

Professors stereotypes

Unknown words: Belligerent, reliable, clustered, stated, regard, sneaky, free-riding, whiny, readily, wheter.

The article describes a research, it is done in order to determine wheter professors stereotype nonnative english speaking students. The author asked 3 questions: what are some personality characteristics of good students, what are some personality characteristics of bad students?and what are the personality characteristics of foreign students? She found that the characteristics of good students are ones which imply making a choice to perform and adopting routines which further that goal. She also found that bad students choose not to succeed, due to some inherent inability to do good work. Finally when professors answered the last question she found that some professors responded only with the positive values, and others responded only with the negative values. The obvious danger is that professors who believe that foreign students in general are sneaky and lazy will project that image onto students regardless of evidence to the contrary.

The author concludes her study saying that “we must work to move beyond viewing students as Russian students, Taiwanese students, etc. and approach each person as a unique individual and second, members of the ESL profession must take a greater responsibility towards our students, going beyond teaching them listening, reading, speaking, and writing”.

I agree with this and most of the arguments exposed by the author because it is true that professors judge nonnative english speaking students according with their experience and we have to work against the stereotypes.

References

S. Wright. Perceptions and Stereotypes of ESL Students. The Internet TESL Journal, Vol. X, No. 2, February 2004