

# Abstract

Causal attribution of perceived discrimination and indirect contacts at part-time work environment : A Case of Chinese students at Japanese language schools and Chinese foreign students

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The first purpose of this study is to investigate the relationship between causal attribution of perceived discrimination by Japanese people and indirect contact of Chinese students at Japanese language schools and Chinese Foreign students. The second purpose is to perform a comparison of Japanese language school students and foreign students.

This paper was composed with 9 chapters. From chapter1 to chapter4 is literature review. Chapter5 to 8 is empirical analysis and chapter9 is overall discussion.

In the first chapter, push and pull factors which affected Chinese foreign students studying in Japan were reviewed. As push and pull factors, there are some policies and systems, improvement of intention of studying abroad, and some environments which helps Chinese people to go study abroad .It was shown that the number of Chinese foreign students will increase in the future.

In the second chapter, a transition of the foreign students in Japan and enrollment status and the part-time job status of privately financed foreign students were described. In addition, transition of the number of Chinese foreign students at Japanese language school, which number is the biggest among other foreign countries, and international students in Japan, their enrollment status and their part-time job status. In particular, for the part-time job status, which is the foundation of life of Chinese students, were similar and differ between Chinese students at Japanese language schools and Chinese foreign students. It was found that Chinese foreign students are more mentally and economically stable than Chinese students at Japanese language schools.

In chapter3, psychological problems that arise when Japanese people and Chinese international students in Japan have cross-cultural contact were overviewed. It was found that specific psychological problem has occurred in Chinese foreign students such as perceived discrimination by Japanese people at their part-time job environment. The sense of being discriminated has a negative impact on the image of Japan and cross-cultural adaptation; therefore, it can be said that reducing prejudice and discrimination in Japanese society is needed.

In chapter4, causal attribution theory, contact hypothesis theory, and indirect contact hypothesis theory as theories related to prejudice and discrimination were overviewed. It has been

described that indirect contact hypothesis theory and causal attribution theory are effective to reduce perceived discrimination by Japanese people considering how Japanese people and Chinese students contact each other at part-time job environment. In this review, these theoretical frameworks were referred. The purpose of this study is to compare between Chinese students at Japanese language schools and Chinese foreign students, and based on the purpose, the research agenda of this study was set.

In chapter5 (research1), it was analyzed how Chinese students at Japanese language schools in Japan feel the categories and causal attributions of discrimination at their part-time work environment. This research is based on a questionnaire where they give short answers and analyzed in the KJ method. This study shows that Chinese students at Japanese language schools in Japan feel discriminated against by Japanese in the categories of “by Boss”, “by Co-Workers” and “by Customers.” Moreover, the Chinese students tend to attribute the reason for the discrimination to the categorization, such as “Individuals of Foreigners/Chinese”, “Groups of Foreigners/Chinese”, “Japanese individuals”, “Japanese groups”, and “Cultural difference”. Also their specific situations and causalities depend on whether or not they have close Japanese friends; they feel discriminated against by their boss, and by their co-workers and customers.

In chapter6 (research2), the relationship between causal attribution of perceived discrimination by Japanese people and indirect contact of Chinese students at Japanese language schools by using a scenario method was investigated. From the case of a feeling of discrimination occurring in the part-time job obtained in Chapter 5, I have set two scenarios (Scenario A and Scenario B) which were thought as typical situation. By factor analysis, it was found that the causal attribution of perceived discrimination by Japanese bosses displayed in-group favoritism (Scenario A). Also, the scene recognition and mismatch of passengers due to cultural differences between Chinese and Japanese hospitality (Scenario B) showed “out-group,” “in-group self,” “in-group others,” “fortuity” causal attribution of perceived discrimination. In addition, indirect contact with Japanese people was showed as four factors: “self-disclosure,” “positive intergroup norms,” “intergroup anxiety,” and “intergroup relief.” Moreover, the relationship between the indirect contact and attribution of the cause of the feeling of being discriminated against in the part-time work environment showed that “the number of Japanese friends” and “positive intergroup norms” were positively related to the “out-group” factor. It was found that when Chinese students don’t have a good relationship with Japanese people and when Chinese students have not many Japanese friends, Chinese students tend to be prejudiced toward Japanese people which in the causation of higher level of perceived discrimination by Japanese people at their part-time work environment. In the present study, in order to reduce the feeling of discrimination in the part-time work environment, it was found that having more Japanese friends and building positive relationships with Japanese people is important.

In chapter7 (research3), the relationship between causal attribution of perceived discrimination by Japanese people and indirect contact of Chinese foreign students using a scenario method was investigated. I was used as a theoretical framework and scenario scene similar to that of Chapter6 (research 2). By factor analysis, the causal attribution perceived discrimination by Japanese bosses displaying in-group favoritism (Scenario A) were “out-group,” “in-group self,” “in-group others,” and “fortuity.” The scene recognition and mismatch of passengers due to cultural differences between Chinese and Japanese hospitality (Scenario B) were “out-group,” “in-group self,” “in-group others,” “cultural” and “fortuity.” In addition, indirect contact with Japanese people was showed as four factors “self-disclosure,” “positive intergroup norms,” “intergroup anxiety,” and “indirect relationship.” It was found that when Chinese foreign students do not have a good relationship with Japanese people and higher age students, Chinese students tend to feel being more prejudiced by Japanese people at their part-time work environment.

In chapter8 (research4), causal attribution of perceived discrimination by Japanese people and indirect contact of Chinese students at Japanese language schools and Chinese foreign students were compared. Results were analyzed by using multiple regression analysis. As a result, the importance of school education in China and the importance of having a friend of the Japanese for the Chinese students at Japanese language schools became clear. For Chinese foreign students, the difference due to age differences was observed. In particular, it was found that the relationship between Japanese people and higher age foreign students are important and need to be more focused on foreign students’ adaption to Japanese society.

In chapter9, the results of empirical studies described above were comprehensively discussed. It is overviewed how supports should be based on the principles of community psychology considering the characteristics of Chinese students at Japanese language schools and Chinese foreign students.