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Power dynamics with international students : from the perspective of domestic students in Korean higher education

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Abstract

This paper explored the power dynamics between domestic and international students in the context of higher education in an Asian non-English speaking country, Korea. Despite increased international student mobility in recent years, little is known about the relationship dynamics among students from different countries, especially related to power issues. The findings in this study suggested that international students' countries of origin and language of communication created different power statuses compared to Korean students by their empowerment and discrimination. Power differentials also existed among Korean students due to variations in their English ability to interact with international students. Conversely, international students' attitudes and acceptance influenced Korean students' attitudes toward them, irrespective of power differentials created by countries and language, as perceived by Korean students. The implications related to the recent trend of international student mobility are discussed. (HRK / Abstract übernommen) Jon, Jae-Eun, E-Mail: jejon@korea.ac.kr