

Writing across academic cultures and Japanese student diaspora

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This paper will look at what it means for students who cross cultures and who are subsequently confronted with new writing tasks in an overseas setting. Focusing on Japanese students as an example of a small but growing group of students from Asia who study in Australia, I will firstly evaluate previous research studies which have compared English and Japanese academic student writing as well as Japanese L2 writers of English, and will then introduce some new research perspectives being pursued by the members of this panel on Transitions Across Cultures. I propose that we need more comparative studies of student writing in different academic cultures and more studies on the transition or developmental processes of students participating in an L2 academic culture. I will also consider some broader issues, including the notion of intellectual styles and academic paradigms.

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