

Diploma thesis: Integration of foreign students in the Czech public higher education: difficulties and opportunities

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It is a well known fact that the world is connected and people migrate. The diploma theme is interesting because young foreign students are in two new situations – they are university students plus they are in a foreign country.

Theoretical part

The theoretical part contains all necessary information about migration, acculturation process and prevention of an acculturative stress.

This part is full of interesting and useful information. I would suggest few minor changes.

I appreciate that a student wrote exact numbers of foreign students in the CZ. Unfortunately there is not a description of where these foreigners come from originally. It is quite different if foreigners are from Slovakia, other slovanian countries or totally different ones.

I am missing the studies about acculturation or acculturation stress of foreign students or foreigners who moved to CZ. *Can the author add this information?*

I would change the structure of the chapters: I do not understand why cultural shock is explained before acculturation process when in acculturation process is a subchapter about acculturative stress. Also, the acculturative curve is in the fifth chapter when acculturation process is in the fourth chapter.

A little preface in the beginnings of all chapters would be suitable. But it is a detail and probably just my own personal need.

Empirical part

Empirical part consists of results gathered by qualitative and quantitative research methods. These results are interesting and can help us to understand the situations of newcomers students.

There are presented three research questions in the beginning: 1. Do the international students with a longer length of stay adjust differently from the students who had just arrived in the Czech Republic? 2. Does a stress level in those two groups of students differ? If yes, what are the main reasons for this difference? 3. What are the key steps of the successful adjustment of the international students in the Czech Republic?

I have a few problems with the first research questions:

- I do not find a reason why there are two groups. This is not a typical feature for a qualitative research. The goal of a qualitative research usually is to gather as most homogenic data as possible. We can read the difference between these two groups in some research themes further in analysis but not in all of them. This seems challenging for good understanding of the text. *Does the author have some empirical evidence that this research process is all right (that this kind of research process is used in other researches)?*
- The description of two groups is further in the text. Group of the students “who had just arrived” – is meant who arrived up to a year ago. In my opinion it could be a very diverse group. Maybe it would be better not to use terms “who just arrived”.

- I think that these two groups have a different experience – they are in a different situation. I would suggest changing the research question to be more accurate.

There is a lack of information about participants in the study and the process of gathering the data: *1. Why are there 36 students and 8 students? Why exactly these numbers? 2. Why are they from Post-Soviet states only? 3. How did the author find these students?*

I would appreciate the list of questions in interviews, it would help the readers to understand the research process. I am confused with this sentence: “Those respondents were asked research questions about their arrival to the host country” (p. 31). A researcher do not usually ask research question, research question is in the mind of researcher who has a list of questions asked in interviews. Also, in some themes there are parts of the interviews whereas it could be interpreted more.

We can read in the summary that there are two predictors of future adjustment to the larger society. In my opinion, we can hardly talk about predictors in the qualitative research.

I did not find any *limitations of the study*. *Can the author of the study tell us few?*

I wrote few questions to the text. They are written in *italics*.

Despite of all above mentioned problems, I recommend the diploma thesis for an oral defense.

In Prague, 8. 1. 2021

Radka High