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**The Definitions of Success between
Taiwanese and American Culture**

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The Definitions of Success between Taiwanese and American Culture

I have decided to write about the differences and similarity between Taiwanese and American cultures since I had several online connections with the American students and I am interested in these aspects. The one I take interest in the most is the definition of success since they are quite different. The definitions of success between both cultures were based on our discussions. After having connections with the Americans, I was able to understand their viewpoints and relate them to the theories of Hofstede and the video I watched in class.

I think the definition of success of Taiwanese viewpoints are more related to ethical and mental aspects, which is different from those of Americans. The first definition of success of Taiwanese is to be passionate about life. People think if they are not passionate about life, they won't be happy and will not take interest in anything they do. Moreover, they might mess everything up since they don't make an effort. Therefore, being passionate is crucial since it's the key point to make people be interested in what they do. Taiwanese people also hope others to enjoy the process since they belong to the type of collectivism, and people will be affected by others. The second definition is to be happy. Being happy is important because if people are not happy, they will find it boring and a waste of time to live in the world. Furthermore, the mood of happiness is also contagious. If people around you are happy, you will also become happier even if you are encountered with some failures or bad things. Nonetheless, if people around you are not happy and just complain about everything again and again, it will be tiring and it's a waste of energy to be with that kind of person. Hence, happiness is really important since it will affect other people and influence things to be better or worse. It's also because Taiwanese people think mental health is crucial. If people have everything they want but are not happy, then it doesn't count to be successful.

The third one is do what you love and love what you do. Adults often tell children about it and it's lucky for people to do what you love since you will probably

find it interesting no matter what you are asked to do. Taiwanese people think it's crucial to find something you love and to be persistent in it. If people are rich or famous, but don't love what they do, then it's not success. However, most people are not that lucky. And it's crucial to love what you do because it's the only method and most important way to make you become passionate about life. It's not easy to be happy if you don't like what you do, and it's tiring enough to do something you don't like. Hence, if people can love what they do in life, it means they are successful. The fourth one is to try your best and be persistent. Taiwanese people often tell others never give up, should always try their best and make an effort no matter what they do because it's a way to show respect to people and to the thing they are doing. It's also a way to show a sense of responsibility. It can be related to the power theory of the video "Cross-Cultural Communication: How Culture Affects Communication? Learn to Socialize with Others." Taiwanese people belong to face-saving type, which means they are not allowed to admit being wrong, making mistakes in public or giving up since they feel it's like an embarrassment and humiliation. Moreover, being persistent is important because it's the only method for people to be successful. If people give up when they are encountered with some challenges or failures, they might feel more frustrated if they don't possess the personality trait of persistence. Hence, Taiwanese people think they shouldn't just quit when they haven't achieved their goals or accomplishments. The next definition of success is to possess high moral standards. It's important since if people don't possess high moral standards, the society might be a little messy and people won't help each other. People shouldn't just care about themselves. If people are successful in their career, studies or achievement, but are not moral, then they are not successful in life. It's also identical to the theories of collectivism that Hofstede mentioned. Taiwanese people belong to the collectivism type, and they think it's important to contribute to society if they have the ability to do so. The other definition is Taiwanese people also think getting married and having children are equally important since the traditional idea is for people to establish a family and to have children, so that there will be people to carry on the family name. Hence, it's one of the standards for Taiwanese people to judge people whether they are successful or not.

Compared to the opinions, how Americans define success is quite different from Taiwanese perspectives. For instance, Americans think having a stable job is the most important way to define success. It's because they think a stable job can help them

pay the rent fee or tuition. Moreover, they also think it's crucial to have the ability to buy a car or a house since it will prove they are rich enough to afford that. Therefore, I think it indicates that the Americans belong to the type of materialism. Although there are quite a few differences between these two cultures, there are still one similarity, which is for people to meet someone they love, get married and have children. People who establish a family will be viewed as successful people because they think it's the accomplishment of life.

All in all, there are differences between how Taiwanese and Americans define success. The difference is that Taiwanese people think mental aspects are more important because they care about other people as well. Moreover, the moral standards are significant since they care about the opinions of others. However, Americans think materialistic aspects are more crucial and they tend to judge whether a person is successful or not in terms of money, house, car, and so on. I think there are several major reasons of the differences. The first one is collectivism and individualism. Taiwanese people belong to the type of collectivism, which means they are group-oriented. They care about how people think about them, and value social structures. Hence, they tend to hide their own emotions and avoid talking about money, houses, cars and materialistic concepts in public. They think it's crucial to be obedient and to improve the mental aspects, instead of thinking about how to be richer. That is also the reason why Taiwanese people keep talking about the importance of possessing high moral standards. They also think one can't be considered a successful person if they don't help people and contribute to society even if they are rich and are respected in careers. On the contrary, Americans belong to the type of individualism, and they value individuals more than groups or other people. Hence, they care about how to earn more money and how to improve their lives. They also think a successful person needs to be rich, powerful, and independent. Hence, they think self-interests are prior to group interests. In spite of the differences, the most obvious similarity of the definition between two cultures is to get married and have children, who will carry the family name and it means an achievement of life.

In conclusion, how Taiwanese people and Americans define success is quite different. The most important thing for Taiwanese people is to be happy and to be passionate about what you do. It's even more crucial to possess high moral standards so that the society will be better. Moreover, it's equally important to make an effort

and be persistent no matter what the result is. The most significant thing is not to be proud while being successful. However, Americans think being successful is to have the ability to afford luxurious houses, fancy cars and expensive food. They also care about self-interests than others. Hence, it points out the different types. According to Hofstede, Taiwanese people value collectivism, and they think the opinions of others are crucial. They think group is prior to individuals. Furthermore, they value power structure and fear humiliation, which means they are face-saving type. Taiwanese people also value mental aspects. On the other hand, Americans are more materialistic and they belong to the type of individualism. They think self-interests are prior to group-interests. Moreover, they are not worried about making mistakes in public since the power structure isn't that obvious in the American society. Hence, the personalities and social concepts are crucial factors that influence the opinions of people from these two cultures. I learned a lot during the various online connections with American students. From the viewpoints, we can understand the definitions of success between two cultures. Taiwanese people value mental and moral aspects, while Americans think the materialistic concepts are more significant.

Works Cited

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