

Different Cultures, Different Communication Styles: Dating Interaction in Australian and Chinese TV Dating Shows

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Abstract : Dating interaction between males and females remains an interesting and mysterious event, particularly in different cultural contexts. This paper focuses on a comparative study of different communication styles males and females use while engaged in dating interaction in the Australian and Chinese contexts. Using communication accommodation theory (CAT) as an analytical framework, the researcher studies how the Australian males and females used a generally different communication style in an Australian dating show (Married at First Sight) than that used by their Chinese counterparts in a Chinese one (你是一切的, You Are the One). Based on the qualitative data analysis through NVivo 12 as a research tool, the researcher finds that Australian males and females generally use a divergent communication style characterized by self-orientation, directness, and confrontation, while Chinese counterparts use a convergent communication style characterized by other-orientation, indirectness, and non-confrontation. The researcher concludes with two possible reasons behind the similar TV dating event but with different dramas. One is due to different cultures with varying styles of communication, and the other is because of different drama effect designs suitable for different audience expectations in different cultural contexts.

Keywords : communication styles, cultural contexts, face-to-face interaction, TV dating.

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