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о диссертации Ли Цзыбо (Li Zibo) «Сравнительный анализ процессов адаптации Китайских студентов, обучающихся в России и Южной Корее» («Chinese students in Russia and South Korea: comparative analysis of adaptation processes»), представленной на соискание степени магистра по основной образовательной программе высшего образования по направлению 040100 «Социология», профиль «Европейские общества» / MA «Studies in European Societies»

A core claim of sociological theory is that modern institutions matter when there is a task to explore adaptation processes of migrants. It is really important to observe and to find out how formal and informal institutions specify reality of everyday life of new-comers.

The paper prepared by Li Zibo, a Chinese student, as a finale of his studying sociology in the framework of MA Program at St Petersburg State University, deals with a comparative analysis of adaptation processes of Chinese students in everyday life of Russia and Korea.

The author begins with this question: how culture distance affects adaptation of students studying abroad from the perspectives of socio-cultural adaptation and psychological adaptation?

His general objective is to understand the conditions, institutions and mechanisms under which different cultural groups of students find their passes in the international by definition higher educational milieu. Specifically, he tries to explain the conditions under which Chinese find their “advantages” and “disadvantages” for adaptation in Russia and Korea.

The core premise asserted by Li Zibo is that the larger culture distance will result in greater cross-cultural adaptation difficulties. He uses both qualitative (interview) and quantitative (survey) methods to check the validity of the hypothesis.

As both a participant in and observer of this sociological journey, Li Zibo presents quite a professional account on comparative analysis of adaptation processes of international students in everyday life of St Petersburg.

The paper is written in accessible language, terminology is clearly explained, and concepts are illustrated with examples from everyday life of Chinese students as well as multiple field

research data. Each section of the dissertation includes the main body that introduces, discusses, and summarizes its theme.

The outcomes of the field research organized and conducted by Li Zibo are sound and valid. He summarizes his research findings in five propositions:

1. The culture distance between China and Russia is larger than that between China and Korea.
2. The Chinese students in South Korea socio-culturally and psychologically adapt to the host culture better than the Chinese students in Russia.
3. The Chinese students both in South Korea and Russia maintain a healthy psychological state.
4. In socio-cultural adaptation, a larger culture distance results in a more difficult adaptation for Chinese students. The correlation between culture distance and socio-cultural adaptation difficulty is positive.
5. There is no significant correlation between culture distance and psychological adaptation.

It was my great pleasure to work with Li Zibo who produced a well-written and clearly organized dissertation that I assess *very high* and recommend it for a public defense in the State Committee.

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