

### An Analytical Summary of Strayhorn (2012)

*Sense of Belonging and Graduate Students* is an article written by T. L. Strayhorn in 2012. The author found that, despite as significant proportion of students in U.S. universities, much less research is done on graduate students compared to undergraduate students. Graduate student's socialization and sense of belonging were important factors that influence graduate student's academy and life. Strayhorn found people only agreed that successful socialization would lead to sense of belonging for graduate students, but nobody did future study on graduate student's socialization and sense of belonging. This drove the author to do the research. The purpose of this paper is to explain the relationship of graduate student's socialization and sense of belonging according to existing researches; conclude the relationship of graduate student's socialization and sense of belonging from existing data by Strayhorn; and finally gives strategies in improving sense of belongs to graduate students. The article's object of study is "sense of belonging and graduate student". It also talks about several key concepts: graduate student's socialization, sense of belonging, socialization generates sense of belonging, sense of belonging promotes success. The author expects this article can influence U.S. university departments' policies and make graduate students' socialization as a part of norm. Strayhorn also suggests his article can support existing theories or contribute to future study in the same field

### Focused Analysis of Graduate student Socialization

Graduate student socialization is one of the key concepts in the article. Graduate student's successful socialization would generate sense of belonging. The author clearly defined this concept in the article by citation: Graduate student socialization is defined as the process through which students come to know and understand the values, norms, and behaviors enacted by members of a particular discipline or field (Boyle & Boice, 1998).(P. 92) The author also use other source to explain graduate student socialization in later paragraph: Graduate student socialization generally refers to the process by which individuals acquire the knowledge, skills, dispositions, and behaviors that make them effective members of a particular department, school, and/or professional field to which they belong (Brim,1966).(P. 93)

Key term phrase: a "process" that prepares, even transforms them for success in their desired career (P. 97) adds more information to the concept. Graduate student socialization is referred to a process lead to success. The phrase points out the relationship between socialization and success. Strayhorn (2012) also used several sources that build meaning into the concept of graduate student socialization. He used other sources to support his focus research on graduate student's socialization because socialization is representative to graduate student's experience and so that is a major object for studies on graduate student (Gardner, 2010). He also used sources to define and explain the key term (Brim, 1966; Weidman & Stein, 2003; Boyle & Boice, 1998). Several other sources were used to demonstrate the benefit, the success, successful socialization can bring (Bragg, 1976; Strayhorn, in press b). In later

paragraph, he cited a sentence to show other researcher's agreement when he emphasized the importance of socialization (Nettles and Millett, 2006).

#### Focused Analysis of a Language Pattern

Direct quote are found in sections of: Introduction, Graduate Student Socialization: Theory in Brief, Socialization Begets Sense of Belonging, Discussion and Implications. The author majorly used citations from other sources in the Introduction and Graduate Student Socialization: Theory in Brief section. There are 9 direct references in the Introduction section and 6 direct references in the Graduate Student Socialization: Theory in Brief section, but only 2 direct quotes are found in Discussion and Implications.

The author used a lot citation to support his object of study and the necessary of his project. In the Introduction part, he quotes other's research data and result to show graduate student is an important proportion of U.S. university students but no sufficient research has done to this population, and people need to learn graduate students deeper. For example, the author quotes: Indeed, there are other nonmonetary costs associated with graduate student attrition such as loss of confidence in one's abilities, diminished self-esteem, and loss of human capital (Berelson, 1960; Nerad & Miller, 1996) (P. 92 ). Strayhorn (2012) used this direct quote to show the negative effects graduate students' attrition to support his suggestion that more researches need to do about graduate students.

#### Conclusion

References from other sources in Strayhorn (2012) shows that academic writing needs other sources to support one's theories. The author cannot just states his theory, instead he needs to look out other's research results to prove what he writes is reliable. Strayhorn (2012) does not quote any source in the sections that talk about his own research project and the conclusion he got from his project. In these sections, his theories can be supported by his own source. For example, he used direct dialogue paragraphs from graduate students' interviews to support his theory that success socialization leads graduate students to success. In academic writing, each theory or idea created by author needed to get support or agreement by other sources.

#### Connection Across the GCLP Texts

De Araujo (2011) also mentioned socialization as a factor which influences international students' adjustment in U.S. universities. De Araujo (2011) stated establishing relationships with Americans would help international students adjust. Establishing relationships with Americans is a kind of socialization. Strayhorn (2012) talked about relationship of graduate students' socialization and sense of belonging, not limited to international students. Strayhorn (2012) contribute to the benefit socialization can bring that successful socialization would lead success and generate sense of belonging for graduate student. Sense of belonging in the article means graduate students' adjustment to their new environment. Both articles suggest that successful socialization helps students adjust to their academic environment.

However, two articles analyze socialization on two student populations.

#### Reference

Strayhorn, T. L. (2012). Sense of belonging and graduate students. In T. L. Strayhorn (Author), *College students' sense of belonging* (pp. 90-104). New York: Routledge.