

Critical Essay

In the article, *Why Chinese Mothers Are Superior*, the author wants to express the view that the Chinese parents' philosophy of education is better than Western parents' philosophy. According to her points, the difference between Chinese parents and Western parents makes Chinese children more successful than Western children. She gives some arguments to support her opinion.

Firstly, she asserts that Chinese parents raise stereotypically successful kids and produce many math whizzes and music prodigies. I think this argument is not logical and makes a thinking error, HG (hasty generalizations). The standard to determine whether a person is successful includes many aspects. We do not believe that someone is successful just because he is good at math or music. Even if good at math or music is a sign of success, we can't form a conclusion that all or majority of Chinese children are good at math or music.

Secondly, she believes that nothing is fun until you are good at it. This argument also makes a logical thinking error, FA (false alternatives). She involves "either/or" thinking. In accordance with her point, the thing we are good at is fun and the thing we are not good at is not fun. But in real life, we consider that something is fun based on other principles, such as whether it makes me feel happy. Maybe I am not good at football, but I still think it is fun. The author overlooks the alternatives that exist between the extremes of two poles.

Thirdly, the author maintains that parents should override children's preferences because that children on their own never want to work. The argument commits a logical thinking error, SS (slippery slope). At the low age of the children, they may be more eager to play. But as time goes by, they are more responsible and more concerned about their future career. Parents should believe that they can take care of themselves. We can't form the conclusion that children never want to work just because they would rather play when they are very young.

The author advocates that the Chinese parents' philosophy of education is better, but I do not agree with her. She commits a variety of thinking errors and draws a biased conclusion. I hope she can respect her children's individuality, encouraging them to pursue their true passions, supporting their choices. Maybe their choices are unwise in her opinion, but children have the right to make mistakes.