



Changes In Attitudes of Migrants Toward The Host And Home Country

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Abstract. This essay explores the changes in attitudes of migrants towards their home country and host country. The study is conducted on American students attending universities in China and Chinese students attending universities in the United States. The hypothesis of the study is that even though migrants' attitudes towards the host country become more positive, they still favor their home country more. The study involves 400 participants, half of whom were Chinese students studying in the US and the other half were American students studying in China. Participants completed a questionnaire before migrating and after spending five years studying in the host country. The questionnaires contain general questions and statements to evaluate the participants' attitudes towards their home and host countries. The results of the study will provide insights into the attitudes of migrants towards their host country and their home country.

Keywords: In group bias, migration, culture variation

1 Introduction

Nowadays, the rapid development of technology results in a steady economy. The access to moving to other countries increase, and therefore the migrant population increases. The international migrant population inclined gradually, from about 174 million migrants in 1995 to approximately 272 million migrants in 2019 [1]. The increase in international migrants has been evident over time – both numerically and proportionally – and at a slightly faster rate than previously anticipated. The current global estimate is that there were around 281 million international migrants in the world in 2020, which equates to 3.6 per cent of the global population [2]. Through traveling to different countries, migrants encounter various cultural values and people of different races. This leads to a concept known as in-group bias. In authority dictionary it refers to the tendency to favor one's own group, its members, its characteristics, and its products, particularly in reference to other groups. The favoring of the in group tends to be more pronounced than the rejection of the out group, but both tendencies become more pronounced during periods of intergroup contact. At the regional, cultural, or national level, this bias is often termed ethnocentrism. Also called in group favoritism [3]. A simplified definition is that in-group bias is a tendency that people tend to favor others

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that exist in a similar group as them. In the circumstance of people who migrate to another country, a key category for local people to show the tendency of in group bias is the difference of culture and race. Hence due to cultural variation, in-group bias could be formed as native people rejected immigrants from outside. According to Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, nearly one in five Asian Americans report being discriminated against because they are Asian when applying to or while attending college (19%) or when interacting with police (18%) [4]. Migrants travel to other countries for several benefits. In search of better economic conditions, employment, business opportunities, and education. Migration to the towns in order to secure better living conditions, especially better schooling for their children. To escape poor climate conditions such as drought, and natural disasters [5]. In-group bias due to race and culture negatively affects migrants' attitudes toward the host country. In response to this phenomenon, in-group bias affects the well-being of migrants' life. However, the increase in the number of migrants suggests that migration does provide them with a better life. This finding has triggered this study to wonder how the thoughts and opinions of migrants will alter after inhabiting a new country for several years. This essay is the changes in attitudes of people towards their home country and their host country. This essay will conduct experiments mainly on Americans attending universities in China and Chinese attending universities in the United States to support the hypothesis that even migrants' attitude towards the host country become more positive, they still favor their home country more.

2 Method

2.1 Participants

Half of the number of participants involved in this experiment are Chinese coming to college in the United States to study. The rest are Americans coming to college in China. The participants aged around 17-18 years old will need to take the first questionnaire before they migrate to the host country and begin their college studies. Then after spending five years living and studying in the host country, the participants will need to answer the second questionnaire. In total, there will be 400 participants. Due to the long time horizon (5 years), it is plausible that this study might lose many participants within five years. Thus in order to obtain as much data as possible, the research has set a high quantity of participants at the beginning of the experiment.

2.2 Procedure

This study first came up with the hypothesis of this study that even though migrants' attitudes towards the host country will become more positive, they still favor their home country more. Then, for the next step, this research has constructed a questionnaire as the experiment of this study. The questionnaires will be distributed online to the grade twelve participants: Chinese coming to college in the United States and Americans coming to college in China that have already received the admission information from

cross country universities and confirmed their arrival across the country. After collecting the first questionnaire, the examiners will check their email to ensure it is valid in order to facilitate the second questionnaire. After five years, the examiners will distribute the same questionnaires again to the participants by sending the questionnaire to their email addresses. The two questionnaires have identical questions to serve as a control to show the change in attitudes. After collecting the data from the second questionnaire, the study will need to analyze the data acquired and determine the result of this issue.

The questionnaire contains two parts of questions. The first section is general questions with the purpose to understand the basic background information of the participants. In this part, the questionnaire will ask about their name, age, gender, email, and whether they have taken an English or Chinese proficiency test. If yes, the participants will have to fill out their recent grade for the language test. If not then the participants would have to evaluate their English or Chinese language proficiency level. The second part of the questionnaire contains the questions that require the participants to evaluate the extent of their agreement or disagreement towards a statement about their host and home country. In this part, the study has designed the statements in various aspects which includes culture, development of economy, politics, condition for speech for example the liberty to propose ones words, the friendliness of the local people, the living condition and environment, and the overall evaluation for the extent of well-being in this country. The statements in the questionnaire will be "I feel that the current national policy of the United States is democratic," "I feel that the current judicial system in the United States is reasonable," "I feel that the current environment of speech in the United States is liberal," "I feel that the economic development of the United States is in a good future." "I feel that America is a safe place to live right now," "I feel the present living conditions in America are comfortable," "I feel that the local people in the United States are friendly at present," "I feel that the United States is generally a satisfying country for its people." The experiment has included a number scale in this part. The numbers will range from one to seven. As the number increases, the sense of approval decreases (1 strongly agrees, 2 almost agrees, 3 partially agrees, 4 is neutral, 5 partially disagrees, 6 almost disagrees, and 7 strongly disagrees). The result of this section of this questionnaire is that the less the corresponding value is, the more the participants will show a positive attitude towards the country. The participants will have to evaluate the statements twice in one questionnaire the first time is about their host country, and the second time for their host country. Figure 1 shows the sample of this study's questionnaire in the English version. It displays both two parts of the questionnaire.

Questionnaire 1:

1. What is your name?
2. What is your gender?
3. What is your current age?
4. What is your email address?

5. Have you ever taken an English proficiency test?
 — If yes, please select the type of English proficiency test and fill in the latest standardized score range.
 — If not, please choose your English level for self-assessment.

6. Please comment on the following points: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

I feel that the current national policy of the United States is democratic
 I feel that the current judicial system in the United States is reasonable
 I feel that the current speech environment in the United States is free
 I feel that the current economic development of the United States is promising
 I feel that the current living environment in the United States is safe
 I feel that the current living conditions in the United States are comfortable
 I feel that the local people in the United States are friendly
 I feel that the United States is a country that satisfies the people on the whole
 (1 means very agree, 2 means almost agree, 3 means partially agree, 4 means neutral, 5 means partially disagree, 6 means almost disagree, 7 means very disagree)

7. Please comment on the following points: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

I feel that China's current national policy is democratic
 I feel that China's current judicial system is reasonable
 I feel that China's current speech environment is free
 I feel that China's current economic development prospects are promising
 I feel that China's current living environment is safe
 I feel that the current living conditions in China are comfortable
 I feel that the local people in China are friendly at present
 I feel that China is a country that satisfies the people on the whole
 (1 means very agree, 2 means almost agree, 3 means partially agree, 4 means neutral, 5 means partially disagree, 6 means almost disagree, 7 means very disagree)

Fig. 1. Sample of questionnaire [Owner-draw]

3 Results

The data that this study collected from the questionnaire will be divided into four scales, and calculate the mean value separately. The four groups are first, attitudes of American students in China for the first year; second, attitudes of Chinese in the United States for the first year; third, attitudes of American students after five years; and fourth, the attitudes of Chinese students in the United States after five years. Next, the examiners will analyze the data by comparing the mean value of the four groups vertically and horizontally, and assess whether the data increased or decreased. Furthermore, the study will construct a t-test to show the validity of the data. With certain limitations, this research did not conduct this experiment or distribute this questionnaire, but this paper has predicted that the data could prove the hypothesis of this research. This study has secured the following results by the previous analysis mentioned in this essay. To begin with, in the scale of American students studying college in China, the mean value of the third group (after five years) is significantly lower than the first group (before five years). In addition, in the scale China, there is no significant change between the mean value of the second group (first year) and the fourth group (after five years). Furthermore, by comparing the data for groups three and four, this research would expect the mean value of the third group is lower than the fourth group. Finally, since the result

from a T- test shows $p < .00001 < .05$, the examiners has concluded the result as statistically significant. In conclusion, this study would state that it is statistically significant that Chinese and US migrants will show a more positive attitude towards the host country after five years but they still tend to favor their home more.

4 Discussion

4.1 Possible outcomes

Due to a lack of resources, this paper did not conduct an actual experiment based on the procedure. Thus this study has deduced the results from studies of different papers. Based on the studies, there are four possible outcomes in total. The first one is that compared to the first year, in the fifth year the migrants will show a more positive attitude towards the host country, yet they will still favor their home country more (American students still favor the United States more, Chinese students still favor China more). This matches the hypothesis of the study. Jascard's Asian American model could support this thesis. The model suggests that in the early stage, the living environment of the Asian American will affect their identification. Thus when Chinese students first come to study in the US, they will try to interpret their culture. However, as time passes, they will enter the incorporation stage. The migrants (Asian Americans) will cease to try identification with the white culture. The second possible outcome is that migrants may show the same level of preference towards both their home and host country. In this case, migrants believe they belong to both countries when there is no conflict between the two identities. The three stages from "Stages in the process of cultural shock" by Garza-Guerrero can explain where does this outcome come from. The first stage was explained as due to the variation of the external environment the migrants become aware of the difficulties of interaction in new conditions, and they need to change their old habits, so migrants often felt negative and felt a loss of continuity of themselves. Thus the defense mechanism of identification allows some migrants to form a new identity by lowering the negative attitude towards the host country and mourning for the past experience in their home country, and eventually they end up with a world image. In the next stage, mourning for what was lost and the gradual acceptance will help the migrants to form a more accurate image of the past. This stage will let the migrants selectively choose the aspects that benefit them and reorganize themselves. The last stage is where the migrants felt a sense of belonging which will shape their identification forever. The migrants will no longer feel conflict due to culture merging [6]. The third result is migrants will favor the host country more than to the home country. The third result is that migrants will favor the host country more. Chinese students may show a tendency to prefer the United States rather than China. This could be explained by changes in the norms and attitudes of their family after moving to America. According to Victor's study, in a Chinese family, the members would give their children more freedom after moving to the United States because children in America have more freedom [7]. As a result, this leads to students favoring the US more.

5 Limitation

First, this study did not have a chance to conduct an actual experiment and didn't distribute the questionnaire and obtain data. Thus this research mainly predict the result based on previous studies. However, previous research focuses on studying migrants and western culture. It is uncertain that the results from previous studies will vary when researchers study on migrants in Eastern culture (China). Second, there are limitations in the use of a questionnaire to conduct the experiment for this study. This research cannot discover the implicit attitude of the participants by using the survey. Thus if a participant is clue- less about their identification or they felt conflicted when choosing the number scale for a statement, inaccurate data would be generated and become an issue for us. Also, two extreme values would cause this experiment to fail. For a certain statement, if participant A evaluates a value of 1 and participant B evaluates a value of 7 in the first year and after five years if A evaluates 7 and B evaluates 1, the mean value would be the same. Thus by comparing vertically, this study will not observe any change in their attitude which causes the experiment to fail. Third, many confounding variables may also affect the results of this experiment. For example, participants' personality, the degree of proficiency of their ability to speak host country's language. A study in Canada suggests that the level of proficiency in the language may influence the extent of cultural integration; hence it will affect this result. In addition, another study proved this point. Two examiners Bleakley and Chin estimated the effects of English proficiency on income and social outcomes in the United States [8]. Furthermore there is a paper that studied for how English proficiency will affect well-being of migrants in Australia. To address endogeneity related concerns, we use the age at arrival and country of origin as an instrument for English proficiency. Our results show that greater proficiency in English significantly improves self-reported mental health and life satisfaction [9]. If a participant is outgoing, and can easily get along with other native people by communicating with no difficulty, then it is more likely for him to favor the host country. The location of their college may also matter. If the college is located in a city with a trend of racism, then the migrants will rate the host country with a higher number. For migrants who live in more peaceful and friendly places, they are more likely to give a lower number on the scale. Finally, the housing prices may also affect their rating by performing a study based on migrants in China. Using nationally representative migrant survey data, this study examines the relationship between housing prices and migrants' subjective well-being in China. The results indicate that housing prices play a significantly negative role in migrants' subjective well-being, especially for low-educated, female, and rural-to-urban migrants [10].

6 Conclusion

In conclusion, this essay has explored how the attitudes of migrants towards their host and home country change over time. The research design involves a questionnaire-based experiment, with 400 participants who will take two questionnaires, one before migrating and one after living and studying in their host country for five years. The

results are expected to demonstrate that while migrants' attitudes towards their host country become more positive, they still favor their home country more. In-group bias, influenced by culture and race, is a significant factor affecting the well-being of migrants' lives. The increase in the number of migrants suggests that migration provides better living conditions; however, in-group bias negatively affects the attitudes of migrants towards their host country. By understanding in-group bias, researchers can strive to reduce in-group bias and promote the well-being of all individuals, regardless of their background. Even if this study tries to prevent self-report bias when designing the questionnaire, the extent is still limited. Since this experimenting method could be biased, this paper needs to construct a better approach for conducting this experiment. To reveal the real internal tendency of participants, an implicit experiment may be a better test. In future studies, researchers can focus on and involve the influence of race, culture and the extent of inclusiveness for immigrants in the host country or the local community. In addition, researchers can also study the reciprocal of the topic of this research which is the change in attitudes towards migrants. For instance, many articles mentioned that German's attitude toward immigrants vary from welcoming to restricting.

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