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Cross-cultural Adaptation in the U.S.of Students in Chinese-Foreign Higher Education Cooperation Program from Anhui Province of China: A Research Design

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Abstract

This article presents the research design of a study on cross-cultural adaptation in the U.S.of students in Chinese-Foreign Higher Education Cooperation Program from Anhui Province of China.The author uses case study as the design of this qualitative research.With a presentation of the population and sample ,it followed by a describing of the instruments and data analysis method.

Keywords

Cross-cultural adaptation(CCA); Chinese-foreign Higher Education Cooperation Program(CFHECP); Qualitative research; Case study; Nvivo software.

1. Introduction

Research approach, often called a research “lens” (Creswell, 2018). Qualitative approach attaches great importance to the individual’s or group’s perspective of the problem, and emphasizes both the in-depth & detailed description(Patric, 2019) and analysis of social problem/phenomenon from the micro perspective, which can express a problem/phenomenon to readers and help them understand its significance in-depth.In this study, CFHECP students make up the“group.”The“social problem/phenomenon" to be explored is the CCA of CFHECP students,and I focus on the CFHECP students' experiences of CCA,especially the process called acculturation,that is just the process and the experience,therefore,I choose qualitative as my research approach.What’s more, it focuses on CFHECP in Anhui Province of China,which is a particular program from similar education programs.Thus,for this research, the method of case study has its unique application and productivity.

2. Research Design

Firstly, case study is the exploration of a phenomenon in the real environment. The boundary between the phenomenon studied and its situation is blurred and cannot be peeled off (Merriam, 2018).Secondly, the micro situational data in case studies can mirror the macro social environment. With the help of the macro environmental factors, the data in the case can be understood, and the macro social problems and phenomena can be reflected through the case studies(Yin, 2018). Thirdly,in the analytical summary, theory plays an important role because being as a foundation or template , theory used as compared with the case tool, but also constitute the premise of the development of the new or expanding theories .The analytical generalization in case study is "theoretical generalization ", while the case is extrapolated according to its logical relevance or theoretical significance.

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3. Population and Sample

Purposeful sampling can provide samples of greater relevance for research and is likely to provide the most valuable data. (Marshall, Cardon, Poddar, & Fontenot,2019), therefore, this study choose to use purposeful sampling. The following is a table to show the preliminary list of participants using purposeful sampling.

Table 1. The preliminary list of participants

No.	Name	Gender	Position
A	Lin	F	CFHECP students in the 3rd academic year of Program a.
B	Zhao	F	CFHECP students in the 4th academic year of Program a.
C	Yang	M	CFHECP students in the 3rd academic year of Program b.
D	Feng	F	CFHECP students in the 4th academic year of Program b.
E	Wei	M	CFHECP students in the 3rd academic year of of Program c.
F	Tian	M	CFHECP students in the 4th academic year of Program c.
G	Dr.Pan	M	Expert of Program a in China.
H	Ms.Han	F	Teacher of Program b from China.
I	Ms.Arlene	F	Teacher of Program c from U.S.

4. Instruments

The choice of instruments is mainly based on the theory and data needed in the research questions(Steven ,2016).The instruments of data collection to be determined in this study mainly stems from the fact that the data to be acquired by the research tool is qualitative data. First of all, a large number of questions involved in the study can only be obtained through interviews, which are typical qualitative data. Then I will take a semi-structured interview approach and add follow-up questions that I can ask during the interviews, as to the interview protocols – interview questions will be validated by experts in the field and pilot study will be carried out to confirm clarity of all interview questions.

5. Data Collection and Analysis

My procedures lay out, step by step, how I will conduct my research. It's imperative that this is well thought out, presented, and followed to ensure the credibility and transferability of this research. Data will be collected through methods of semi-structured interviews and programme documents and official reports. Qualitative data involves words instead of numbers and statistics that are used in quantitative analysis. It is easy to understand communicable words; however, words can be unclear and challenging to compare objectively (Dworkin, 2017). As a result, qualitative inquiry requires careful listening to and reflection upon how individuals extract and express meaning from experience and their use of language to describe that meaning over time. I will adopt the Three-level Coding:(1) Open Coding;(2) Axial Coding;(3) Selective Coding. Meanwhie, Nvivo 12 will be used since in Nvivo codes are referred to as nodes, which will help me to make sense of the participants' responses and help me to interpret their meaning.

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6. Conclusion

Qualitative research focuses on the dynamic changes in the development of things under natural circumstances. This characteristic is consistent with the fact that researchers have a dynamic grasp and analysis of the cognitive changes occurring in the whole process both at the beginning and at the end of learning. Sample of a small number can be selected for qualitative research, which is more suitable for the analysis of certain process. The effectiveness of extrapolation does not depend on the representativeness of the case, but on the quantity of theoretical reasoning. At this point, adopting case study as my research design will provide help for studying on the CCA of students from CFHECP.

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