



SDI Review Form 1.6

Journal Name:	<u>BritishJournalofEconomics,Management&Trade</u>
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Title of the Manuscript:	LANGUAGE IN THE LABOR MARKET: EVIDENCE FROM CHINESE IMMIGRANT-OWNED ENTERPRISES IN CONGO BRAZZAVILLE
Type of the Article	

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PART 1: Review Comments

	Reviewer's comment	Author's comment (if agreed with reviewer, correct the manuscript and highlight that part in the manuscript. It is mandatory that authors should write his/her feedback here)
Compulsory REVISION comments	The authors should try to answer the following research questions: What is the educational level of the interviewees and where did they learn French? Does more education impact on French knowledge? Difference is now analyzed base on age, but does education also matter and from what level up? Where did these people learn French and why? Why not English? Why did they chose to make business in Congo if some don't even speak French?	What is the educational level of the interviewees? 87 interviewees had completed primary education (6 years), 81 secondary education (chu zhong), 123 secondary education (gao zhong) and 9 tertiary(university) It is important to bear in mind that in china, general secondary schools include a 3-year junior secondary school (chu zhong) and a 3-year senior secondary school (gao zhong). Where did they learn French? Some of Chinese immigrant-owned enterprises (10%) learned French in other African countries before coming in Congo Brazzaville; (30%) learned some French words just in Brazzaville the others (60%)don't even speak French. Does more education impact on French knowledge? Yes, results of the ordinal logistic regressions are shown that more education is positively associated with French proficiency. Thus, entrepreneurs who had obtained higher qualifications before migrating to the Congo have significantly better skills in speaking and reading French. Why did these people learn French and why not English? Because these people know that French is the official language of Congo Brazzaville and it is necessary for them to learn about and understand the host country. For Chinese entrepreneurs, the ability to speak French enables them to communicate with the majority of the population, thereby lowering information barriers, making better profits and, consequently, achieving economic success in the Congo Brazzaville. Why did they choose to make business in Congo if some don't even speak French? Chinese entrepreneurs said:" profits come from taking business risks: not speaking French and doing business in Congo means taking a risk. But we face risks every day. When you start a business, you automatically assume risk; you intend to make money, but you also know that you can lose money. Not starting a business at all is the only sure way to avoid the risk. Successful entrepreneurs, however, take control over how much risk they are willing to accept and then develop plans to control the remaining risks. "What methods do Chinese entrepreneurs use to control this risk?"



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Minor REVISION comments

P. 4 line 162 : unfinished phrase “fully recognize one’s ?”
P. 7, line 298 : “Wenzhou dialect is a little linguistically similar to French language”. Please explain how is that possible.
p. 12, line 377 : “The personal, who agree that language affects the negotiation process and the design of the contract, supports this statement”. Some text is missing from this phrase.

P.4 line 162 In addition, language deficiency impedes the opportunities for getting jobs that fully recognize one’s **qualifications**

P. 7, line 298: there is a lot of French words which have the same way to utter with Wenzhou dialect but the meaning is not the same. For example:

Word in French	Word in Wenzhou language (pronunciation)	Character	Meaning In Wenzhou language
sel	sel	生	Give birth
peu	peu	姓	name
tes	tes	打	Hit
Les	les	李	plum
qui	qui	开	open
non	non	农	agriculture
Su(savoir)	su	酸	Sour taste

p. 12, line 377 The **Andritz** personal, who agree that language affects the negotiation process and the design of the contract, supports this statement.

Optional/General comments

This is an original and very relevant article both for migration and business literature. Statistical data could perhaps be explained with more detail.