

Why can aboriginal people get the bonus point in attending the school?



Introduction:

After the Nationalist government retreated to Taiwan, in order to encourage indigenous students to study the Chinese culture (Sinicization), they set up a policy of increasing their score by 25 percent.

After abandoning the martial law, the intention of bonus point turned to be conserving the indigenous culture.

With lifting the law, more and more students are willing to learn and conserve their aboriginal culture. Such a significant outcome that the government decided to add 25 percent to 35 percent bonus points if you passed the indigenous language proficiency test. Meanwhile, if the aboriginal students failed the exam, their bonus score will decrease to 10 percent.

Analogical reasoning:

The reason why the aboriginal people can get the bonus point is that they should spend time on learning their cultures, which may sometimes affect their academic performance in school.

However, for the first reason, we can't exactly tell the difficulty of the exam. Some aboriginal students may easily handle the exam well and get the 35% bonus points. While for some unqualified Mandarin students who have the same ability to

pass the exam of aboriginal languages are unfair to them. Second, for those indigenous students who don't pass the exam but still get the 10% bonus point are still unfair to all Mandarin students. It seems that if you have born in the "right" family then you can get bonus points.

(P1) Both aboriginal and Mandarin students are the examinee of higher education with massive pressure.

(P2) Most Mandarin students have no chance to get bonus point.

(C) In order to be fair, aboriginal students shouldn't get the bonus point as well.

However, the reason why aboriginal get bonus points because they have different pedigree between us. With "right" pedigree and the certification of the aboriginal language exam, the aboriginal students can go to prestigious universities with ordinary grades, while the Mandarin students should pass with flying colors. The obsolete policy has still been existing and kept on causing the quarrel between Mandarin students and aboriginal students.

Cognitive bias:

- (1) Lack resources: Some people may think that Mandarin students have much more resources than aboriginal students. Although it may be somewhat correct, there are still plenty of Mandarin students don't go to cram school and study by themselves. On the other hand, in the past few years, more and more aboriginal people moved to city, which enjoy same resources as the Mandarin students. Moreover, thanks to the high developed technology, knowledge has been quickly spread on the Internet, and students can quickly learn from it, which eases the resources gap between city and suburb.
 - (2) Smart or dumb: Some people may consider that Mandarin students may be smarter than the aboriginal students, judging from both of their performances. However, the fact is that both of us don't have differences in intelligence. There are countless aboriginal students smarter than the Mandarin students. In my humble opinion, the answer of such aforementioned situation is the learning attitude.
 - (3) Underprivileged: Some people may feel superior to them, because we are well-educated. While they are those who don't receive well education. So, it reasonable that we lifted the law to protect them, ensuring them have the chance to be educated.
- Although the result, the policy of bonus point, is the same, the wrong opinion is

to put oil on fire, deteriorating the discrimination between both sides.

- (4) The minority of Mandarin students who are qualified to get bonus point: There are few other Mandarin students who can get the bonus point. For example: the children of diplomat, the retired soldiers, overseas Chinese students, etc. However, we don't usually hear the complain about them. Most headlines are all discussing whether the bonus point for aboriginal students is suitable or not. I think the reason may come from in-group biases; most unqualified Mandarin students protect the one who have same pedigree with us and attack those pedigree who aren't same with us.

The debate:

In this part, I will mention the most constructive argument to support both sides and discuss whether it is validity by using inductive reasoning.

For:

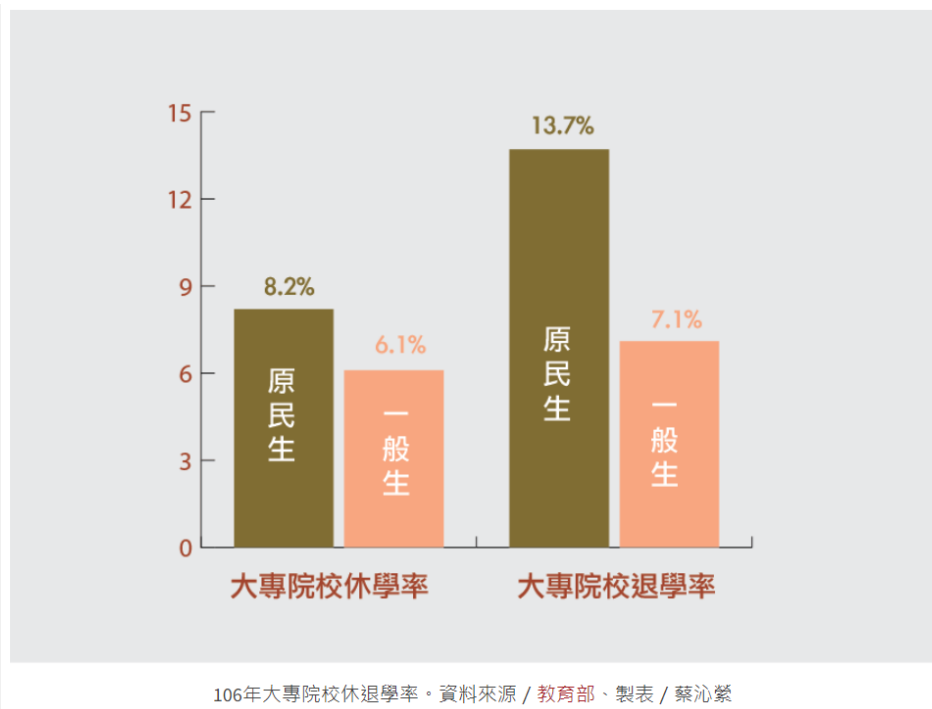
The policy can make the aboriginal students find the motivation to study and have the chance to enhance their social status.

Validity

Although the relationship between bonus point for entering the prestigious universities and enhancing the social status seem close this way, we cannot affirm that there exist validity and soundness. Indeed, there are lots of cases that the bonus point changed the lives of them. Nevertheless, there are plenty of aboriginal students who can't perform the academic well and got dropped out.



28歲的新北市議員馬見，是來自烏來「大羅蘭部落」的泰雅獵人家庭。攝影 / 李婉伶



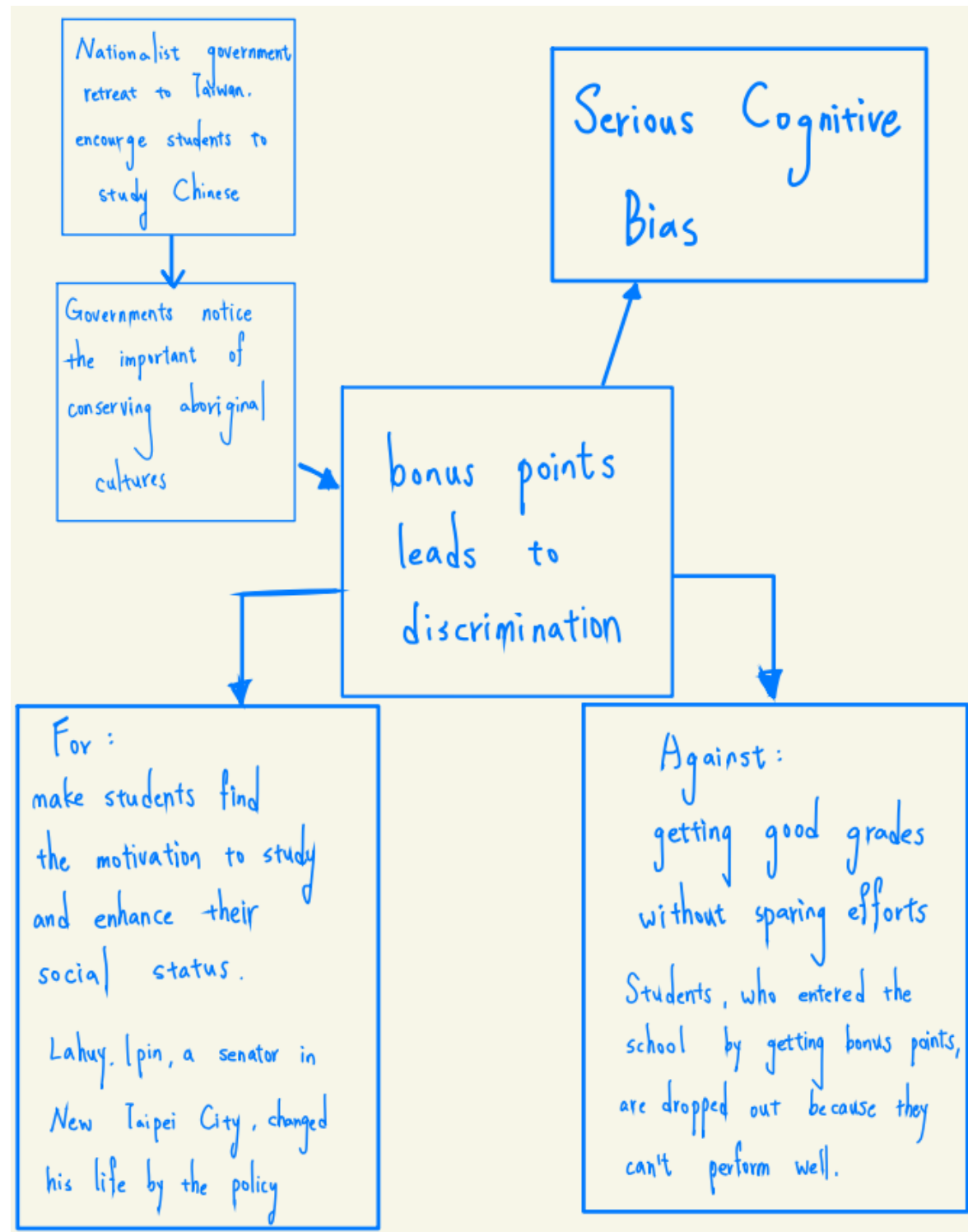
Against:

Aboriginal people can still get 10% bonus point even if they don't pass the mother language recognition exam. While the Mandarin students should spare no effort for having the same outcome.

Validity

It's valid that if you born in a "right" family, you can get the bonus point. As a result, it truly forms an unfair situation for the Mandarin students. Although the argument is valid, there are still plenty of complicated factors that you need to concern.

Argument mapping:



The map briefly introduces the whole incident, including the origin and what troubles it has caused. With the argument map, we can know that it is such a dilemma whether to lift or to abolish the policy.

Solutions:

I came up with two possible solutions to solve the problems.

- (1) We can let the Mandarin students take the recognition exam of aboriginal cultures. Since the meaning and the origin of culture is human, it is not a bad thing for more and more people to learn and conserve.
- (2) Deleting the policy will be a potential solution since the policy will cause discrimination against the aboriginal people. The purpose of having bonus points in current Taiwanese society is mainly about cultural conservation. Bonus points will force the aboriginal students to learn their mother tongue but only solve the issue on the surface. By the action of doing this, discrimination might not be as severe as the current circumstance. After deleting the policy, we should provide more educational resources such as the internet, computer, teacher, etc. More educational resources will be dedicated to teaching aboriginal people about their languages. Therefore, we will not have that much discrimination, thus improving the conservation of the aboriginal culture.

Conclusion:

The purpose of the policy is to conserve those aboriginal people's cultures and languages. Although the policy originates from a good deed, it finally led to discrimination against them. It is the lack of education that causes this circumstance. Our textbooks do not tell us why we provide the bonus point to indigenous people despite giving their history. That is why most people think that the government is only giving points like doing charity.