The critical study on the internationalization of higher education in Taiwan
Author Background

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Why Taiwan?
In the 1980s and 90s......
Internationalization = Outbound mobility
Internationalization =

Outbound mobility

+ Offering English-taught programs
+ Recruiting Int’l students
+ Publishing papers in int’l journals
+ Signing partnership
+ .......
44,700 (3.33%) foreign students out of 1.3 million HE students

Mainly from Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea and JP

Action Plan for Higher Education Export in 2011
Busy around......
Whose interests are better served?
On internationalization

Definition

Realities: gaps between idea and practice
Exploring the views from faculty and students

➢ To fill a gap between the policy rhetoric and realities

➢ To identify the perceptual gap between what is being said and what is actually happening
DATA

- 52 interviews with academics from various disciplines
- 14 focus groups with 122 students
Results: Faculty’s perspectives
Internationalization = int’l activities/ events/ festivals
Mainly serving institutional needs for performance and accountability
‘Catch-up mentality’
Adverse effects on academic life
‘how to effectively motivate student learning attitudes and to engage them in class discussion and raise meaningful questions even in Chinese….why English for?’
Phenomena of SCI and SSCI publication/citations dominate academic daily talks……
Suspecting the dominant discourse of internationalization to drive out other possibilities that might benefit student learning
‘if we do best in cultivating and educating local talents to contribute to the local society, why not do so? Where are we wrong?’
Beyond foreign language learning and English-taught programs, lack of a curriculum approach for pursuing internationalization
Results:
Students’ perspectives
Characteristics of the participants

- Before college
- During college
- Future career planning
Taking wait-and-see and nothing-to-do-with-me attitudes

Most courses are not related to defining characteristics of curricula internationalization
Discussion
Benefiting better-resourced ones keen to perform well in English-taught programs, SCI/SSCI publications and int’l student recruitment
Benefiting elite group of students who have had their own resources for global mobility
The question of internationalization ‘for what’ and for ‘whom’ arises
Requiring an effective coordination between and among institution, faculty and student aspects in terms of curriculum development, educational quality, program offering, and learning support.
Thinking over how to enhance faculty’s commitment in curricula internationalization for preparing students equipped global competencies and int’l perspectives
All Comments are Welcome!

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