Cultural awareness report
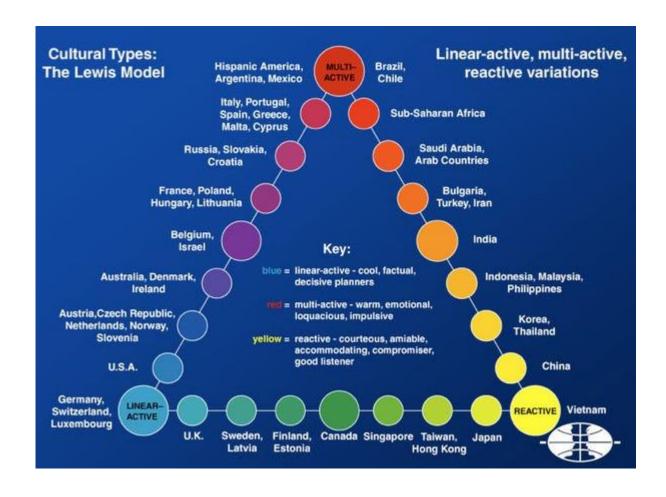
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Cultural interactions

During the group project of this semester, I got into a team with multiple people, one of them being Junjie. Junjie is Chinese and fits the stereotypical Chinese citizen image being created by the Lewis model. Meaning, that he is a very reactive type of person.

In the first year of my studies, I did come across people that would be less talkative or hold themselves back a little. My experience with Junjie was the biggest example of that.

Personally I'm used to saying what I think, speaking up in a group, taking control of a situation and disagreeing with someone to make sure his/her view is well though of. I also act like this when I'm in contact with Junjie.

After our first few conversations (also as a group) I noticed that Junjie does the opposite of what I am used to do. He is very quiet, doesn't react that often and often agrees with me/us without any discussion.

Last year I would see that the more quiet people would open up more during the project since they would start to feel comfortable with the group. I did not yet notice this for Junjie. I'm surprised that he hasn't opened up more yet.

Now that I now that Junjie will open up by himself, I try to stimulate him to talk in the group and share his ideas. I try to do this by asking him for an opinion when he just agrees with us. I feel like this opens the conversation and will help him to be a bigger part of the group.

Group project

In this semesters group project I'm working with a guy from Italy, one from China and 3 from Bulgaria. You can notice some real differences in our cultures as people from Bulgaria and Italy generally lean towards the Multi-active side of the Lewis model, while Dutch people generally are more Linear-active, and China is on the reactive side of the model.

Studying the model made me realize that my way of contacting the group and staying in touch with each other can differ a lot between our members. Like I described in the above section, Junjie can be very quiet. When we are working together on a distance, I try to contact him in such a manner that its easy for him to give a reaction. I try to do this by sending a message to him personally instead of the group, and insisting to contact me if anything is unclear or too hard.

For the other 4 people of the group, they all lean towards the stereotypical type of a Multi-active person. I notice that they are not too bound to time, and schedules. To improve the work we deliver as a group, I often try to suggest meeting times that can be flexible. Next to that I try as hard as I can to not get annoyed when we try to do a meeting and a member is missing since they will be late. Of course when this happens they have updated us on the situation, but this doesn't make it less bothersome for me. This makes it good practice for me to work with people from different cultures.

Lastly, I noticed that whenever I would send a message in the group it would take some time to get a reply from all of our members. This could be an issue when discissions need to be made with all 6 members. As a solution for this, whenever I send something important that I need everyone's opinion on, I send it both in the WhatsApp group and discords, with an @Everyone tag, making sure everyone in the team receives a push notification of the message I send.