

MIGRATING AWAY

I began my PIP with the interest in comparing my personal experiences as a Vietnamese-Australian with others. Through my investigation, I have developed an insight into the cultural forces that have shaped not only my personal and cultural identity but also the future of traditional Vietnamese way of life within Australia. Through culmination of both private and public knowledge, I have found that the Vietnamese are not becoming vastly individualistic within a western host country.

Although it is evident that the Vietnamese changed in order to successfully assimilate into Australia, they did not allow Western culture to completely overwhelm their own way of life. They conducted the process of syncretism where certain aspects of Australian culture were selected and integrated into their culture. This allowed Australian Vietnamese to retain their core values. However it is undeniable that there is a growing influence of Western culture on the traditional collective nature of Vietnamese culture within Australia. This will cause an increasing shift towards individualism with every generation.

My hypothesis was only able to be tested through the successful implementation of primary and secondary research. There are an abundant number of research materials on Individualism-Collectivism on a wide range of academic fields. This required me to carefully organise and compile information from various sources that were relevant to my topic. It was through the work of others that I was able to establish a sense of direction in addition to a theoretical framework for my PIP.

Through conducting my primary research, I was able to test the work of others in my micro world. The questionnaire I conducted was efficient in obtaining a large number of quantitative data which allowed me to effectively compare results across the two cultural groups. It was successful in providing me with insight into how changes in the micro world reflected those in the macro world. If this was to be redone, I would increase the sample size to 100 and distribute the survey to a wider range of individuals.

Additionally, the semi-structured interview I conducted provided me with a wide range of responses that mirrored the results of the questionnaire. There were effective in collecting qualitative data that allowed me to develop different personal insights into my topic. If I had to redo this methodology again, I would increase the number of interviewees to obtain a wider range of responses and increase the reliability of responses.

Looking back upon my investigation, I have become a more socio-culturally literate individual. The process of conducting both primary and secondary methodologies has enabled me to improve my communication skills as well as allowed me to become a more effective and ethical researcher. By personally engaging with my participants, I have been able to empathise with people of different cultures and hence become more aware of my personal and cultural identity. Testing my hypothesis has developed my understanding of the implications of continuity and change for the future of the Vietnamese culture within Australia.