

A Study on Communication Anxiety Among the Chinese Languages Learners in Sri Lanka

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In recent years, due to China's rapid development of economic and comprehensive international cooperation, China has rapidly become the focus of the world in order to enhance good diplomatic relationships and trade exchange partnerships. Therefore, more and more Sri Lankan students are motivated to learn Chinese language because of its necessity in contemporary Sri Lankan society. This study mainly focuses on exploring the factors which may influence the Chinese language communication anxiety and the countermeasures to develop the communication competency of the learner. This quantitative research study comprises of 45 first year students engaged in learning Chinese language at the University of Kelaniya. The data were collected using questionnaire and interview. It can be concluded that new teaching strategies such as group activities, practical classroom sessions (e.g. language camps and educational trips with Chinese natives, playing Chinese word games) and daily activities such as motivate the students to listen to Chinese music and watch Chinese movies should be arranged in order to reduce the communication anxiety. In addition, during classroom sessions it is important for the teacher to communicate in Chinese language. Usage of facial expressions and body language to reduce the students' anxiety is also recommended. This enhances the Chinese language teaching and learning effectiveness.

Keywords: Anxiety, communication, Chinese language as a foreign language