

Exercise 5:

- a) Study the texts in the boxes below (Box E-G) and write a summary on the difficulties of ethnic minority students in learning Chinese or for not learning Chinese in education.
- b) Discuss in groups and suggest how they could learn Chinese easily and what help or support you may be able to provide them. Make a list of the ways they could adopt in learning Chinese, and the supports you may be able to provide them.
- c) Discuss whether it is fair to send the ethnic minority children to CMI schools and write an essay of 350 words.

Box 1 Difficulties in learning Chinese

“A recent study of the linguistic perceptions and language-learning experiences of 15 South Asian undergraduate students (including four from the Philippines), at the Hong Kong Institute of Education, found that the methods for teaching written Chinese were far from efficient and effective. Some students compared their experience of composing Chinese characters with drawing pictures, which, according to their teachers, could only be learned through rote learning and frequent practice. They found Chinese characters difficult to learn and easy to forget. (SCMP news, April 16, 2014)

<http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/1483745/grounding-cantonese-will-help-ethnic-minorities-learn>

Box 2 Chinese language learning portrayed as a panacea

“Since the handover in 1997, a growing number of jobs once open to English speakers have added a Chinese-language requirement. In the past, many Indians and Pakistanis worked in the disciplined services, as police or immigration officers, Fisher says, but the requirement for Cantonese and even Putonghua knowledge has ruled that out for most. “The new language requirement was not reflected in our education system - no changes were made to help students cope with the new demands,” Fisher says. “It is a policy failure that made [ethnic-minority pupils] unable to learn Chinese well enough.” Fisher says the best way to help non-Chinese-speaking children catch up with their Chinese peers is to offer a curriculum, spanning no more than 24 months in Primary One and Primary Two, offering extra support in Chinese.” (SCMP news, Sept. 18, 2013)

<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1311812/ethnic-minorities-face-uphill-education-fight-hong-kong>

Box 3**On the history of Indians in Hong Kong**

“A colleague at work, who hails from Hong Kong’s Sikh community, took me to their gurdwara, or temple, this week to give me a taste of the charity work it’s doing and to prove there is such a thing as a free lunch. The Khalsa Diwan in Wan Chai, built in 1901 by Sikhs from the British army, is still going strong. It stands testament to the historic role of their community in the development of this city, starting as some of the first police officers” (SCMP article, October 20, 2016).

<http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/2038712/how-sikhs-are-fighting-bigotry-bread-around-world>