

# **Cultural Differences in Foreign Language Learning Attitudes**

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The importance of developing cultural and foreign language fluency as one goal of international communication in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is well acknowledged. It is a common phenomenon across the world for international students to learn language(s) in addition to their mother tongue. Tertiary education institutes are aiming at providing opportunities to support international students' language development. A critical element to make language programmes successful is the choice of instructional strategies to facilitate learning process. Many researches were aimed at investigating factors in second language success. However, due to cultural differences, research findings in Western cultures may not be applicable to non-Western cultures. For example Chan, Spratt and Humphreys (2002) suggested that Asian learners are different from their western peers with respect to autonomy. Yu and Watkins (2008) also found significant differences between Western and Asian student groups in terms of motivational variables and second language proficiency. This study aimed at Chinese students' foreign language learning attitudes. Results will have pedagogical implications on language programme development.

## **Key Words**

Foreign language learning, language learning attitudes, cultural differences