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**THE MEANING OF STUDY ABROAD FOR MEISEI STUDENTS  
FROM AN ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**

**ЗНАЧЕНИЕ ОБУЧЕНИЯ ЗА РУБЕЖОМ ДЛЯ СТУДЕНТОВ  
УНИВЕРСИТЕТА МЕЙСЕЙ С ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКОЙ ТОЧКИ ЗРЕНИЯ**

This study investigates how students recognize their study abroad experiences from an ecological perspective. Traditionally, learning is regarded as step by step process from the basics to the advanced level. However, Van Lier (2000) argued that human's learning is based on environment and relationships in terms of ecological perspectives. This study adopted the notions of affordance (van Lier, 2000) and investment (Norton, 2000). The study is based on the analysis of recorded stories from 4 participants who have experience of studying abroad. This material has been gained for 4 years. The research examines what learning provides in the mutual relationship of affordance and investment.

The data show that participants had in ideal model such as their senior students; also, studying abroad affords lots of unexpected situations and relationships. In other words, there are lots of gaps between expectation and reality. Thus, the participants gained various learning in terms of discovering new sense of value and improving the ability of accommodation.

Therefore, this study illustrates that studying abroad is a valuable opportunity where students are able to acquire a lot of practical skills in a wide variety of learning situations.