

Beyond War and Beyond Student Disengagement: A general education approach to engaging students



F. Dan Richard
Dong-Yuan (Debbie) Wang
Douglas Eder



Culture and Thinking



Transformation



Proverbs

A = Sum of points for Qs #1,3,4,5

B = Sum of points for Qs #2,6,7,8

If $A > B$, you are Blue Group

If $B > A$, you are Purple Group

Proverb Scoring

Blue = Dialectical
Purple = Non-dialectical

Proverb Identification

1. Sorrow will pay no debt. **Non-D**
2. There is nothing permanent
except change. **D**
3. No answer is also an answer. **D**
4. Will is the cause of woe. **Non-D**

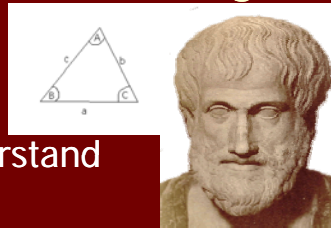
Proverb Generation

Each group, please generate two proverbs of your type, D or Non-D.

Cultural Differences in Reasoning?

■ Westerners

- Relatively constant world
- Understand the part to understand the whole
- **Aristotle**: formal logic resolves contradiction



■ Chinese/East Asians

- **Daoism** (Lao-Zi, Yin/Yang): constantly changing world, everything is connected
- **Confucius**: doctrine of the mean, middle-of-road approach



Analytical vs. Holistic Thinking

- Westerners tend to process information in an analytic, **feature-based** style (differentiate the object from the whole field and to study it and its relation to the others)
- Chinese/East Asians attends to the perceptual and cognitive **field** as a whole and process information in a **holistic**, contextual fashion

Beyond War: Culture and Cognition

- Began preparations in Fall 2005
- Course preparation Trip in Summer 2006
- Offered 6 hour course Spring 2007
 - 20 Students
 - 10 to China, 10 to Japan
 - Conducted Psychological Research in China, Japan, and the US (Jacksonville, FL)
 - Combined their experiences and data to present their research to the UNF Community

Hypotheses

Peng & Nisbett's Replication

- In resolving conflicts, East Asians more than Westerners should support compromise.

Gilovich (1981) Extension

- East Asians should polarize in conflict resolution responses when the scenario includes references to the Second China-Japan War (WWII) than when these references are removed.

International Conflict Resolution

Each group resolve its conflict
from its own perspective:

Blue = Dialectical

Purple = Non-dialectical

Review your own group's generated proverbs and
approach conflict resolution from that perspective.

Transformational Learning

- "After taking this course I know so much about different cultures that I would have not known otherwise. One of the things that is engrained in my brain is that China and Japan are nothing alike. It not only was [it] a hardcore psychology class, it was a history, research methods, and language course. It was very hard to get through but in the end I can not be more grateful for...this class."

Transformational Learning

- "Although I am ashamed to admit this, I used to stereotype Japanese, Chinese, and Koreans into the same lump culture. However after visiting Japan and speaking in depth with students who traveled to China, I have grown to appreciate the differences between these two distinct cultures."
- "Visiting the Peace museum in Hiroshima will be something I carry with me for the rest of my life. I can not express how affected I was by the experience. Seeing actual artifacts of the impact of nuclear weapons has a much greater meaning than any pictures in a textbook or footage on a television. I am certainly not a pacifist, but I have a new found appreciation for peace."



Acknowledgements

UNF

David Jaffee
Mauricio Gonzalez
Minor Chamblin
Marnie Jones
Tim Robbins, Jill New

Dale Clifford, History
Henry Rothschild, History
Sasha Milicevic, Sociology
John Maraldo, Philosophy
John Eisler, Psychology
Kaoru Avery

China

Beijing: Mr. Guo [Justin],
Catherine, Vincent from BISU
Xi'an: Profs. Dong & Feng, SNNU;
Wen Ying Huang (Lucy) SISU
Nanjing: Profs. Jiang & Zhang,
Nanjing University

Japan

Tokyo: Dr. Kazuhiko Yokosawa,
University of Tokyo, Akio
Nishimura, Jin HuiShu, Ai
Koizumi
Kyoto: Dr. Akiyoshi Kitaoka,
Ritsmeikan University Yusuke
Makamura, Katsuhirō Inoue