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Comparative Study of the Trajectories of Chinese International Students who Graduated from Japanese Universities and Australian Universities

Dissertation Outline

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In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the number of Chinese students graduating from overseas universities and returning to China. Japan and Australia are two popular study destinations for Chinese students, attracting a large number of them to study and work there. As a result, the trajectories of Chinese international students have garnered attention. This research aims to compare the decision-making processes and development trajectories of Chinese students who graduated from Japanese universities and Australian universities, specifically in three key stages: choosing a study destination, selecting a workplace, and planning for their future. To achieve this goal, this dissertation consists of 7 chapters.

In Chapter 1, the background of the study was introduced, including the rationale for selecting Chinese students as the research target. The trajectory of international students was also discussed, with a focus on Chinese international students who studied in Japan and Australia. To achieve the research objectives, the study was divided into two parallel research streams, one focusing on those who worked in the host country after graduation, and another targeting those who worked in China. Ultimately, the study aimed to determine the characteristics of trajectories of Chinese international students who graduated from Japanese and Australian universities and the factors influencing their decision-making processes through the findings.

In Chapter 2, a literature review was conducted to examine the development and status of Chinese students studying abroad. The focus was on Chinese students in Japan and Australia, including the reasons for choosing these countries as study destinations, and the factors influencing their decisions to work and stay in the host country after

graduation. In addition, previous studies related to Chinese returnees were summarized, including the motivations for returning to China and their employment situations. The literature review culminated in a theoretical construct that underpinned the research framework of the study.

Chapter 3 introduces the theoretical construct, research framework, and methodology of the study. The push-pull theory, human capital theory, and life planning model are used to establish the research framework. A mixed-method approach is employed, combining questionnaires and semi-structured interviews. The chapter also outlines the reasons for choosing an explanatory sequential design, the survey period, sampling method, and the demographic characteristics of study participants.

Chapter 4 and 5 present parallel research in this study. Chapter 4 focuses on stayers, who worked in Japan and Australia after graduating from universities in the host country. It includes a comparison of the reasons for choosing Japan and Australia as their study destinations, working there, and staying in the host country. Chapter 5 targets returnees, who worked in a company in China. It compares the reasons for returning from Japan and Australia and for working in a Chinese company. This chapter also investigates the major contributions and challenges faced by returnees in the workplace. These chapters aim to identify the characteristics of trajectories of Chinese international students who graduated from Japanese and Australian universities and determine the factors that influenced their decision-making and, thus, their trajectories.

Chapter 6 conducts a comparative study between individuals who worked in the host country and those who worked in China to explore their characteristics. The questionnaire design categorizes their characteristics into gender, age, highest degree obtained in the host country, and major. Through comparison, this chapter aims to reveal the differences between those who worked in Japan and those who graduated from Japanese universities and worked in China, as well as the differences between those who worked in Australia and those who graduated from Australian universities and worked in China.

Chapter 7 provides a summary of the significant findings of this study and reflects on the research purpose. The aim is to comprehensively understand studies related to Chinese international students' mobility and their implications for various stakeholders, including Chinese students, the host country's government and companies, the Chinese government and companies, and future research. The chapter highlights the differences between those who worked in the host country and those who worked in China, the factors influencing their decision-making, and the challenges they faced. These findings can inform policies and practices that aim to attract and retain international graduates and facilitate their career development.