

# Cross-Cultural Perspective

- \* The study of psychological differences among people living in different cultural groups
- \* How are people's thoughts, feelings and behaviour influenced by their culture?
- \* What are the common elements across culture? Are these innate?

## Definitions (cont.)

- Cross-Cultural Psychology is about the explanation of differences--and sometimes similarities--in the behavior of people belonging to different cultures using the scientific method as practiced in psychology
  - focus on the individual in group context
  - different methodology from sociology, anthropology

# Cross-Cultural Approach

- The differences in diagnosing autism in the U.S., China, and Germany show the influence of cultural factors
- How do other cultures deal with test anxiety? (pg 11)
- Cultural plays a big role in determining the intensity and expression of anxiety
- What three countries had the highest test anxiety scores? (pg 11)
- What type of successful students are admired in America? (pg 11)
- By combining all six approaches psychologists stand a better chance of reaching their four goals of describing, explaining, predicting, and controlling behavior



## Definition of Cross-cultural Psychology

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- Triandis (1994) : "...a systematic study on behaviours and experiences of human being from different cultural background.
- Segall, Dason, Berry, & Poortinga (1990) : "...scientific study of the ways in which social and cultural forces shape human behaviour".
- Cross-cultural psychology is a branch discipline in psychology to study the limitations of knowledge of human beings, by studying people from different culture.