mainland China and Taiwan and then it's when I entering College in France. I really study about because at that time I chose some specification about politics and history, and at that time I chose a course about the political history in Asia, and I have one teacher at that moment, Mr Bibi, who help me and tell me because he shows that I have a very big interest for the Taiwanese history and all things related to Taiwan.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS4	They open a kind of embassy near my city in Aix-en-Provence in the South.
Researcher	OK.
WS4	And so he told me I can have some opportunity. He can make some letter of recommendation and kind of stuff. So I say, oh, so I will try to come here. It was a bit late at the moment. It was like in April.
Researcher	Uh-huh.
WS4	So, you know, most of the universities to make the inscription is kind of a bit too late, but some othes like Wenzao and 東海大學 in Taichung was OK so, yeah.
Researcher	So, um, you already enrolled in the university back in France?
WS4	Yeah.
Researcher	And then you kind of dropped out from the school and then you come here, or?
WS4	I, I get graduated from Aix-en-Provence University
Researcher	Oh.OK.
WS4	For political history major. Yeah.
Researcher	OK, so that is why you decide to come to Taiwan, right and?
WS4	Yeah, to study business and in a country with a lot of company will have the potential to... yeah.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah. And why did you choose the city Kaohsiung though?
WS4	Yeah, because it's less expensive than Taipei. *laugh*
Researcher	Alright, so do you like before you choose Kaohsiung and Wenzao, do you have like other options of universities?
WS4	I have another option. It's in Taichung at 東海大學 Yeah.
Researcher	Uh-huh. I've heard that before.

WS4	But because the materials there was doesn't correspond to what I like, so I prefer to come to toWenzao. And also I have more contact in Wenzao.
Researcher	Oh...
WS4	I mean in Kaohsiung if I was willing to go to went in Taichung, I don't have friend or I don't have any contact to help me.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Yeah, yeah, yeah, I see. OK, so that is why you also find out about the Wenzao University.
WS4	It is.
Researcher	OK. All right. That's very nice background of you. Now as a French living in Taiwan, so you've lived here for three...
WS4	Two years.
Researcher	Two years, almost three years, right?
WS4	Two years, quite, because I'm 大三 so... two... two years
Researcher	Oh, OK. Two years. And how do you see yourself and your social group as a foreigner in Taiwan?
WS4	I have a Taiwanese girlfriend who don't speak English, so before meet her one years ago, I was kind of pretty alone. I don't have, I have most of my friends are foreigner obviously because I feel like kind of a bit distance with my classmates who are all of them are Taiwanese.
Researcher	Mm-hmm.
WS4	And you know, so I think it's more difficult to make friends when you don't have a common language and at the time I wasn't able to speak Chinese well so, but when I meet my girlfriend, lot of things changed because I really turned into...
Researcher	Oh. Yeah, that's true.
WS4	I have to speak Chinese, so now I want to say that I'm more I enter better in the Taiwanese society.
Researcher	Yeah. Mm-hmm.
WS4	Understanding better, more things about their culture and how they work mentally, especially so, yeah.
Researcher	Oh. That's actually very cute. I did not expect that. And how about your French social group? I mean, when you hang out with your French, guys, friends.
WS4	I mean, so I come from the countryside. I come from Marseilles city, so it's a very big part in the South in Provence. And my social group is like they're like me. Most of them are Italian black feet or Arabian. And so I think it's like, yeah, because we are kind of common culture. I won't say because in French you have a lot of different group of people. So we, we are together and yeah, it's very nice. *laugh*
Researcher	*laugh* Mm-hmm. OK, it's really nice. Now you have, you know, I mean, a lot of friends from all over the world I can say.
WS4	Yeah.
Researcher	OK and as an international student because I know that there are a lot of, you know, people from a lot of countries coming to Wenzao, but you know Wenzao is a small campus actually, right, compared to. Yeah.

WS4	Yeah. So compare with Zhongshan...
Researcher	Yeah, compared to other university. But you know, there are a lot of international students here.
WS4	Yeah.
Researcher	Yeah, with different races, ethnicity countries and how do you see yourself as a French in this society?
WS4	To be honest, I don't see me in this kind of society because more of the French people who came in Taiwan doesn't really care about Taiwan and learning Chinese.
Researcher	Oh.
WS4	So I don't see me inside, and actually I tend to avoid to be in this group.
Researcher	Oh. *laugh*
WS4	So when they organise events or those kind of things, usually I don't go because I. Don't feel. I have to do this kind of stuff because for me.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah.
WS4	But it's a real French mentality, to be honest. It's like in France, when we saw foreigner, when we see foreigners come in our country, we expect that the foreigners will get adapt to our culture and speak French. So that's why some foreigners.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah, I know.
WS4	They are impolite. They don't, they don't understand this, etcetera. But it's like, yeah. So me, when I come in Taiwan, in my head, it was I will work very hard to speak Chinese and entering the Chinese culture and Taiwanese culture, obviously. So I I don't like staying with a lot of friend. Sometimes, yes, it's good to speak French.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS4	But. Yeah, actually, no, I'm with Taiwanese.
Researcher	Yeah, I can see that now. So that is how you learn Chinese, with your girlfriend! *laugh*
WS4	Yeah, obviously.
Researcher	OK. And how do you feel about living... OK. Do you have a different lifestyle when you live back in France and in here?
WS4	Yeah.
Researcher	Is it much different?
WS4	In terms of nutrition, like the food I ate in France is better and more healthy because we tend to have not that much oil and not that much fried, fried, fried food.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Yeah.
WS4	Is very different. So yeah, here for example I take 6 kilos in two years.
Researcher	Oh! I mean, I think me too, so. *laugh*
WS4	*laugh* Yeah, yeah, so...
Researcher	How about like other lifestyles other than food like...
WS4	In naturally different, because when I was in France I have, because my university has like high level of requirement... 要求 So I have to work.

Researcher	Oh.
WS4	Harder is like we have the rules is like if you for example have 20 hours of course you have to study 20 hours, right?
Researcher	Oh.
WS4	Is like this. So we have, I have a lot of class and I have to study a lot at that time until very late and also I work at McDonald so you know it's very hard to work in this kind of place, you know not over over over hours and this kind of stuff. So it was very difficult. And now it's a bit the same because I study here, but in most to. I'm I feel like I won't get a better and a better and a better Chinese, so I study more Chinese and also I have to work. I work in a restaurant too.
Researcher	Oh, really?
WS4	Yeah. So it's also kind of, yeah, very hard. So it's not too different in terms of language.
Researcher	Oh really? Wow. Yeah. So still, yeah. Yeah. But it's still like a study and work balance for you. *laugh*
WS4	*laugh* Yeah. So it's like it's been long drink coffee. Yeah.
Researcher	OK, so do you have any cultural differences that you notice when you come here between your country and Taiwan.
WS4	To be honest with the globalization, I didn't see that much, we will have a lot of differences except for the religion and the language and now I think in in terms of the mentality, I think sometimes the cause of the difference of culture, the mentality will be different. I think in France we are more cool about..
Researcher	Cool?
WS4	Yeah, about something. Especially the relation between the parent and the the children, I think here the parent of all the children will be more strict.
Researcher	Oh. Mm-hmm.
WS4	Yeah. I I feel. That. I don't know. Maybe it's different. It will be. It will be some family will be like that and some other or not, but yeah.
Researcher	Yeah. Some say it's like an Asian parent behaviour. Yeah.
WS4	Yeah. Exactly. It is.
Researcher	You mentioned about the religion differences. What does it mean?
WS4	Yeah. Here in Taiwan, the majority of the Taiwanese are more in local religion like 媽祖教還有道教還有佛調教 and in France...
Researcher	Oh wait what was that?
WS4	Oh, Buddhism, Taoism and Mazu, Mazu religion.
Researcher	Is it like a local religion?
WS4	Mazu is like the goddess of the sea.
Researcher	Oh.
WS4	She really come from Yanchang Yanchang this Yanchang island. It's Taiwanese island in the north, near China. It's a small island. It's not in Taiwan. It's not the main island.
Researcher	OK. Is it near the? It's a small island there.

WS4	It's a small island and then come in Taiwan and you know each year they like a very big parent and they go around the island. So it's very different because in France it's like nowadays in France, most of the people don't believe in God or I don't know what. And if there is some? People will believe in God it will be principally Christian, Catholic and Muslim.
Researcher	Mm-hmm. OK. Do you do you think it's like something that shocks you? I mean, like, why does it shocks you like?
WS4	Not really, because they are in their country. So I'm like my my girlfriend also not convert me, but I tend sometimes to go 拜拜 also. *laugh*
Researcher	Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. OK, that's cool. Actually I've I've got invited once in my friend's house and they have like, you know, have you ever go to your girlfriend's house? Maybe. Yeah. I don't know. My friend's house is like a main building of the house. And then in the backyard, they have the when their ancestors die.
WS4	Oh, but most of the Taiwanese, you mean, the very traditional arms?
Researcher	Mm. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
WS4	Yeah, most of the things that don't have. So my girlfriend told me about, yeah, there's their parent before lives in this kind of very traditional house. The centre is for the ancestors or the God or I forget.
Researcher	Uh-huh.
WS4	And they live on the.
Researcher	Sides that they have.
WS4	The the side of the house, but nowadays they live in big buildings, so it's yeah.
Researcher	Apartments.
WS4	Apartments, so yeah.
Researcher	Yeah. Yeah, yeah. OK. So that is some cultural differences that you feel and notice between your countries and Taiwan.
WS4	Yeah. And also you feel you're foreigner is like, you know when you come back in your country is like...
Researcher	Yeah.
WS4	Speak French. Local language and you know people understand you here is like, you know you, you know you feel it when people see you look at you, speak to you, you know you're foreigner, so it's a very I think you know it. Different feelings.
Researcher	Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I feel you totally and you have a lot of friends from international, right?
WS4	Before yes, now they say already. Go on.
Researcher	OK, which country do you feel has people and culture is more similar with you.
WS4	Italy and Poland.
Researcher	You have a friend from that country before. Yeah. Yeah. Why do you feel that?



WS4	Yeah, right now is. Way in terms of religion, way of of speaking way of thinking also about a lot of things.
Researcher	Way of thinking?
WS4	Yeah. For example, you can feel them Taiwanese. When they have to tell you something about if you have a problem, they don't tell you what's your problems, but the difference is Italian people and Polish people will tell you if you have a problem, especially if these people are your friends. It's like I think it's not a yeah, it's kind of. We are more honest.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Yeah.
WS4	With the friends. But it's not a question of Taiwanese are not honest. It's just the difference of if they say that you have a problem, it can be rude. But we don't choose this like that in Europe.
Researcher	Oh, OK.
WS4	And also I would like to make a difference between the American culture and the European culture, because in a lot of ways, we're also very different. Because America, it's English speaking country and English native speaking countries are in fact far, very different from the European non speaking English country. For example, in Europe. Now you can ask any European, we will make the difference between Europe mainland and Great Britain. Great Britain
Researcher	Hmm. Uh-huh.
WS4	We don't consider Great Britain. Maybe has European, but the way of thinking is too different.
Researcher	Oh. Yeah. OK. So it will be Italian and Poland, it's it's the same European countries, right?
WS4	Most of but some Slavic have a bit different way of thinking.
Researcher	OK. All right. So is there any new experience you had during your time here in Taiwan like?
WS4	New experience?
Researcher	Yes. Like, I interviewed someone before. They are shocked because they see the squat toilet here. They didn't have back in the country, something like that.
WS4	We have the squat toilet in France in like public toilets, so I don't know. I Oh yeah. I have the feelings and here is completely more sure, more safe for the people, for the women, and they are more polite.
Researcher	Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Polite.
WS4	It's a very, very big difference from where I come from.
Researcher	But. Isn't people from French are I mean, like good people, like they say?
WS4	We have, for example, Marseille City. It's very famous to be the most dangerous city in Europe, so it's...
Researcher	Like pickpockets, something?
WS4	Pickpockets, murder for nothing. It's very different. It's like Vietnam.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah. But in terms of safety, I agree.

WS4	For example, in Marseille City at 9:00 PM, girls don't go, don't go out.
Researcher	Is it there that dangerous? Very, very dangerous. How?
WS4	It's dangerous. It's dangerous. I already saw people get...
Researcher	Stabbed?
WS4	Stabbed. Yeah, at night, you know? Yeah.
Researcher	Around your house?
WS4	Around my house and in the metropolitan area. So, you know, it's like, yeah, it's very different.
Researcher	Oh.
WS4	So when I came here, I'm like what people don't look at me very angry for no reason. Yeah. It's what? *laugh*
Researcher	Yeah. And do you? So you think that Taiwanese people are like really nice. Compared to people from where you came.
WS4	They are more polite and more educated, but in the way of smiling and be more open to others. I think in my city, well, more like this. More welcome, yeah.
Researcher	More open. Yeah. OK, so something that is you feel really different.
WS4	Yeah, completely different. For example, Oh my phone is here and go to the toilet for example, it's here I don't need to take it. If I want.
Researcher	Yeah, completely. OK. With that in my country too, it will disappear.
WS4	Sometimes, yeah. You know, sometimes I forget my my key in my scooter, you know?
Researcher	Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.
WS4	And every time I'm like, oh, no, I forget my key. I come back on my key on my scooter, no problem.
Researcher	It's still there.
WS4	In Marseille you don't have the key aand you lose the scooter.
Researcher	Completely agree with that. OK. I've experienced that too. I mean, a lot of people say Taiwan is really say, I mean, I go out at like 3:00 AM in the morning. And nothing happened. Yeah.
WS4	Nothing can happen, yeah.
Researcher	So you love Taiwan.
WS4	Yeah, kind of. Yeah. OK.
Researcher	OK. So all the good things I've been told now I want to ask, have you ever been treated badly or disrespectfully when you're here in Taiwan, inside or outside the campus area?
WS4	Directly you mean?
Researcher	Yeah. Maybe or...
WS4	That's not really. It's like if you if you go on, I think the main island for example, if you go in the countryside for example, my girlfriend family live in Meinong. So when I went here it's like more kind of they are curious because there is not white sometimes.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah.

WS4	They never see white of their life, so they're like, curious is not bad, but when I went in Penghu Island, I feel more uncomfortable. Because the people usually it's old people will look at me with with. Yeah. And I badly. It's not just look at you. It's look at you with kind of angry face.
Researcher	Like. Angry. Why are, why are they angry at you, right?
WS4	Yeah, yeah, exactly. And sometimes I don't like also when, you speak Chinese with some people and it's every time is kind of old people problem, but they will start to speak in Taiwanese and you know, I don't know what they said, but I, I don't feel it's every time in a good way
Researcher	Yeah, ohh.
WS4	So, when you have for example, it's like, you know *speaking Taiwanese language* one of it is like the, the foreigners with big nose.
Researcher	Oh.
WS4	So you know when you think you don't say necessarily good things to me I suppose but, but no, not directly. I never get aggressed. I never get insulted.
Researcher	Verbally or physically, both no.
WS4	Oh. No, no. Things good enough.
Researcher	That's good. Yeah. And I hope you did not. Will not.
WS4	Yeah, I have. Yeah, of course.
Researcher	OK. And I mean since you are you are a white guy, right and European?
WS4	I am white with some ascendants. Because I'm in France, I'm from a kind of minority group. The black feet people.
Researcher	Oh, what is it?
WS4	It's like white people. It's white French Italian and Spain people or 300 years immigrate in North Africa? And lives there for a long time has farmers, and so some get mixed. So I'm probably mixed with Arabians, so I'm not completely white. *laugh*
Researcher	OK. OK so.
WS4	And and in for example in France, it's not the generation of my grandparent and parent we get we were outside the, we were considered outside the French culture and have the kind of. Yeah, a lot of discrimination at that.
Researcher	mm-hmm, so you feel more discrimination back in your country than in here?
WS4	Here. Yeah. Here is like I'm white, so it's like.
Researcher	The privilege.
WS4	Positive discrimination for something for some aspects, some other aspect. I would prefer to be Asian.
Researcher	OK. You know. I mean, we can say that you are a foreigner. You have like that foreigner visuals, right? And sometimes discrimination happened towards foreigners. You can you say that there is a positive discrimination? Yeah. And why do you think, people have to think about discrimination against different races or cultural groups in Taiwan.

WS4	Because if nowadays Taiwan exists, it's thanks to Europeans and American money. I mean, like I study history and, for example, in the 1950s, Taiwan Treaty with US to gets billions and billions and billions of dollars U.S. dollars to build again 建構, build the country and protect the country against the communists. Would try to invite the island three times from the 1950s to 1990s. So at that time US army were present in the island. And I think Taiwanese are thankful for the help of America in first and principally, but also for the Europeans contribution to protect at the time Republic of China. Yeah.
Researcher	So you think that is why Taiwanese people act towards?
WS4	Yes, it's. I don't think it's a question of for the old people in case for the old people, it's not a question of because you are white is the is a question about say save them from communism. It's a bit different, yeah.
Researcher	OK. And for the positive discrimination that you encountered, how do you handle with it? *laugh*
WS4	Positive discrimination passed by... Actually I don't know what can I say about positive discrimination. *laugh* It should be what, for example, I don't have example of positive discrimination. I think it's like we are more accepted than the the only one I can mention I think it's we are more accepted than the Taiwanese society and the Southeast Asian people, I think.
Researcher	Yeah, I agree.
WS4	This is different differently because before I, I had Vietnamese girlfriend and I, I see the difference. All Taiwanese treat with my ex-girlfriend and all Taiwanese will tend to treat me.
Researcher	Is it because your ex-girlfriend is a Vietnamese or a Southeast Asian?
WS4	Southeast Asian, yeah.
Researcher	OK. And do you think there are some actions that is actually a discrimination but has been normalised by people?
WS4	Speaking to white people in English, naturally. Like when I came here for example, my English wasn't, also now is is not a very good English level, but at that time my English was worse. And you know when people start to me in English and at that time Taiwanese are they answer. No, no, no, I'm. What are you, are you American? So it's a kind of, yeah.
Researcher	That is kind of discrimination to speak English.
WS4	It's not a discrimination, it's just they make a difference. They make a differentiation.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah, I agree. So your English now is OK.
WS4	Yeah, better. I think, I don't know.
Researcher	I mean it's perfect. Nothing to worry about.
WS4	It's better than two years ago. *laugh*
Researcher	*laugh* OK and I've, I've mentioned this before, but this is another kind of perspective. Why do you think people will discriminate other race or other people from another country just based on their own views or perspective?

WS4	I mean, every country has this kind of thinking. I think here, for example, the thieves, usually the Taiwanese, will tend to say that it's the Vietnamese. If something gets told, they will say ohh probably a Vietnamese. Not all of them, but I already heard from some classmates these kind of things. *laugh*
Researcher	Really?
WS4	Yeah, yeah, yeah. two years ago, I have a classmate who gets robbed a helmet and we don't know because on the camera we see like an Asian people stole the helmet and it's suppose, oh a Vietnamese probably and you know it's like the same in France. We will tend to say if we get robbed or stalled or things we say, oh, probably an Arabian, it's very yeah. I think every country has this kind of discrimination towards some culture. We will judge low, less important than our, for example, I think in Taiwan they make a difference between the Chinese culture and the Southeast Asian culture. They will consider the Chinese culture more important than Chinese people, better than the Southeast Asia, because kind of, not Indonesia, but Vietnam and Laos, where kind of not colony, but protectorize, and then you have the Korean and Japanese culture are better. Yeah. And Europe is the same in Europe after European culture, French culture, American American culture, European culture and.
Researcher	Oh... yeah, yeah.
WS4	Here you have the Arabian and then you have the African black African culture.
Researcher	It happens everywhere in the world.
WS4	Yeah.
Researcher	I agree. Yeah, I agree with that. And, and moving to the next sub topic actually, do you think one person can represent everyone from the country? Like for example you mentioned about the, you know like robbery of Vietnam and sorry yeah. And for example there's one person of Vietnamese actually robbed you. Do you think that ohh all Vietnamese is like that?
WS4	Of course not. And. Is not. No, it's like. Vietnam is like 100 million people. It's like, no, I also know a very nice Vietnamese. Some coworkers, Vietnamese coworkers, very nice. So no, it's not. Yeah, obviously not. I'm not this kind of very traditional people say.
Researcher	Yes.
WS4	I have something one time, so all the people understand.
Researcher	All the people are the same.
WS4	Yeah. Is the world don't look like that.
Researcher	Yeah. It's kind of like open minded generation will think yeah.
WS4	Oh, yeah, yeah.
Researcher	And do you do you work more with local student in the campus or with international student like for example group work presentation something like that.
WS4	Mm-hmm. Because of my department, obviously I'm more with local people, yeah.

Researcher	OK. Yeah. And how do you handle working with OK, for example, you have to experience working with the international students and working with local students. Do you have any differences?
WS4	To be honest, it depends if the class is in English, Taiwanese will tend to don't work that much about what they have to do, and usually to be like me and other international student where we have to do the job. For example, I have a bad experience last years with two Taiwanese girls from your department and I work with them, and in fact, they just make their things in 5 minutes by using ChatGPT. And so for the presentation, obviously it was like kind of you give them the instructions, they don't obey to follow the instruction you give because I was the team leader and then you say you cannot use ChatGPT, you have to.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS4	Open the book and read. It doesn't matter. So it was like very bad experience. I feel in Wenzao some Taiwanese are really... I I don't know why they are here, but for the Chinese one is different. I think like in my department for the like when the...
Researcher	Chinese classes?
WS4	The the *say a class course taught in Chinese* is they use Chinese. Last year they also have a group with kind of Taiwanese friends is different and now now also I think it's different because there are more walkers. So I think for this they will tend to do more than me because of.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS4	I will do my best, obviously, but because the level of Chinese is very different. So for example, philosophy in Chinese you know is like.
Researcher	Ohhh... *laugh* I'm here.
WS4	Yeah, yeah, yeah.
Researcher	OK and do you think it's hard to accept people from other countries in terms of working together?
WS4	Not really as well as they work, and if they're serious, everything it's OK can come from Sri Lanka. I can come from UK. I don't know which country. Things like no.
Researcher	Even though they there are a lot of differences, like for example people from A country is like a deadliners and people from B countries like you have to do the work a month before year before.
WS4	I see. Yeah, we will tend to have some. Yeah. Problem in these kind of things because I think me I am the kind of people that I like to make the the things fastly and with a lot of efficiency. So for example, if in a month I have to prepare something, I would like to do it now and finish it fastly. I don't want to wait the last week and do it and because I will be very stressed.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS4	Stressed. Yeah, I used to be that person. *laugh*
Researcher	Oh. *laugh* OK. And other than language barrier that you mentioned before, is there any other challenges you mentioned when you are facing a multicultural environment?

WS4	It's not speaking in your own language is. I think now it's OK because I think more in English. I think in English and also start to think in Chinese, but it's like, yeah, it's, you know, it's everything different your your, your native language is tend to be more fast and you tend to think better.
Researcher	Hmm. Yes. Yeah. Yeah. That's right.
WS4	So it's sometime I feel like more not stressed, but more not lazy or it's like more tired you know, because you have to. It's not a question of practise, but it's a question of every day you have to speak in a language that are not yours. So it's tired.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS4	Yeah, you're so tired.
Researcher	Our brain works more than before.
WS4	Yeah.
Researcher	OK. And do you think if there are future generations who come from your country, will there any, you know, challenges they might feel when they come here in Taiwan.
WS4	That's exactly the purpose of the question. You mean just the people? The French will come here?
Researcher	Yeah, like maybe your junior. Yeah.
WS4	What they will do here or?
Researcher	What kind of challenges they might face in the future? I mean, you've lived here for two years already?
WS4	The language barrier probably, because French people usually you don't tend to like to speak in English. It's not just a cliché, it's something real. It's when you came in France, most of the French people don't speak English.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Yeah, I heard that before.
WS4	So it's like, but here it's OK because most of the French who came in Taiwan speak English, obviously, so the language barrier and the yeah, the cultural barrier also because as I mention before a lot of things related with how you think, how you act is related with our own culture. So when you come here, it's they will probably make make them the same mistakes. And me, I made two years ago that thinking that because you have the globalisation, so everything is the same and looks similar but is not true.
Researcher	OK. So OK, it's 1pm OK. If there is only one thing you can say or you can do living in a multicultural environment, what would that be? For me, for example, I would say understanding.
WS4	Patience 耐心, you need to be very patience, I think.
Researcher	OK.
WS4	Because the the things were more slowly because of, yeah, understanding also but yeah, I will say 耐心 Yeah. Patience.
Researcher	OK, alright. Is there anything else you want to share?
WS4	I don't. Know. *laugh* You can come to it's the best, the best pizza of Kaohsiung Romantica Pizza. *laugh*

Researcher	All right, I'll search it up on Google. OK. Thank you very much WS4 for your time. It's really nice to have you today.
WS4	Your welcome.
Researcher	OK. Thank you.

#### **Additional/Follow-up Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 4**

Researcher	Hii, can I ask some additional questions?
WS4	Hi. Yes of course.
Researcher	OK. Do you feel that you are treated/perceived differently by professors?
WS4	Yes. We are two French in the class and we feel threatened differently by professor and the administration. Maybe less in EMI course.
Researcher	Is it really obvious though?
WS4	Not really because by the past. Few teachers will threats us like Taiwanese. But it's like 2 for 3 years...
Researcher	Oh wow it took a long time... How about like facilities provided by campus? Do you feel there is a difference in facilities provided by the university for local and international students? Or even differences in the facilities provided for international students from various countries?
WS4	What do you mean by facilities?
Researcher	Like an event can only be attended by locals, or like access to library, etc. Maybe you've seen or experienced before.
WS4	Not really haha.
Researcher	Hahaha OK then. That's it. Thanks a lot!
WS4	Np.



### Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 5

Researcher	OK. So thank you very much for having time to for this interview. Can you please introduce yourself like your name, your age, your nationality, and which department are you from.
WS5	My name is WS5 and now I'm 21 years old.
Researcher	21?
WS5	Yeah, 21. And I'm a local. Yeah, I'm Taiwanese. And now my department is Foreign Language Instruction. Yes. And now I'm at my senior.
Researcher	OIK. And, you are not from Kaohsiung, so you are from...
WS5	Yunlin, yeah.
Researcher	OK. And how do you know about? I mean, of course you know about Kaohsiung. How do you know about Wenzao University?
WS5	To be honest, I would say Wenzao, because this is a private school. So if I want to say the impression of it, I would say the yeah, the cost of it is very high and.
Researcher	OK.
WS5	For the resources of the school is, pretty lame.
Researcher	Oh.
WS5	And also there's a lot of teacher, I think, I think because of our generation, the the young people, they don't. Like there's a lot of teenagers that are just being nonchalant right now, and so there's a lot of teacher, they don't put efforts and like put times into teaching students. So you just feel like.
Researcher	Uh-huh.
WS5	The, like you don't feel the enthusiasm of teacher that is giving the class that would just randomly give you something and just like yeah, cover the whole semester. That's it. Yes.
Researcher	Yeah. But I mean do you have other options besides Wenzao University when you choose to go to college?
WS5	Yeah, sure. But the reason why I choose Wenzao is because I got two cousins and my two big sisters. Yes. And they are both in Kaohsiung and one of my one of my sisters, she she actually she was graduated from Wenzao too. Yes. She was at the German Department.
Researcher	Oh.
WS5	The the reason the the real reason why I choose window is because my big sister she is a tutor.
Researcher	Ohh.

WS5	Yeah, she's she's a tutor. She's a professional tutor, and she's teaching Chinese. And yeah, because I want to be a teacher. So I. So I think the departments that that I'm in right now is going to be helpful in the future. And also my sister is in Kaohsiung. So I think it might be helpful if I just being Kaohsiung and also.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	Yeah, the life here is pretty good and also. Everything is very convenient, yeah.
Researcher	OK. So after so you're in Kaohsiung right now for four years already, right?
WS5	Yeah.
Researcher	And do you think that the school and your department really help you to become a teacher?
WS5	I would say some of the theories and also some of the method they do help, but because I started to teach at the cram school before this semester start.
Researcher	Yes.
WS5	Yeah, during the summer vacation. But I would say after I really get to teach the real class, I realised that very less percentage of the things that I learned during the school that can be used during the class, not even even like 10%. Yeah because.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. *laugh*
WS5	The things are just too theoretical. Yeah. So it's good. It will help. It will help me to maybe assess the kid, do some assessment and also help me to get my course and classes better in the future. But right now I feel like, yeah, the.
Researcher	Oh. Yes. OK. But. Uh, you mentioned that you have another option beside Wenzao University, what what? What is it? What is that university?
WS5	It's in Taichung. It's called. What's that school? It's called Chin-Yi University. It it. It is also a private school. And also there is another school named Ming Chuan.
Researcher	Oh.
WS5	In Taoyuan. Yes, I I got these two options, yes, but I just. I just feel like the location and everything and the environment is Kaohsiung is the best, so I just yeah, I just choose.
Researcher	OK, why did not you choose like the public school like the government school?
WS5	Because. I don't have enough grades. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
Researcher	Yeah, that happens a lot. OK. And so how far so far do you like your live in Kaohsiung?
WS5	That's pretty good. It's pretty good like. Yeah, put it a simple word. I would say my conclusion for Wenzao is Wenzao is pretty bad school is pretty bad as a private school, and charge that much money is a pretty bad school, but.

Researcher	OK.
WS5	Yeah.
Researcher	How much did you charge for a local student? Or like every department is like the different tuition. Or the same.
WS5	I think I think it's almost the same, but for me it's like 60.000 per semester, 60,000. (currency: New Taiwan Dollar)
Researcher	60.000 Well, OK. (currency: New Taiwan Dollar)
WS5	That's a lot. That's a lot. So. Yeah, that's it.
Researcher	Compared to like. The one that you say in Taichung is how much is that one?
WS5	The private school because both of them, the one Chin-Yi in Taichung and also Ming Chuan Taoyuan and they're both private school, so the they're almost the same. The private school in Taiwan would.
Researcher	Almost the same.
WS5	Cost more and more, much more money than the public school.
Researcher	In the public school, how much is it like? For one semester.
WS5	It would be like 40.000, 30.000 (currency: New Taiwan Dollar)
Researcher	Oh. Big different.
WS5	Yes, very big.
Researcher	OK. And so you can say that you're like, don't really like here, I mean in Wenzao like for the that much of money and what you get is not not worth it.
WS5	Yeah, I would say for, at the how to say that at at the camp. What is that?
Researcher	It's OK.
WS5	At... Academy Academy? Yeah. What's wrong? Yeah. At... *struggling*
Researcher	Academic?
WS5	Academic that one, yeah. Again. *laugh*
Researcher	Academic.*laugh*
WS5	Yeah. For like, academic things. Yeah. Yeah. But except that one. Yes, I would say I wouldn't. I wouldn't feel regret to come to come to Wenzao.
Researcher	Hmm.
WS5	Because during this 4 four year, I I grew up a lot. And my sets and my thoughts and.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	Also, the people that I met and also everything that I have for and the things that I have right now. Yeah, I would feel like. Although Wenzao is pretty bad for me, but I I would say yeah, I wouldn't regret it because I met a lot of people. I met my girl and everything. Yeah, everything is good because I would just like the people and the things that I have. They would just make me feel like.
Researcher	Oh. OK.

WS5	Yeah, I I think I think yeah, it's worth it. I feel like I did the wrong, like did the right choice to choose Wenzao to study here, so.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	So yeah, it's it's I. It's I.
Researcher	Yeah. OK, I'm really happy. For you. OK, so now I want to ask more about culture.
WS5	Yeah.
Researcher	So in one town, there are a lot of international students, right. Even though actually, when I was a small campus compared to like other universities and. Actually there are like a lot of country lists. For example like you know you mentioned all the countries from Europe, but actually the number of the people are not that much like for example from people from Netherland you only have like one or two people from friends. You only have one or two. But still I mean you see a lot of international students. Around right. And I asked this to the international students like how do you see yourself? Because they are foreigners, but because you're a local people. So maybe I wouldn't.
WS5	Yeah.
Researcher	Do you have like? Groups inside Taiwanese people like or do you feel like all the Taiwanese all, all the local people in Kaohsiung is all the same, or do you? Have like groups?
WS5	Oh. Yeah.
Researcher	Like like smart people groups, weird people groups or like Japanese people groups, something like that.
WS5	Oh yeah, I have my own group and they are. I got yeah, I. Got a group of friend and. They're there used to be the same with me Yeah, I got, like, our group. We got five boys and three girls and one of them, they're he. He's in the department of. I don't know. What's the name of that department? They like. They shoot the videos and editing.
Researcher	Like art or media something?
WS5	Yeah. Yeah, that department. Yeah. Media. Yeah. Yeah. One of one. One of them is from that department and the the rest of them one one is me. Right. And the rest of the three they are they are the same class with me, but they quit school.
Researcher	Oh.
WS5	Yes, they quit school, but we still contact. We still contact with each other. We still keep in touch, we still hang outs. We still do a lot, a lot of. Things together but.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	Uh. After yeah, when I was a freshman, I socialised a lot. I socialised with people a lot. I would just randomly just say hi. Say, what's up to everyone? I would just hard to meet. I met so much people. I met so many people during my first year, so many, but after.
Researcher	To everyone. Yes.
WS5	I think I think. Year one year and two years.

Researcher	You're getting tired, yeah.
WS5	Yeah, just getting tired. My social energy just keep slowing down and I just can't now for me, I'm getting old. I'm old ass in the campus right now. I just. I just don't have the energy and don't have the patience to get to know someone because it's tiring. Because if you want to make friends with someone.
Researcher	Yes.
WS5	You need to get to know them from zero to 100. You need to put.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	Effort in it. I respect bro.
Researcher	Agree.
WS5	Yes, I just tired I'm I'm I'm like I'm kind of like. I kind of I'm kind of like emo, right? It's just kind of because I'm. I'm just tired of human, I'm just tired of, yeah.
Researcher	OK so. I mean, I'm not a local people, so I don't really know how it goes between the locals. Do you have like any like differences between local people? Because like for example, for international students you can see. International students from Western country, from African country, from Southeast Asian country, they are all different, right? Yeah. But how about like local people? Do you have, like, any differences between the local people?
WS5	What do you mean the differences? They're intelligent?
Researcher	Like, not really intelligent or like maybe ethnicity, or yeah or race or like.
Researcher	Yeah, like you mentioned that you you are in a group of people, eight people in one group, right? And why do you want to be friends with those seven people? Because like you have the same background because you have interest in the same thing, or...
WS5	It's just because our vibe is matching. Yeah, because because you can, you can. You can really. Now if I when I when I talk to someone. If our vibe match I would know.
Researcher	So you can really do one another.
WS5	You like? Like as an adult, you would definitely tell if someone's life is matching with you. Yeah. So, yeah, they matching with me and we.
Researcher	Yeah. Uh-huh.
WS5	Just. Like in our group, like all of my, all of my friends and including me, we are weird because we just we just seems we just seems don't care about each other, but we also care so much about each other and we just keep roasting each other. Yes, but that's your question in Taiwan.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	Hmmm. There's not much of a, there there is Aboriginal people in Taiwan.
Researcher	Yeah

WS5	We got a lot of like, they they're they're they have some tribe and around Taiwan. And you can you can tell if they're Aboriginal people by.
Researcher	From the visual or from the like accent?
WS5	Yeah, some yeah. Accent and visuals, yes, and also. Yeah, like how they how they look. And yeah, they kind of look like foreigner, just kind of yeah, kind of kind of some of them kind.
Researcher	Already.
WS5	Of look like foreigner. And yeah, how they how they talk and how they because you know when when they talk, when they try to talk funny, they will try to add something into the sentence. Like how do you feel today? Yeah. Yeah, like like that when. They try to talk funny. Yeah. So, yeah, so. Think that's the only like. And necessary things that you can talk about in Taiwan. *talking with a Taiwanese aboriginal accent*
Researcher	Ohh OK but. Uh. Is it like? Aboriginal people only wants to hang out with them and then don't don't want to. I mean, like, do you want to hang out with them and they won't hang out with you? Or is there, like, a barrier between those ethnicity?
WS5	No, there is no barrier. Yeah, there is no discrimination between tables and Aboriginal people. There's no discrimination and no racism. Yeah.
Researcher	OK.
WS5	But we do. We have some like stereotype about them. We feel like this one of the stereotype is they sing so well, like they've always when they're. Yeah, this is one of the stereotype and.
Researcher	Oh.
WS5	Yeah, that's that's all I know. That's all I know. And yeah, we wouldn't like honest people most of the time, these people were friendly and we are not because what I said, just like what I told you, we don't have racism and we don't. So we're open to.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	Like anyone open to any in the city, and if if someone doesn't want to like. Talk to someone or. Or or or like having interactions with some people. I think that that is just their problem. That's individual problem, yeah.
Researcher	Mm-hmm. Yeah, not because of the ethnicity, right?
WS5	Yeah.
Researcher	OK so. Do you think your lifestyle is different from when you're back in Yunlin and in Kaohsiung is it different?
WS5	When you're back?
Researcher	Your lifestyle, I mean, when you are in your hometown. And you're in Kaohsiung.
WS5	Totally different because you know, because we Asians and you know, Asians, parenting this parenting, I.
Researcher	Yeah.

WS5	Yeah, strict and always having helicoptering and you know, I was so stressful and even got some like, depression before.
Researcher	In your home?
WS5	Back in the back, back in the days and I still, I still got depression after I get into college, but I I recover. I I I pass through it. Yeah, I worked out. Yes and yeah, so after I get to college. Is this freedom? Yeah, I was crazy at the first year. I was crazy. I just keep. I just keep hang out with my friends and went all crazy.
Researcher	Good for you.
WS5	Yeah. And yeah, this is a it's a. It's a very big difference because I think after I get into college, that's the moment when my parents realised that I'm already a grown as man, so they stop. They stop to, you know, control me. They still controlling me. While the first year they try, they still try to control me. But after like, first semester.
Researcher	Oh yeah.
WS5	Finished. They just. Yeah, they just pull back a little bit, yes.
Researcher	But you're still like, going back to your parents, your. Holiday or something?
WS5	Yeah, I'm going back to ending. This this weekend.
Researcher	Oh.
WS5	Yeah, I got. I got a long time ago. Never, never, never go back. Because I I work at the cram school the whole summer vacation. So. So I. So I haven't go back to any for a period of time.
Researcher	But this weekend, only like 2 days. Yeah, it's enough?
WS5	It's not that it's not.
Researcher	You can take like a high speed rail or like local train or like bus.
WS5	No, it if I take scooter, it would take. Me like 3 hours. Before to to go back, so I usually I would choose train. Of course I can choose the high.
Researcher	Oh.
WS5	Speed rail, but it's too expensive, so I.
Researcher	OK. *laugh*
WS5	Mean, I mean like the same function, but it's only slower. I would prefer train because I'm a cheap cheap.
Researcher	Agree. OK. And do you do you hang out a lot with international friends or you hang out more with local people?
WS5	I would say. I I don't actually hang out with people that much right now, but if I have to say it, it is just like half that because I work at Brickyard. It's a yeah, because the owner, he's a foreigner, he's from America and most of the customer of our bar is foreigner. So I get to talk with talk to a lot of foreigners.
Researcher	Foreigners.
WS5	And yeah, I I got a pretty, pretty good friend. And he's from Palau. Yeah, and yeah, he's pretty good. He's a very sweet guy. He's a caring guy. And yeah, we will keep we we keep in touch and we keep sometimes we just chatting and. Yeah, making fun of each other.

Researcher	How about inside the campus area?
WS5	Inside the campus. Back in the days I used to most of my international friends are Indonesian.
Researcher	OK.
WS5	Yeah, because I don't know why. Because just. I. I joined sorry I join I joined ESP class and yeah the English class. I joined the ESP class and I met to the *mentioning Indonesian friends name*. I met them at my first year and because *Indonesian friend name* she's like an outgoing pretty outgoing girl. And yeah, she's pretty cute and.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	So I just. Yeah, we we became, we become friends and she introduced me to *Indonesian friends name* and her friends. Yeah, we. Yeah. So we used to hang out. We used to talk. And yeah, we.
Researcher	Her friends, yeah.
WS5	Used. To want to have a meal or something, but now we still we still keep in touch with it. But now because we everybody having their own life, so I need to.
Researcher	Yes.
WS5	Become my own business. I need to worry about my.
Researcher	OK, OK. So. Do you have any like? Do you have any other foreigners in your department? Not that.
WS5	Yeah, I think I. Think we I have. I have a I have a classmate. She's actually. She's from Argentina. But both of her parents are from Taiwan. Went back to Taiwan. To study study at Wenzao and. And she we we chat, we chat a lot and she told me that she's going to stay in Taiwan. Yes, I think that's the. Yeah, she's the. Only the only one.
Researcher	So you don't really have like a lot of chance to, for example, have a group work with international students. Do you have it?
WS5	I used to work. I used to be in the same class with Indonesian girl. Yeah and.
Researcher	Uh-huh.
WS5	That's the only time that's the only time.
Researcher	And do you feel any like differences between you and them, like in terms of working in a group?
WS5	I don't think so. We're just.
Researcher	The same.
WS5	Yeah, just the same. I think the. How a group work on the project is? It depends on the peoples attitude. Attitude. Yeah. So yeah, they're pretty good. And we we we finished we we just finished the project very effectively.



Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah. Great. OK. OK. And because you are a local people, so I will change the question and you meet a lot of foreigner in your workplace in Brickyard, right? Do you see any cultural differences between international students and you as a Taiwanese? Like maybe the way of speaking the social life from religion or education, maybe.
WS5	I would say I always think that foreign students and foreigners and Taiwanese have big difference because I think. Like foreigners there, that education background is totally different and the and the parenting that like.
Researcher	Really?
WS5	Like for example, if you maybe in America, we don't, you don't even have that much school time. Well, you are at a young age so but but in Taiwan we need to like.
Researcher	Uh-huh.
WS5	8 hours an average since starting from junior high school until senior high school, so there's a.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	Lot of school. Time. And like the parenting and also the how to say that the mindset of Taiwanese parents is just, you need to study, you need to study.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	Study hard and you should get good grades so you can get a good job in the future. So that's why.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	Not so many Taiwanese students. They got open minded. They're like, yeah, yeah. They got friends up. They cannot thinking outside of the box and having their own thoughts. So that's why there's a lot of Taiwanese. They just keep following the flow. And like, like just liking what other people.
Researcher	Study.
WS5	It's liking and following other peoples what like following what others people is doing. They don't have their own opinions. So that's why during the class like I think there's a big difference. Of the the the classroom in foreign country in Taiwan, like in Taiwan, you study here for this is for a year, right? So you can see during the class if the teacher asks students the question. So if you guys have any questions or can you answer this, no one is raising their hand. Right. But in foreign country like.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	All of the.
Researcher	Everyone.
WS5	Students. Yeah, they will try to like. Answer the teacher. They will try to keep up with the class, but like telling students, I think that that. Is a very big difference.

Researcher	And. The reason why the Taiwan like for example in class situation they don't want to answer professors question is because. They're not used to it or they're just like following the flow. Or why is it?
WS5	I think personally I would say if. Uh, I'm I'm. The person that I would I would. I'm willing to raise my hand to answer the question, but it is just because the whole vibe is too awkward.
Researcher	Hmm.
WS5	Because in Taiwan, if you if teachers say something and want you to answer or like throughout your question to to the teacher, if you raise your hand, you are the weird one like like. Yeah. Like like the whole vibe is just like this. So no one wants to raise their hand, but it's not like it like in the class. You should just be volunteer, raise your hand and answer the. And and yeah, you know. Join the class. Yeah. Yes, but I personally, I would say the reason why Japanese student. Is like this. It is just because, yeah, what I say, they just. They're not willing to speak up. Yeah, like most of the Chinese people like. Think introvert. They're not willing to speak up. They're just afraid of other people. How other people seeing seeing them and.
Researcher	Yeah. OK. And do you have friends from who's studying in public school. Public university in Taiwan, I mean.
WS5	Yeah.
Researcher	You you know, that is it also the same in the school or the same like people don't want to raise their hands or maybe public school is more. You know, competitive.
WS5	I don't actually. I don't actually get to see the view in the classroom or public school, but I would say it would probably be the same. Yes, but :if the. If the class, like all the classmates in the same class, if the vibe is OK, like everyone is very outgoing, just like the first year of my class like everyone is still like. Just like try to get to know each other and try to like in the first year, everyone in my class.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	We always go to the class on time, everyone.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	Yes. And we try to like catch up. Laugh during the class we answering teacher, we follow the teacher and after like half of the semester half of the semester, like the thing. Just keep going down. Yes.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah.
Researcher	Yes, the number of the student is like almost half of the class is gone.
WS5	Yeah, no one just tried to like, you know, try to do. Those like following teacher and answering questions or something? Yeah.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah. OK. Any other differences you feel between local people and foreigners? But that's it.

WS5	To say. Foreign people are more open minded, not like Taiwanese because.
Researcher	I think like Taiwanese, people are also open minded. Like you're open to, you know, like LGBTQ community and then like. You know, a lot of things. I I feel like Taiwanese people are also open minded.
WS5	I think this is this is kind of like. Complicated to talk about because like for example, if the LGBTQ things in Taiwan is getting more serious like America. That is not acceptable, but I think Chinese people would be like, uh, I don't know. I think I'm. I'm cool with the. I'm cool with all those situations, but actually I don't. I'm not. I'm not like, you know, supporting.
Researcher	Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah, you're OK. But you're not supporting it.
WS5	Yeah, because I just. Just. I I don't like the. Because I think there's only two gender. You know, if you are a man, you are a man. And if you would like, I respect the transgender because if you want to be a transgender, you need to go through a lot. You.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	Need to go through other people. Judgement. You need to go through surgery. If you went through all that and actually become a woman. I respect you and I would think I would totally 100% think you are a woman. But if you're not, if you're a man and they just raise up your hand and say I'm I'm a woman and I want to have all the privilege that woman having.
Researcher	Hmm.
WS5	Yeah, I hate that. And I don't like I. I work at brickyards, so there will be a lot of, like, trans people, gay people come to Brickyard and during like, because at Friday we usually having our ladies night at Friday, so it's free for ladies and and it's open bar to one for ladies, so they would.
Researcher	Oh. Oh.
WS5	Because I need to check I check their ID, you know in the door. So there would just be some, like, gay, gay, like gay guy just.
Researcher	He's.
WS5	Come to me and say, I'm a girl *imitating woman voice*, I said, bro.
Researcher	Hmm.
WS5	Yeah.
Researcher	Just pay the money.
WS5	Yeah, just pay the money. But yeah, I'm sick of this. I need to sit here for like hours. Bro, can you not? To pay the money and get it.
Researcher	Is there any like any someone of them like don't want to show you your ID, their ID and they want to get?
Researcher	It for free.

WS5	If they want to, if they don't want to show me their ID, they can just get out, because if I'm a doorman, I'm just following the rules of the of the store. So yeah, that's my job. I'm doing my job. So if you don't want to follow when you can, if you know my boss, know my manager, you can text them. And if they're OK with it?
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	You can go in, but if you don't want to like cooperating with me, just go. Yeah, yeah.
Researcher	Yeah. OK. And I mean, I know, I mean I'm an international student and I like, you know, chat with my international student friends and some of them, not all of them. Some of them feel like when they. Communicate with local people. They feel like local people are not really welcome to them. Not really. Open and sometimes they are like very, very shy to like. For example, in a group work. They don't really give their opinion, it's it's not like in in class situation but like for example a group of three or four students and then like 2 Taiwanese people and then two international students. But like all my friends says, like the Taiwanese people are not really open and will come to them. Is that happened to all Internet to all local students or like only few? And why do you think they are being like that?
WS5	I think most of the local students, they are like that. They are like that. So you can, yeah, most of them most of them because like what I just told you before you recorded them, I think Taiwan is a country that is uncultured. Yet because in Taiwan we are, we are. We are just as very small island.
Researcher	Most of them?
WS5	We are a very small country and we keep we keep being pressed by China so we don't get to know. Like that much about other countries and other cultures, all we learn is about something about history that we can know the origins of some country and that's it. So that's why so many people, we don't know much about outside outside world. So that is because that that's one of the big reasons and also.
Researcher	World.
WS5	The reason why how many people they cannot talk with the international students is because their English education system in Taiwan is.
Researcher	Really.
WS5	It's very, very, very bad.
Researcher	You think so?

WS5	Yes, very bad and also not just the English education system, but also what I told you the parenting and also the the yeah, because. Asian parents say they are used to keep pressing down their kid. They like in Asia, we don't. Like most of the parents, they wouldn't give that much confidence to their kid. So personally, I don't have that much confidence. It is just because I know. Yeah, I'm more open minded. I I I. I watch a lot of videos. I learn knowledge. I checked out something. I checked out the news and know about things of the outside world, so I'm willing to. I'm open to talk with anyone and try to like. Touch the new things and try to try new things. Yes and but so I think telling people they're just low confidence and they're not confident about their. Visibility so they are not willing to open their. They are too afraid of making mistake. They are too afraid to be awkward culture, bad English ability, low confidence.
Researcher	Yeah. OK, I I personally agree for the confidence part. I think I mean, not all Asian parents, but you know the the typical Asian parents will be like they only focus on the number of the great team getting and they don't. They don't really trust in the process and they don't really. Like support you like the typical Western parents. I feel like, yeah. And I mean you are a local student. I I'm curious, do you have any like friends from other country that has a similar you feel like it's very similar and relate to you?
WS5	You mean experience or?
Researcher	Like for example, I'm an Indonesian right? And I feel like living in Kaohsiung and in Taiwan I. I really relate and I feel like this people from this country is similar to me. Is people from Malaysia. And Thailand. Yeah, I don't really. I don't really think that Indonesian people are similar to people from Europe, country or American country. How about Taiwanese people? Do you have something like that?
WS5	Actually, I cannot think of this. Yeah, I cannot think of this question, I don't know. You, you. So so your question is can I think of some countries, some students from like specific country that is similar to Taiwan?
Researcher	That. Similar. Do you have friends from like mainland China? Yeah? And you think it's like, uh, the same similar or completely different?
WS5	Oh, I would say I would say it's. It's like the same I used to because I used to use this app named Tandem Tandem. It's it's it's, it's a, it's a language practise app, so you can meet friends up there. Yeah. So because the reason why I like to use that app is because yeah, first of all, yeah, I want I love to.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Yeah, not now.
WS5	I love to talk to people and and also I feel like I need to practise my English. Just keep improving and so I use that app and try to like because you can you can choose the language that you want.
Researcher	Hmm.

WS5 Practise and join a party that is about that language. So I yeah, I selected English so I just find some parties to join in and one of my big joys to using that app is I love to find some room, some party that have Chinese people in it. Yes. And due to the policy.

---

Researcher Oh.

---

WS5 Of China, they cannot use that app because the China.

---

Researcher Or do you have to use the VPN?

---

WS5

Yeah, that is like kind of like a crossing the wall and that is against the law of.

---

Researcher Oh.

---

WS5 China so and like because there's a saying in China that China like Chinese government is monitoring everything about the people. They have camera everywhere. They got the online system that is monitoring the people. So what I what I love to do, what I enjoy to do is I went to I go on that app and I just bring up some sensitive topics to talk with them. How do you feel about China and Taiwan? How do you feel about your President, Xi Jinping? I talked with him and yeah, I met this girl and she's like. She's pretty cool and her English is not that good, but but OK. And she's willing to speak up. She's willing to try. And I just got this. It's pretty good. And also, absolutely. She just tried to practise English with me and yeah, open to it. And after we finish, we just chat about. Everything. And yeah, we talked about our education and everything. So it's kind of similar, yeah, because in China and Taiwan, I think the English education is just. The same because in English in Taiwan and China it's just like the testing tool, it's the things for students to get grades, not for them to actually use it and communicate with others not. Yeah. Yeah. The parents, they only care for the grades only care for their kids if they can get into the grade school, get a good job.

---

Researcher Yeah, actually. \*laugh\*

---

WS5 Future.

---

Researcher	The the app you're talking about is it, is it like you mean when you talk to other people is like chatting or like calling.. ohh.
WS5	Yeah, it's just like. You know Discord.
Researcher	Oh yeah, yeah.
WS5	Yeah, it's kind of like you can think of it like discord. Yeah. So you can select the language that you wanted and you can join it. And so there's a party. And like, there's a lot of people, there will be a host that who opened this room. So there's a lot of people just kind of, I stand by down there.
Researcher	OK. Uh-huh. Yeah.
WS5	Want to join? Just raise your hand and like the host would pull you in and you can start chatting.
Researcher	But the the people you meet is random. You cannot cheat. Ohh I see. OK.
WS5	But I do. I do met this girl she's from. She's from France. Yes. And her name is. Oh, I don't need. To mention her name, OK. Yeah, she. And what's funny is the reason why I met this girl is because I saw her picture on Tandem. I just thought she looks so familiar.
Researcher	Hmm.
WS5	Because she used to study here. Started here big, but she went back to France and so I just. I just kind of like and I also I saw her when I joined a party. I saw her in there. So I just joined there and talked to her and find out. Yeah she she used to study at when she went back to France and yeah we we.
Researcher	Oh.
WS5	Keep in touch. We chat and during the summer vacation she came back to Taiwan.
Researcher	For vacation.
WS5	Yeah, yeah. For vacation? For one month. Yeah. We and we linked up and yeah, it's pretty. It's pretty.
Researcher	Good. OK. And. Do you have? A new experience when you encounter relationship with international student, I mean not that kind of relationship, but like when you meet international students or friends. Do you have like a new experience that is like you never experienced before? Like other maybe other than language barrier. Like you, when you talk to international like foreigner and then you get new information from them, something like that.
Researcher	Hmm.

WS5	I actually can. Think of it, we just chat about random things and yeah, we don't get to chat too deep. Yeah. We just talk about our daily life, so. Yeah, if if we're talking about deep talking, it's just about the relationship, you know, so like the gossip and it's like we don't we don't actually like exchange their opinion about like countries. But we do talk about the English education that I feel and they would through their opinion. Yeah, that's it.
Researcher	Yeah. Yeah, that's. Yeah.
WS5	I don't.
Researcher	OK, so no culture shock. Yeah. OK, good, very good. And now I'm not sure, I mean I don't think you will be discriminated by other people. I mean you're a local people, but do you? Like, have you ever seen or like know some information about, like, local people being discriminated by local people or local people being discriminated by foreigners, or the opposite, foreigners being discriminated by Taiwanese?
WS5	Uh. Like it's like, like I said, I don't think. I don't think how many people we don't actually have that racism and discrimination, but the the people that got discriminated, it's just because they're I think that is simply called bully. Yeah. Because that is not discrimination. It's just because they look different, they act different.
Researcher	Yes.
WS5	Yeah, some people, they, they cannot control their outlook, they cannot. Control their behaviour. They have some issues or something. Those people will get discriminated. But I think most there's a lot of. People got discriminate, got the discrimination is because they are actually *****. They're like they're already adults and they cannot be responsible for themselves and they just keep acting dumb. And yeah, most of the reason why homeless people would get discrimination and get bullied is because of that. Yeah, because they are just dumb.
Researcher	Like like the appearance you mean like because in in my country. If there will be like two groups, popular groups and less popular groups, something like that, is it the same like in Taiwan?
WS5	Yeah, it's the same. It's the same. Yeah, that's just that is just people. How human work. Yeah. People like people would try to get to know people that is close to you. That is more similar.
Researcher	Yeah. OK. And why do you think that kind of discrimination happens, especially towards like race? Ethnicity, yeah.
WS5	But we don't have that in Taiwan. We don't have that discrimination in Taiwan. Yeah, but but in Taiwan, we don't. We don't have discrimination. We only have.
Researcher	So.
WS5	I wouldn't because discrimination is more negative phrase, but I would say stereotype just like.
Researcher	Yes. Uh-huh.



WS5	Like, for Chinese people, we maybe think. We we think that India is a is a cultural country and our like any other like stereotype there. Like like other or or like last time I saw this video on Instagram, it's talking about there's this guy he went to have an interview. He he interviewed a girl and she's from donation and he he asked a similar question and that girl say that there's a lot of times people would think that if a person from. Nation there come here to.
Researcher	Work there.
WS5	Labour and and there's a there's a lot of arguments in the comments and I just feel like. Some people don't think that it's a discrimination. Yeah, some some people think that it's just only a stereotype, yes, but it depends on. That's just depends on people, because the fact is, there's actually a lot of people from Philippines, from Thailand, from Indonesia, they come here to work because the payments and everything is is is better.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	So. Much better, but I would just feel like if you. Yeah, I would say this is a discrimination. Yeah, it's not racist, but discrimination. And also like kind of like, mix of the stereotype and discrimination. Yeah.
Researcher	OK. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Agree. But I also agree with you that Taiwan is especially Taiwanese. People are so good. It's not like discrimination doesn't happens a lot in the country, but it's really different outside Taiwan. Like for example. You know, in America, maybe they have, like, discriminations toward. The minority and then also in like Southeast Asian country, there are like minority that will be discriminated. But in Taiwan I feel like the people are like not all the same but like. There are not a lot of discrimination happen in Taiwan. Do you think something? Something makes Taiwanese people think that discrimination is not important. Because it's really different from the outside world, right?
WS5	I think. This is a very deep question that I would just keep the same answer I think because Taiwanese people, most of the Taiwanese people are just. You know. We stick in the we have our own culture, we have our own custom but a lot. Otherwise, people would stick in the like old costume. We stick in the old tradition. We dig in the same mindset. Yeah. Just like for kids. Study, study hard, get good grades, get good job. And for adults, keep working. Keep working, make money, raise family, raise a kid. Yeah. And for all people.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	Follow all that and like just you need to follow the rules. Needs to 拜拜 and needs to talk to your ancestor for a period of time you need to burn the paper money. You need to use. What's that called in English yeah so.
Researcher	Yeah, I don't know. But I know that one. Yeah.

WS5	Yeah, just. Just because Taiwan is, I would just, just, yeah, just like what I told you, Taiwan is our culture country. So people don't know. Just like, for example, there's a lot of hate toward black people in America, yeah. As I as I have the research and also. I studied the history background of what happened before. I kind of I kind of know that, but I still feel it's meaningless because. I feel meaningless, but there's still a lot of people who hate.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	Because as a matter of fact, there is actually the data showing that the crime that caused by black people is higher and also yeah, due to their culture background and also the conflicts they have. For years and years and years I can I can relate to why white people, some a lot of people, would hate black people. Yeah, I can. But that's not the that is not good because not all the people. It's like that. Yeah, there's still a lot of good people. And I yeah, I just one of the resources that I learn English. From this from YouTube there is a show named Wild. Analysis of black people show. I love black people. I love black culture. I love rap music. I love their culture. I love their accent.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	Everything about them so. Yeah. So for Taiwanese, the reason why we don't hate like just like for example, it's cold. So American look like I would just take white people for example. So white people hate black people. The reason why they hate black people is because they have this history and they know about this history for how many.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah.
WS5	People, we are in the. Like isolated islands, we don't have too much connection. In other country, so we don't have history with other country.
Researcher	Hmm.
WS5	We don't have. Too many things, yeah. The only related is like China and Holland and and and and Portuguese and 100,000 years ago. That's a long time ago. So. So that doesn't count. And like Japan, Japan, Japan used to rule Taiwan. But like, we're cool. Yeah, we're cool. Like, we don't have any. Like, we're all Asian and like Japanese. So cool. They live in 2050. They have like.
Researcher	Yeah. Yeah, Japan. Then.
WS5	Yeah, it's a very cool country. Yeah. So, yeah, just like. Because Taiwan don't have that much history background and also the history connection that Taiwan have with other country is very close. Like Japan, China, because our history is pretty close, we are all Asian country. So we don't have that much thoughts about other country outside of the world. We don't know about the actual actually conflicts.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	The the race, so we don't discriminate so we don't have the discrimination towards other races just because we're on culture that's that's a good thing. And also a sad things at.
Researcher	Yeah. Yeah.

WS5	The same time, yes.
Researcher	OK. And I remember you mentioned about stereotypes. It's like you say, it's not really discrimination, but it's just like stereotypes, how people think about other people or other country? Do you do? You think like is there any actions or behaviour that is actually a discrimination but? Has been normalised by people. Like for example there is this my African friend, she's from Africa and she feels that this is not the the. It's like a little bit of discrimination, but people will say, oh, I'm just asking you so people say I'm asked her like, oh, do you have water in Africa, something like that. It is kind of, it's a question, but she feels like it's a discrimination that has been normalised because not all African country doesn't have water. Yeah, something like that. Do you know? Or what kind of things do you feel like that?
WS5	I think that is also individuals. That is a individuals issue because I think I think most of the people would ask this question, you can just you can just tell her that just because they're on culture, they will only know the stereotype that they know and talk about it, but they don't. They don't actually mean bad.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	They just. They just don't. Yeah, but some of the people, if they actually, if they have the like. The knowing about. The things that they act, the facts, but they still ask this kind of question that is that is just because they are.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	They're *****. Yeah. So either they are dumb or they're.
Researcher	Ah, I see.
Researcher	OK.
WS5	Is... am I allowed to say that? *laugh*
Researcher	*laugh* It's OK, but I mean, I totally agree. If like a a people like one person really don't know, then it is a serious like it's a real question. They're dumb. But if the person knows some like already know about that and still ask, it's like stupid like you don't have to. Ask the questions right?
WS5	Yeah.
Researcher	OK. And I forgot, have I asked you about this like? Why do you think people discriminate one another based on their perspective? Have I asked you the question before?
WS5	So. OK, I will. I will. I will say this because I work at Bridger. So I get to. Like talk to a lot of foreign people from all, like from a lot of country like India, Korea, America, Europe, they're a lot. So for me, I'm not racist, have discrimination toward people. But after I work at regard for a period of time.
Researcher	Oh, a lot.

WS5	I'm I'm kind of kind of building up the stereotype about typical races of people, like, just like for example, like Indian people.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.
WS5	That is just like I never I yes, I used to have a stereotype about the Indians. Like they their their own culture or something. They're they're even worse than Taiwan or something like used to. But back in the days. But after I get into college. Gets meets like foreign foreign friends and something I just took that all back, but after I. They all came. Back. Yeah, so, so it's just because their attitude.
Researcher	Oh.
WS5	Yeah. And that is also personal. I wouldn't say like all the Indians are like this because all of the Indians, the, the, like Indian men, if they come to breaker, they always ask for free to get in like bro it's only 300 (currency: New Taiwan Dollar) if you are that cheap. Just don't come here bro. Just keep asking for free entry bro. And like they went to.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah.
WS5	And also they have the corporate corporate. Restaurant called Starlight is near Pier 2, so some of the Indian men, they went there to have a dinner and like they got the name card of the boss start like so they just came to break out and say *boss name* is the owner of the restaurant. Yeah. Yeah, I know *boss name*. And he said I can get him free.
Researcher	Mm-hmm. Oh.
WS5	Yeah. They just keep saying that. But like, that's not true. They just keep asking just they just keep showing the. How to say they just keep showing things to match my stereotype about them? Like my stereotype about them? Maybe I hide it inside of me like they're cheap, like they they, they, they just they just want everything like like.
Researcher	Your eyes.
WS5	Yeah, they want cheap things. They want free things and. They're like, they're like they're. Like so cocky and so. So you know confidence for no reason. Although if they if they look look ugly or something, they just you know I hide.
Researcher	Yeah. Yeah.
WS5	All the stereotypes.
Researcher	But it came back.
WS5	They just keep, they keep matching, they do things and they say things to keep matching with the series. I'm happy about them. You know, if you're doing and saying the different things I would say, yeah, that's that's my fault to have those theories have about you. Because when I used to study at the cram school named *cram school company*
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	And I got. I actually got an Indian Indian teacher. Yeah, and. She she. Yeah. Yeah, my teacher. She's. Yeah, she's a girl and. She's actually like the Indian woman they are, so they're not like Indian men.

Researcher	Different?
WS5	Like they're polite. And they are well dressed and they smell good. And they talk polite. They say they are very polite and everything. Not like Indian man.
Researcher	OK.
WS5	So my stereotype about Indian woman just gone. Why? Why?
Researcher	This will come back. Yes.
WS5	You don't have the money. Just don't come here to drink.
Researcher	Yeah. OK. OK. So and it comes to the next question, you say that you say that. It's a personal thing like. If you meet this one Indian guy who wants to get in for free doesn't mean all Indian men is like that. Yeah. Yeah. So do you think it happens to all people from another country this. Doesn't mean one specific person represent the whole country.
WS5	Yeah, it doesn't mean, yeah. Just like. Yeah, not one person represent the whole country. It happened.
Researcher	You agree with that? You agree with that, right? OK.
WS5	Yeah, agree with that, but just. Because it doesn't happen that much, because like most of the like, talking about to want to get the free end, talk about this thing most of the. Most of the time that only happens on Indians. You know, like the rest of the people, like rest of the foreigners, they come here. They would try to, like, try to, like getting close to me on the thing from that can't getting through something as a girl. I'm sorry. I'm doing my job. There's a camera over there. So I. Need to charge it. Would be cool like they ask me. So that's that's OK, but they. Would just like. Is it good for me to keep talking about? Indian man like.
Researcher	It's OK. It's very serious.
WS5	Like, yeah, I I agree. That one person would reply. The whole country, but because most so I would. I would keep like the stereotype about tour. This race keep strengthened up is because they just keep matching it. They just, yeah, they just keep like, like different people, different person. They just keep.
Researcher	Yeah, most of them are like that.
WS5	Happening the same thing.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah.
WS5	And even, yeah, that's it.
Researcher	I agree. I agree. So like. You you think that? Oh, not everyone in the country is like that. But you still have those like stereotype those thinking when you meet, like, for example, we're talking about people from India, right. Like for example you just met like you. You just see like 1 Indian man outside the Brickyard door and then the the first thing you think is like oh. Wants to go for free, something like that, but it's actually like you're not thinking that everyone is like that, but it's just like your stereotype because everything keeps matching with your stereotypes, right?
Researcher	Yeah.

WS5	But even though I have the stereotype. Or have some bad opinion about. Someone or some typical group of people? I wouldn't. I wouldn't show attitude. Yeah, I wouldn't show attitude like for example. Like there's 4 Indian men just come to break your like like one by one. Yeah. I what? I would have a thought about them like this but I wouldn't show my attitude to them.
Researcher	You just being polite, so polite.
WS5	Yeah, but if like this guy show up this night and next night, he he came here again. I will. Of course I will have. Yeah.
Researcher	OK so. How do you deal with the situation if you are faced with a not so happy situation with foreigners?
WS5	I think except from work I don't actually have issue with phone.
Researcher	Foreigners. So. Yeah, because that's work, so I mean.
WS5	Bear with it because I need to act professional because I got, I get paid, so I need to be polite, try my best to be polite. Yeah, but our boss and manager got our got our back. So if anything happened, they got our back. So yeah, be cool.
Researcher	Yeah. Yeah. OK. So do you think people from different places and for example you are from, you're from Taiwan and you meet a lot of foreigners, right? Do you think it's difficult to understand and accept one another or is it difficult?
WS5	I would say no. It's just because no matter. What skin colour you have? No matter like what language you speak, as long as we can communicate, we are all human.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	That we are all human, so there's no we come from different backgrounds. We come from different culture. So for me that is not difficult to. Deal with because. That is kind of like. For me that is just like learning a new knowledge. I love to, although I'm kind of like having low social energy right now, but I'm still open minded to meet new people if this person is nice. Yes. So for me I love to meet new people. Yes. And I love to learn new things. So for me, meeting a new person. From another country is just learning new things and contact with. New things, so it's. It's pretty good.
Researcher	Yeah, it's like a new way of learning, right?
WS5	I think from I think I'm going to tell you a story. So this is this thing is from I think it's last year, yeah, before I before I get into this relationship, if I met my girlfriend right now. So there's this girl. She. Yeah. She she was in the campus and she's from Mexico. Yeah, she's a white girl. I wouldn't even think that she's from Mexico. Yeah, she's. Yeah. She's a white girl and she she's pretty, so I just. I think she's attractive. So. So I walked up to talk to her. So I walked up and I just say that I'm sorry. I I saw you around the campus and I think you're beautiful. Can I get your Instagram or something? Maybe you can hang out or something. And. And she's like, yeah, cool. Of course. And. And we just chat.
Researcher	Uh-huh.

WS5	A little bit. And then like after like 2 minutes. She just she just asked me that. I need to tell something something. You want the truth or you want the lie? Of course. The truth. And she just told me that I'm 15.
Researcher	15 years old?
WS5	Yeah, she's. Yeah, in in the campus. She just came here to learn Mandarin.
Researcher	Oh.
WS5	Yeah, I was in shock was like bro. So like my minor alarm clock is like so I just stop like you know because I because I woke woke up to her because of I want to like you know try to like hit on her but but after I know she's a minor I the alarm stopped but we become pretty good friends.
Researcher	Hmm.
WS5	She's now back in Mexico. For that we used to hang out and just talk, just chat and make fun of each other. She roast me and roast her. I still roasting her right now. Yeah, just. Yeah, that's pretty.
Researcher	OK and. Now, before we end the conversation, do you have any challenges when you contribute to the multicultural environment? Like, for example, when you are place in a place where are a lot of foreigners and Taiwanese, do you have any challenges? Not really other than other than language barrier.
WS5	You mean for? Taiwanese.
Researcher	Yeah. As a Taiwanese.
WS5	I'm not actually understanding the question.
Researcher	Oh, OK. So like. For example, because you don't really have a lot of experience inside the campus to work together with international students other than Indonesians, right? But if you are faced in that kind of situation, for example group work and then you have to work together with a lot of foreigners like people from. European country people from American country and then you as a Taiwan. Do you think that you will face any challenges other than language?
WS5	Ah, I think no. Yeah, because actually, if I if I in that class and I saw I saw like this foreigner in in the class with me because there's a lot of course you need to group up with people, right. You should find your own groupmates.
Researcher	No. Yeah. Yeah.
WS5	Four students would be my first choice because I hate Taiwanese students.
Researcher	Oh, even you. As a Taiwanese, you can say that.
WS5	Yes. Yeah, because they're like most of the times, I just cannot trust them. You know, they cannot even go up to do a proper presentation, even though I already give them the script, they cannot even read out properly. So I cannot just tell every time if I have to do a project.
Researcher	Ohh OK. Uh-huh. Uh.
WS5	So I will try to. Yeah, foreign students, yes.

Researcher	Is everyone like you? I mean like? Is like, UM, maybe your classmates also think the same thing like you. Or is it just you just you. OK, OK. And in your opinion, maybe. What are the future challenges that might be faced by younger generation from Taiwan. I mean Taiwanese younger generation. If like for example maybe maybe your sister or brother, little sister. But if you have or like your juniors from high school, maybe when they come here. Is there any challenges in the future they might face?
WS5	They might face.
Researcher	Hmm. About about living in the multicultural environment.
WS5	I don't think I I would say. They will not be a problem sport. You know them to live with multi-culture environments. That language barrier is pretty it's actually a pretty big things. Yeah, because I would say I'm not trying to be arrogant or something because but.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	I think in Taiwan there's not too many people. If you look at the like the populations. I think there's not too many too, like too much. People like me can like, you know, open minded and try to learn English tries to actually use English to talk with foreigners. Yeah. If you look at the. Yeah. So most of the students in the campus are like this. So yeah. And the government needs to, like, change the like English teaching system.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	So yeah. Yeah, you can. You can actually feel the education system is so weird by just working at the cram school. Yeah, you just have to teach the you you have to teach the children English in English, you need to use like you can only use English during the class. But the things is the children cannot understand English. So that means.
Researcher	Agree.
WS5	It's easy to lower your English level like is this people or not people, not people. Right. OK. So. It's so so like if you want to use this kind of easy as English to teach, then what's the whole point of using English to teach them? Like if you want to use English, you need to let them get to know what's what's English really sounds like. Yeah. Yeah. So. So like, the whole system is pretty good.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah. Yeah. Agree.
WS5	I think, yeah. How many people we are friendly. Yeah, we're just shy and most of the people there, they're shy. Not me. They're shy and they're they got low confidence and they're not willing to speak up but so but except and and also their English level is not well known for them to communicate with foreign students, so.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	I think. Yeah, that's it. I think just only language barrier and others is not a big.



Researcher	OK. I know. It's really weird how we have to teach them in English, but they don't really understand English as easy as. Do you understand? Yes, yes. OK or no? OK. I mean, that is not English, right? Yeah. Do you understand? Yes. Or like, it's not OK it it's I understand. But they don't understand it. So the. I have to make the question like yes, OK or no, OK, like it's kind of weird to have that kind of language and also. I mean, I did not really keep up with the news of Taiwan, but is the 2030 bilingual country thing still going on? Yes.
WS5	No, absolutely not. Absolutely not because because they, they, they, they push up this new policies after I graduate actually they they they they.
Researcher	What is the the new policy though?
WS5	The bilingual country. Yeah. So I'm the I'm. Me the the students in my age in Senior High School, we are the last. Less group of people is using their old system.
Researcher	Ohh, right now it's a new system.
WS5	So it's a new system. So there now the students in Senior High School of Taiwan, they need to. That, like the official that like the official people from the government, they just come up with this policies, they try to like, let the teacher, they try to find some teacher that can speak English and especially if they can teach geography, history and maybe a little bit. Yeah. Yeah. And. And they need to use.
Researcher	Oh, like math, maybe like biology.
WS5	English to tease them so they try to like, not, not just old English but try to like put some English into the class and teach the students. And like all that. So I don't actually.
Researcher	Oh.
WS5	Get to see the real view of the school is running right now, but. I would say it's pretty bad because. Because you need to build up the like the foundation, you need to construct the foundation of the of the language. Since you are little. But now because I have a little sister, she's now just 11 years old, so she's now elementary school. So I get to know what is happening in the school.
Researcher	Yeah. So the new system is only applied to Senior High School, but not elementary and junior.
WS5	Actually I'm not sure about this. I think I think the new system is applied to all.
Researcher	OK.
WS5	But it's just, I think the big the biggest change will be you can see the changes only at junior and Senior High School. Yeah, I I I think I think because I didn't actually I I don't actually follow this whole thing because I just think it's not going to reach it. So I just don't I just, I just don't care.
Researcher	OK.

WS5	But for my sister because she's now your elementary school, so I can see it's not big. Different from. Yeah, because. To emergency school, they would start to teach English. If the students reach the 3rd grade of elementary school. Yes, and they only teach ABCDE and Apple.
Researcher	Oh.
WS5	Boy like that? Yeah, that, that, that that just like that.
Researcher	I agree, yeah. I mean, I'm not trying to brag, but in Indonesia we have that kind of system, the new system we have right now. From my age, when I was kindergarten and elementary, so since then I have like 2 subjects of math math in Indonesian and math in English 2 science, science in English and Science in Indonesia. Something like that. Yeah. Biology in English and biology in Indonesia, even though. For example, the the biology in English 1 is more simple. It's not the complicated with the local language, but we still have that kind of, you know, 2 languages when we're little. So I mean, I hope in Taiwan you will. Improvement and you will get the bilingual thing faster.
WS5	I hope so. I hope so.
Researcher	OK. Is there anything else you want to share?
WS5	Yeah. No.
Researcher	OK, so the last thing I want to ask if there is only one thing or one word or one sentence you can say about. Living in a multicultural environment, what would that be for me? I would say understanding.
WS5	Oh.
Researcher	Yeah. How about you? Is it a difficult question?
WS5	It's not, but I just, it's hard for me to pick up.
Researcher	Maybe you can, maybe you can. Have a Chinese word. Like a. There's like a slang or not a slang. Like something you can use in Chinese.
WS5	OK, let me think about it. Give me.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah.
WS5	Give me give me.
Researcher	OK, OK. I'll give you some idea, some friends replied. It would be fun and then respect and then I say understanding, yeah.
WS5	Ohh yeah, I would say I would say. I would say. Cultural, cultural exchange and also, yeah, respect and respect.
Researcher	OK. OK, culture, I see. OK. Maybe do you have any? Advice or something you want to say in Chinese?
WS5	In Chinese to to, to to whom?
Researcher	You want to tell your Taiwanese friends or you want to tell your international friends.
WS5	Where? OK. I will say in Chinese I will translate it into English and let you know.
Researcher	OK.

WS5	<p>台灣人要多讀書多補充知識，不要只是單純的待在台灣都不做事。用自己的方式多看看世界然後把英文學好，因為英文是很基本的語言。不要被框架框住，不要只是跟著社會的風氣走並有自己的看法跟意見。你可以感覺迷茫和困惑但不可以沒有目標和目的。Does that? Does that help now? So. Basically what I'm saying is. Open your heart. Open your eyes to see the world not just being a you know.</p>
Researcher	Oh. Uh-huh.
WS5	Not just, you know, I should read it yourself. Just keep following all the people. How how all the people is going have your own opinions.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS5	<p>Have your own thoughts? Have your own opinions about everything? Yeah. If you want to judge something, judge it. If you want to think about. Yeah, if you want to criticise something, criticise it. Yeah. Just like, yeah, I criticise about everything. I know I'm. I'm a little bit too exaggerated about something. I'm true. I'm a little bit too dramatic about something, but I think that's that's good. Since I I don't say something that is too over and.</p>
Researcher	<p>Hmm. Yeah. Yeah. OK. Thank you very much. I mean your insight is very wonderful. I get a lot of new things and information from this interview. I'm really happy. OK. So thank you. And let's keep in touch.</p>
WS5	Yeah, for sure for sure. I'm happy. To help you.

## Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 6

Researcher	OK. So thank you so much for having your time here right now to be my interviewee. Can you please introduce yourself like your name, your age, your nationality?
WS6	Hello. Thank you for receiving me. My name is WS6. I'm from Honduras. I'm currently a sophomore in Wenzao University. I'm 22 years old right now.
Researcher	22 years old. Oh, just the same like me. So you were born in 2002.
WS6	Yeah.
Researcher	Yeah, exactly the same. OK. And how long have you stayed in Taiwan right now?
WS6	I've been like for three years now.
Researcher	Three years, OK, with the history of the one that you in the military stuff. So in total it's three, OK so...
WS6	Yes.
Researcher	OK. So WS6 is a friend, so before you come here to Wenzao, you are. You joined the military thing, right?
WS6	Yes.
Researcher	And so you kind of like, come here in two different institutions, military and university. Right.
WS6	Yes.
Researcher	Can you please let me know how did you know about Taiwan and those two different institutions.
WS6	Well, it's a long story. I got into a military in my country Air Force to be exact.
Researcher	Mm-hmm.
WS6	And I was selected to a scholarship like an exchange student. I was originally going to go to West Point and US, but they changed and and sent me to Taiwan here in Kaohsiung Air Force.
Researcher	It's totally different, yeah.
WS6	Yeah, It's complete different. And later on because of the diplomatic issue with Taiwan and Honduras, they broke relationships. So my contract also got a bit messy that it ended so I could either choose to continue my career over there in Honduras, but the thing that they offer was no good. So I applied to Wenzao and they gave me another scholarship. That's why I accepted to come over here.
Researcher	Oh, so you applied to Wenzao when you were in Kaohsiung already or?
WS6	I applied when I went back.
Researcher	Uh-huh.
WS6	Because I had to go back of course.

Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah. OK. So when you when you're looking for university in Kaohsiung or in Taiwan, why did you end up choosing Wenzao? do you have like any other options maybe?
WS6	I had before the Sun Yat Sen option. But I feel like because I, I mean like few people from Wenzao, and they're all seem kind of friendly. And also I've been in Wenzao before, like just walking around and it looks quite nice. So I also applied to Wenzao.
Researcher	So you why did you choose caution to be exact? Because you've been here before?
WS6	Yeah, I mean, I lived here when I was in the military in Kaohsiung and then I like in Kaohsiung.
Researcher	OK, so that's all the reason why you choose Wenzao and Kaohsiung.
WS6	Yeah, I think that's more of the reason, because the place is more diverse. You can have more, I say like, more natural walks, nature walks and and Kaohsiung are better than Taipei, and Kaohsiung is more convenient. It's not as expensive as Taipei.
Researcher	Yeah. Mm-hmm.
WS6	And it's more fun, in my opinion. It's more fun. You can hang out around more.
Researcher	OK, so do. You have like any kind of scooters or cars here to commute. No? public transportation?
WS6	Yeah, yeah.
Researcher	OK, so I get to know you a bit. Now I want to see how you kind of see and profile yourself. So I mean, you are a foreigner here, right? You're an international student. How do you see yourself and your social group? I mean, do you have like a Honduras community in here?
WS6	Not Honduras, but Latin community.
Researcher	Hmm. I see.
WS6	Honduras people are very few.
Researcher	Few?
WS6	Like very few.
Researcher	But have you met someone from Honduras?
WS6	Yeah, I met like 3 people and all of the my time here it's there's not a lot.
Researcher	Ohh that's. Yeah, but it's not. It's in Wenzao or outside.
WS6	Outside!
Researcher	Ohh, so you are the only.
WS6	In Wenzao, I met one time Honduras person, but we've never seen him again, maybe it's just passing by, I don't know.
Researcher	Oh. *laugh*
WS6	Yeah. So there's a group. There's, I can see many Latin of my friends, maybe from Guatemala or or my neighbour countries and they will speak Spanish, so we get along.

Researcher	Yes. OK. And do you see yourself like, I mean, all the Latin friends that you met here, they all come here to study college, do they have any kind of, like, different purpose when they come to Taiwan?
WS6	No. Most of them came for study.
Researcher	OK, all right. And how about you as an international student in Taiwan, how do you see your self and your kind of group of friends like maybe there's like you have like one Latin group and then you walk together and you know?
WS6	Well. I feel kind of like highlighted. *laugh*
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah. Like you're the attention. *laugh*
WS6	Because yeah, attention getter, yeah, yeah.
Researcher	You like the attention? *laugh*
WS6	*laugh* I like I like attention. I'm not gonna lie, I like I like attention, yeah, so it doesn't feel bad. Mm-hmm. But too much attention also doesn't feel so good. So I'm just, we're in the middle.
Researcher	Mm-hmm. OK. What kind of attention did you get, though? Like people staring at you?
WS6	Yeah. Stares mostly, like, want to know when to talk to us. Like, hey, where are you from? Stuff like. This is fun. It's fun.
Researcher	Yeah, OK. It feels like you're a celebrity or something. *laugh*
WS6	More or less. *laugh*
Researcher	Right. And you like it?
WS6	But not not at that level like not celebrity level. Not yet.
Researcher	Alright, so with that kind of lifestyle and maybe you have like well your lifestyle back in your country and in here, is it the same or different?
WS6	No, it's it's way different in my country like, people don't usually, hang out so much, because first of all, it's really hot, so everybody does prefers to stay home. And also the places where they they hang out is mostly like restaurants, or some facility to eat, or some places to drink, or some drink some, whatever you drink, right? Coffee. Maybe, but here you can even go to parks, walk around, go to the beach. It's really convenient. You can just walk around and it's nice. Yeah.
Researcher	Yeah. So it's different.
WS6	So it is just way different.
Researcher	So I can say that you're more like extrovert here. A lot. You make a lot of friends, OK? And how about, like other lifestyles in terms of kind of housing and anything?
WS6	Yeah, of course. Yeah. Yeah, of course. Yeah, it's it's just way more... Let me think about this one. Housing over there, you usually live with.
Researcher	OK.
WS6	Of course, with your parents because everybody owns.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah.

WS6	A place, of course. But when you want to move out, you have to rent and renting over there, it's not as easy to run here because you can search online things over there. Over there you mostly go to the places.
Researcher	Oh yeah.
WS6	Or you see ads somewhere, but online it's not so often it's not so complex like here.
Researcher	OK. And how's your? I mean your, like, your friendship, your relationship, your anything going with your friends on campus?
WS6	Oh, it's. It's just great, actually. Yeah, I have my, my friends. I have people I know. And if I don't know, I just greet hello, that's all. And no matter who you greet, yeah, no matter who you agree, you can become their.
Researcher	OK. And do you have any some cultural differences that you notice between your country and here that shocks you, OK?
WS6	Plenty
Researcher	Ohh. OK.
WS6	Yeah, of course. First of all, the food. Jesus Christ.
Researcher	Totally different?
WS6	Yeah, like Taiwan, Taiwan. It's really healthy. So they it's not.
Researcher	There are a lot of oils though.
WS6	Yeah, but it's uhm, healthy oils for example the the the fats are healthy fats in my country are like the dirtiest fats, but they're delicious. You know what I mean? They put every kind of flavour they put salt. They they put paprika, they put.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Uh-huh. OK. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
WS6	Uh. Spicy.
Researcher	Yeah, all the spices. They put it there.
WS6	It's it's. It's too much that makes my tongue dance or whatever. And here in Taiwan it's so simple. Like it's just plain. No, it's not even salt.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS6	So I got to use. I got to get adapted to that first really different.
Researcher	Great. Other than food?
WS6	Other than foods like people are more open here.
Researcher	Hmm. What kind of open?
WS6	Open to help.
Researcher	Uh-huh.
WS6	For example, in my country people would help, but not so much. They would just say ohh this thing and that's all. Here, if you ask for a direction, maybe they will even guide you to it, they will oh let's go this way, it happens me before a lot of times. They're really nice, really gentle.
Researcher	Yeah. So you've been lost before.
WS6	It's just a few times.

Researcher	Just a few times. OK? How about, like your social life? Maybe religion behaviour or? Educational behaviour between your country and in here.
WS6	Education. Well, I'm not gonna lie. Before, when I was studying in high school, the education was good.
Researcher	Hmm.
WS6	I was in a private school and I learned pretty good classes. I even went to a lot of competitions. Really, really good.
Researcher	Mm-hmm. Oh.
WS6	But right now I, I went back not so long ago so I could see a little bit. Right now education it's kind of has some progress so much like this country. Like every year is a new progression. And you can see the difference. Between last year, they always get new ways to teach, for example, AI and stuff like that, like ChatGPT, they implemented it really like even classes about how to use this before it was.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah.
WS6	In Honduras, they still don't. Don't do that.
Researcher	So they so like follow the old thing. OK, so you think the education here is?
WS6	They, they, they, they are old school, yeah. Progress more than in my country, of course.
Researcher	OK. And does it also apply to university? Maybe you have friends over there?
WS6	University I, I can't really tell so much about it because I didn't got in the university over there. I got it here so but I think. It goes the same way.
Researcher	OK. So right now you hang out more with Latin friends?
WS6	Yeah.
Researcher	Yeah. And I mean, I kind of know the answer already, but I want to know which country of which country you feel like more similar to you in terms of people and culture and behaviour?
WS6	Well, whatever country is my neighbour country, Costa Rica, Mexico, Guatemala, not Belize, Belize they're a little bit different.
Researcher	Uh-huh.
WS6	Yeah, all those countries are good.
Researcher	OK. OK. And you have a lot of friends from there too.
WS6	Yeah.
Researcher	All in Wenzao, outside?
WS6	I got few in Wenzao on some outside.
Researcher	And do you guys have like communities here?
WS6	Community, I seen communities I'm not in there, but I see in communities.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Like just friends communities right?
WS6	Yeah.



Researcher	OK. And do you have some new experiences you experience when you are here in Taiwan and Wenzao like new information?
WS6	Information. Ohh just classes. I came to learn so I, I do learn some things every day so it's kind of win win.
Researcher	OK. And now I mean, as a international students, you know you get that attention when you're walking around something and but do you have, have been treated wrongly or disrespectfully by other people or other groups maybe?
WS6	Uh. Maybe it's not so, umm, like impact or something, but just like I've been. Like really really small occasions, for example, small things for when you want to buy something they maybe think, oh this is 外國人, so they they make it like. Uh. They don't even like chat with you so much.
Researcher	Oh.
WS6	They just give you the change or whatever. They don't even ask you some other stuff. But if you're Taiwanese, they might ask you like, oh, would you like the receipt? Would you like to add your your number? So like this, but for for us, they just give you the change. They don't even ask you anything. And maybe yeah. Services and, in General Services services, they will try to make it easier for you. They won't give you the same....
Researcher	Mm-hmm.
WS6	Same optional options that they give to Taiwanese.
Researcher	Yeah, maybe because they're like, because I don't want to talk to them.
WS6	More than this, of course. The thing that you don't understand anything. Yeah, exactly.
Researcher	And what do you think about um discrimination towards like specific race or specific ethnicity in Taiwan, I mean, have you ever seen it before or heard from your friends? Or maybe?
WS6	Discrimination, right? It's really, really hard to see that here. I think we have. I have black friends. I have a lot of, I have Aboriginal friends and everything and they don't, they seem. That they don't have problems. I don't. I haven't heard anybody said anything bad about them.
Researcher	That's good.
WS6	Yeah, maybe just jokes sometimes, but inside jokes between.
Researcher	Inside jokes with his friends. Yeah.
WS6	Jokes, of course, but that's all.
Researcher	OK. I mean, do you think there's like differences? About discrimination in Asian country right now in Taiwan and in your home country or maybe? You know, Western country, European country.
WS6	Yeah, of course. Of course. Asian has their own way, own way of discriminating. I couldn't tell because I'm not Asian, of course. So I don't feel it. But Asian, of course they will feel their own way. But in my country, yeah, there there are.
Researcher	Yeah.

WS6	There in many ways they they can say...
Researcher	Physically?
WS6	Yeah they can, they can call you like a nickname to to refer to you, for example here. You can say 外國人. They can say oh, 他是外國, He's like foreigner, right?
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah.
WS6	Right. I'm not sure it's a way of discrimination. I don't think so, but...
Researcher	They make it funny?
WS6	No, no, this is here in Taiwan. It's just a way to refer to them.
Researcher	Oh oh. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
WS6	But in my country or in country nearby, they could if you're Asian they will probably say chinito, chinito means just Chinese. So they will say every Asian is a chinito. That's a kind of like a little. And probably they don't like it. I don't know, but it is the way they...
Researcher	Ah yeah, I see.
WS6	Yeah.
Researcher	So it's totally different, right?
WS6	Yeah. Yeah, of course.
Researcher	All right. And I mean, you've never experienced any, you know, disrespectful thing or anything, but have you ever had a friend that experienced that before?
WS6	No.
Researcher	Not really. OK, so how if one day I hope you're not going to? But how if one day you got discriminated or some? How will you kind of deal with it?
WS6	Oh. Well, I'm, I'm a very specific person, so if it's like in a restaurant or something, we just leave the place doesn't worth it. If it's that. If that's the case.
Researcher	Yeah. Yeah.
WS6	If it's towards education, then I will of course complain about it because it's not fair.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS6	So basically just complain or or leave. I'm not going to fight. *laugh*
Researcher	OK. And do you think there are some actions that is actually discrimination, but people are normalising it? For example, I have some interviewees back then and also happened in my country. So for example, people who came from Africa when people meet them, they will ask do you have waters in there, something like that and then you know, it's kind of they think that is a question but you know that's actually something. OK. It's not even like a good question to ask something like that.
WS6	Yeah. Um, I'm I'm Latin, so I don't we don't have those kind of questions. Maybe they can ask cause like you like Despacito. But that's OK for us.
Researcher	You've been asked that question before? Really
WS6	Yeah, of course, yeah.

Researcher	By local people?
WS6	Yeah. No, I mean, like people I just met. Yeah. OK. They were singing Despacito and I was singing with them. *laugh*
Researcher	*laugh* Right. And in your opinion, what influences people to discriminate against? People who are not in their community or in their group.
WS6	Definitely, definitely. The way they look. For example, if you look Asian, you're going to be like any other Asian.
Researcher	Uh huh. Yeah.
WS6	Like, not not to say, like they'll they'll look. Like of course, but. If you are a bigger characteristic, you know, like huge snows or whatever.
Researcher	Umm.
WS6	Then they might say ohh look at this one.
	OK. So yeah, if you're it's visuals.
WS6	Definitely appearance. Right. And maybe the way that you speak too.
Researcher	Like the accent?
WS6	Yeah, the accent. If you come here speaking, you look normal, but you come here speaking like, you know, funny accent, then they might, they might say hey he maybe he's from another country so like this.
Researcher	I see. OK. And do you think one person from a specific country can represent their whole country? Because, you know some? There are some cases where, we hate this one person from a specific, specific country and then you have a you have like, you think that everyone in that country is like that.
WS6	No, I mean, I don't think anybody could represent their whole country, but there are stereotypes, of course. Like any kind of stereotypes, Russian people, they what do you imagine the big, strong guy fighting a bear? Yeah, but what if you meet somebody who is, like, really small and like pacific. And you wouldn't think it's like really Russian. So I don't think like anyone can represent their whole country. They're like huge diversity everywhere.
Researcher	That's in terms of appearance and physical, how about?
WS6	Mentality also like even like the way they speak the way the, they think it's, it's none, none of them are the same. Like they're all different. So I don't think anybody could represent the whole country. Maybe the majority of a country, but not the whole country.
Researcher	But the majority?
WS6	Yeah. I mean, for example, in political, if a person represents a group of people that thinks the same, then I think it could be the case.
Researcher	OK. And so you're now this second year, right? And so do you hang out more with international students or with local people.
WS6	International students, of course. *laugh*
Researcher	OK and. I mean, I think you have no kind of no problem working with international students, right? Like group work, something all good. Have you ever worked with local students in the group?

WS6	Yeah, of course.
Researcher	Can you tell me the difference or?
WS6	Yeah, of course.
Researcher	Just your experience working with local students and international students.
WS6	I think local students actually work a bit harder.
Researcher	Harder?
WS6	Yeah, some of them of course. And international students like to be more open, like to be more. What is this word practical?
Researcher	Uh-huh.
WS6	So they both work well.
Researcher	OK. Do you have any problem?
WS6	Nope, not at all.
Researcher	OK, good and. Do you think that if in in one group there are like a lot of people from different countries, is it different to accept one another? For example, maybe people from? What country they like to do? The group work like a month before, and then people from this country likes to do like one hour before or something like that. You think it's different to accept one another?
WS6	No, I don't think so.
Researcher	Hmm.
WS6	I think. Well, if it's. Like for religious things, unreally comprehensive, they have to do something I I don't have any problem, at least for me, right?
Researcher	Yeah. So you're you. You went to church, go to church?
WS6	Yeah, I went before in my country.
Researcher	And in here?
WS6	No.
Researcher	You didn't find the right place to go?
WS6	No, I mean, I haven't been to church in a while actually.
Researcher	Ah, OK. I mean, I've been there before too, and no problem with it, OK? And Ohh, we're kind of at the end. Do you have any other challenges you face when you contribute in a multicultural environment?
WS6	No, I'm following all the rules. I like to be clean. I like the places to be clean, uh?
Researcher	Mm-hmm.
WS6	I don't make any problems contributing. I I guess I'm just doing what anybody else would do, so I think it's OK.
Researcher	OK, I've heard for from like some people when like for example in a in a classroom situation or anything foreigners or like white people or foreigners in general would be much more heard than local student or in other cases, western people would be much more heard other than Asian students.

WS6	I think depends on the situation, of course. If it's like a project, I think some of the Taiwanese students are shy. They wouldn't even give their opinions. So because foreigners are usually.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS6	Tend to be more open and like this they would say what they think and if other people, supports it, then it will be. So that's why I think they are actually a little bit more heard than Taiwanese, but some of the Taiwanese are really outgoing too. So, but it's not the majority.
Researcher	Some of them.
WS6	That's a that's a bad thing. It's not the majority. Yeah.
Researcher	OK. Do you think? A lot of people from Honduras will in the future come to Taiwan for education.
WS6	I hope so, yeah.
Researcher	I mean, do you have like kind of? I mean, a lot of Honduras of people know about Taiwan and it's like you can do exchange there, you can do degree there.
WS6	Hmm. No.
Researcher	OK. So I mean, you know Kaohsiung and the education in Taiwan because you went here for military if you know that's why.
WS6	No. Yes, exactly. No other reason why.
Researcher	Uh. That's why.
WS6	I probably would have known of Taiwan right now if if if I didn't come here, I probably would have known because of the news maybe like like the US China problems that one dangerous place. Yeah.
Researcher	OK. So I mean, I hope in the future there will be more Honduras people coming here and if we have, do you have any like advice for your younger generation who will come here? Or like maybe future challenges they might have when they come here.
WS6	I would just say like follow the rules and everything will be OK.
Researcher	OK, how about language?
WS6	Language Oh yeah. *laugh* Uh. 加油.
Researcher	How how's your Chinese, though? I mean, you learned here.
WS6	Yeah, been a while. I mean, I think it's. OK. But it could, it could still improve, of course.
Researcher	OK. I mean. I know a lot of like foreigners who went to the CLC to learn languages and they like.
WS6	Really good, right?
Researcher	I mean, yeah, very, very good. Yeah. How about, I mean, how about people who did not come here to specifically learn language?
WS6	I know, I know. I still think for example, I didn't come here to learn the language, I came here for the degree, right? But I still think I want to learn.
Researcher	Yeah.

WS6	Very well the language, so I hope, I hope they could have the same feeling as I do the same, eager to keep learning, yeah.
Researcher	Sure. Yeah, to the OK. And is there anything else you want to share experience?
WS6	Oh yeah, maybe like some cultural differences at the beginning, there was one time when I was new here in Wenzao, and I wanted to be friendly, right? So I handshake.
Researcher	Uh-huh.
WS6	With with a, with a girl.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Like local girl?
WS6	Yeah, yeah, good girl. Like, hello. I give him a hand, right and everything and later I learned that Taiwanese are not so physically. Yeah. And they report me like, like harassment.
Researcher	Really?
WS6	Yeah, it is. I think it's.
Researcher	Report to like a?
WS6	To the teacher like and I was like what brother? Brother, what? I just gave you my hand. What the? So yeah, probably on small things. You have to get adapted to like in my country we even like, read like we hug and kissing the cheeks. Like hey, how have you been? *laugh*
Researcher	Yeah. Yeah.
WS6	And stuff like this and this.
Researcher	*laugh* Totally shocked you, right. Got reported for harassment when you just came here.
WS6	Yeah, I was like, well. What the? Yeah, it's like there's no good.
Researcher	How you deal with it? Do you think it's like?
WS6	Nothing. The teacher just told me. Look, it's it's cultural differences, that's all.
Researcher	And you say.
WS6	I, She say I still need to report your stuff. That's... *laugh*
Researcher	But they did. She did not report you to like a police or...
WS6	No, not not police, just the teacher. Yeah. And the teacher explaining me this stuff. I was like, oh, OK.
Researcher	*laugh* OK. And before we end the interview, do you have if the call can only be one thing or? It can make up a one word or one sentence to say or to do in this multicultural environment. What would that be?
WS6	Something to do?
Researcher	Do one thing that you can only do or say. You could make that up, if you want.
WS6	Wait, come again. Sorry.
Researcher	If there is only one thing or one word or one sentence that could be done in this multicultural environment.
WS6	Oh. Yeah, enjoy. Enjoy that. Like. We'll have differences. No. Enjoy. Just enjoy. OK.

Researcher	Nothing to worry. All right. So thank you very much for the interview. It's really good insights for me to do my...
WS6	No problem at all. Thank you for receiving me.
Researcher	Paper.
WS6	That's all right.
Researcher	See you around. Thank you very much.
WS6	See ya. OK.

### Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 7

WS7	Yeah, I have. I have been to Taiwan or nearly three years, I guess. And I am now on my degree. In the Department of Translation and Interpreting.
Researcher	Wow. So you first come to Taiwan when you want to pursue the master, right?
WS7	Yeah. Anything else? Yeah.
Researcher	Ohh wow and how is the your department so far is it? Good.
WS7	I think it's good. It just threw a little. Suffer again? No, it is. It was more difficult than I thought. Yeah. I I didn't think it would be so so hard to to achieve the degree, but yeah, I'll find you now.
Researcher	OK. And I mean the your department is like you have to translate and interpret stuffs from Chinese to English or to your own language or to other language?
WS7	We only do between English and.
Researcher	Chinese. Ah, so you you've learned Chinese when before you come here.
WS7	I I majored in Chinese at my university.
Researcher	Ohh that's great. OK and. So you've known about. Taiwan, before you come to before you come here.
WS7	I think I have. I have known about Taiwan a bit better than other foreign student there because I. Yes. Firstly, I studied Chinese at my university, so I have the chance to know about China and Taiwan. Yeah. And then I I had two years working and I worked for Taiwanese company before and then I worked for the the take.
Researcher	Hmm.
WS7	Is the Taiwan, Taiwan economy and office in Vietnam so that I get to know more about it.
Researcher	Oh they. Ohh wow. I mean, that's a lot of. You have. So what? What makes you to finally come to Taiwan? But to but not to work? But, you know, have a masters degree here.
WS7	Yeah. I decided to yeah, I always knew that I will pursue a higher degree, but I I just didn't. Decide that where I where I was going but. Then. Taiwan is the best choice because you know at that time I didn't have enough money and then I have.
Researcher	Mm-hmm.
WS7	A really good chief and he offer me a recommendation letter. To for the. Scholarship. So I I got the scholarship. And I went to Taiwan.
Researcher	Wow.
WS7	I think that was a. Good choice, yeah.
Researcher	So before you finally choose the, our university went out, do you have other options? Do you have other options other than when so when you want to come to Taiwan like maybe other other cities?
WS7	I only. I only had. I only had ones out on my list like. Yeah.



Researcher	OK so I'm I can say that you're, uh, the like the first reason you choose once I was because of the scholarship, right?
WS7	Actually I can choose the others, but yeah, I have the difficulties. On on Tuesday, so I just reduce my choices to the less.
Researcher	OK. And what kind of scholarship did? Is it the scholarship from Wenzao or from the government?
WS7	So yeah. From the government.
Researcher	Oh, is it difficult to get that scholarship or?
WS7	Yeah, it has. It has many routes to get over like you have to. Like what? Yeah, there was the you had to apply for the interview. And you have to pass the interview and then they will let you know if you get it. Actually, I don't. Know how they. How they choose me? But yeah.
Researcher	So right now you're still. You still get the scholarship, right?
WS7	No, not anymore. Only for two years. So yeah, so the last year I'm on myself.
Researcher	Oh, I see. Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. So they only provide the scholarship for two years for masters. Uh-huh. OK. And do you have a lot of Vietnamese friends while you're here?
WS7	Two years, yeah. Vietnamese friend I only. Several I have to say, like when when I first came here, I. I nearly only have my roommate as Vietnamese friends because there are no Vietnamese people in my department.
Researcher	Yeah. Only you.
WS7	Yeah, for for the master degree. Wow. Yeah. So I don't have any other Vietnamese friends rather than my roommates, and now they are more roommates. I have more roommates, and and they they know many other Vietnamese friends. So we just know each other. And yeah, sometimes we hang out, but actually.
Researcher	No.
WS7	I yeah, during my. Yeah. During my time in. In one I usually hang out with. People from other countries.
Researcher	Uh-huh. I mean, I heard that a lot of people from, like foreigners hang out with foreigners, like, not really hang out with their.
WS7	Yeah, yeah, even my my Vietnamese friends. Always. Together. Yeah, I I encourage them to make friends with Taiwanese, but there to get it. And I know I want is there. That's a bit hard to make friends like.
Researcher	Ohh. Yeah.
WS7	They are. They are willing to help you, but it's actually a a little bit hard to get close to them.
Researcher	Yeah. So do you hang out more with, like, foreigners in? I mean, master students are not that much, right?
WS7	Yeah. We only have more than 10 each class. Wow. And then they just dropped out. Oh wow. You know, for the second year, we only have 6 people left.

Researcher	Six people left, including you. Yeah. Yes. Well, and the others are foreigners or Taiwanese.
WS7	We only have 3 foreigner. Yeah, we have 4, but then one dropped out and at last we have two.
Researcher	Wow. Wow. I mean, that's really. A few students.
WS7	Few. So we have to make. Friends everywhere? Yeah.
Researcher	And. How how do you see yourself and your social group as a Vietnamese, as a foreigner in in Taiwan or inside the campus?
WS7	In Taiwan, I don't know how. Taiwanese imagine about Vietnamese, but they all say I I don't look like Taiwanese.
Researcher	Ohh so like their face is like oh, this is the Vietnam.
WS7	Yeah, they. Yeah, many people. Yeah. They just see me and say you are Taiwanese. I you don't look like Taiwanese. Yeah.
Researcher	People face it.
WS7	I don't know why, but many people say that except *friend name*. Only *friend name* say I look like you know. She said that she felt that from the first time that I. I don't know why maybe. Maybe Southeast Asian people say that.
Researcher	Yeah. Like a feeling of Southeast Asian people.
WS7	Maybe they they have. They have the very first question about Vietnamese people. Mm-hmm. Is like, the, like, the foreign worker. Here. I think so because there are many Vietnamese worker go to Taiwan. Like work? Foreign labour. How do you say that? The.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Yeah, yeah.
WS7	Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, I think so. That they, when they hear Vietnamese, they would imagine about the Vietnamese labour working there. Yeah, they said that maybe have a very strong makeup and they would have like what they.
Researcher	Yeah, I mean, it's the same thing.
WS7	They do their eyebrows. And their lipstick be red, and they would, they would wear them.
Researcher	Ohh, I mean it depends on the people, right?
WS7	Yeah. And usually you wear pyjama. Yeah, that, that, that. What Vietnamese labourers do? Maybe everywhere. So they got this impression.
Researcher	So most like Vietnamese foreign migrant workers, they come here to like I heard, like nurse or like, uh, what is it?
WS7	Yeah, there's caregiver.
Researcher	Nurse and like, yeah, caregiver. So most of them are.
WS7	Yeah, just take care of the house.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah. Actually it's the same like in in, I mean Taiwanese people impression towards in the nation are like the same to Vietnamese when they heard in Indonesia, they were like oh migrant workers.

WS7	Yeah, yeah. And and I, I feel the same like I I read your the the file you gave me and we also have the same problem that maybe Taiwanese people would think that we are allowed. And noisy on the road. Yeah, but I think there is. Really, the cultural different difficulties.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah.
WS7	That, yeah, they were like.
Researcher	Because sometimes like it's. I I was saying like sometimes we just like talk like our. We don't trying to be loud, but it's just our voice. Yeah. And how, how do you feel about having a lifestyle in in Taiwan and in the campus like your lifestyle back in your country and in here, is it different or the same?
WS7	Actually I can face. In. Pretty well, I think not so much control stuff for me and I think I can adjust my lifestyle to to face the life there and that's actually sometimes I feel a bit like. I am not very used to the food. And sometimes their life side. But I think it's OK. I can respect that as long as it doesn't affect my my own benefits or else I can accept it.
Researcher	Yeah. How about? Do you have like kind of a lifestyle with like other foreigner friends?
WS7	So far so good.
Researcher	So far so good. Yeah, it's good. I mean, yeah, good vibes, positive vibes. That's good for the master students. Cause I know it's stressed. Master students a lot, right? OK. And do you have any cultural differences that you feel like it's really different from your your country and in Taiwan? Really difficult, like like the education behaviour like social life. Religious behaviour or anything else?
WS7	Yeah, I remember one thing. Look. Actually I just figured it out recently that the people younger than me like maybe the next generation of Taiwanese. I feel like they don't really respect their teachers. Oh, really? Yeah. Then it's somehow unacceptable in Vietnamese culture. Yeah, and I actually, I.
Researcher	Uh-huh.
WS7	Went to high school to teach English for a while and. Feel like? Yeah, they they didn't behaviour. They didn't behave well. Yeah, and I heard that from other people. Maybe my experience, my experience is not enough. But I hear from my friends and my roommates that they, they, they all say that they don't feel like the.
Researcher	Ah. Mm-hmm.
WS7	Like the young student in Taiwan, respect their teachers enough.
Researcher	Ah, and it's really different from Vietnam. Like.
WS7	In Vietnam, we have to respect our teacher.
Researcher	Like it is it like completely different or?
WS7	Yeah. And. It's slightly different. Yeah, I think that is not. We can call. It disrespect, but maybe it's not affect so much so. I don't know why the teachers in Taiwan don't have any like reaction about that, but we the the foreigner would feel a bit.
Researcher	Strange. Yeah. I see. Other. Other than that, do you have any?
WS7	Yeah, and maybe space.

Researcher	Other you know experience maybe. Not really.
WS7	Uum, like a Taiwanese, they are not very direct. They they they will will not tell you directly. How they feel about something.
Researcher	Oh yeah.
WS7	And sometimes I can feel that they. Are they're mad at me, but when I? Though they act very weird, but when I asked them what happened or did I do anything wrong, they they never say anything they will say oh, maybe I I am a little bit busy so I didn't. I know that is not.
Researcher	Is it just? Is it only like 1 one person behaviour or like like most Taiwanese people you met is like that?
WS7	Yeah, I I'm not. It happened to me like. 1-2 people and I, I also hear that from my friend.
Researcher	Oh. Ah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, yeah. OK so. OK. In terms of what country? Ohh, I mean, you've known a lot of foreigner friends in winter or maybe outside the campus. Do you have any like 1 country or like some countries that you feel is very similar with you in terms of people and the culture like oh this people is very similar from Vietnamese people something like that.
WS7	Actually, Vietnamese, called Vietnamese culture would be different. Yeah, you know. Based on the regions. You know, we have the north, the north been been out in the South Vietnam so. It would be hard to say which country. The same as Vietnamese people. Ohh I think. Because I'm from. Yeah, I spent more time in the north. So I would say the Taiwanese people is the most like me.
Researcher	Ohh yeah, so what's the what is the difference between the northern and the southern Vietnam?
WS7	Actually I don't. The southern, the Vietnam. The southern people would be more open like they are, more like the Western people.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Hmm.
WS7	They would say anything they are thinking. Yeah, and. Like they give tips to the to the waiters and yeah, they act a bit more like Western people. And in the north. I think you're paying more a more traditional they would be more traditional and would be more like Chinese. And yeah, sometimes Taiwanese.
Researcher	Hmm. Is there any like historical background why the northern and southern Vietnamese different?
WS7	I don't think it's because of the history. Is is because you know in the in Southern area we have Ho Chi Minh city. And. That city is our economy centre. So they would be more open to develop the economy and for the for the northern area, we have Hanoi, the capital and more traditional and it is also the. The political standard, so it would be safer, but it would be more like the conventional.
Researcher	Oh.
WS7	Out there too, so it would be a bit different, but not not very much. So so far for the for the country, for the, for the people I have met, I. think. Yeah, the Taiwanese is. The most likely. Even even though they are small. Different. Yeah, but yeah, still.

Researcher	Yeah. And like your, I mean, your Vietnamese friends who come to Taiwan here, do you know they they come most of them, they come from the northern part or or the southern part of Vietnam or like it it just doesn't matter like randomly.
WS7	Yeah, it's just random.
Researcher	OK. All right. And now do you have any like new experience like a culture shock when you come here to Taiwan or in Wenzao?
WS7	Not very shocked like. Like the they have more activities. Classroom.
Researcher	Like you mean in the campus.
WS7	Yeah. And also in my class they have, they have more activity and they do it. But yeah, they they can give the students more experiences on their the major their studying.
Researcher	So like in Vietnam, when you're back there?
WS7	Yeah, I think. I think my first culture shock is the presentation. Yeah, the report and the presentation. They have a lot I have. We have it in Vietnam, but not so many. And we didn't do it very detailedly like when I first came here. I I heard about that. I heard that the.
Researcher	What happened in the Vietnam? Oh.
WS7	Presentation in Taiwan. Is. Important part, so I think, Oh yeah, I I do the presentation before so and I was not so scared when I came there and they tell me what to do and you oh there, there are a lot to do for one presentation like you have to to give the our light you have to design the.
Researcher	Wow.
WS7	The PowerPoint. You have to give many things is it is many things to do before. And the summary and then the the writing report after the presentation. It was like. Yeah, I nearly didn't sleep. For my first presentation.
Researcher	And now you're used to do it, or you still not used to do it, but.
WS7	Yeah, I'm used to. I'm not sure if I can. Do it well but.
Researcher	Yeah. I mean in in Vietnam, like they don't really have like a group presentation for assignment.
WS7	Oh, we have it, but. I don't know why, but I can do it very smoothly. And we only like we only have to like check the informations beforehand and we make a PowerPoint and we.
Researcher	Mm-hmm.
WS7	We present it in front of class and then it's that. But yeah, when it when I came to Taiwan, I found out that I have to do more than that. And that is interesting. And they have many other activities like the teacher would like. The. For our department, they also. Like they rent a bus for us. You go somewhere, somewhere for the practise, yeah.
Researcher	Oh, wow, really good.
WS7	Yeah, I can give it to you like that.
Researcher	Wow, like so you often go a lot for like class activities.

WS7	Not very often. I mean the the we often have that kind of activities and sometimes the teacher would would invite some guests, like people who are famous in our in our major like. They go to. Classroom to give us a speech or do a presentation or about their career. And I think that give that gives us a lot of information. Yeah, before we we join the industry.
Researcher	Yeah, I really like that kind of activities to see people from like the the real industry.
WS7	Yeah. So they. So I think that education here gives us more, like practical information. Yeah, more than what written in the textbook.
Researcher	Yeah. Yeah, that's right. OK and. This questions after this would be about like discriminations, racism, disrespectful behaviour. Have you ever been treated, like, wrongly or disrespectfully, maybe inside or outside the campus area?
WS7	Luckily not, but yeah, there is one time.
Researcher	Yeah. Thank God knows.
WS7	That is a little bit weird. But I can understand that that was one time. Yeah. Also a guest of my teacher. That was my third day. It went out. And that one of my translation teacher invited a guest from.
Researcher	Ohh. Right.
WS7	She's our senior sister. And yes, he. She was really. In the carrier, give us a presentation and during her presentation she mentioned that she. She went to other countries for like to work and she communicate with many people. And then yes, she, she said that you she went to. I forgot which countries, but Vietnamese include. And. And when she mentioned Vietnam, I was really happy that she mentioned my country. But then the moment after that, she she. Yeah, she suddenly stayed. And we all know that made a made a miss people terrible English.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS7	And yeah, I was a bit shocked at that time and I know that everyone was looking at me. She she didn't know that I was there. She didn't know there was a Vietnamese student yeah, fast, but. Yeah. And then she continued her speech and yeah, it would be. It was a little. Weird for me, that's the best weird feeling, but I can understand that. Maybe she the people with people she met was was not enough. I mean, I know more Vietnamese people and I know more.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS7	Yeah, like speaking very well, in English so maybe she just she just didn't meet enough people. Yeah, it was a little bit weird, but I will say OK, I can understand that and maybe I have to. Yeah, I have to to prove.
Researcher	Ohh yeah, and you still in. Keep in touch with that professor.
WS7	The opposite thing to her.
Researcher	Yes. Oh, and does does she or he know about that situation? Ohh.
WS7	And yeah, and. Never said anything about. That even my friend. Yeah, no one ever tells told me anything about that experience. Period.
Researcher	Maybe actually that Professor knows. But like she or he is shy. So just keep them out, keep shut of their mouth.

WS7	Uh-huh. He is a very good professor. I have to say many she would tell. The Researcher later? I think so.
Researcher	And other than that, experience, like uh, so nothing ever happened to you, verbally or physically, right?
WS7	I only hear that from my friend.
Researcher	So your friends experienced that?
WS7	Yeah, someone I know said yeah from other university, I think.
Researcher	Oh yeah.
WS7	Yeah. And maybe. It it was also her professor and he maybe he he was. Talking a joke, but he said that. Like. The Taiwanese boy in her classroom. It was saying that if. If Taiwanese girls don't pay attention to you, you can go to Vietnam to find a good friend. Yeah. And. And she was mad at it. Yeah, it it was a joke. I can say that. But it's not properly.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Yeah, it's not proper to say like that kind of joke.
WS7	Mm-hmm.
Researcher	Yeah. OK. And I mean, I just heard this from like other interviewees. Uh, there's like this stereotype. I mean, I'm not really sure about this too, because like what I said, I don't really have a lot of Vietnamese friends. Like, maybe you were the first Vietnamese people that I talked to. I don't know, because I don't really get to. I don't really have a chance to meet Vietnamese friends like they I don't have it in my department. And I know there are some Vietnamese friends in the dorm, but I don't really hang out a lot in the dorm. So yeah, I don't really have a lot of. Maybe. Yeah, maybe you're the only Vietnamese people I talked to in Taiwan and there's this stereotype of.
WS7	OK.
Researcher	Vietnamese likes to. Kind of stole your thing or something. So there's this one interviewee I talked to and there's like a situation like maybe like in a class situation. Someone someones like someone's thing is missing and then they kind of like make a joke or like. Say something like. Oh, maybe it's a Vietnamese. People who take it, something like that. I don't really understand what that means. Like why people have that kind of.
WS7	Ohh that she is. That item is spelled.
Researcher	Steal. That's the word.
WS7	I think I get it. Yeah, I think I I can understand this stereotype because. Maybe most of Vietnamese people come into Taiwan. Are the people who have financial problems and they have to make money to...Yeah. Have you have to raise a family or something? And in Vietnam, I have to say.
Researcher	You mean the migrant workers or students?
WS7	Yeah. The migrant worker.
Researcher	OK.

WS7	And. I think in Vietnam, people stealing things are more often than in Taiwan. So when those people come to Taiwan and, you know in Taiwan, they like they. They trust that. Yeah. Yeah, yeah. People don't do that thing. And they like in the supermarket or in the grocery stores. They don't have. They don't, like, have the.
Researcher	Uh-huh.
WS7	That if someone. Entered this the. The supermarket when and come out, they won't check anything.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS7	Even, yeah. And don't check if they. Store anything was or not. So if the Vietnamese migrant worker. Really want to steal anything they feel like? Oh, this is so easy to do. Steal anything from this year so they would do that to to save the money. And yeah, that was the.
Researcher	Hmm. Oh.
WS7	Yeah, the bad action. And it, yeah, because many people would have that thought so.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Uh-huh.
WS7	I think. Maybe Taiwanese people find out that there are too many Vietnamese people stealing thing, so they would hav this stereotype. Even though that is not correct.
Researcher	Yeah, I mean it depends on. The people too, right? It depends on the on the people like, not all Vietnamese are like that, but they yeah.
WS7	Yeah, sure. Yeah, but sometimes we would hear about, yeah, some Vietnamese migrant workers. So anything, anything. And then the. Yeah, the foreigners will think that we. All the same.
Researcher	Oh yeah.
WS7	We have the same problem in Japan and. And Korea then they all think that when something is missing, they would think that maybe when these people do it.
Researcher	Oh really? Ohh wow.
WS7	Yeah, because I have to. I have to admit that Vietnamese people do it a lot.
Researcher	Wow. So the stereotypes are not for only Taiwanese people, but also other countries. Oh.
WS7	I think in Japan it would, it is more often in Japan. And sometimes when when we. When we apply for a visa to go to Japan, it would be more difficult because they would think when it will go, there would do some bad things and it would affect their society.
Researcher	That even you apply for the visa for, like, holiday.
WS7	Yeah, but they have a clue to do that.
Researcher	Even even if we like apply the visa for like a holiday visa, not a working visa.
WS7	Yeah, because many people ask for holiday pizza and go there and escape and go and become an illegal migrant illegal worker. Yeah. So they have to.
Researcher	Yeah, I think Indonesia will do that too. Yeah and.



WS7	Be very careful. The best way.
Researcher	And what do you think? Like, why discriminations toward a specific race or ethnicity happens? In Taiwan.
WS7	Not only Taiwan, but anywhere it would be because of lack of understanding.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS7	And sometimes people are people to insist on their own or in the bill. Like, because they they hate someone so they hate the country. That people come from. Yeah, I think that's your main, that's your main reason.
Researcher	No. Yeah. And do you think there are some actions or like some things that? You think that it's actually a discrimination, but people, people are normalising it and people think that it's OK to do that or it's OK to say that. To. Other people or other groups. Like for example uh, there are like my interviewees.
WS7	I think you have some kind of joke.
Researcher	She said that. Yeah, she said that she never have like that kind of miscommunication, but people will ask.
WS7	Yeah, some kind of choke like.
Researcher	Her, like she's from an African country and people will ask her like, oh, do you have water in your house, something like that? Yeah, something like that. Do you have any any things to share about it?
WS7	On my own experience is like I think it's not. I think I can like how people treat me so far, so I don't recall any, but like the the example you just said, I think we shouldn't say that.
Researcher	Yeah, even as a joke.
WS7	Like a very yeah, even as a. Joke, I think joke is. Show could be my my answer. You your question, like the joke that you can go, go to Vietnam to find a girlfriend or any other joke. But that act is like you are. Stereotype people from. Country, yeah.
Researcher	Yeah. And I mean, I think I've asked. You this before. About like uh. But I think it's kind of different, but it's almost the same. Do you think what influences people to discriminate against people just based on their perspective? Excuse me. Like, do you think what makes people discriminate or have a stereotype against other people just based on their perspective? Like I remember you, you say about like, lack of understanding. Yeah, but do you do you anything else?
WS7	Yeah, I just said. Yeah, lack of understanding and the second is that that they to insist on their own opinion and they would, they would say, yeah, some people would say that. They will feel that the opinions differ, which is different from their own is. Is wrong.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah.
WS7	But actually, sometimes there is no right and wrong. It's just different. Yeah, and what we have to do. Is to respect. Each other so.
Researcher	Yeah, I agree.

WS7	So like I said, if if something if. A behaviour of someone. Doesn't affect my benefits and didn't violate moral or their ethics. I can accept it.
Researcher	OK. Yeah. And do you think one person from a specific country can represent the whole country?
WS7	Of course not. Yeah. Like someone. Yeah. Like I think. We cannot say someone would be the same after a few years. Yeah, even one even one person would change so. We. We can, and so we cannot say people from one region and like from Egypt is and different barriers and different backgrounds would be the same, so no one can represent. Country.
Researcher	OK, so if there is like a case or a situation where you are faced with people that say. You are like a typical Vietnamese like this. This people think that like for example, we just talk about the the stealing things, right. And then for example you are faced with, let's say, Taiwanese people, oh, you're Vietnamese, so you are you're stealing things. Something like that, for example. How do you deal with it? How will you deal with it? I hope you didn't experience that.
WS7	Yeah, I I never faced that duration, but yeah. Him, I would try not to punch him.
Researcher	Yeah, you should punch him.
WS7	Yeah, that is. Yeah, I I think I should, but yeah. I talking is the best solution, but I don't think talking is. Yeah, I can change that person by just talking like when he already has that that point of view, I think we cannot be friends and no need to talk. But yeah, maybe if I have to do anything about that, I have I.
Researcher	Yes. Yeah, this way.
WS7	I would talk to him in a very. In a very. Like. Not very pleasure.
Researcher	Ohh yeah yeah yeah.
WS7	This must be, yeah. And and then block him forever.
Researcher	Oh, that's good.
WS7	I don't think I can be friends with someone even that is a joke. Yeah, but actually I have to see if he would change after we talk. I don't think he would change if he already can say that, so naturally.
Researcher	Yeah. OK. And before we end the interview, do you have, have you experienced any challenge when you when you want to contribute in the multicultural environment like for example in the classroom situation, there's this stereotype that? If there are Western people and Asian people. Western People's voice will be hurt more than Asian people.
WS7	We don't have any Western people in my class, but I think we have the same problem in. It's so sad, you know? So sad. Yeah. I think their their voice is. More.
Researcher	So you experience something bad in SOSA before?
WS7	Influence then and the Asian.

Researcher	And you experienced something bad in SOSA before?
WS7	It was not my experience actually, but I heard about it and I can feel that on their like like website, they're always pictures. Maybe I I didn't find any Asian pictures of Asian people, but I think. The the pic on their website would be mostly Western people.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS7	But actually, maybe they have this to do it because. Like Taiwanese said, I don't look like people, so if they put my picture on there it would, it would not be like, yeah, I can understand that. It's fine. Yeah, but because you mentioned the Western people. *laugh*
Researcher	Marketing.
WS7	It would be my opinion.
Researcher	OK. And uh, maybe in the future like? A lot of Vietnamese friends will come to Taiwan for uh to study, in your opinion, what are some future challenges they might face when they want to come here? Or do you have any advice for your younger generation?
WS7	Challenges. If I have. To advise them anything I would say. Just be have the courage to make friends because I can find out that. Uh. I know that Taiwanese people are not very like they will not go to you and ask you to to be friend or to to hang out or something and you had to do it first.
Researcher	Yes. Yeah.
WS7	So just be that person. Ask them first. So maybe it would be more easy to be to be friends with them. And yeah, they should have the courage to make friend because it would be beneficial for them to practise the language and then the second one is that we should respect them first, because we I find out a problem with Vietnamese. Students is that you know the problem with between Taiwan and China? And in. In in Vietnam education, we were taught that Taiwan belongs to China, so some students don't do any like they they don't do any research before they go to Taiwan and they just go there and say that Taiwan.
Researcher	Uh-huh.
WS7	Belongs to China and yeah, so Taiwan is. Yeah, it's up. And that is. Yeah. That is right. So they should. Like, do research on their history and their political opinions to prevent those situations, and that is what some kind of respect other people when before you you come to. Any other country and yeah, and they, they should have the courage to go away. They feel like not respected.
Researcher	Yeah. Yeah, yeah.
WS7	I think yeah, that is good. That that is the yeah.
Researcher	OK, now the last one. If there is only one thing to be said or to be done by people from all over the world who live in a multicultural environment, do you think what would that be?

WS7	I I would use something that we don't miss people usually said yeah, that integrate but don't assimilate.
Researcher	Ohh wow, that's like that's pretty nice.
WS7	Yeah, we should be. Be friend with. Other people, but you have to know. Who you are.
Researcher	OK. Does everyone in Vietnamese know that that like that word?
WS7	I think mostly everyone knows that.
Researcher	Oh, that's really nice. Who is it like? Something that taught in school or?
WS7	Now it just went viral. Recent years. I don't know why, but people usually say that.
Researcher	Oh. Ohh, that's actually really nice like.
WS7	Like I think it's from like when. When we let other countries go into Vietnam. I think that there's some slogan that the government gives out that we should. We should learn from other countries, but we have to protect our tradition.
Researcher	Oh yeah, that's actually wow. That's that's pretty cool.
WS7	Yeah. Yeah, it's mostly used in this situation.
Researcher	Yeah, I can see. OK. Well actually that's all that's all the question. Wow. It's almost one hour. Thank you very much. Ohh my gosh, you're very I mean all the experience and the insights today.
WS7	That is so interesting.
Researcher	Thank you. It's really, how can I say, I mean I get, I get to know a lot of new perspective from the Vietnamese people rather than just hearing from.
WS7	No, I'm not representing. Everything.
Researcher	OK. OK. Thank you very much. I hope you enjoy the rest of your holiday before you come back here. OK, I'll see you very soon. And safe flight, OK?
WS7	Yeah. You're welcome. Yeah.

### Interview Transcript with Wenzao Student Interviewee 8

WS8	Well, first of all, thank you for inviting and including me in your research. I am WS8, Russian age 23 by now been living in Taiwan for almost 3-4 years lost count already.
Researcher	OK. And did you, did you have like a lot of Russian coming to Taiwan, I mean people you know?
WS8	Well, we sort of came simultaneously. And stayed like that up until the graduation. The main company that I I am being friends with, they all also study in Wenzao. And yeah, I'm out of Russian. Some just partially being friends with them and no, no other people besides.
Researcher	OK. So is it like is Taiwan kind of popular in Russia? Like, how do you know about Taiwan in general, like the education in Taiwan?
WS8	Well, it is. It is an a subject of discussion, but it's not that popular like ordinary people will, just like anybody else, mistake it for Thailand. Yeah, my relatives did at first. Then we taught them and everything. But uh overall. Russia is very China oriented oriented, so lots of people go there and me personally I would I supposed to go and exchange programme in the first? Yeah. First university. I've been choosing 2 cities in China. And caution Taiwan, in a National Sun Yat Sen University.
Researcher	Ohh.
WS8	And it was sort of like a lottery. And that's like, what, what the place where you win, that's where you go. It was around COVID just the beginning of COVID times, 2020 the early early January 2020 is when I got the chance to go like they prescribed me to go to Taiwan and like ohh I wanted to go to Shanghai. But yeah, I came here. I realised that so many system. Are better and fit fit my soul more? I feel much more comfortable in a good way. Yeah. So I decided to drop life there and.
Researcher	Yeah. So you drop out in. Where is it in Russia?
WS8	Yeah, I I finished. I finished. I closed the first year and during the second one I came on exchange and that's where I realised because I was also in. I was luckily like I've chosen the best course there. Yes. Not very little. But like it was interesting. I like the people I like. I I travelled around Taiwan overall it was so safe as well. The mentality of like multiculturalism, because it's everywhere. It's not just in the uni, it's absolutely everywhere. And plus it's still. *laugh*
Researcher	Yeah. Hmm.
WS8	It's, it's multicultural, it's free, but it's still the country with Chinese and my first degree was oriented on Chinese. So for me, like studying Chinese, exploring the culture overall, being here in Asia is also close to what I want. So yeah, let's say that you will come here, but overall it's. It's a topic of discussion. Only not not only, but predominantly among people who are studying China. Yeah. Then everybody knowWS8.
Researcher	So how long is the exchange back then? Like 6?
WS8	6 months. I've stayed here for eight months.

Researcher	Ohh that's long.
WS8	Yeah, because of the COVID because I couldn't play back. Yeah.
Researcher	Ohh so it's supposed to be only a couple of months.
WS8	It's supposed to be 6 maximum. Hmm, like the only one semester and spring semester short, you know? So it should be like four months. But I came a bit earlier. That's why I stayed because I came before the COVID blocked, like the borders. And I couldn't fly back. Then I can. Later, because the Taiwan was safer than anything else and the planes would be just cancelled, I literally was in a position where my flight is today. Nobody said it's cancelled. I'm almost at the airport and they're like, yeah, no.
Researcher	Yeah. OK. But then why you entered this campus? I mean, you fell in love with Sun Yat Sen already, then. I mean, when you come back here, you're supposed to choose that university again. Right.
WS8	Well, to be Frank, when? I I wasn't really aware of of extra scholarship systems like right now, I know that there are governmental one, and basically they would pay for education in and. University. I only thought the school is from the uni to uni.
Researcher	Like the institution.
WS8	Yeah. And Sun Yat Sen by now. It was asking, like, the courses that I like the majors, that I. Like. For undergrad, they wouldn't have English taught courses like that. It was it was with Chinese as well, and I didn't know if I would keep the scholarship like it was all mixed together. And international affairs, pretty broad and still can study the. Expect interest me and yet, if I change my mind and basically rest 1 field and then be like I'll go to economics or culture, I can just flip it all around and say. I said it. Yeah, well, if I choose something more concrete at that time, I will be very. Oriented on this because there it's only back then it was like business. I'm not the very business person.
Researcher	So how you like it so far?
WS8	I did... it has ups and down.
Researcher	But does it fulfil your life? It fulfils your dreams when you choose the campus.
WS8	I mainly. Just research something on my own. Umm, I take like courses or something. Online hearing how sometimes it's lacking and there there are. That actually create an interesting, not always it's, I think still with lots of just time consuming stuff. Yeah, but overall, yeah. I mean, if you just humble yourself down, I guess if you're not gonna be.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	I feel like compared to what it was there. If we're being frank here, the the Wenzao is lazying you down. So you become more relaxed, and then it's a bit hard to go back and become the person you were because it's so chill here. Yeah. So this this part I don't really like and I'm trying to fight against it now.
Researcher	Well, it's too late to have.
WS8	Yeah. Well, it's been. It's 3 lazy years. I don't know.

Researcher	OK. And you said that before there are not at least in our campus, there are only few Russians in here. How about outside the campus do you like met more Russians or like every? I mean, every campus has the kind of same number of Russian students coming.
WS8	Yeah, I'm not sure about the quantity of Russian students, particularly from Russia, but I do need quite a few Russian speaking. They can be from CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries, you know, like also with Kurdistan, Pakistan and they would speak Russian. Mainly I would. Meet. Yeah, I would. I would meet with them and we would speak Russian instead of. English. Yeah, it's like. It's very weird to say in a way that we speak this language. You don't really think about the nationality and this is it, but so it's like it's us because it's we speak the same language. But can I say?
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	Yeah, like that. Sometimes I would meet the. Russians as well. I had one friend coming, doing also exchange programme and also because the unit that I had before, we're from the same one they they don't connect with Wenzao they connect with so they yeah it's a programme.
Researcher	OK. Ah. Is the programme from your. You know your...
WS8	So yeah, in Taipei much more rather than here. Here. Yeah. It's my main language.
Researcher	And how do you see? I mean, if you and your Russian speaking friends are, you know, together together, hanging out together, how do you see yourself like the social group in Taiwan or OK not? Not really much hanging out in campus, right? So hanging out more outside the campus, how do you see yourself and your friends of Russian speaking people when you go hanging out together?
WS8	Well, with the friend group of Russian speaking people. Obviously you. It's to yourself from where you're being much more because you're you're sort of jumping back in a in a place in between your previous culture and the culture that you are currently are in, because it's like the language will be mixed with also English. Little with Chinese words, it's very specific, kind of. Communication that we have here while other people back whom you don't, you can't talk like this. That'd be a little bit dumb.
Researcher	OK. But is there any? How do I say like? Not specialty, but like something that is very when you see this groups of people, oh, they're Russian. Ohh, they're Russian speaking people like for example like Southeast Asian people hanging out together. They speak loudly. They like, laugh loudly and people will then like oh, those are like.
WS8	Most of the countries, yeah.
Researcher	Thai people, those are Vietnamese, those are the nations. How about your guys like Russian people or Russian speaking French?
WS8	Well, it really depends because once again, Russian people I just met in Wenzao, I knew who coming. We are somewhat somewhat related. Somebody is a friend.
Researcher	What is it like the same? What are the same behaviour you guys have from Russia?

WS8	I think in in a way. Yeah, it's like it. Who, who, who, who you are looking at those Wenzao. It depends. They're also very different, but we for example have predominantly guys, right, boys, I mean and they a bit more close. But also not *friend name*, for example. You know *friend name*, she's also very outgoing. So helpful and talkative, but others less communicative. I am very communicative, but I think the pattern is that we seem to be distant, as if people usually would be afraid to approach.
Researcher	Yes.
WS8	Once again, yeah, yes, the Russian speaking because there because there have been times, even even here in Taiwan. Yes, I also feel it, but in a different way. It's it's just the mimic that they have on the face the demeanors you know. Little things that you can notice and you can just guess and sense that probably you're from the same. If it's a occasion looking then it's much easier of course, because it's just a dull face, a very resting and girly, you know.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	Yes, I will probably you. You can sense it. It's just the the, the way they present themselves. Yeah, and very often clothing at least before it was super easy with clothing as well, which is that, yeah, the style that you wear now, not so much you could guess that it's a Moscow.
Researcher	Clothing? Really. How do they dress?
WS8	It's not this matter whether particular, but sometimes you see patterns of always dressing up, for example, like, because in coaching everybody's lazy and we're just wearing whatever and I'm more of a common citizen. But like when you see the, you know, dull face and a stylish person, most likely from Moscow most likely. Because we have a pattern of always like dressing up, I don't know. It's just a cultural thing within the city. You always have to look good sort of thing. Yeah. Never relax. I'm not saying that anybody else is on studies. No. Many, many stylish people, of course. But there is a. It's just the idea you cannot. Just wear shorts and you know, slippers. They're like what? At least for a woman, men are visiting.
Researcher	So you have that like sense of when you see like, oh, these are Moscow people. Oh, these are not something like that.
WS8	I can see that that they're probably somewhat common culture and Moscow. Yeah, it's been. It's been just several times when I was like. I know that I know where you. From and I guess right. So now I think I can, but in fact probably it's just a very limited, very limited.
Researcher	OK. And how about your lifestyle when you come to Taiwan, is it different with your lifestyle back in your country?



WS8	The vision that I have. Ohh indeed yes. Of course. Yeah, we would. Taiwan and Kaohsiung especially. Is less about. Like I would still find the cultural events to go to or concerts or exhibitions or whatever, whatever. But like the way I used to live in Moscow, there have been lots of the stuff like every single day you would either. Be with your friends and you just walk around in a big park whatsoever or I don't know. To create something or you would go to the lectures you would go to the like the the the workshops. This this kind of stuff. I think. Coffee shop culture is global, so this this is the same just hanging with your friends is the same, but like it's it's more here when you hang with friends it's too hard to walk. Yeah, walk. While we would just walk, we would just meet in a random spot and then. Walk. There was and then we. Yep. And walk. And that's how that's how it goes. Here, not so much. Everybody's a little bit dead. So you.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	You can walk more at night time, but everything closes in there early and it's it's dark very early so. The difference? Of. Many, many aspects besides that, there is much more nature here. Yeah, it's not like we would normally just drive our cars to somewhere, too, too, too far and too lazy for this while here you just take a scooter and it's an hour or an hour and a half and you are at the waterfall and you enjoy your life, you're connected into nature, so it's basically like a little, they're called retreat. Less than four 3-4 years. Yeah, but. Overall, I'm luckily to have people, otherwise it would be insane, like this summer for example, I stayed and I was mainly working and everyone left for somewhere that everybody would just go home or go travel or whatever and. We. Had. Just several friends and we also not not that free, we wouldn't meet at all. That was quite boring. I have to be honest. I love to spend time on my own, but it was it was. A bit challenging.
Researcher	Because everyone left for holiday.
WS8	Yeah. And Taiwan and time are also like it's it's always everywhere. It's about people, of course. And that's why sometimes you forget you're like, I can entertain myself. At some point, no, you're just staying at home. You're just sleeping and start binge watching shoWS8.
Researcher	So you hang out more with international friends.
WS8	Yeah.
Researcher	Rather than local people, right?
WS8	Yeah, unfortunately they happen to be this way. I would love to have more Taiwanese friends. And I did it. My core friend group. Which didn't change I think. Yeah, it's like this few. Russian speaking people and then the others, they will. They will change with the. Here and there. So I did have a Taiwanese friend group. I had an international friend who is just. It's sort of, it doesn't stay the same separates or.
Researcher	Is there any difference when you hang out with international friends and you hang out with local friends?
WS8	Ohh yeah indeed. It also depends on what kind of. Local friend, they're. I've been in different. I've been in those.

Researcher	Kind of little people.
WS8	Yeah, in terms of. Like there are those who just want. To practise English, they're yeah, there are those who think that you're a tourist no matter what, and they they introduce the culture, which I. Love by the way they seem to be. It's like, hey, I know it all, but at the same time you're grateful and they still have something to add up and they bring you somewhere they give you. Extra knowledge. That's very interesting. Yeah, those have been, but not in the big cities in Taipei. It's impossible. Smaller cities, they would speak Chinese, and they would treat you more like not in a way that all you're not foreigner, but in a way that like they're not baby in their language and they are still still just involving you. Acknowledging that you're different but also not not making it to Elvis as you you probably know when your your language is not fluent fluent, they all. Will just switch. Either to English or just very simple. Yeah, sometimes needed, but I also. Like what they push?
Researcher	Yeah. So when hanging out with local friends, it's more like. Uh. Not the hanging out that you really wanted. Like it's more like. How do I say like? Local people teaches me something, but hanging out with international friends is more. Real hanging out, yeah. Or not really.
WS8	Yeah, it it really depends. But of course you need the language. Barrier is huge to connect and feel like someone is a friend. You're supposed to speak freely both freely, right? So I did have.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	Some Taiwanese friends who speak English. Yeah. And they would, they would. Their mentality is different from they would, they would they're they're still. International oriented and yeah, but. I think. Yeah. People, people. Come and go like this. Yeah, like a poor friend. I did it. Fine, but still. No, I'd say it's a. It's a beautiful way that we we we we connect at a certain period of time when we both need each other serve each other well. Our friendship helps. And then we separate also think it's I know I like people. I like the temporary connections. It's great.
Researcher	Mm-hmm.
WS8	You have more deep connections, of course, but. Yeah. No, we have to.
Researcher	Yeah. OK and. I mean you. Came here before, before the undergraduate degree. Come here for exchange before. Do you have any cultural differences between your country and Taiwan? When so you came here like you have two first times during the exchange and during the this one do you have like cultural differences that you face or you feel during the exchange and so during the?

WS8	Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Well. First time I came for exchange. I think I was immersed a bit more. I I came too early. As I said for my exchange because I had a friend here and I wanted to sort of see her for one week and then have some. Yeah. She was in Wenzao, actually. Yeah. So that I can see the. Country through her eyes, she can give me some tips or something. Just feel a bit more relaxed, but we ended up just party all the time, not much of A cultural, and it was cultural. Different because people here party differently. Yeah, party they differently. Not that many people dance per say. Like there was they. They drink differently. They get drunk drunk we we in a way that. My friend group not like other people don't get drunk, but like my friend group wouldn't. Get drunk, you know. Was a bit different in this way, but it was the first first impression that I got. Yeah, still fun. And back then it was the time when everything was still open and lots of international. Like pre covet. Umm, it was it was still very international. So. So it was fun. And then I suddenly became. Alone for about a month.
Researcher	So like during the exchange, are you alone from Russia? You have another exchange students coming to.
WS8	Very few because commit. Ohhh yeah, very few. There were some Europeans whom once again we connected back then and it was beautiful friendship. But now we don't talk to each other. *laugh* In a good way, not in a no drama. It's just it just happens. It's just like, yeah. And. And the Taiwanese, that's I think exchange time is where I would be with like, had friends in a in a in a friend said of Taiwanese group the most because now it's more of a people passing by where your and yourfriends for one day or two days, if you can call it this way, just acquaintance. Lots of lots for acquaintances. Yeah. And so the first impression was the clubbing. Clubbing and clubbing is very different and. Yeah, because we, we we we don't afraid we're not afraid to embarrass ourselves and nobody can dance. Yes, like it's still more than people. Northern people? No, not to be dancing people. But everybody is moving. At least here, no.
Researcher	I realise that on concert in concert I mean I see like. Not only Western or you know non Asian people, but I like see like groups of, you know, Asian countries like I they be like crazy, but then Taiwanese will be like.
WS8	Hmm. Yeah. Recording and more calm, yeah. It it really depends, it really depends. Yeah, if there are, because I I don't know which concert did. You go to as well.
Researcher	I went to Ed Sheeran and Bruno Mars. Ohh did. You.
WS8	Ohh did you?
Researcher	Yeah. It was so fun. Yeah, it was really fun. Yeah.

WS8	I think maybe because it's also like the English songs and everything because. I don't know. I've seen something like local rock bands, little ones they they would not their head and sing. And I'm like, yeah. Wow. OK, that's that's your style. Sort of. Yeah. Like Indian rock, this kind of stuff. It's very popular, actually. They're very good quality people. They enjoy themselves there. Yeah. What? What were you talk? Well, the first impression so the first. Impression was about blood. And then outside of this, it was a mixture of everything because I, I I was kind of prepared, right? Like Russia does have lots of some Asian patterns in the culture, just like I don't know. I cannot speak for all and everything and for. Moscow let's say it's just you have some Asian values, some European values, so mixed up. Also, my friend group was also like divers and everything. It's you. You sort of feel it. So it wasn't that because because Taiwanese assumed that it's so very different. It was never very different.
Researcher	Between Asian and European.
WS8	Alright. Yeah, it's sort of like a mixture with you. Plus I'm, I'm, I'm. I've started China right before so. Something you probably pick up already and some questions when you need it. You already sort of. Know that. Yeah. So yeah, I guess I was. I was just on the topic. So it. Wasn't that different?
Researcher	Right.
WS8	But cultural I went when I when my friend left, I went cycling around Taiwan. Yeah.
Researcher	Cycling around Taiwan.
WS8	Yeah, I bought bicycle and I went. I had I. Had the lunch alone, like what am I gonna do? Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Yeah, so. Next, after the first impression of clubbing, I had the first impression of nature and people, because that was the time when I would like, do the couch surfing. I would, you know what, couch? Surfing. You stay for free if somebody else's house.
Researcher	Can you do?
WS8	This here yeah. Yeah, I mean you can do it anywhere, but it's. It can be dangerous, but in Taiwan in.
Researcher	Sounds like.

WS8	In time and no, only great experiences. It was I I stayed only several times actually. Yeah, but in any case that that was the the, the second first impression. About how helpful everybody is. How? Just hanging in nature all the time. This is very nature oriented. The kind of activities that they have and I don't know, I was cycling and people would be honking and just showing me respect. Like, yeah, cheering me up. Like don't give up. Go, go, go, go. And then different occasions. Everybody, the people I don't know, randomly stop and ask if I need help because I look like I'm struggling. It's like, you know, every, because every culture is helpful. In fact, like you can probably say it about Indonesians, right? Yeah. I think Russians are helpful too, but in a different way. Do just randomly go like that when you see the person struggling. It's it's less common. I was very surprised by that. It's it's very basic to suit. When it's helpful, I love it because of it and safe also. But no, there was I almost cried. What? Yeah.
Researcher	Because you you said that there's common Russian people. They're like more distant. Yeah. Yeah, maybe when you.
WS8	Yeah, we we don't approach like that. We would approach only if you see the the person's really struggling not there all crying and you know OK we would cry we would come.
Researcher	Yeah. Like almost.
WS8	Or like if you approach by yourself when you say I need help.
Researcher	They will help you.
WS8	Yeah. Yeah. Depends on what way, of course, and depends who. But mostly they would help. Yeah. But just to be like that, yeah, that was very surprised. Yeah, basically pretty basic sure and this helpful. Amaze me and second time when I came I already felt like honestly, it wasn't like home home changed in one year that I was away.
Researcher	Do you have? Well, I think I kind of know the answer already. Do you? Have. Country that you feel is more similar to yours. I mean, I know the answer will be Russian speaking countries, right? Or do you? Have.
WS8	The bus service, I guess, but it's much it's it's. I wouldn't. Everyone is different in his hands. Even when you go to, let's say, as a as a European part of Russia, right, you go to Ukraine and Belarus, it's also very different. But. In a sense, they all are bringing this. The same the same style, the same memes, the same, the the same kind of cultural aspect.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	Yeah, but also everybody's a bit different, even those which seem to be the.
Researcher	Same.
WS8	Yeah, never, never, never felt the same.
Researcher	OK. OK. In terms of having a lifestyle inside the campus, especially in winter, have you ever experienced, I mean?
WS8	Hmm.

Researcher	I hope you experience like the I mean not a lot, but. Like. Differences or something you've never heard or never experienced before. I mean, outside the campus. Back then you have an impression of clubbing people of Taiwan. How about inside the?
WS8	Well, because I have two experiences as well. Alright, I had. I've been. I've been to two universities here.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	And it's also different between these two.
Researcher	The vote of the universities.
WS8	Yeah. Yeah, even though. There it will be more chill because it's right next to the beach and everybody's wearing slippers and I was literally visiting classes and going to swim. Yeah, here. It's chill in a different sense, completely.
Researcher	Like what? Just another kind of slippers.
WS8	And either kind of slippers. Yeah. Yeah. Nobody will go to swim, but everybody will be in, like you can. You can see that everyone is in the phones during the classes. Most of the times they're. Back then, no, I just. I was luckily in. Yeah, I I know that. I was just lucky to choose the courses like that because I had only one with, like, a group of, I don't know, 50-60 people. I dropped this course. I didn't like it was in and there. But there was, I think it was Western literature or something. Greek, Greek mythology. And there I would be exposed to, but it's. Normal in any country, I think like. In Russia, we would also have like back roWS8 only back roWS8. Several in the phones. Yeah, this kind of stuff is everywhere I think, but predominantly like the whole class seating and being in the phone, you know, even in there was like half half let's say I yeah, I was not so interested in.
Researcher	Oh. Ah.
WS8	I didn't. She was also dropping Chinese. I couldn't. And I was like, yeah, I've studied this before in school. I'm I'm. But I'm not comprehending it in Chinese like I thought it would work this way where, you know the story. So.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	You. Would you know emerge yourself and it will do the language boost now. So I dropped it. But here, here in Wenzao. Yeah, people don't treat it seriously. I think whatever they visit is sometimes, like during the first year I try to maybe bring up the topics and it would wouldn't go so well because people don't really. Go just people you know, just bring. It up what we study just as a as a part of discussion.
Researcher	Outside the class.
WS8	Outside of class? Yeah. Yeah. Because during the class, you're just sitting quietly. Like it's very cultural, cultural. But it's very lecture oriented. You're usually professor, always talks, talks, talks.
Researcher	Yeah.

WS8	Very few classes where professors themselves decide to change. The. Usually small like up to 20 people, they would be more asking and. It was only a few classes where they would manage to make students also be active and they are not necessarily fully foreigner fulfilled. Also with locals? Yeah, and that that, that's fine. So no, I had. I had differences, different experience and went out too, but mainly mostly it's you. I know this feeling where everybody is just sitting and I don't know. Watching something, checking something and then later on you kind of discuss the same stuff. It just feels like you're spending time there and yeah, and I'm not going to say that I'm saying that I'm not doing something right. Yeah. And plus, I'm also this the same generations that that I need. Sometimes to, you know, do the brain rotting activity to listen to focus on listening. Otherwise I fall asleep. This kind of better we all have. Yeah, but still it feels like mainly people just spending time but sometimes.
Researcher	Check on phone. Yeah, yeah.
WS8	Some classes exception and that's good, yeah, but mainly. Nobody takes it seriously.
Researcher	Yeah. I mean, I've interviewed one local student before, not from our department. And he said that that is a very cultural thing. I mean, not cultural, but like some behaviour of Taiwanese. They are very shy. I don't know in like public universities where they speak Chinese for lectures, but went out. They are very shy and they are very. This is kind of like Asian parents behaviour. They only want their students to be good grades, good grades, good grades. You gotta have a high number and everything. So the students don't really have their own strong foundation and opinion. So they tend to be a follower and just go with the flow.
WS8	Yeah. Yeah, yeah.
Researcher	Yeah. And sometimes also during the class. I mean it should be normal if we ask questions. Raise your hands. Anything during the. Yeah. During the group discussions. Tell your opinions. It should be normal, right? But I during class, I feel like.
WS8	Yeah, yeah, but everyone.
Researcher	I am the like I am the kind of I'm the bad guy here. I'm the weirdo here. Yeah, something like that. Yeah.
WS8	Know it too, because you are the only one. Like for us it's a bit impolite not to say anything to Professor. Mm-hmm. We do this only to those who don't respect, and every every country obviously have those who you're like. Oh, they they literally just see they don't contribute and you're like, whatever. I'm not going to take your call.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	There is but here here there are so many good professors like whatever they have opinion that they don't contribute. Listen to them a little bit and you will already learn something, yeah. And it's disrespectful. So I also feel it when they are like and foreigners, it's gonna be only me who is like, OK, that's the answer or. OK, let let's talk about this. You know, it's too much to care.
Researcher	Yeah.

WS8	Sometimes, but I also I can also as a teacher, as a. Both you and I we teach as well right after this experience. You also understand how they feel more. If before it was just just a respect kind of thing, then now you also know that it's very frustrating to be on the other side and have no response.
Researcher	Oh yeah. Yeah.
WS8	Yeah, so yeah, but totally agree. About this meritocracy meritocratic party? Yeah, that that's what, actually. That's the different part. That's really different compared to you.
Researcher	Hmm.
WS8	Russia, because there you're also high achievers you also. Have the the CV. Preparation and everything. But I feel like here. And not only in Taiwan, but overall in East Southeast Asia, everywhere. It's you're more. You're more oriented on this. You really put importance on this, and sometimes you meet people who are not. They're they're not into that, but they do everything that is needed to have a good grade. Yeah, but they cannot discuss it, for example, or something. They don't have opinions. They just down with the job. That and we.
Researcher	Hmm. Uh-huh.
WS8	See, we're like the other side. We're we were like, we can be me personally, not me, me personally, but like the grades are not necessarily represent as if you just need to understand it on your own. Yeah, it's a bit of a. Different. I guess I guess it's just a circle and bellies within a certain group, but yeah that was different.
Researcher	Yeah. It's very different, though. I mean, yeah. We teach small kiddos and. They are not. They're not lectured since they were kids. They were told to do. I mean, they were told to, you know you. Don't have to go. Just by the flow when they grown up already, but it should be when they are still kids, right? So it's hard to change their opinion, their how to say their perspective, their perspective, yeah.
WS8	Yeah, it was interesting actually. You would think that now that these parents, millennials, right, because millennials.
Researcher	They should be willing.
WS8	Yeah, they should do Millennium, their parents of because you see them and they still have better in the millennial, but they would still have this like, I'll just put them in a cramped school kind of mentality. So it's it's. It's still there. So do you think it will go? No. No. Yeah. Quite interesting.
Researcher	OK, don't be apparent when you're.
WS8	No, no, it's just. I don't know. And I don't know when it no. My point is that I would assume that you know as a as a because they already been exposed to the phones and you know they're more globalised and everything, usually millennials and Gen Z they. There. Somewhat carrying more or less similar values in terms of I don't know where wherever you go they're a little bit similar in the sense of. Understanding what is at least the democratic countries you know more or less so. And and they're. Being the gentle parent, the focus on this, you know the putting the child in their development at first. But also



not. Really not in a in a different way. Yeah, they would. Try to do both now.

Researcher	That's what is.
WS8	Sometimes doesn't work, sometimes gramme school just destroys them. Anyway, sorry, sorry.
Researcher	That's fine. That's. That's what the interview doing. Hey, up to the next topic. Have you ever been treated wrongly or disrespectfully during your time here in Taiwan? In especially if you can tell in inside the campus area or in yeah inside the campus.
WS8	Yes. I mean, no, that's good. There have been couple weird moments related to the the word topic and everything because yeah, yeah. Especially like in the early, early times. Me, I I'm taking it super personal, right, because my relatives. But there have been people who either. Like ask? Yeah. They were like they ask for example, where you're from. That's why I don't. I don't really like this question. Come in. The first one, like nobody asks my name. They asked where I'm from. Then I'm saying Russian. They're like, oh, they making much less, but they can make face here couple of times. It's been where they make joke about us killing Ukrainians. And I'm like. You don't know how. How, how, for me, emotional.
Researcher	It is, yeah. I mean it's.
WS8	Yes. Yeah. Yeah. It's OK. It's it's not even about like me having people there and worrying about their safety, you know?
Researcher	Uh, yeah.
WS8	Because lots of people have relatives there, it's just it's it's a very it's a very complex and talk talk topic that you're supposed not. Did you? You just you, you. Either make a face and just walk away. OK, that's all right. Your personal opinion. You gave me the attitude, but stating something was was weird. I I know that, like, not not everyone would experience that. I was just in a weird situation where people. Would feel like they. Can make jokes because they make jokes on any topic. No, it's been it's been 1 process.
Researcher	Are they a friend though, or I mean or like a stranger stranger?
WS8	Yeah, not professor. Professor. Stuff. Let's see. OK. I mean. Professor. Teacher. Whatsoever. Yeah, and no others later on like it. It's it was sensitive during first time, you know, because I also had my load timeduring the days I was struggling a lot and everything. But then after that for example, after some time I think Mark would make jokes or something. I was already OK.
Researcher	Of course. Uh.

WS8	He sort of like waited out the sensitive time, let's say, and then yeah, we're pro dark humour kind of thing. So he I don't remember. What he said. But it was kind of funny in a way that nobody blames anybody. But.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	You're making a joke about me killing people. Not good.
Researcher	Not that kind of joke, apparently.
WS8	Yeah, not that kind of it was. It was one, but yeah, it was. It was from another professor and a couple of times, like people like, oh, random strangers. Always. Ohh, you're killing. You kill Ukrainians now. I'm here for many years. Yeah. On both sides I'm I'm very. And this identity way also it was very weird because I would usually be a bit called out like to be Ukrainian, you know, but I'm in Ukraine. I'm not Ukrainian because I would growing up go there and I would pick up for example, some language patterns or whatever or.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Uh huh? Yeah.
WS8	The man in the demeanour. And I don't know. So like, sometimes I'd be called out as Ukrainian. There I wasn't Ukrainian. And I'm like, in between. But I was. Never. Feeling bad for this? You know, it was always very in harmony. And but I would still go like, yeah, I'm Russian. But we didn't. Just like you don't go in particular like this. This this. Yeah.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	So, but then the war started, and this kind of stuff I have for some reason, strangers telling me that it's still happening. Yeah, it's still happening. They're asking where you from? From Russia. Ah, you killed him. OK. Nice to meet you. My name is. Alyssa.
Researcher	That should be the first question though. That is all inside the I mean like.
WS8	No, no, no, no, no, it's inside and outside. Inside was just like the sensitive time. It was just a professor.
Researcher	That one. Mm-hmm.
WS8	Then I think. There were a. Couple of weird jokes and sensitive time from like classmates, but it was like ohh a bit ignorant. I didn't. I didn't feel anything. It wasn't like it was just just. Yeah, but. Inside the company.
Researcher	This has all those sensitive times, so it's. I'm happy for you.
WS8	Yeah.
Researcher	But other than that, nothing ever happened like. Basically, I hope you know.
WS8	No bullying. Bullying. No, I've made we, we, we. In Taiwan is so remote that it's even like. You mean Ukrainians, Ukrainians? And that's also OK, as long as you're decent humans. You both understand how **** ** everything is. And we had normal times like nobody made. It more comfortable. Like I've I've gone to this first attempt of the protest, right when it just started in Taipei. They would get there. Yeah. And this kind of. Stuff it was. Full of different people from different countries, and we all were there and treating each other normally.

Researcher	Yeah. The one that you hang the banner. I think I saw that one.
WS8	I don't see but OK.
Researcher	Maybe somewhere else?
WS8	Yeah, I wouldn't move a friend. Maybe she did anyway. Yeah, we were just Busters and everything. They didn't engage like all nationalities that everyone is. Absolutely normal. It's just a Taiwanese saying that I I'm feeling Ukrainians, mostly Taiwanese. Yeah, mostly Taiwanese. Because if it's like Europeans, they understand how sensitive the topic might be, I think so they they make they have seen, like making weirded out face a little bit.
Researcher	Like. What?
WS8	Like when you say like you're from Russia and like. You know how it works. That's it. After that we talk normally, some someone like sensitive time they will say.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	I'm sorry or whatever. This more or less it's just this trend because outside the campus mostly they keep on telling me, yeah.
Researcher	How about like discrimination or like disrespectful behaviour in European country and Asian country? I mean Asian country is here in Taiwan and Europe. Country is. Russia, or any other European country thing it's like. You know, in terms of people, you said that Taiwanese are more like friendly and anything if it looks different. In terms of discrimination?
WS8	What kind of discrimination as a as a, as a woman, as a?
Researcher	As a human being.
WS8	As a human being. And no, not not so much. I wouldn't. I wouldn't. Maybe there is something happening, but like I'm not taking it too serious. You know, just like the things that I described, it's OK. It's just people having fun. Let's say yeah. Or they're showing some aunties, they just want to show. Like, I'm aware of the neWS8 and what's going on, but nobody discriminates. They just like winning this out. The only thing like.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	I'm. I'm from Moscow, right? It's pretty. Safe compared to. And it's very like socially if if it would be could call like people would most likely be there for you. Yeah. So people do that still. Richmond is everywhere but much less. But yeah, that's the only kind of discrimination. But here. Yeah, I just remembered. But what what I mean like if in Europe, for example, at least what we hear, I know it's still happening. But what we hear and how we grow up thinking and believing if somebody would could call you could be and the rule of law is working right. I'm not sure about that, but like.
Researcher	No. Yeah, that's what we grew up with. There is a law working, yeah. And how do you deal with those? Jokes when it. When they talk to you about that joke, how do you deal with? I mean, did you like look to them like? Guys, it's really. I'm not something to be joke or something like that or you just. Stay calm and.

WS8	You mean the you you. Yeah. No. I'll stay calm. 1st I will when first first time it happened. Honestly in campus with this professor not professor.
Researcher	What did you do?
WS8	I was just in a in a big shock. I was. I was actually with a classmate and. I think I just. You pointed at me. Said you're Russia appointed my friends. If you're a friend. This kind of stuff I was just in shock. I I didn't know how to react. I was laughing because of how do you hear it? Like, what's the? What's the joke in here? You were just in joke. So yeah, whatever. It's just people saying stuff, yeah. Nobody actually does anything, so why would I? Be like you. You're horrible human being. Think about whatever. OK, smile and look.
Researcher	That's a very brave and love things to do.
WS8	Couple of times actually be in the moment when strangers would ask. That was weird that out because they would usually just ask in a way like how they they would. That's why also I know that Taiwan is very it's very diverse and people are very diverse. They would be like. How are how are you? Dealing with it, you know. This kind of stuff? Random stranger. Once again, ask me how am I doing? Well, thank.
Researcher	I mean, if if a friend it's OK with.
WS8	You. I feel seen. No, no. I think when something like that happens. Your overall very excluded and you're very far right. And even though it's random stranger, sometimes this kind of that's what I'm saying like they would approach you and you feel seeing you feel helped and you don't feel alone because we as a society we all together.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	So. But yeah, no, it was cool it. Was cool like, well, think of something like that.
Researcher	All things.
WS8	Are they? Why would you? Imagine imagine that somebody comes to you and says, yeah, your your your country is, I don't know. What? What do we say? Yeah, whatever they say. What do you do?
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, whatever they say. Pretend to understand the same. I will like smile.
WS8	No, but if they say in English, ohh you're Indonesian. Might be a. Migrant work there.
Researcher	And leave, yeah.
WS8	Yeah. Came for a bright visa. What's the main topic actually? When they know that you're Indonesian, what they bring up?
Researcher	They never really. I mean, all the local people I know is. I mean, like mutuals around campus. Yeah. So they know I'm a student already.
WS8	Meet students or our age. Uh, you're not talking to aunties and uncles. That much.

Researcher	Yeah, yeah. I mean, there's a weird. Thing happened before. I just take the bus and then I forgot I helped this like one grandma because she's struggling to get on the bus or something or I didn't help her. I forgot. And then, I mean, I look different, right? And then people. People would ask me where I came from. I said Indonesia and usually that's all. But this grandma kind of had a conversation and then she asked my mind. And then she started to send me a good morning messages every day. I don't know why until she didn't, probably. Instead or something I don't know, but I mean that's weird because you mean a stranger? Grandma asked. You for a line. As sending good morning. You know those good morning. Good morning. Pictures of flowers, right? Yeah. Send me those.
WS8	Probably very lonely. Yeah. Yeah. The pictures, I mean, complete stranger love that this is multicultural. Like every single country.
Researcher	They do that, yeah. Yeah, I mean, that's pretty weird, but I mean, that's all. Yeah, yeah.
WS8	Different means I think they're more seeing more weird ones. I I hope it stays the same. Hope. It was just the grammar.
Researcher	Do you think there are some discrimination behaviour that has been normalised by people?
WS8	Overall in Taiwan.
Researcher	Yeah, or whatever you've heard or experience. Like for example. In my country there are there are a lot of islands, right? And there is this one Big Island. Majority of the islands are covered with forests, so when you hear hear people coming from that island, they will ask like do you have waters there? How do you eat? How do you take show? How do you drink something like that? And I think it's a discrimination, but people like. If. Oh, it's. It's just a normal question cause yeah.
WS8	It depends how you do that and obviously.
Researcher	Yeah. I mean, people, sometimes they do it as a joke. Like, do you have water there, something like that. And especially we can see that a lot with African. Yeah. When you see like African people, the first thing people gonna act just like ohh. We do. You have, like tools there. Do you have waters there? Something like that. Like. A lot of people going to ask that and I think it's kind of been normalised by then, but it's. Actually not a you know. Even it's a joke. It's not really a good thing to say to people.
WS8	If they're making jokes, yeah, obviously not. It's just a question, a genuine question, I think it's. Don't be too sensitive. Just answer, even though it's annoying, because if people are curious and want to learn, that's completely different. But jokes. Yeah, you mean you're in Taiwan.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	Do see like. Jokes about certain cultural. Groups. No, none, even even locals like they're they're still segregation, right? The cultural subcultures that you have and some of them treat it a.
Researcher	Foreigners.

WS8	Bit differently. The the, the, the, yeah. The jokes about the gangster people can stop people, gang. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Different like.
Researcher	Do they have? I didn't. Know it was just a little.
WS8	And those who are eating that will not kind of, you know, they're they've been drugs from both locals and foreigners.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	It's mainly about the the like some coming for a bright visa kind of thing, you know, or being a worker and then marry in Taiwan to have a Chinese passport, this kind of stuff. It's been several. I've met. I've met lots of, you know, there are different. Some of them are racist. They would be like making. Jokes as it is that Taiwanese, which is so not normal for us already, but like making jokes. I don't. Know. Seeing white people calling them out and doing jokes about them being white, seeing black people making jokes about them, being like all of that, not necessarily in an angry way. No, I wouldn't. I wouldn't see anybody with hatred but like. Hear lots of lots of the different stuff. Sometimes ridiculous, yeah.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	But discrimination. Discrimination.
Researcher	How about like? Inside the campus, do you feel there are like different facilities provided for? International students and local students, or different facilities provided for international students from different countries like have you heard or feel that, I think.
WS8	It's another topic as well as a foreigner here. They have a weird *** privilege towards especially. Males and foreigner males and in our campus.
Researcher	Uh-huh. Uh, huh.
WS8	It was crazy. And everywhere like else. Crazy, but our campus especially, you know, when it's a foreigner guy, girls come to me to ask for a line of my friends. They been happening. Yeah. Yeah. Like this kind of stuff. Where there was sneak peeking. You know, you heard. Probably. Yeah. In any case, you know this kind. Of stuff like this culture is.
Researcher	Mm-hmm.
WS8	I feel like we can probably take it as a discrimination, right? Yeah, I guess.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	But also it goes both sides at at some point, like sneak peeking is discrimination. Treating people differently is a bit discrimination then, let's say with the there are lots of praising as well, you know, weird, weird, very weird. Praising that I don't need them. Very, very weird, you know, in a way that like some people would really treat me differently. And I'm like. Why are you doing what we we. There was.
Researcher	Like different in a good way or.

WS8	In you call it good way. It feels very weird when people do it anyway. Umm, they'll be like you know, tiptoeing around you and you're like, chill. Please don't develop my complex of like, God complex. Please. I am just a human. What is going on? Because some people I feel like especially it's it's from Taiwanese mainly. What's going on? They would. They would treat them much better, and lots of people would fall into that and they would start having very weird self esteem and being arrogant ish. You know, this kind of stuff for some people, it works one way and some people they get used to and normalise it without you know. Being too prude. It's still. Still very sub subtle are going to see going on there, you know. And yeah, I think I picked up some of that as. Well. Because I know that like locals are not treated the same way that I am or. Or other foreigners wouldn't be treated the same way, and and that's that's. We're due out mainly, but probably sometimes you already used to that because it's been many years. I think by now buying now the the circles that I'm at, it's mainly work and uni and at least. It can still even feel it from classmates, sometimes in a weird way, like with you guys. They're humble and they're cool with Indonesians like mainly it's Indonesian and Europeans, right for us, no fan now only Russians and Indonesians. And of course we have pie and Filipino. And everybody would like. Yeah, as well. Hold on. But the point is like with you, with you guys, they're chill, but then they talk to me, for example, they're like, they're. Really. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. This kind of stuff. I don't. I don't know why, like it's a bit of segregation, you know. Something that you feel but. You cannot really fully express, yeah.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	Yeah, it depends. If it's not too much, then you're just like, chill and they can chill sometime.
Researcher	OK. How about like? From professors towards students, do you feel any different like you see? So OK. But others though I.
WS8	Well, me personally, no, me personally. I don't know, but it really depends how active and everything. Yeah, I think the only difference.
Researcher	Yeah, it depends on the student.
WS8	If you are active, whether you're. Active or not, and I'm mainly active so, but it's still not like we're I I know that some students they like become friends with professors due to their subjectivity and will say over you know.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	Sort of. It's kind of weird position, not really hierarchical segregation. You know, this kind of stuff mean or not? Not that different. I'm just a student.
Researcher	Yeah, yeah, yeah.
WS8	In the beginning, actually in the beginning beginning we when we came I I just remembered we would feel. That. Some professors have for justice towards Russians.
Researcher	You mean, like during freshman years?

WS8	Yeah, I just remember that there was a bit weird like there was a. Bit of you know going that. Maybe some other students are, so I don't know lazy like this kind of stuff like like. I've heard speak people speaking about how other people speaking like it's very gossipy right here. So I would, I would eventually hear this and that was like.
Researcher	But how about like? Do you think? A language is. I mean in here you usually take all English lecture? Yeah. Do you think it's how to say I kind of forgot the English word for that. If you the language barrier happens to. Stops you from getting lessons from professors. You know what, I. Mean. Like sometimes, you know, Taiwanese English is special professors like. You name it. Those professors with not really good English, do you think uh. It stops you, I mean.
WS8	From paying attention and it trains your computer.
Researcher	Yeah, and getting getting all the getting all the. Lectures, yeah.
WS8	I think it's I have it. I have it with some professors, not in a way. Even that their language is difficult. One professor, it was really hard to understand. I'm I'm giving. Up. I'm not taking their courses. I'm not. I'm avoiding because I really I try to. I cannot understand what's going on just because of it's it's a mixture of tone like self.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	Special kind of speaking. Plus the accent plus the the grammar structure altogether is just very confusing. But besides that I think it's it's a personal. You know, you you you know, some professors they were for example too laid back.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	And like to chill and they're not that investigated and changing tone and making like a bit given a human touch. And if the human touch is lacking, then yeah, obviously I would. I would still listen to because as we've. Spoken before like. They ask questions sometimes, and it's very awkward when nobody answers, so it was still like on the on the back of my mind I would listen.
Researcher	Yeah. That for them.
WS8	And still answer. Something. But it's not like it's interesting and.
Researcher	Right. And during your time here in this multicultural environment, do you have any challenges when you want to contribute something? For example, in classroom situation like maybe you feel that some people's voice are much more hurt than you. Like we have this kind of stereotypes if. Like for example Americans or Western voice are more hurt other than more than Asian voice, something like that. Have you ever experienced or?
WS8	Well, I think I don't know if others would agree with me. Maybe it's a personal opinion because I grew up also with a certain mindset, right. And I would hear certain neWS8 and we would like. Some grew up also thinking and believing in the same stuff that the Western people W as a collective was. Their voices more valuable, like they're more first world countries. You know this. And it's it's different. And here, due to my own personal beliefs, I guess I feel.
Researcher	Yeah. Do you?



WS8	It. But I don't think that is actual true. I think I'm just biased on this and I think all of us. Are just biased, like as long as you're with? Also maybe not so much, I don't know, I guess I guess yes, because when it's native Researchers, let's say, at least. Let's segregate like this, yeah. It feels like it's more the professors are more enthusiastic, let's say. And, O Taiwanese students, are also listening to them. Yeah, yeah. While when we are talking, you and I, they're. Still like? Yeah. But.
Researcher	I don't want. Still, the show, but no, it's. Yeah, yeah, yeah.
WS8	But once again, I think it's just because we all grew up sort of believing in that even though we tried to deny.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	And especially as a person in a position which grew up believing that they're below, it's. It's just there. It's, it's. There, even though you're, do you think everybody is the same? But it's still there.
Researcher	OK. And is there anything else you want? To share or it's talk. No, this is the last question I think, yeah. If there is only one thing you can say or one thing to be done by people from all over the world in this multicultural environment, what would that be? Maybe there's like some kind of. Moto or quote you know or you want. To make up. Or just any any one word or one. Anything or like 1 action or anything?
WS8	Hmm. It's it's the the basic belief like treat treat everybody as your brothers and sisters. Like, not not in a very distant way, but in actual.
Researcher	Yeah.
WS8	Pretend that they. Are and then you would care a bit more to being pathetic. I don't. I don't think they're. I'm. I'm pretty sure there's a beautiful quote to that. If you find one, please replace like this participant game gave a very beautiful speech about how we all should treat each other as brothers and.
Researcher	Yeah. OK. Thank you very much, WS8. It's been a great one hour and 18 minutes. That's OK. I mean, it's a great talk, great insights and everything. Thank you.
WS8	I'm sorry. *laugh*
Researcher	No, no, please, thank you.

