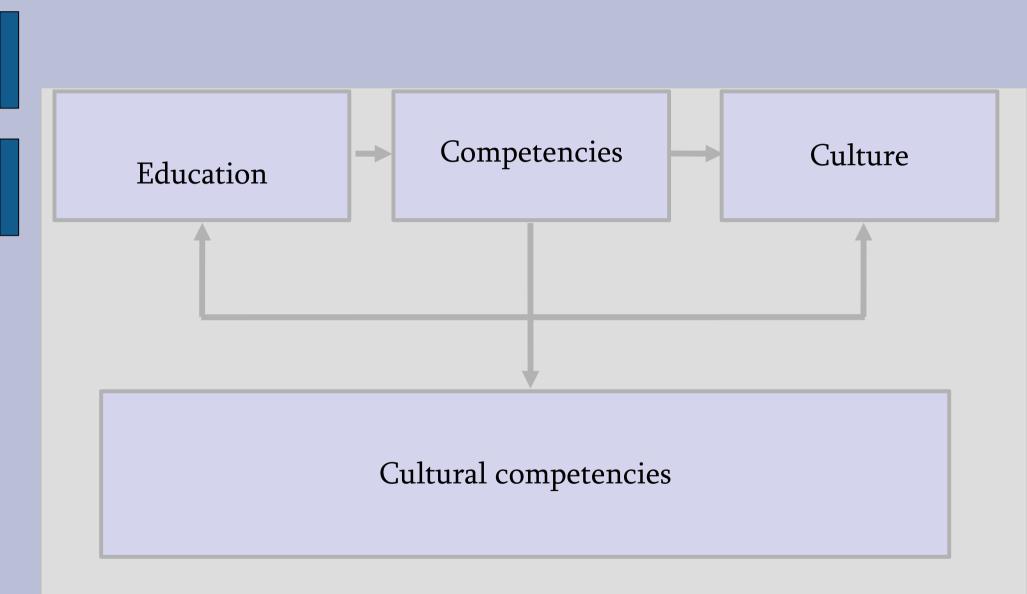
An overview from different perspectives: Culturally competent assessment in a multi-cultural environment

> *Tahera Afrin International College of Linguistics Auckland*

Competency in pedagogy



Culturally competent assessment

#### Important implications of New Zealand cultural context

> Treaty of Waitangi

»Globalization

» Privatization of education

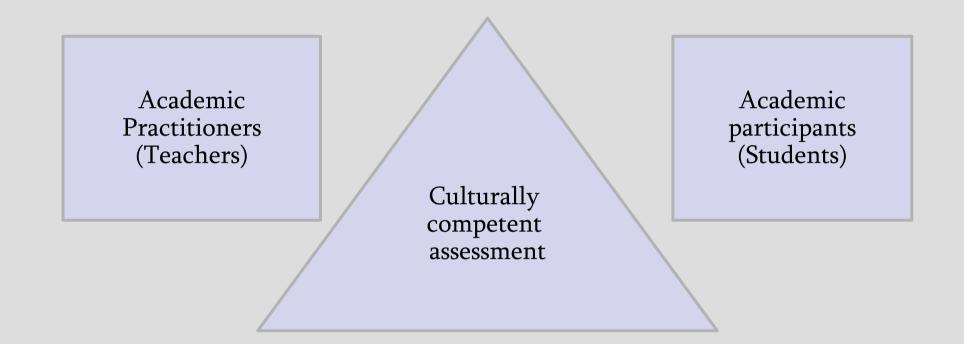
> Private Training Establishments (PTEs)

>Multi-ethnic representation

# Aim

Exploring the concept of 'culturally competent assessment'

## Specific Objectives



Documents: National & Institutional

# Research Design: Qualitative

Sample for primary data	Sample for secondary data	Participants (52)	Sampling
APR(Teachers) & AP (Students) of two Private Training Establishments (PTEs) in Auckland comprising of three disciplines of studies: Early Childhood Education, Business and English	<ul> <li>1. National Document:</li> <li>Tertiary Education</li> <li>Strategy 2007-2012</li> <li>2. Institutional</li> <li>document:</li> <li>Quality</li> <li>Management</li> <li>System, May 2008</li> </ul>	Academic Practitioners (APR) : 14 Academic Participants (AP): 38	<ul> <li>Purposive sampling for selecting PTEs</li> <li>Stratified sampling for selecting research participants from those PTEs</li> <li>Purposive sampling for selecting documents</li> </ul>

#### Characteristics of primary data sample

#### Teachers

(By birth citizens or long-term residents in NZ : 5 to 55+ Years)

- New Zealand
- •Australia
- UK
- India
- Vietnam
- Sri Lanka

#### Students

(Short-term settlers in NZ: 1 month to 2 years, Planned for a long term stay: 68.4%)

- China
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- Japan

## Study tools

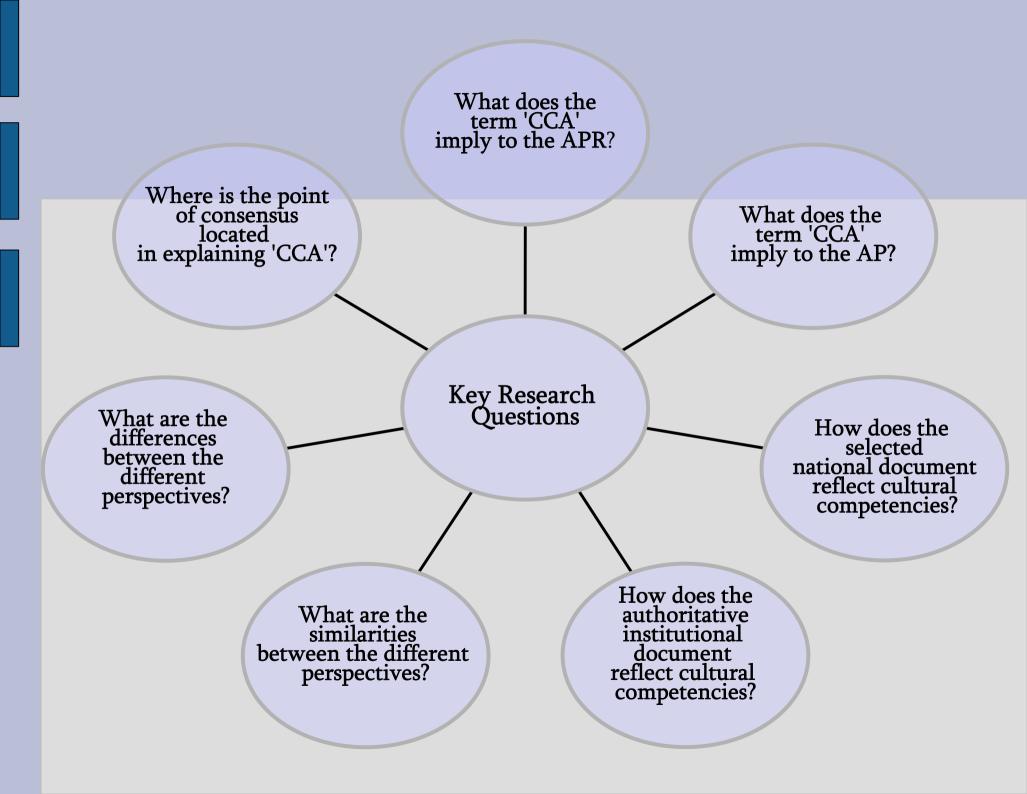
- FGD (Focused Group Discussion) framework for APR / teachers
- FGD (Focused Group Discussion) framework for AP / students
- Open-ended questionnaire for the APR/teachers
- Semi-structured supplementary questionnaire for the APR / teachers
- Structured questionnaire for the AP / students
- Checklist for national document
- Checklist for institutional document

# Research Questions(based on aim & specific objective)

The primary research question: *"What are the dimensions to explain 'culturally competent assessment' in a multi-cultural environment?"* 

# Warm-up questions

*Concept of culture and cultural symbolism* 



## **Research Findings**

#### Answer to the primary research question:

The dimensions to explain 'Culturally Competent Assessment ' in a multicultural environment:

Fairness: Diversity: Global suitability: Standard efficiency: Inclusion: Multi-cultural reflection: Comparability: Specific emphasis (Maori and Pacific):

### Research Findings (Contd.)

<u>Findings on warm-up questions:</u> Concept of culture: *Mostly 'way of life'* Cultural symbolism:

-From host culture

-From NZ culture

-From world culture

[List of 27 symbols]

## Answers to the key research questions

Culturally Competent Assessment to the teachers:

*Fair, Inclusive, Diversified, Global, Standard, Multi-cultural & Specifically emphasized* <u>Culturally Competent Assessment to the students:</u>

*Fair, Inclusive, Diversified, Global, Standard, Multi-cultural, Specifically emphasized & Comparative* 

**Competencies in Tertiary Education Strategy '07-12:** 

Fair, Inclusive, Diversified, Global, Standard, Multi-cultural & Specifically emphasized

**Competencies in Quality Management System:** 

Fair, standard & Specifically emphasized

#### Answers to the key research questions (contd.):

#### Similarities:

-All three perspectives similar

-Fairness, standard efficiency & specific emphasis were the common dimensions

#### Differences:

\*Comparability: Mentioned by students, neither by teachers nor in documents

\*How it should be & how it is?:

Only difference- Specific emphasis (Except Early Childhood) \* Why Inclusion? :

Different reasons; only common reason is to make subject matters easier

\* Difficulty in applying group work/ pair work/ presentation as assessment tool:

Difficult (Teachers except Early Childhood)

Not difficult (Students)

## Answers to the key research questions (contd.):

## Point of consensus:

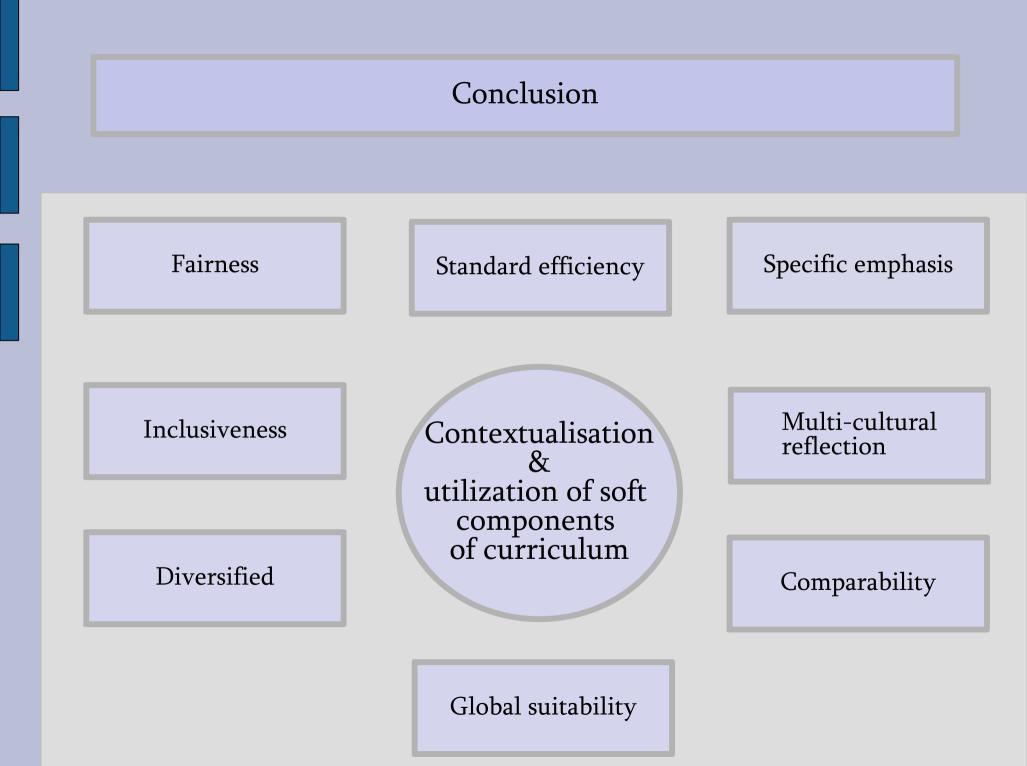
- \* Respectful multi-cultural inclusion
- \* Standard efficiency

# Other finding:

Academic Participants/ Students: Teachers from different ethnic groups are helpful to have culturally competent assessment practices.

#### **Recommendations:**

- \* Multi-cultural inclusion in the PTEs
- \* Primary focus: Standard efficiency
- Reviewing the institutional policy documents
- Recent textbooks for the programmes
- \* Emphasis on Maori culture in practice
- Consideration for central policy of assessment practices
- Further studies



# **References:**

Please see the paper for detailed references. References used to

define, analyse or interpret the followings:

- Competency in pedagogy
- Inter-relation between education, culture and competencies
- ✓ Cultural competencies and subject-specific research
- ✓ Use of 'culturally competent assessment'
- ✓ Treaty of Waitangi
- ✓ Effect of globalisation
- Statistics of multi-ethnic population in Auckland
- Research method
- Organisational documents

### Correspondence

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