

Understanding the Role of Weibo in Health-seeking Process of Chinese International Students in Canada

Wenzhuo Liang
Supervisor: Dr. Rukhsana Ahmed

Research Paper submitted to the
Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies In partial fulfillment of the
requirements For the Master's Degree in Communication

Department of Communication Faculty of Arts University of Ottawa

© Wenzhuo Liang, Ottawa, Canada, 2015

Keywords: Chinese International Students, Social Media, Weibo, Virtual
Community, Health-seeking Process, Social Capital

Abstract

In recent years, the growth effect of technology has reached many heights, such as the more frequent use of new media platforms, like Twitter, Weibo, and Facebook. The technological revolution has enabled people to communicate across thousands of miles at a greater speed. With such advantages, social media can also be used to inform, educate, and empower people about health related issues. And, indeed, today there is a large number of people seeking health information online and through social media applications. However, there is a lack of data on social media adoption within broader public health settings, particularly among Chinese international students. Against this backdrop, this study aimed to understand the role of Sina Weibo in the lives of Chinese international students in Canada and their online health related information seeking process in particular. Results from quantitative and qualitative content analyses revealed that Sina Weibo could be seen as a virtual community. More importantly, its role from being an “imagined” to a “real” community is evidenced in its creation of various social capital for Chinese international students in terms of providing health related information and emotional support to make their overseas lives easier.

Table of Contents

Abstract	ii
Chapter One – Introduction	1
Chapter Two – Literature Review	8
2.1 Overseas Lives of Chinese International Students	8
2.1.1 The Unique Health Needs of Chinese International Students...	10
2.1.2 Health Related Information Seeking.....	12
2.2 Social Media and Health Related Information Seeking.....	13
2.2.1 The Role of Weibo: Creating An “Imagined community” for Chinese International Students.....	14
2.2.2 How Do International Students Look for Health Related Information by Using Social Media? Creation of Social Capital.....	16
2.3 Theoretical Framework.....	19
Chapter Three - Methodology	24
3.1 Participants and Sampling.....	25
3.2 Data Collection.....	27
3.3 Data Analysis.....	31
3.4 Limitations.....	32
Chapter Four – Results of Data Analyses	34
4.1 Quantitative Content Analysis Results.....	34

4.1.1 Weibo Posts Results.....	35
4.1.2 Weibo Participants' Interaction Comments Results.....	39
4.1.3 Gender Composition	42
4.2 Qualitative Content Analysis Results.....	45
4.2.1 "Imagined" Community.....	46
4.2.2 From "Imagined" Community to "Real" Community.....	51
Chapter Five - Discussion.....	56
5.1 The Role of "Virtual Community"	56
5.1.1 "Imagined" Community.....	56
5.1.2 From "Imagined" to "Real" Community.....	57
5.1.3 "Real" Community that Provides Social Capital.....	58
5.2 Barriers and Opportunities Facing Chinese International Students...59	
5.2.1 Barriers.....	59
5.2.2 Opportunities.....	63
Chapter Six - Conclusions, Limitations, and Recommendations.....	65
6.1 Conclusions.....	65
6.2 Limitations.....	66
6.3 Recommendations.....	67
References.....	69
Appendix A: Health Related Weibo Posts Sample.....	81

Appendix B: Weibo Interaction Comments Sample.....83

Appendix C: One Typical Weibo Post with Participants' Interaction Comments...
.....90

Appendix D: Screenshot of One Typical Weibo Post with Participants'
Interaction Comments.....92

Chapter One: Introduction

The rapid growth of the Internet users and the economic booming in China has drawn much attention to the studies of Chinese social networking sites. Weibo, one of the most popular Chinese social networks, has been introduced along with the increasing number of Chinese international students worldwide. Globally, international students constitute a significant social media user group, and the majority of them are aged between 20 and 30 (Lin et al., 2012; Martin & Rizvi, 2014). TIME Techland reported on the “tweets-per-second record (at 25,088 tweets) [that was] reportedly shattered by [a] Chinese microblogging service [with] an average of 32,312 messages per second in the first minute of the Chinese New Year” (McMillan, 2012, p.1). With their several hundred million users, Sina, Tencent and other Chinese microblogging services allow netizens¹ to receive and express information more efficiently compared to previous technologies (Sullivan, 2014). Among them, the company of Tencent draws together multiple platforms from instant messaging to gaming, and boasts the number of registered users reaching 469 million (Guan et al., 2014; Sullivan, 2014). Compared with Tencent Weibo, starting life as a Twitter clone, “Sina Weibo has added a number of features such as message threading and the ability to comment directly on other users’ posts” (Sullivan, 2014, p.27). This

¹ Netizens are “defined as those who use the Internet to obtain information, regardless of their traditional media use” (Lei, 2011, p. 10).

research paper is interested in studying the use of Sina Weibo platform (Guan et al., 2014) among Chinese international students in Canada.

With the continuous trend of globalization, Canada has become one of the most popular destinations for international students all over the world. Canada's reputation for offering considerable educational opportunities in a multicultural context is an element that has made Canada a favorable destination. According to reports from Citizenship and Immigration Canada (2013), Canada had welcomed more than 265,000 international students and over 80,000 Chinese students made the choice to study in Canada. More over, roughly fifty percent of international students stay for a long duration of time (for at least six months) and mainly arrive from East Asian countries: such as China, South Korea, and Japan (Roslyn Kunin & Associates, Inc., 2009). In other words, Chinese students are currently one of the largest groups of international students in Canada. As such, many researches have focused on the lives of Chinese international students across media studies, cultural geography, migration studies, cultural anthropology, sociology and architecture, etc. (Hendrickson et al., 2011; Kim, 2001; Martin & Rizvi, 2014; Ye, 2006).

Studies show that the presence of international students has a wide range of benefits for host counties. For example, international students bring with them important economic benefit: they enrich Canadian society with their ideas

and with their different perspectives and they promote the tourism industry and so forth (Asanin & Wilson, 2008; Roslyn Kunin & Associates, Inc., 2009).

However, the overseas life of Chinese international students is not easy. These students have to cope with multifaceted life stresses, such as financial pressure, job opportunities, dating and marriage, language barriers, interacting with institutions and clash of value, and so on (Carey & Denise, 2013; Hendrickson et al., 2011; Yan & Berliner, 2013; Ye, 2006). Yan & Berliner (2009) reported that topics concerning health did emerge during interviews with Chinese international students about how to deal with stressors in the host countries, including aspects of emotional health and physiological health (Carey & Denise, 2013; Yan & Berliner, 2013). For example, studies illustrated that in many cases students who study abroad experience homesickness, discontentment, and/or dissatisfaction with their current situation because of a lack of emotional bonds in the host country (Hendrickson et al., 2011). On the other hand, researches illustrated that the emergence of physiological health issue among international students in host countries was due to “lack of responsibility for own health care needs” and failure “to seek medical attention with perceived need” (Carey & Denise, 2013, p. 2). The possible reasons for this “lack of responsibility” and failure “to seek attention” could be that international students did not know whether the problem was important and did not know how to access health

services related information which include existence, location, public transportations, appointment procedures, absence of fees, and so on (Carey & Denise, 2013). For example, it has been mentioned that some students only eat one meal a day with sleeping less than four hours per night (Carey & Denise, 2013) and others reported, “ [I] never smoked in China but now smoke heavily to assist with coping academic stress” (Carey & Denise, 2013, p. 3). Therefore, this study is interested to find out the unique health related needs of Chinese international students in Canada and the barriers they face when accessing health care information/services. In this way, it will be possible to help them with their life difficulties in the host countries.

Several studies have focused on the topic of emotional health of Chinese international students (Carey & Denise, 2013; Yan & Berliner, 2013; Ye, 2006). Scholars illustrated that the formation of friendship and emotional support plays a significant role for students studying overseas and that international students form complex social networks (Hendrickson et al., 2011; Kim, 2001; Ye, 2006; Ying & Liese, 1991). For example, people have studied the role of traditional and online support networks in the process of cross-cultural adaptation and the results suggested that new arrivals reported higher perceived support from online ethnic social groups/communities (Lin et al., 2012; Ye, 2006). Besides providing emotional support, existing research also

focused on the advantage of online networks in providing help spread at a much faster pace, and it has been studied decades under the bridging social capital² topic (Ye, 2006). For example, scholars pointed out that, today, a large number of people seek health related information online through social media applications (Reynolds, 2010; Robillard et al., 2013; Thackeray et al., 2012). This is because “social media are powerful tools for the dissemination of health information as they can reach a broad audience in a very short period of time, are easy and affordable to access and use” (Robillard et al., 2013, p. 6). However, there is a lack of data on social media adoption among international students during the health seeking process within broader public health settings (Reynolds, 2010; Robillard et al., 2013; Thackeray et al., 2012). Most previous studies about health seeking process have been focused on how immigrations access and utilize health care services in a multicultural setting (Griffiths, 2011; Lin et al., 2011; Rubel & Garro, 1992). For example, scholars have studied the health-seeking attitudes and behaviour of Chinese-American adolescents (Chen & Mak, 2008), and the perceptions of Chinese immigrations regarding access to public health services (Asanin & Wilson, 2008; Bollini & Siem, 1995). Besides this, most studies about social media use for health care related purposes have been concerned with certain topics such as the quality of information online,

² “Bridging social capital consists of loose relationships (i.e., weak ties) which serve as bridges connecting a person to a different network, allowing the person to access to new perspectives and diffuse information” (Lin et al., 2012, p. 4).

source credibility in social media health messages, young adults' addiction to Facebook, and so on (Spence et al., 2013; Zheng, 2014). However, as mentioned before, there is a lack of attention to the health-seeking process of Chinese international students, especially to those made evident via social networking channels. In other words, research has not paid much attention to how Chinese international students use technology to manage social networks for the purpose of obtaining useful information, such as health related information, which has been considered one of the most important components of bridging social capital (Lin et al., 2011; Ye, 2006). Moreover, it has been illustrated in previous studies that aside from being informed by direct experience, most peoples' understanding of health and health related policies is mediated (Ahmed & Bates, 2013). Therefore, it is important to investigate online health information seeking process of Chinese international students expressed, particularly, via social networking sites.

Against this backdrop, this paper focuses on understanding the role of Sina Weibo³ in the lives of Chinese international students in Canada and their online health related information seeking process in particular. Chinese international students in this study are Chinese citizens who come to Canada to pursue post-secondary education. For the purposes of the study, Chinese international

³ Sina Weibo is a Chinese microblogging website that has been called a hybrid of Twitter and Facebook. It is one of the most popular sites in China, with 368 million registered users as of mid 2012 (Millward, 2012).

students' online search for medical treatment, medicine suggestions and other health-related information will be defined as health information seeking process.

Chapter Two: Literature Review

This chapter reviews existing literature related to social media and health related information seeking process, with special attention to the experiences of ethnic groups online; and, in particular, it examines the experiences of Chinese international students in Canada. A review of previous studies provides a context and background that enables further examination into the online health related information seeking process of Chinese international students. It thus provides a foundation to explore barriers and opportunities these students may confront during their online health related information seeking process. Accordingly, the literature review is divided into three parts. First, a discussion of Chinese international students' overseas lives will be presented, and their unique health care needs, including their online health related information seeking process. The second part will discuss how Chinese international students look for health related information by using social media, Sina Weibo, and the role of it in Chinese international students' lives, following by a discussion of the concept of virtual community. Finally, the theoretical framework for this study will be introduced. The review covers both general ideas that provide a conceptual framework and specific areas that affect health related information seeking process in today's multicultural society.

2.1 Overseas Lives of Chinese International Students

Studies have focused on the overseas lives of Chinese international students not only because they are one of the largest components of foreign students but

also because they have brought a wide range of benefits for the host counties (Asanin & Wilson, 2008). As mentioned previously, Chinese international students face many life difficulties that they need to cope with, including financial stress, cultural difference, language barriers, social isolation, and so on (Carey & Denise, 2013; Zhang & Zhang, 2013). Most existing studies about Chinese international students have focused on cultural adaptation. They illustrate that social media play a critical role during the international students' cultural adaptation process, especially when they first arrive in a new country, the ways through which they make new friends, and build connections between the home country and the host country (Carey & Denise, 2013; Hendrickson et al., 2011; Yan & Berliner, 2013; Ye, 2006). For example, a Chinese international student claimed that it gave her the feeling of being back at home when watching videos shared by her friends online via social media platform (Martin and Rizvi, 2014). In other words, watching those short videos, movies, and photos shared by her friends via social media made her feel that she was at the same page with her friends and had common interests. Moreover, watching the familiar buildings, the scenes, and the people in videos/photos/movies made her feel that she was physically in her home city/country even though she was not. This is one way that social media build connection between the host country and the home country. As such, it gave her a sense of being back home. Besides providing this "back-home" feeling, social media also have enabled people to communicate across thousands of miles with the greatest ease. Shuling, a 19-year-old

international student in Australia, has shopped online with her parents in China by sharing photos via social media apps on her smartphone (Martin and Rizvi, 2014). Shirky (2009) explains that individuals use social communication tools such as blogs and Facebook because these tools can reach a wide variety of audience in a very short period of time with easy and affordable access. What is missing from existing literature is, however, research focusing on the unique health related needs of the Chinese international students, especially those sought via social media platforms.

2.1.1 The Unique Health Needs of Chinese International Students

One research has been done toward 6,828 international students in Australia, of whom 22.9% self-reported as Chinese (Carey & Denise, 2013). The results showed that Chinese international students did not act on a perceived need for help from the health services because of several reasons, such as “the feeling of discomfort, the concern about being understood, and doubt that the service would be able to help them” (Carey & Denise, 2013, p.2). Obviously, there are a unique health needs among Chinese international students because of their different culture background. As we known, culture plays a critical role when communicating about health, in the health related information seeking process, and so forth (Ahmed & Bates, 2012; Ahmed & Bates, 2013; Ting & Hwang, 2009; Wang, Rosenberg, & Lo, 2008; Witte & Morrison, 1995; Wu, 2011). A great number of literatures have determined that culture has a significant influence on health related information seeking process and behaviours of

immigrants/newcomers (Carey & Denise, 2013; Griffiths, 2011; Han et al., 2013; Hendrickson et al., 2011; Khawaja & Dempsey, 2008; Lin et al., 2012; Mori, 2000; Rubel & Garro, 1992; Yan & Berliner, 2013). For example, scholars have studied the perceptions of Chinese immigrants regarding access to public health services. They have found that ethnic minority patients, including Chinese immigrants often face many barriers when accessing and using health care services compared with their non-immigrant counterparts because of cultural differences, language, length of stay in the host country, financial constraints, and so on (Abdulrahim & Baker, 2009; Ahmed & Bates, 2013; Asanin & Wilson, 2008; Liang et al., 2009; Sam, 2001; Scheppers, et al., 2006). Therefore, it is necessary to study health related information seeking process of unique population groups in broader cultural contexts.

According to Kreuter and McClure (2004), “cultural characteristics of any given group may be directly or indirectly associated with health-related priorities, decisions, behaviors, and/or with acceptance and adoption of health education and health communication programs and messages” (p. 440). Kreuter and McClure (2004) also claimed that, “different people (e.g., African Americans) use different mass media to gratify different needs [e.g., provide a sense of community, cohesiveness, relevant information” (p.11). Therefore, this research paper will focus on health related information seeking process of Chinese international students through their use of Chinese social media platform. Specifically, this research paper will focus on the Sina Weibo, which was

originally created in Mainland China with Mandarin as its premium setting language. Sina Weibo has been one of the most popular social media tools among Chinese international students. The unique context of Chinese international students in Canada will be taken into account when studying Sina Weibo as a virtual community that provides access to Chinese international students in their online health related information seeking processes.

2.1.2 Health Related Information Seeking

The World Health Organization (WHO) defined health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (Official Records of the World Health Organization, 1948, p. 100). Accordingly, in order to discuss Chinese international students’ online health related information seeking process in the Canadian context, health is defined in this research paper as physical and emotional wellbeing, such as not having disease, living with positive attitudes, being friendly to other people, and so on (Davies, 1946; Green, 2011).

In terms of health related information seeking, Lambert & Loiselle (2007) claimed that there is no apparent dominant definition of it because the definitions are varied based on the purpose or focus of particular studies. For the purpose of this research, first, a broader understanding of health information seeking has been employed that “relates to the ways in which individuals go about obtaining information, including information about their health, health promotion activities, risks to one’s health, and illness” (Lambert & Loiselle, 2007,

p.3). Second, the terms "health related information seeking process" in this research paper is intended to encompass a wide range of behaviours, including individuals' health related information searching via social media platforms, posts related to health issues, and online interaction with other people revolving around these issues.

2. 2 Social Media and Health Related Information Seeking

Over the recent years, developments in technology have reached many triumphs: one such triumph is the more frequent use of new media platforms. Technological revolutions have enabled people to communicate across thousands of miles with the greatest ease. For example, Shirky (2009) explains that individuals use communication tools such as blogs and Facebook because these tools can reach a broad audience in a very short period of time, with easy and affordable access and use, catering to a large variety of audiences quickly. With such advantages, Hawn (2009) illustrates that web- and mobile-based applications of social media are powerful tools for the dissemination of health information. For example, Robillard et al. (2013) mentioned that today there is a large number of people seeking health related information online and through social media applications, such as the evaluation of word-of-mouth communication about medical corporate brands (Hawn, 2009; Naimy et al., 2013; Park, Rodgers & Stemmler, 2011; Reynolds, 2010; Thackeray et al., 2012; Vance, Howe & Dellavalle, 2009). However, as mentioned before, there is a lack of attention paid to the health related information seeking process, especially via

social network channels, of international Chinese students, who are considered one of the most important key drivers of Canada's future prosperity. Therefore, this research paper will focus on understanding the role of Weibo in health related information seeking process of Chinese international students in Canada.

2.2.1 The Role of Weibo: Creating A Virtual Community for Chinese International Students

Weibo, one of the most popular Chinese social networks, has been introduced along with the increasing number of international Chinese students worldwide. There are two types of the most popular Weibos in China: Sina Weibo with 368 million users and Tencent Weibo with 469 million users (Guan et al., 2014). TIME Techland reported on the "tweets-per-second record (at 25,088 tweets) [that was] reportedly shattered by [a] Chinese microblogging service [with] an average of 32,312 messages per second in the first minute of the Chinese New Year" (McMillan, 2012, p.1). We may then examine how the use of Weibo among international Chinese students contributes to the social and psychological adjustments of this population in the host country. We may further explore how cultural differences and personality traits influence these students' online health related information seeking process. Existing literature has focused on how Internet-based social media affect the way people interacting with others (Ellison et al., 2007; Ferlander, 2003; Lin, 2001; Wellman et al., 1996). For example, Wellman et al. (1996) argued that, "computer-supported social

networks sustain strong, intermediate, and weak ties that provide information and social support in both specialized and broadly based relationships” (p. 213).

This study begins with the idea of “imagined community” in its attempt to study Sina Weibo as a virtual community. The idea of “imagined community⁴” has been introduced in order to understand how people use new technologies to form new connections and maintain old ones at the same time (Gruzd, Wellman, & Takhteyev, 2011). Like “Little Italy” (the Italian community) and “China Town” (the Chinese community), even when people are in networks with loose boundaries, they will often identify themselves as part of a more defined group or community (Freeman et al., 1989). Scholars have focused on locally constrained communities, such as neighborhoods appearing before the 1970s; however, from the 1970s and onwards, the proliferation of long-distance relationships has led some community scholars to expand their area of study to nonlocal ties among friends, relatives and workmates (Gruad et al., 2011; Wellman, 2001). With the rise of the Internet, the notion of “virtual community” has been rigorously studied in the early 2000s. After years, it has been illustrated that in-person contact is extended and enhanced by contact experienced over the Internet, and vice versa. Thus, these two methods of contact are not replaced by each other. This is true for most modern forms of electronic communication services such as email, listserv, instant messaging, and social media (Gruad et al., 2011). Take Twitter as an example, Gruad et al. (2011) established that “ Twitter

4 “Imagined communities” is a concept coined by Benedict Anderson and he was dealing with societies forging a new social identity by emphasizing a common – somewhat artificially constructed – community. He focused on such developing societies as Indonesia, where the authorities have tried to construct a common identity out of thousands of islands and ethnic groups (Gruad et al., 2011).

users form what we can call an 'imagined community' and that one's personal Twitter network exhibits the characteristics of what Jones (1997) has called a 'virtual settlement'⁵" (p. 24). Furthermore, by analyzing a person's Twitter account, it has been shown that the Twitter network is more than simply "imagined;" it also exhibits characteristics of both Jones's "virtual settlement" and the "sense of community" of McMillan and his research team (Gruad et al., 2011, p. 33). As such, with lots of similarities shared between Twitter and Weibo, the idea of "imagined community" will be applied to the understanding of Weibo's role in international Chinese students' health related information seeking process. It is possible that Weibo can also be recognized as hosting Chinese online community; and, it furthermore provides a sense of belonging, emotional support and various forms of social capital to its users, such as health related information and so forth (Wu, 2011; Zhou, 2011).

2.2.2 How Do International Students Look for Health Related Information by Using Social Media? Creation of Social Capital

According to Safko and Brake (2009), social media refer to "activities, practices, and behaviors among communities of people who gather online to share information, knowledge, and opinions using conversational media" (p.6). Moreover, Neiger et al. (2012) illustrate that social media can be used to "inform, educate, and empower people about health issues, to enhance the speed of the communication process about public health emergencies or outbreaks, to

⁵ The idea of virtual settlement community is based on sociable and supportive social relations, and not on physical locality and a strength of Jones' notion is that it is grounded in the combination of computer mediated communication, cyber-archaeology and virtual communities (Gruad et al., 2011).

mobilize community partnerships and action, to facilitate behavior change, to collect surveillance data” (p. 1). However, few works exist on the discussion about international students’ health related information seeking process via social media. International students need to overcome many uncertainties and difficulties when they first arrive in the host country. As such, it is very important for them to build new ties/connections in the host country. These new sets of relationships can help facilitate newcomers’ adaptation to respective new cultural environments and maintain emotional well-being (Adelman, 1988; Kim, 1988). As mentioned before, social media platforms, like Twitter, have been considered as the “virtual community,” which provides its residents with a sense of belonging, and access to social capital (Gruad et al., 2011). Ferlander (2003) also claimed that the Internet could provide, create, and maintain various types of social capital,⁶ which has been considered as one of the key elements during the social and psychological adjustment for newcomers, international Chinese students in Canada for example.

According to Coleman (1988), “social capital is the construct that describes potential cumulated resources and benefits embedded in the relationships with other people” (p.2). Therefore, new social networks that have been established by people in the host country and the long-distance relationships with the home country can help an individual draw upon different resources in order to cope with life difficulties, psychological stress and maintain emotional well-being

⁶ Social Capital is the construct that describes potential cumulated resources and benefits embedded in the relationships with other people, such as emotional support, useful information, or financial aid assistance. There are two types of social capital, ‘bridging’ and ‘bonding’ (Lin et al., 2012, p.4).

(Berry, 1997; Fontaine, 1986; Kim, 1988; Ye, 2006; Ying & Liese, 1991; Yum, 1982). Besides emotional support information exchanges (also known as bridging social capital), it is even more urgent for newcomers to acquire information/knowledge of the host country's language, culture, worldviews, beliefs, norms, and rules; and, it is important for them to develop interpersonal relationships during the process of communication (Kim, 2005; Lin et al., 2012).

One of the most efficient methods is to establish new ties in the host country; this serves to bridge social capital, as we discussed earlier. Friendship has been rigorously studied for decades as one of the most important social support resources; it is an extremely important component for individuals in satisfying deeply personal and emotional needs especially in the host country (Hendrickson et al., 2011). Zalenski and Raspa (2006) illustrated that friendship falls in the third level of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, which fulfills the need for belonging and love. Therefore, similarly, the need to acquire knowledge of the host country language, and information regarding the norms, rules and medical facilities, health related information falls into Maslow's basic level in the hierarchy of needs; in this level, we find the physiological and safety requirements. Health related information is one of the most important types of knowledge that newcomers need to obtain in the host country. As such, it is important to study the extent to which the ability to acquire health related information in the host country can help improve the lives of newcomers, especially that of Chinese international students. However, few studies have

focused on this area. Therefore, there is room for a greater reflection on how Chinese international students seek health related information, especially via the Chinese social media platform Weibo; and, few studies have also examined the barriers encountered when trying to access quality health care services and information. Accordingly, two research questions are asked:

RQ 1: What role does Weibo play in the health related information seeking process of international Chinese students in Canada?

RQ 2: What barriers do Chinese international students' face when accessing health care related information/services by using Weibo in Canada?

The following section presents a discussion on the theoretical framework that the study adopted in order to examine the role of Weibo in the health related information seeking process of international Chinese students in Canada.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

A large number of scholars have developed various theoretical frameworks to study communication among people with diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. For example, Hendrickson and other researchers (2011) pointed out the need for the emotional well-being of sojourners during the adjustment process; similarly, Ying & Liese (1991) emphasized both sociocultural and psychological aspects during the process of cross-cultural adaptation; and, Kim (2001) examines the process and structure of cross cultural adaptation in which individuals adapt to new and unfamiliar cultures. As mentioned before, in many cases international students may feel homesickness, discontentment, and/or dissatisfaction with

their current situation when they arrive in the host country; this may be due to the lack of support, particularly emotional support (Hendrickson et al., 2011). Therefore, the social support theory examines how to assist an individual to reorganize different resources in order to cope with the difficulties of life, psychological stress and so on during the cross-cultural adaptation process (Adelman, 1988; Ye, 2006). Like the social support theory, Coleman (1988) focused on the conceptualization of social capital, which is “the construct that describes potential cumulated resources and benefits embedded in the relationships with other people” (p. 2). This paper will focus on the theory of social capital; in order to better understand the role of Weibo in the lives of international Chinese students and the role that Weibo plays in their health related information seeking behaviours. This theory will help facilitate examination of how Weibo helps international Chinese students in Canada overcome difficulties and how it provides various types of support during the cross-cultural adaptation process. In Coleman’s theory (1988), “social capital is the construct that describes potential cumulated resources and benefits embedded in the relationships with other people” (p.2). There are many sources of social capital that can be found in our daily lives: examples of these are emotional support from old friends, useful information, advertisements, financial aid assistance, and so on. Generally, the idea of social capital has two kinds of functions: these two applications are referred to as bonding social capital and bridging social capital. More specifically, bonding social capital, also known as

“strong ties,” mainly provides emotional support through close relationships in our lives, such as from families and old friends. Bridging social capital (“weak ties”) normally serves a similar function as a bridge; this can provide people access to a different circumstance and help diffuse information (Lin et al., 2012). When paying specific attention to international Chinese students, it is necessary to explore specific ethnic social network sites. Weibo is an example of one such site, which has been considered as one of the most important sources that provides social capital as well as social support for Chinese international students. Therefore, to better understand the Chinese micro blogging Weibo, this paper aimed to study Sina Weibo as a virtual community and does so by using Benedict Anderson’s (1983) idea of “the imagined community”. Benedict Anderson noticed that “the members of even the smallest nation will never know most of their fellow-members, meet them, or even hear of them, yet in the minds of each lives the image of their communion” (1983, p. 6). This seems to be what is happening on Weibo, which will be examined later. Besides Anderson’s notion of “Imagined Community,” the application of Jones’s (1997) notion of “virtual settlement” and McMillan et al. (1986) concept of a “Sense of community,” can provide insights into the role of Weibo in the lives of international Chinese students. There are four conditions to Jones’s idea of “virtual settlement”: (a) interactivity; (b) more than two communicators; (c) common-public-places where members can meet and interact; (d) sustained membership over time (Gruad et al., 2011). This model has been applied to social media platforms like

Twitter. In this research paper, it will be used to examine the “artifacts that community members create (in the case of Twitter, artifacts are source-follow relationships and their postings) and, based on these artifacts, [it will] quantify each of the four conditions described above” (Gruad et al., 2011, p. 9). According to McMillan et al. (1986):

Community members experience a sense of community if they feel that they belong to the community (membership), [that] they can make a difference to the community (influence), [that] they provide support and are supported by other members (integration and fulfillment of needs), and [that] they share history, common places, time together, and similar experiences (shared emotional connection). (Gruad et al., 2011, p. 9)

Meanwhile, McMillan et al. (1986) also illuminate both the social and psychological mechanisms that serve to link individuals to their community even if that community is an imagined community; this is very similar to other scholars’ understanding that it is necessary to examine both sociocultural and psychological aspects of cross-cultural adaptation (Ward et al., 1997; Ward & Kennedy, 1994; Ye, 2006; Ying & Liese, 1990, 1991).

Chapter Summary

This chapter provided a review of literature relevant to the topic of Chinese international students’ health related information seeking process via social media. The next chapter introduces the methodology that has been employed in

this study. It describes the specific data collection, and data analysis procedures as well as methodological limitations.

Chapter Three: Methodology

This study employed qualitative and quantitative content analyses to investigate health related information seeking process via Sina Weibo among Chinese international students in Canada. Wright (1986) claimed that “content analysis is a research technique for...the systematic classification...it may involve quantitative or qualitative [approaches], or both” (p. 125). With regards to quantitative content analysis, Starosta (1984) also argued that:

Content analysis translates [the] frequency of occurrence of certain symbols into summary judgments and comparisons of content of the discourse...whatever “means” [that] will presumably take up space and/or time; hence, the greater that space and/or time [is], the greater the meaning’s significance [will become]. (p. 185)

Robillard and colleagues (2013) pointed out that content analysis of tweets can be a productive method to evaluate discourse surrounding health and disease. Therefore, by conducting content analysis of Sina Weibo posts, the researcher will be able to discover how Chinese international students use Sina Weibo to seek health related information and potential barriers they may face and/or opportunities they may be afforded. Content analysis may also provide details of what sources of information about health related issues are promoted through Weibo. Most importantly, analyses of Sina Weibo users’ posts/reposts,

the way they use language, and types of interaction messages they share with each other will help to discover how Sina Weibo helps to create a virtual community that provides Chinese international students various types of social capital (Gruad et al., 2011; Ye, 2006).

3.1 Participants and Sampling

Participants in this study are presumably Chinese international students in Canada who followed certain Sina Weibo accounts and contributed to the discussion through Weibo posts. In this study, four Sina Weibo accounts (“The bulletin of how to save money in Canada,” “Canadian Tourism Commission,” “University of Ottawa,” “The Chinese international students union of University of Ottawa”) were selected. This selection was based on the following criteria: 1) the account must be created under the name of Canada/Canadian/Ottawa and it must carry everyday information, which aim to help Chinese international students overcome difficulties; 2) the brands must be popular among Chinese international students; 3) the account must be active and employed by users of Weibo.com instead of being hosted on alternative accounts or cyber accounts. These four Weibo accounts have been selected based on key words searches, including “Canada,” “Chinese international students,” “Ottawa,” and “University of Ottawa,” that were applied to Sina Weibo user accounts, and those four Weibo accounts have been selected depending on how many followers each group has

and their popularity among Chinese international students.

A systematic random sampling technique was used as a first step to create the database. The reason for choosing this technique was that it gave every unit an equal rate in the population and it had been considered to be an effective methodological procedure for maximizing external and internal validity by many researchers (Andersson, 2011; Budd, Thorp & Donohew, 1967; Dattalo, 2010). Specifically, this technique also “helps to minimize sampling bias, and consequently, approximates results that would be obtained from studying an entire population” (Dattalo, 2010, p.3). Similarly, Neuman (2011) stated that “random samples yield samples most likely to truly represent the entire population” (p. 312). Therefore, the quantitative results could demonstrate the pattern and frequencies of how Chinese international students use Weibo. With regard to the topic of health related information seeking process (e.g., how to benefit from student health insurance; which health plan is better for international students; how to find a Dentist who can speak fluent Mandarin in Toronto; information about how to get free health-related product), a purposive sampling strategy was employed for creating a database with health-related theme. According to Neuman (2011), purposive sampling can help researchers to locate all possible cases of a highly specific and difficult-to-reach population. Thus this method could help to identify potential barriers and opportunities

associated with Chinese international students' health related information seeking process via Weibo. After creating the database of Weibo posts from January 1st to the end of April 2014, the researcher went through all posts in the database and removed those that did not fit the topic of health related seeking information process.

3.2 Data Collection

Data reported in this study were focused on texts only, and were generated through participants' online activities, posts, reposts, and interaction comments on Sina Weibo. For quantitative content analysis, data were collected from the first post on Weibo.com from January 1st to the end of April 2014 by using systematic random sampling technique. The study was delimited to a certain period of Weibo posts (from January to April, 2014) to keep the sample size to a manageable size for analysis. As Berger (1982) argued, although the sample size for quantitative analysis should be as large as possible in order to improve reliability, it is also necessary to consider the variables required in order to conduct this study and reality as well. Besides this, the time frame (from January 1st to the end of April, 2014) has been selected due to two main reasons: first, the number of Chinese international students increased apparently, due to the beginning of a new semester; second, one of the most important traditional Chinese festivals, the Spring Festival, fell in the period of January to April. People

generally become more active and sociable during the festive season. Therefore, by focusing only on posts and participants' interaction comments that occurred from the beginning of 2014 to the end of April 2014, the researcher were able to collect a sufficient and manageable amount of data for the study to allow the needed time to process and analyze the data. In table 1, a breakdown of the Weibo posts, from January to April 2014, was presented. There were around 4164 posts from January 1st to the end of April 2014 on the four Weibo accounts compared to a total amount of 28,234 by the end of 2014, an amount way too big to compete the current study given its limited scope.

Table 1: The Number of Weibo Posts in The Four Chosen Accounts

Name	Weibo Posts (By the end of 2014)	Weibo Posts (1 st January, 2014-30 th April, 2014)
Canadian Tourism Commission	5604	340
The bulletin of how to save money in Canada	21, 299	3710
University of Ottawa	732	81
The Chinese international students union of University of Ottawa	599	34
Total	28, 234	4, 165

In order to produce a reliable and valid sample from the population size for quantitative analysis, a population ranging from 1,000 to 10,000 requires a sample of 10% (Neuman, 2011). Therefore, a total of 416 samples were gathered

for quantitative analysis, which was based on the division of the population by the sample size (4165/416) and it equals a sampling interval of 10. The number 2 was chosen as the random start, and the value of the interval was added to the randomly selected number to generate data. For example, the selected posts for analysis were the 2nd, 12nd, 22nd, 32nd, and so on (see Table 2). The next steps for data collection employed a purposive sampling technique. The research went through all 416 collected posts in the database and removed all posts not related to the research topic, health related information seeking process.

Table 2: Sampling Illustration for Quantitative Content Analysis

Population size = 4165
Sample size = 416
Interval = population/sample = 4165/416 = 10
Random number = 2

For qualitative content analysis, the researcher used theory-informed themes and sub-themes (see Table 3): the idea of Twitter as an “imagined” community (Gruad et al., 2011), Jones’s (1997) “virtual settlement” and the “sense of community” of McMillan et al. (1986) that yielded insights into how Sina Weibo serves as a virtual community and provides Chinese international students various types of social capital and how Sina Weibo promotes health related information online.

Table 3: Main Themes and Sub-themes for Qualitative Content Analysis

Main Theme	Sub-theme
Twitter as an “imagined” community	Common Language
	Temporality
	High Centers
Virtual Settlement	Interactivity
	A Variety of Communicators
	A Common Public Place Where Members Can Meet and Interact
	Sustained Membership Over Time
Sense of Community	Membership
	Influence
	Integration and Fulfillment of Needs
	Shared Emotional Connection

Table 3 emphasizes the importance of reciprocal connections and their position as a core element of the community. Even though Twitter was not designed to support the development of online communities, it has been noticed that “Studying Twitter [by applying the idea of “imagined” community, the theory of virtual settlement, and a sense of community is useful for understanding how people use new communication technologies to form new social connections and maintain existing ones” (Gruzd et al., 2011, p. 1). The aim was to examine how people specifically grouped together under a certain purpose, (e.g., health related information seeking) and how one community/group could be created during the process of communication. Moreover, this research focused on four different levels of study that could be used to examine “virtual community”: the self, the interpersonal level, Internet

norms, and the broader community level (Gruad et al., 2011). The researcher translated the Weibo posts and participants' comments, with the assistance of a computer, from Chinese language (e.g., Mandarin) to English. In so doing, attention has been paid to verify, "whether the translation has captured the meaning of each statement" (Hesse-biber & Leavy, 2008, p. 216).

3.3 Data Analysis

Data analysis was a complex process, which included data examining, testing, recombining evidence, and so on (Yin, 2009). To reiterate, quantitative data analysis in this study involved using descriptive statistics to categorize health related Weibo posts collected from the database. Qualitative data analysis in this study involved detailed examination of individual posts/comments and translation because of the language difference. After translating, the researcher employed thematic analysis method, which allowed an in-depth description of patterns within the data to be identified (Attard & Coulson, 2012). Thematic analyses of the Weibo posts related to health were undertaken. Besides this, in order to examine whether Weibo can be imagined as a "virtual community," for the qualitative analysis part, the researcher applied three conditions of "the Imagined Community" (common languages, temporality, and high centers); Jones' four requirements of "virtual settlements" (interactivity, a variety of communicators, a common public place where members can meet and interact,

and sustained membership over time); and the idea of sense of community to the collected sample Weibo posts and participants' interaction comments from January 1st to the end of April, 2014 (Gruad et al., 2011).

3.4 Limitations

There are several limitations that need to be taken into consideration when assessing the sample of this study. First of all, like in the case of in-depth interviews and focus group studies, content analysis is time-consuming. A voluminous number of posts and messages need to undergo analysis and in this case translation too. Hence, the sample size of this study had to be small enough to be manageable. Second, the sample included participants who were from a specific university (e.g., University of Ottawa) in Canada. Third, there are other major micro blogging platforms in China such as Tencent, Sohu, or 163, which have not been taken into account. Therefore, the sample of this study is not representative enough to make generalizations for the whole group.

Chapter Summary

This chapter discussed the selection of quantitative and qualitative content analysis as the research method for this research paper, both research method. The proposed study aims to understand the role of Weibo in the lives of Chinese international students in Canada; this study pays special attention to the health related information seeking process of Chinese international students via Sina

Weibo. While quantitative content analysis provides the general and manifest outline of what kind of health related information/topics become popular on Weibo, qualitative analysis provides a more in-depth understanding of whether Sina Weibo can be considered a virtual community by meeting certain conditions and how this virtual community creates social capital by providing different levels of health related information.

For the next part of this research paper, results of the data analysis will be presented in two parts: quantitative results and qualitative results.

Chapter Four: Results of Data Analyses

In this chapter, the results of quantitative and qualitative content analyses are presented separately. Four Weibo accounts were selected for this study: “The bulletin of how to save money in Canada/Dealmoon Canada,” “Canadian Tourism Commission,” “University of Ottawa,” and “The Chinese international students union of University of Ottawa.” From those Weibo accounts, 40 Weibo posts and 217 relevant interaction comments were selected from the database, from January 1st to the end of April 2014. At first glance, the data analysis illustrated that among the entire interaction comments, 147 were from people who self-identified as living in Canada, 34 comments were from people living in mainland China; and the rest 21 could not be identified because of lacking information in their Weibo files. The details of data analyses are reported below.

4.1 Quantitative Content Analysis Results

There are three parts in the section of quantitative content analysis: Weibo post results; interaction comments results; and gender-related Weibo posts and gender composition of Weibo posters. The Weibo post results present general data analysis and categories that emerged during the quantitative analysis. Then, an analysis of Weibo interaction comments was performed, which was categorized into four parts: information category, emotional support, category including both information and emotional support related, and other. Finally, gender-related Weibo posts and gender composition of interaction comment publishers were analyzed.

4.1.1 Weibo Posts Results

Seven categories emerged during the data analysis: looking for doctors, products, health insurance, medicine, food, social issues and other, which together reflected the literal topics of all Weibo posts in the data set (see Figure 1). Besides, due to the variability of Weibo content, sub-topics emerged in some categories (see Figure 2).

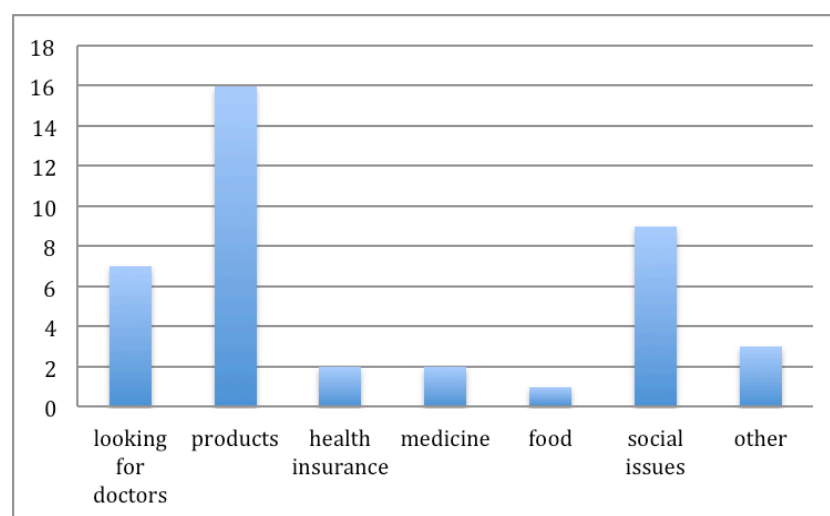


Figure 1: Numbers of Each Category of All Collected Posts

Looking for Doctors

The looking for doctors category contained information about doctors generally, for example how to find a doctor in one area. Specifically, one post on “The bulletin of how to save money in Canada/ Dealmoon Canada” mentioned: “Is there any one who knows an experienced Traditional Chinese doctor in the greater Toronto area?” Another poster tried to find a Dentist who could speak fluent Mandarin (see Appendix 1). According to the data set, there were 7 Weibo posts that included information about doctors and this category accounted for 17% out of the entire health related Weibo posts. Moreover, there were 7

sub-topics in the Looking for Doctors category, including: Traditional Chinese Doctor, Ophthalmologist, Dentist, Gynecologist, Pediatrician, Cosmetic surgery, and Dermatologist.

Products

In the product category, posts related to physical health related objectives, including eye glasses, cosmetic products, and so on (e.g., “free glasses for everyone;” advertisement of Tarte cosmetic product). As we see from Figure 1, 16 posts fell into the Product category, which accounted for 40% of the entire sample, making it the leading category among the other seven categories. Three sub-topics emerged: free product (4 posts, 25%), cosmetic related product accounting for 62% (10 posts), and 2 (13%) health care related products posts.

Health Insurance

Any Weibo post that mentioned health insurance or shared health card related information was categorized into the Health Insurance category. There were 2 Weibo posts in this category, which was 5% of the whole posts. One of the users posted: “#Help me to ask a question# I did not pay my Medical care card for almost half a year. Can I cancel it? Or should I cancel it after paying the money? I have not received mails from the insurance company, and my billing address stayed same. So in my case, should I just wait for the bill?” (see Appendix 1). No sub-topics emerged in this category.

Medicine

2 Weibo posts talked about medicine, accounting for 5% of the 40 selected

Weibo posts. Between two posters in Medicine category, one of them was looking for traditional Chinese medicine (50%) and the other one was looking for general medicine information. For instance, one Weibo post stated: “Can anyone tell me how should I deal with my expired medicine? Does anyone know a recycling place?” Another Weibo post was asking questions related to traditional Chinese medicine Custom clearance policy in Canada: “Does anyone know Canada Customs’ policy about traditional Chinese medicine? Do I need to do Customs clearance? How many traditional Chinese medicine can I bring with me?”

Food

This category included food-health-related information and product. Only 1 post had information about health-related-food information (2%), and the poster asked: “Hi, is there anyone who knows where I can find the millet and Carp? Because my baby will be born next month and I will need a lot of this kind of food” (see Appendix 1).

Social Issues

This category was about publication, information or announcement that affected a large group of people or the society as a whole, especially those warnings about potentially dangerous behavior. For example, a Weibo post shared information about one celebrity who died because of drug abuse; another Weibo post posted latest news about fire break out at a factory located in Toronto and cautioned people to be careful if they were in that neighborhood,

because the smoke would affect the air qualitative in that neighborhood. Also, there were Weibo posts that reported car accidents in one highway of Toronto, reminding people to be careful while driving. Moreover, there were Weibo posts about product recall announcement: “because of some serious allergy issues, the Fitbit Company announced that they would recall the latest wristband sold both in the United States and in Canada, and users would get full refund” (see Appendix 1). This category was the third largest category, which had 9 posts and accounted for 23% of the 40 selected Weibo posts.

Other

This category was for posts that could not fit any above categories. For instance, posts looking for dating information, praying for good luck with school exams, expressing emotions, and so on. 8% of the entire data could not fit any of the categories mentioned above. The two most popular sub-topics that emerged in this category included posts related to looking for dating information and expressing emotions. For instance, there was a Weibo user who published one post that stated: “I am a female student in Ottawa and I am going to New York City during study week from February 16th to February 22nd. I have already booked the flight tickets and hotel room. I am looking for someone who can accompany me and would like to join me during this journey. Please repost my message and help me find someone who is interested. Thank you all.” Another kind of common Weibo post is about expressing emotions. For example, one post stated: “I am sharing this coupon with other people, and hopefully doing good

things can bring me some good luck for my final exams. I feel so tense about my final exams” (see Appendix 1).

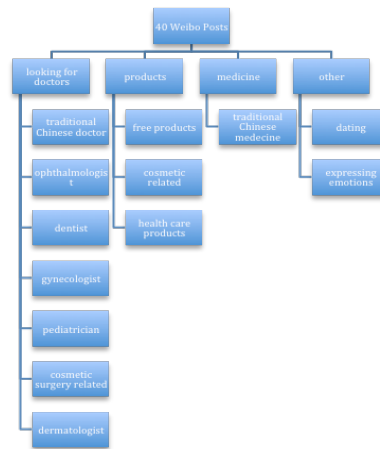


Figure 2: Composition of Category

To sum up, seven categories emerged during the data analysis: looking for doctors (7 posts, 17%), products (16 posts, 40%), health insurance (2 posts, 5%), medicine (2 posts, 5%), food (1 post, 2%), social issues (9 posts, 23%) and other (3 posts, 8%). Among those seven categories some sub-categories emerged. For example, under the category of looking for doctors, seven sub-categories emerged: traditional Chinese doctor, ophthalmologist, dentist, gynecologist, pediatrician, cosmetic surgery, and dermatologist.

4.1.2 Weibo Participants' Interaction Comments Results

217 interaction comments have been selected from the sample posts included in the study. After reviewing each comment carefully, four main categories emerged: information category, emotional support related category, category including both information and emotional support and other (see Figure 3).

Information Category

In this category, comments involved direct answers to Weibo posts' questions, with the intention to help by providing information or solution. While in the emotional support related category, comments did not contain direct information/solution to the posts, but rather an attempt was made to share personal experiences, stories, repost the original Weibo post looking for help, or to simply put an emoticon (e.g., smiley face) to provide support, and so on. Based on the analysis, 114 comments that directly provided information or solution to the Weibo posts, accounted for 52% of entire selected interaction comments. For instance, one comment was: "glasses with -4.00 or above will be free and the conversion rate is 100 equal to -1.00." It also provided helpful information in the form of support in response to the original Weibo post: "free glasses for everyone."

Another Weibo post included a question regarding the search for a doctor specializing in asthma treatment in the greater Toronto area. Five people replied and provided possible solutions, for example: "Try aromatherapy essential oils, you can use eucalyptus, frankincense, lavender;" "You should let your kid try to learn how to swim. Swimming is a good way to cure Asthma, and it works for me friend's kid;" "You need a referral from a general doctor first;" "I know a doctor DR. [name of doctor], but I cannot remember the phone number;" "The doctors are similar. The only thing you can do is to ask for a prescription spray from doctors, my kid has asthma too."

The Emotional Support Related Category

Out of 217 (10%) comments, 21 were related to emotional support. In this category, comments did not contain direct information/solution to the posts, but rather an attempt was made to share personal experiences, stories, repost the original Weibo post looking for help, or to simply put an emoticon (e.g., smiley face) to provide support, and so on. For example, a Weibo users' interaction comment stated : "free glasses for everyone," and another user commented in response: I also purchased exactly the same one showing in the post for my mother, but they were reading glasses.

Category Including both Information and Emotional Support

11 (5%) comments contained both information and personal experiences/stories. For example, one stated that: "there is no such standard for good or bad doctors. You can ask for spray medicine for your kids. By the way, my kid has the same situation." The original Weibo post stated: "Emergency! Can anyone help me to find a good doctor in the greater Toronto area who specializes in asthma for children; he/she [my child] has been having serious breathing issues lately."

Other

71 (32%) comments could not fit either information category or emotional support related category. One example of these comments was: "I have a small business that can help you [people living in mainland China] to purchase stuff from Canada/North America with at a much cheaper price compared to one in

China. Please follow my Weibo account to get more information.” These kinds of posts were found under almost every Weibo post, especially under those product category posts.

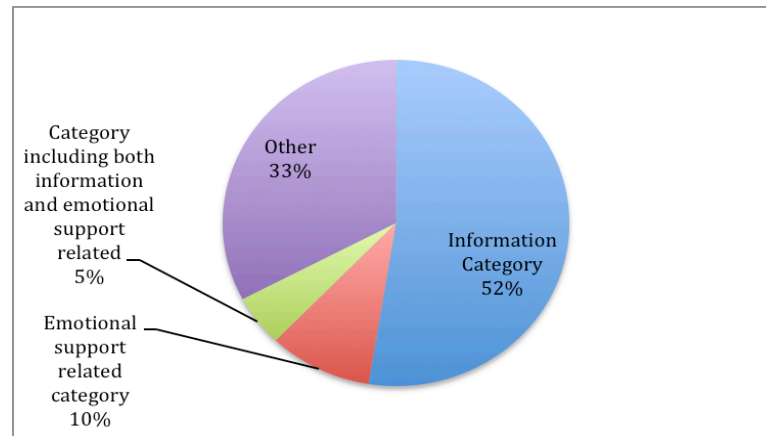


Figure 3: Composition of Weibo Interaction Comments

From the results, it has been noticed that information category of interaction comments was the most popular category among the total interaction comments. The second most popular category was other; it included interaction comments that did not provide either information or emotional support related responses to the original Weibo posts. The third popular category was emotional support related category. Interaction comments including both information and emotional support related responses were less popular than the other three categories.

4.1.3 Gender Composition

Weibo Posts

Among 40 Weibo posts sample, 42 percentage was directly related to topics relevant to females, 17 posts. For example, one post was related to the search for

a Gynecologist who can speak fluent mandarin in the greater Toronto area (see Appendix 1). The rest 23 (58% of the whole Weibo posts sample) posts were related to general topics, and could not be identified whether related to topics relevant to females or males (see Figure 4). In the following, results of further analysis of gender composition of Weibo comments are presented.

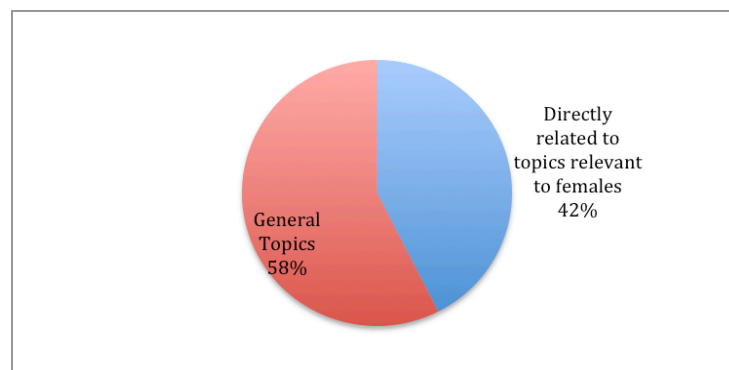


Figure 4: Gender Composition of Weibo Posts

Gender Composition of Weibo Interaction Comments

This analysis involved 217 relevant interaction comments from 40 Weibo posts. Among those comments 178 were from users who self-identified as females. They accounted for 82% of the entire comments sample. For example, under one Weibo post of “free eye glasses for everyone,” a female Weibo user replied: “I just purchased the same eye glasses for my mother.” Another comment made by a female user under one cosmetic related Weibo post stated: “I do not like the cosmetic products from Lamer; for me it works the same as products from Sisley and Shiseido.” Besides this, 17 female Weibo users participated in one plastic surgery related post. Some of these posts stated: “Why do you bother

to do plastic surgery in Canada? You could do it in South Korea on the way back to China. You can also find a lot of great stuff in there;" "I want to find a place to do plastic surgery in Vancouver as well;" "Is this going to be covered by health insurance?" (see Appendix 1). 38 (18%) posts were made from male Weibo users who joined the discussion. There was only 1 comment from a user who did not provide gender information in the account file (see Figure 5).

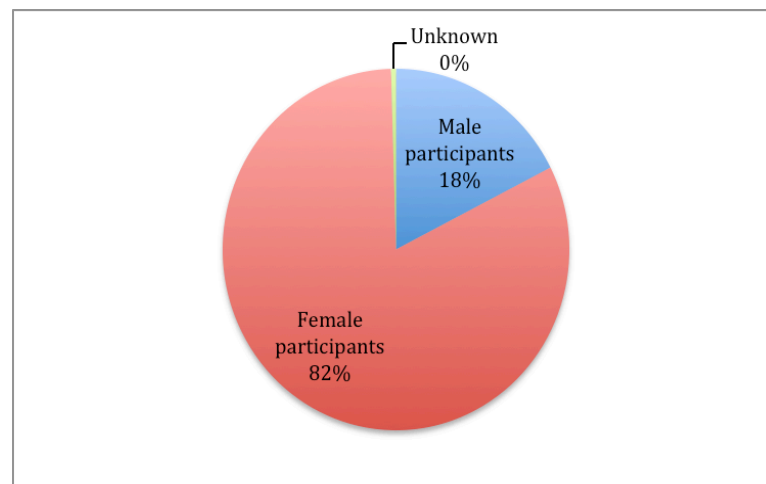


Figure 5: Gender Composition of Weibo Interaction Comments

It has been noticed that most interaction comments were made by female participants, and less male Weibo users participated in the discussion. It might be because that 42% of the total Weibo posts were directly related to female topics. For the rest 58% general topic related Weibo posts, female Weibo users still showed a lot of interest may be because of the nurturing female character taking care of family's health and well-being, and the fact that females are more prone to seeking health care more often ((Correa-de-Araujo, 2004; Roe, McNamara & Motheral, 2002). For example, 7 users posted interaction comments for one

general-topic Weibo post of giving away free eyeglasses, and all of them were female.

4.2 Qualitative Content Analysis Results

It has been examined in the study of Twitter that Twitter could be considered a virtual community by applying Benedict Anderson's (1983) concept of "imagined community" (Gruad et al., 2011). Gruad et al. (2011) argued that, "the members of even the smallest nation will never know most of their fellow-members, meet them, or even hear of them, yet in the minds of each lives the image of their communion" (p.6). He employed both Jones's (1997) theory of "virtual settlement" and McMillan et al. (1986) view of "sense of community" to examine "whether Twitter can sustain and provide grounds for development of an online community that is not simply imagined" (p. 8). The research further pointed out that the Twitter network could actually be "real;" because people on Twitter interact with each other, provide different types of social capital, and support each other (Gruad et al., 2011).

There are many characteristics that Twitter and Sina Weibo share. For example, these two social media platforms both allow their users to send and read short messages, with up to 140 characters. As such this research paper set out to study Sina Weibo as a virtual community. The aim was to provide insights into how Sina Weibo could serve as a virtual community to provide Chinese international students various types of social capital, with specific attention to their health related information seeking process.

4.2.1 “Imagined” Community

According to Gruad et al. (2011), the first step to become a virtual community involves being an “imagined” community, and. to start with “imagined” community, it has been noticed that, “a key element of community formation is the development of a common language” (Gruad et al., 2011, p.12). For example, every country has developed a set of conventions about how to greet each other and how to start a conversation between friends. Specifically, people in the West will normally start with ‘how are you doing today/how are you,’ ‘Hello/Goodbye’ in North America, ‘Pronto/Ciao’ in Italy, and ‘Moshi Moshi’ in Japan (Gruad et al., 2011). However, people in the East, China for example, will likely start a conversation with ‘did you have your breakfast/ lunch/dinner?’ It usually depends on when they meet each other. Weibo users in this study also seemed to develop a similar a set of conventions about how to communicate. Thus, the first step of examining Weibo as the “imagined community” is to relate the data (40 selected health related Weibo posts with 217 participants interaction comments) to Anderson’s (1983) discussion of a key element of “imagined community”: common language.

Common Language

Certain forms of language or linguistic structures were adopted by Weibo users. Two major ways were found to highlight one topic on Weibo: using hashtags (#), or using square brackets to label intrinsic topics. For example, one Weibo post stated: “[Tarte Cosmetics Canada] there is a promotion event about

makeup and skincare product, 20% off everything with the discount code TARTECAD. Tarte is a good brand, which has been ignored by most of people, but a lot of make-up artists in the U.S. will recommend this brand to other people. Tarte is made of natural plant, with no chemical additives and flavors. Even those women who are pregnant can also use this product. Personally, I will recommend choosing the Amazon mud blush (it can be used as lipstick and lip balm).” As can be noticed, this Weibo post used square brackets to highlight the topic of Tarte. It would be much easier for people who want to discover more information about the Tarte product to simply run a search by using the format of [Tarte Cosmetics Canada] on Weibo platform. The use of hashtags to label a topic is very similar with the use of square bracket. For example, if users are interested in the discussion of Tarte Cosmetics Canada, they could run a search by using the format of #Tarte Cosmetics Canada#.

Another important structure is using @name to identify the username/person a user is talking to, or to raise user’s attention, to provide information directly to someone, and so on. As can be seen, in Table 4, there were five interaction comments that adopted the format of @name trying to directly reach specific Weibo users, for example: XXX [the name of Weibo user]: reply @XXX [the name of Weibo user].

Table 4: One Typical Weibo Post with Participants’ Interaction Comments

[Help someone asking a question] I am an international student in Toronto. I need to find a Gynecologist, who can speak fluent Mandarin. Is there anyone who knows such female doctors with good reputation? Beside this, I have another
--

question related to international students' health insurance coverage issue.
Thank you very much in advance.

大菌菌_木须守护神兄: reply@再来一碗热粥够不够:Yeah!!!!

大菌菌_木须守护神兄: reply@吞吞慢同学:You two bad guys ["I got you two in this discussion..."]~~

来一碗热粥够不够: reply @大菌菌_木须守护神兄: Ha-ha, got you~~~

吞吞慢同学: reply @大菌菌_木须守护神兄:Hello~~

眼泪眼屎: There is a Gynecologist, named Dr. [last name of the Dr.]in [name of the clinic]clinic.

大菌菌_木须守护神兄: If you want to visit a specialist doctor, you will need to get a referral letter from your family doctor, or from doctors in walk-in clinic, or doctors at school first. Normally it will be very complicated. Actually, in my opinion, clinic centers located on campus are good enough. You can tell the registration people that you need a female doctor.

bella2333: I do not know any doctor who can speak Chinese. But there is a women's health college on campus that can do examination for you, and personally I like it.

夜_喵喵: Go to school's clinic center and book an appointment with a female doctor.

洛新_森: I heard that health examination package provided by school will include the department of gynecology but you have to be above 21 years old.

加国无忧: If you did purchase the health insurance plan from school, you should go to clinic center located on campus; because they have better doctors and equipment compared with those private clinic center. Clinic center of school will provide free gynecological examination. However, you need to send the examination bill to your health insurance company, and the health insurance company will refund the money shortly.

Ariel 莹莹张有凌奶酱: any walk in clinic center provide such service...

青衣-青衣: Gynecologist only accept patients with referral letter from family doctor or clinic doctor, and this process will take more than a month.

球小欣 Jessie: I do not know which school you are in. I know that [name of university] provide a free health examination every year, including gynecological examination.

維姬小姐的生活_江: I do not have such experience because I prefer Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), and I have only traditional Chinese doctor. Normally, for international students' health insurance, you need pay the medicine/medical treatment bill first. After this, you will be able to claim refund from your health insurance company by filling some forms, with the bill statement together. You need to mail all these supporting documents to the health insurance company. They will refund your money after a few days via a check.

Ooo 二十二橋楓別雨 ooO: Gynecologist....

什么名字都被占: reply @維姬小姐的生活_江: Hello, do you know where I can find a good traditional Chinese doctor?

Besides adopting the format of @username to reach specific persons, using hashtags or square brackets to label topics, there was another interesting format of linguistic conversation in Sina Weibo, the Chinese-language based social media platform. This interesting linguistic structure is a combination of using English-language and Chinese-language together in one Weibo post or in one interaction comment (see Appendix 2). For example, one person posted a message to share her personal experiences about how to deal with combination skin type. In her post, she stated in English word of “sensitive+dehydrated+oily skin” to describe her situation, but she used Chinese language to write the rest of her Weibo post. Similarly, in most Weibo posts and interaction comments, people used the name “T&T” instead of this supermarket’s Chinese name (大统华); however the rest of the posts and comments were written in Mandarin. Besides this, among other participants’ interaction comments, all cosmetic products/brands were written in English instead of Chinese. As such, by using this way to communicate with each other, people (who live in Canada, international students for example) separated themselves from those who live in Mainland China or those who do not speak English. This was how people created a very unique common language based on common experience, knowledge, language preference, and so on. Moreover, for English-language Weibo users, international students for example, the data appeared to illustrate that, they were more likely to adopt similar linguistic structures used by Twitter users. For example, “M/Mark” means one Weibo user collected this Weibo post in his/her

own Weibo account file. “RT/Repost” refers to forwarded posts to other people on Sina Weibo (Gruad et al., 2011).

Temporality

The second important element related to the formation of “imagined” communities is temporality (Gruad et al., 2011). It has been illustrated that, “the formation of imagined communities is the presence of the homogeneous time, in which a community is moving through history together by sharing a consciousness of a shared temporal dimension in which they co-exist” (Gruad et al., 2011, p.15). In Table 4, 16 interaction comments were posted on the same day (2014-04-09) after a Weibo post was published. Besides this, for social media, there is a belief that only things that are happening now are what matter. For example, one Weibo post stated: [Well.ca: Lily of the Desert] there is a promotion for Lily of the Desert... This promotion is only good for today (2/11). The last sentence was for emphasis on the temporality of this Weibo post.

High Centers

Benedict Anderson (1983) pointed out in his book *The Imagined Community* that, community formation is associated with the decline of the conception that society is naturally organized around and under high centers. However, similar to Twitter, Weibo represents a de-centralized structure where anyone is free to follow anyone, free to unfollow anyone, free to restrict access to his or her account by blocking someone, and so on (Gruad et al., 2011). But it will be another picture if we use a more network-oriented view of high centers.

According to Gruad et al. (2011), “high centers in Twitter are popular individuals or organizations who are followed by many others” (p. 16). The situation of Weibo is very similar. For example, in this research paper, four popular Sina Weibo accounts have been selected to create the database. One selection standard was based on the number of followers in each Weibo account. For example, there were more than 120,000 people who followed “The bulletin of how to save money in Canada/Dealmoon Canada”, and the Sina Weibo account of “Canadian Tourism Commission” had more than 600,000 followers by the end of March, 2015.

4.2.2 From “Imagined” Community to “Real” Community

As mentioned, this research paper aimed to understand the role Sina Weibo plays in Chinese international students’ oversea lives and their online health related information seeking process in particular. Through the first step of data analysis, it was found that, Sina Weibo could be recognized as an “imagined” community because of the common language developed by Weibo users, the temporality of Weibo posts’, and the presence of the “high center” feature. The second step of data analysis went beyond looking at Sina Weibo as an “imagined” community, because this study wanted to find whether Sina Weibo could maintain and provide social capital and support its followers. In this way, Sina Weibo will not simply be imagined by each user but it will also be built on the shared sense of community: from the “imagined” to “real” community that can bring people together. Since this research paper aimed to study Sina Weibo as a

virtual community that maintains and provides social capital to its users, it is necessary to examine the idea of virtual settlement and sense of community.

Virtual Settlement

To start with, previous studies pointed out that the prerequisite for an online community is the presence of a “virtual settlement” and it needs to meet the following four conditions: interactivity, more than two communicators, common-public-place where members can meet and interact, and sustained membership over time (Gruad et al., 2011; Jones, 1997). As such, it is necessary to focus on whether Sina Weibo can be recognized as a “virtual settlement.”

Interaction

There were 217 interaction comments existing in 40 selected health related Sina Weibo posts. Among 40 Weibo posts, 10 of them used the format of @username to facilitate talking to another Weibo user directly, which accounted for 25% of the entire data set (Sina Weibo posts). 75 interaction comments (27% of the whole interaction comments) included the structure of @username to reach other discussion participants, or someone they would like to directly reach. Moreover, those 40 Weibo posts were reposted 64 times in total according to the calculator tool of Sina Weibo itself.

More than Two Communicators

Taking a typical Sina Weibo as an example, there were 13 different Weibo users who joined one Weibo post discussion (see Table 4). If we included the Weibo post publisher, in this case, there were 14 communicators who

participated in a health related information seeking discussion. Hence, there were more than two communicators on Sina Weibo.

Common-Public-Place Where Members Can Meet and Interact

As a social media platform, Sina Weibo has certain features for its users to communicate with each other publicly or privately. Everyone is free to make public any messages on Weibo platform by simply creating a message with 140 characters or below and users can easily reach anyone on Weibo platform via private message box.

Sustained Membership over Time

Based on the current data collection methods used in this study, it was not possible to examine the sustained membership over time. In this paper, the data only illustrated when users made Weibo posts, published Weibo interaction comments, and so on. It was impossible to tell when Weibo users become a member of a particular Weibo account. This limitation calls for further research.

Sense of Community

According to Gruad et al. (2011), “the presence of a virtual settlement does not necessarily guarantee the presence of a community” (p.9). In other words, social media system like Sina Weibo that allows people to talk to each other and exchange information does not necessarily allow Sina Weibo users to have a sense of belonging to a particular community (Gruad et al., 2011). As such, the view of sense of community was employed the following way. Four conditions characterize a sense of community: membership, influence, integration and

fulfillment of needs, and shared emotional connection. With regard to integration/fulfillment of needs and shared emotional connection, both of them have been examined already during the first part of quantitative data analysis. From previous analysis, it was apparent that, out of 217 comments, 21 (10%) were related to emotional support, and 114 comments that directly provided information or solution to the Weibo posts, accounted for 52% of the whole interaction comments. The remaining two conditions are examined below.

Membership

Based on the current data collection methods used in this study, it was difficult to examine when a Weibo user of an account became a follower of another Weibo account, or users. This limitation calls for further research.

Influence

Simply, influence means the difference made by each person to one community. As noticed, people's discussion did appear to have an influence on other Weibo users' actions. For example, one Weibo user posted a public Weibo post about her personal experience with skincare product: "this is for girls who unfortunately have similar skin type that I have, which is sensitive+dehydrated+oily skin. After trying a lot of cosmetic products and different brands, I finally found that the product of Chanel gel and Chanel hydra essence works great: it can help you with hydrator, and will be good with sensitive skin type...I used these two products for a month, and they worked great...cannot wait to recommend to other people." Among interaction

comments resulting from this post, there was one user who affirmed: "I am going to save money for these two products, since it worked great for you...." As such, from this and other similar examples, it can be argued that, Weibo posts can have an influence on users' actions.

Chapter Summary

This chapter presented the results of quantitative and qualitative data analyses of the four Weibo accounts: "The bulletin of how to save money in Canada/Dealmoon Canada," "Canadian Tourism Commission," "University of Ottawa," and "The Chinese international students union of University of Ottawa." The analyses included 40 health related Sina Weibo posts and 217 participants' interaction comments. Seven categories emerged during the quantitative analysis, and these seven categories were divided into two parts: providing information and emotional support. Among 217 interaction comments, 114 directly provided information or solution to the Weibo posts; 21 provided emotional support; 11 provided both information and emotional support; and 71 could not be categorized to fit any of the two parts. For the qualitative analysis, Anderson's (1983) concept of "imagined community," Jones's (1997) theory of "virtual settlement," and McMillan et al. (1986) view of "sense of community" have been employed to examine whether Sina Weibo could be imagined as a virtual community that could create and sustain various social capital. The next chapter will provide an attempt to answer the research questions.

Chapter Five: Discussion

In the following chapter, answers for research questions will be presented based on data drawing from quantitative and qualitative content analyses. The research questions that were posed earlier included:

RQ 1: What role does Weibo play in the health related information seeking process of international Chinese students in Canada?

RQ 2: What barriers do Chinese international students' face when accessing health care related information/services by using Weibo in Canada?

5.1 The Role of "Virtual Community"

The results illustrated that Sina Weibo could be studied as a "virtual community" for its users during their online communication related to health issues. In other words, the answer to the first research question is that Sina Weibo plays the role of a "virtual community" in Chinese international students' health related information seeking process.

5.1.1 "Imagined" Community

A virtual community needs to meet conditions of an "imagined" community first. As part of an "imagined" community, Weibo users did create unique linguistic structures during their daily interactions, including using @username to directly talk to someone, hashtags or square brackets to label discussion topics, a combination of two different languages (Chinese and English) together in one post or one interaction comment, and so on. The development of the common language among Weibo users provided a foundation for Weibo

becoming an “imagined” community. As discussed in the results of data analyses chapter, the other two important conditions of being an “imagined” community, temporality and “high center,” can also be applied to Sina Weibo. For example, most Weibo posts about health related products information/promotion highlighted the expired date of promotion, such as “the offer is only good for today (2/22)” could be considered a sign of temporality. With regard to the feature of “high center,” the Weibo account of “The bulletin of how to save money in Canada/Dealmoon Canada” had more than 120, 000 followers by the end of March 2015, which speaks to the idea of Gruad et al. (2011): “high centers in social network are popular individuals or organizations who are followed by many others” (p. 16).

5.1.2 From “Imagined” to “Real” Community

The findings illustrated that beyond being an “imagined” community, Sina Weibo also plays the role of a “real” community that could create social capital for and provide support to its users to some extent. In other words, Sina Weibo could be considered as a virtual community that provides support to its users. Generally speaking, there are more than two communicators who interact via this common-public-place, Sina Weibo platform, making Weibo a virtual settlement according to the idea of Jones (1997). Moreover, the results also indicated that, Weibo users’ actions did appear to be influenced by other users’ Weibo posts/interaction comments during their communication. For example, as discussed in the results of data analyses chapter, some Weibo users appeared to

make purchasing decisions about cosmetic products based on personal experiences that other Weibo users shared with them on this social media platform. Besides the condition of membership, maintaining membership for a certain period, Weibo platform appeared to meet all other standards to become one “virtual settlement” and provide a sense of community to its users. As such, Gruad et al. (2011) noticed that social network, such as Twitter, is both real and imagined, can be applied to Weibo as well in that “It [Weibo] is real because the participants [users] interact, especially the mutuals. It is imagined because they have some sense of community: of interpersonal commitment,” “and that they have the ability to influence others in the network through their replies [posts] and retweeting [interaction comments]...” (p. 33).

5.1.3 “Real” Community that Provides Social Capital

As mentioned in the literature review chapter, Gruad et al. (2011) argued that, “Twitter is a good case to understand how people integrate information and communication technologies to form new social connections or maintain existing ones” (p. 33). His (Gruad et al., 2011) study findings illustrated that the interaction messages among Twitter users display a sense of belonging, and Twitter users have the ability to influence others in the network through their communication. The results of this study also illustrate the existence of this sense of belonging among users of Sina Weibo via their posts and interaction comments that amount to providing information and emotional support to each other. This study, however, makes a point of departure by analyzing analyzed the

kinds of information and emotional support provided by Weibo users.

The results of the quantitative analysis of the 40 Weibo posts and 217 interaction comments showed that generally Weibo users' posts and interaction comments could be divided into two major parts, information related and emotional support related. Specifically, information related posts and interaction comments provided "bridging social capital," also known as "weak ties," that "serve as bridges connecting a person to a different network, allowing the person to access to new perspectives and diffuse information" (Lin et al., 2012, p. 3). In this research paper, this type of social capital might be able to help Weibo users to acquire information/knowledge of the host country's language, culture, worldviews, beliefs, norms, and rules (e.g., posts about where to purchase certain products, posts about health insurance information, announcement about social issues, like someone died because of drug abuse, and so on.). Emotional support related Weibo posts and interaction comments provided "bonding social capital," also known as "strong ties," and this type of emotional support can be gained from close relationships in our lives (Lin et al., 2012). This emotional support may help an individual draw upon different resources in order to cope with life difficulties, psychological stress, and maintain emotional well-being.

5.2 Barriers and Opportunities Facing Chinese International Students

5.2.1. Barriers

Studies pointed out that Chinese international students face many life

difficulties that they need to cope with, including financial stress, cultural difference, language barriers, social isolation, and so on, during their overseas stay (Carey & Denise, 2013). With regard to their health, previous research showed that Chinese international students seemed reluctant to health services in the host country because of reasons related to discomfort, misunderstanding, and lack of trust (Carey & Denise, 2013). As evidenced in existing literature with regard to ethnic minority patients (Scheppers, et al., 2006), the results of this study also found that, when accessing health care services in the host country, Chinese international students often face barriers that relate to using health services, and these barriers occurred at three different levels: patient level (including demographic variables, social structure variables, health beliefs and attitudes, personal enabling resources, community enabling resources, perceived illness and personal health practices, and so on), provider level (relating to health care/service providers' skills and attitudes) and system level (mainly health care organizations). These barriers are discussed below.

Language

Language barrier has been mentioned many times in most cultural adaptation studies, studies related to international students' issues, and, health communication studies (Carey & Denise, 2013; Hendrickson et al., 2011; Lin & Yi, 1997; Yan & Berliner, 2013; Ye, 2006). The results of this research paper also found that, language plays an important role during Chinese international students' health related seeking process. It has been noticed that among the

category of looking for doctors, 2 (29%) Weibo posts out of 7 included information about language issues that Chinese people faced. For example, one Weibo user mentioned: "I am a Chinese international student in Toronto...can anyone recommend me a female doctor who can speak fluent Mandarin...." Another Weibo post stated: "Is there anyone who knows a good dentist in Toronto, who can speak Mandarin? It will be much easier for me to communicate with a dentist who can speak Chinese language." It appears that, even Chinese international students who can speak good English, still prefer to communicate with doctors who know their first language, Chinese language.

Lack of Information

Another barrier for Chinese international students to access health information/services is lack of information relevant to their needs. Simich (2011) pointed out that Chinese immigrants are often faced with the problem of lacking meaningful information about health issues, such as, "knowledge of where to find the right health care, [and] how to access preventive health care services" (p.18). In this research paper, 16 Weibo posts (40%) out of 40 related to the search for health related information. For instance, many posts were about how to find a doctor, including traditional Chinese doctor, ophthalmologist, dentist, gynecologist, pediatrician, cosmetic surgery doctors, and dermatologist (see Appendix 1). Moreover, there were other posts about purchasing health related products, such as: "Is there anyone who knows where to purchase Chlorophyll in Canada?" "Hi, is there anyone who knows where I can find the millet and Carp?"

Because my baby will be born next month, and I will need a lot of this kind of food.”

Health Beliefs

Previous studies illustrated that one’s perceptions of health and illness is related to his/her health-seeking attitudes and behaviours and these perceptions directly and indirectly determine one's interpretation of illness (Ahmed & Bates, 2012; Carey & Denise, 2013; Copeland, 2005). Chinese culture, particularly traditional Chinese medicine and/or medical treatment, which are very different compared with the western medicine and health treatment, influence Chinese international students’ health seeking process, attitudes, and behaviours (Kwan & Holmes, 1999; Ma et al., 2010). Results of this study also found similar influence of one’s health beliefs on his/her health related information seeking process. For example, one Weibo interaction comment stated: “I do not have such experiences of looking doctors in Canada, and this is because personally I prefer to use the traditional Chinese treatment. I know a traditional Chinese doctor in Toronto for a long time;” While another interaction comment stated: “Why do people want to bring traditional Chinese medicine to Canada? Those medicines are useless in my opinion” (see Appendix 2). From this interaction comment, it appears that this Weibo user’s belief about traditional Chinese medicine influenced his/her decision to not seek treatment from western doctors

Other

The results of this study showed that, there were other barriers when Chinese international students searched for health related information in Canada, such as financial difficulties, the idea of “face saving,” and so on. There were two health-insurance related Weibo posts, and both of them were about some financial issue. For example, in one post, a user asked questions related to medical treatment fees, and another user in another post was looking for details of health insurance plan, especially the associated costs.

Regarding the idea of “face saving,” Talley (2014) argued that, the face is a core feature of our physical identity, status, and the way of being in the world. It was noted that, one plastic surgery related Weibo post had been deleted after many people participated in the discussion, and it might be because the user who posted the plastic surgery Weibo post felt like “losing face,” and did not want people to identify who he/she was by clicking on the original Weibo post linking to his/her Weibo account file.

5.2.2. Opportunities

Besides the above barriers that Chinese international students faced, they were also presented with opportunities to increase their social networks, gain health and wellness related information, and form community ties through their health related seeking process via Sina Weibo. For example, there was one post about a gunfire that happened in Toronto, which resulted in 198 interaction comments. Moreover, 460 people reposted this post the same day when the gunfire happened. Similarly, another Weibo post stated: “my skin suddenly has

scars, especially after I came to Canada...is there anyone else with similar experience? Can anyone help me with some treatment information or anything? ”

113 people participated in this discussion and 24 Weibo users reposted the original post. According to existing literature, that web- and mobile-based applications of social media are powerful tools for the dissemination of health related information, and there is a large number of people seeking health related information online and through social media applications (Hawn, 2009; Robillard et al., 2013). The results of this study found that Sina Weibo social network plays an important role in Chinese international students’ lives through providing one social networking platform that brings together the Chinese international community. For example there were more than 120,000 users in one Weibo account: “The bulletin of how to save money in Canada/Dealmoon Canada. ”

Chapter summary

This chapter argued how Sina Weibo appears to meet almost all conditions to be a “virtual community.” It further discussed how Sina Weibo operates as a “virtual community” and creates various types of social capital for its users, including information and emotional support. It has been noticed that facing Chinese international students faced certain barriers and opportunities during their health related information seeking process via Sina Weibo. In the next chapter, conclusions are drawn, limitations are discussed, and, recommendations for future studies are presented.

Chapter Six: Conclusions, Limitations, and Recommendations

This chapter highlights some major findings of this study, then discusses the limitations, and makes some recommendations future research.

6.1 Conclusions

The purpose of this study was to understand the role of Sina Weibo in the lives of Chinese international students in Canada and their online health related information seeking process in particular. An application of the idea of Twitter as an “imagined” community (Gruad et al., 2011), Jones’s (1997) “virtual settlement” and the “sense of community” of McMillan et al. (1986) yielded insights into how Sina Weibo can provide grounds for development of an online community that is not simply imagined. In other words, the quantitative and qualitative content analyses findings demonstrate that it is possible to consider Sina Weibo as a virtual community that provides Chinese international students with various types of social capital. Specifically, Sina Weibo creates an online public place for its users to interact with each other; there are more than two communicators on Sina Weibo; and the Weibo posting and interaction comments related to health related information seeking seem to have an influence on their actions. These three characters appear to make Sina Weibo a “real” community, which provides a sense of community among its users and a sense of belonging as well.

Moreover, the results illustrated that there were mainly two kinds of social capital provided by the Sina Weibo platform: social capital that provides

information, and bonding social capital that brings people together with a sense of belonging and that provides emotional support, and so on. The types of information provided by the Sina Weibo platform were divided into seven categories, including: looking for doctors, products, health insurance, medicine, food, social issues and others, which together reflected the literal topics of all Weibo posts in the data set. Emotional support provided by the Sina Weibo platform were divided into three categories, including: looking for dating information, expressing personal emotion, and sharing personal experiences to support others or simply posting some words/smiley face to support others.

To sum up, similar to the study of Gruad et al. (2011) on Twitter as an “imagined” community, this research paper argues that Sina Weibo could be recognized as an imagined community, and more importantly, it could be recognized from an “imagined” to a “real” community (a virtual community), which seem to create various social capital for Chinese international students in the form of providing health related information and emotional support to make their overseas lives easier.

6.2 Limitations

As mentioned in the methodology part, there are several limitations that need to be taken into consideration when assessing the findings of this study. First of all, the sample size of this study is not big enough to cover the whole Sina Weibo posts and interaction comments. This is because the method of content analysis is very time-consuming; it involves analyzing a voluminous number of

posts and interaction comments need to undergo analysis, and in this case, translation too. Hence the reason for selecting a small, manageable number of posts and interaction comments to carry out this research.

Second, for this research paper, all Weibo posts and interaction comments were selected from the Sina Weibo platform only. However, there are other major micro blogging platforms in China, such as Tencent, Sohu, or 163, which have not been taken into account. Therefore, the sample of this study is not representative enough to make generalizations for the whole group.

Third, during the qualitative content analysis, it has been noticed that the condition of “Sustained membership over time” from Jones’ (1997) notion of “virtual settlement,” and the condition of “membership” from McMillan’s team (1986) view of “sense of community” could not be accounted for because of the data collection methods employed in conducting this research. Therefore, future research should examine these two conditions of being a “virtual community” by examining users’ Sina Weibo network activity for a period of time and tracking all followers’ interaction comments/activities.

Fourth, the researcher’s bias could have influenced the conclusions of this research paper focused on Sina Weibo, the Chinese-language based social media platform. For example, the translation work was done by the researcher herself, with the help of computer based translation tools.

6.3 Recommendations

Despite the limitations mentioned above, this research paper offers some

useful insights into an area of study that received less focus in existing research: Chinese international students' health related information seeking process via social media platform. It provides the groundwork for future health related information seeking process via social media platform, especially among Chinese international students.

Moreover, the findings revealed that female Weibo users were more active participants in discussion via Sina Weibo. As such, future research can focus on females' online health related information seeking process, attitudes, behaviours, and the influence of their health beliefs on the whole family by doing an in-depth interviews and focus groups.

References

- Abdulrahim, S., & Baker, W. (2009). Differences in self-rated health by immigrant status and language preference among Arab Americans in the Detroit Metropolitan Area. *Social Science & Medicine*, 68(12), 2097-2103.
- Adelman, M. (1988). Cross-cultural adjustment: A theoretical perspective on social support. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 12(3), 183-204.
- Ahmed, R., & Bates, B. R. (2012). Development of Scales to Assess Patients' Perception of Physicians' Cultural Competence in Health Care Interactions. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 23(3), 287-296.
- Ahmed, R., & Bates, B. R. (2013). *Health communication and mass media: An integrated approach to policy and practice* (Gower applied business research). Farnham, Surrey, UK England: Gower.
- Andersson, A. (2011). A systematic examination of a random sampling strategy for source apportionment calculations. *Science of the Total Environment*, 412, 232-238.
- Anderson, B. (1983). *Imagined communities : Reflections on the origin and spread of nationalism*. London: Verso.
- Asanin, J., & Wilson, K. (2008). "I spent nine years looking for a doctor": Exploring access to health care among immigrants in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. *Social Science & Medicine*, 66(6), 1271-1283.

-
- Attard, A., & Coulson, N. S. (2012). A thematic analysis of patient communication in Parkinson's disease online support group discussion forums. *Computers in Human Behavior, 28*(2), 500.
- Berger, A. (1982). *Media analysis techniques* (The Sage commtext series ; v. 10). Beverly Hills: Sage Publications.
- Berry, J. (1997). Immigration, Acculturation, and Adaptation. *Applied Psychology, 46*(1), 5-34.
- Bollini, P., & Siem, H. (1995). No real progress towards equity: Health of migrants and ethnic minorities on the eve of the year 2000. *Social Science & Medicine, 41*(6), 819-828.
- Budd, R., Thorp, R. K., & Donohew, L. (1967). *Content analysis of communications*. New York: Macmillan.
- Carey, E. B., & Denise, T. O. (2013). A Needs Assessment: A Study of Perceived Need for Student Health Services by Chinese International Students. *College Student Journal, 47*(1), 155-168.
- Canada Welcomes Records Number of International Students in 2012. (2013, February 26). *States News Service*, p. States News Service, Feb 26, 2013.
- Chen, S. X., & Mak, W. S. (2008). Seeking professional help: Etiology beliefs about mental illness across cultures. *Journal of Counselling Psychology, 55*(4), 442-450.

-
- Coleman, J. S. (1988). Social capital in the creation of human capital. *The American Journal of Sociology*, 94, S95.
- Copeland, S. (2005). *Counselling supervision in organisations : Professional and ethical dilemmas explored*. London ; New York: Routledge.
- Correa-de-Araujo, R. (2004). A wake-up call to advance women's health. *Women's Health Issues*, 14(2), 31-34.
- Dattalo, P. (2010). *Strategies to approximate random sampling and assignment*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Davies, H. (1946). Definition Of Health. *The British Medical Journal*, 2(4482), 838.
- Ellison, N., Steinfield, C., & Lampe, C. (2007). The Benefits of Facebook "Friends:" Social Capital and College Students' Use of Online Social Network Sites. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 12(4), 1143-1168.
- Ferlander, S. (2003). The Internet, social capital and local community. Unpublished doctoral thesis, University of Stirling. Available at:
<http://www.crdlt.stir.ac.uk/publications.htm> (accessed 4 March 2011).
- Fontaine, G. (1986). Roles of social support systems in overseas relocation: Implications for intercultural training. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 10(3), 361-378.
- Freeman L., Freeman, S., & Michaelson, A. (1989). How humans see social groups: A test of the Sailer-Gaulin models. *Journal of Quantitative Anthropology*. 1:229-38.

Green, L. (2011). *Definitions of health* (Oxford bibliographies online. Public health).

New York: Oxford University Press.

Griffiths, M. (2011). Medicines management: Matt Griffiths reinforces the need for standardised medication reviews for patients in nursing homes.

(REFLECTIONS)(Column). *Nursing Standard*, 25(48), 28.

Gruzd, A., Wellman, B., Takhteyev, Y. (2011). Imagining Twitter as an Imagined

Community. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 55(10), 1294-1318.

Guan, W Gao., H., Yang, M., Li, Y., Ma, H., Qian, W., . . . Yang, X.. (2014). Analyzing user

behavior of the micro-blogging website Sina Weibo during hot social

events. *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and Its Applications*, 395, 340-351.

Han, X., Han, X., Luo, Q., Jacobs, S., & Jean-Baptiste, M. (2013). Report of a Mental

Health Survey among Chinese International Students at Yale University. *Journal of American College Health*, (1), 1-8.

Hawn, C. (2009). Take two aspirin and tweet me in the morning: How Twitter,

Facebook, and other social media are reshaping health care. *Health Affairs*

(Project Hope), 28(2), 361-8.

Hendrickson, B., Rosen, D., & Aune, R. K. (2011). An analysis of friendship networks,

social connectedness, homesickness, and satisfaction levels of international

students. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 35(3), 281-295.

Hesse-Biber, S., & Leavy, P. (2008). *Handbook of emergent methods*. New York:

Guilford Press.

Jones, Q. (1997). Virtual-Communities, Virtual Settlements & Cyber-Archaeology: A

Theoretical Outline. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 3(3).

Khawaja, N. G., & Dempsey, J.. (2008). A Comparison of International and Domestic

Tertiary Students in Australia. *Australian Journal of Guidance and*

Counselling, 18(1), 30-46.

Kim, Y. (1988). *Communication and cross-cultural adaptation : An integrative*

theory(Intercommunication ; 2). Clevedon [England] ; Philadelphia: Multilingual

Matters.

Kim, Y. (2001). *Becoming intercultural: An integrative theory of communication and*

cross-cultural adaptation. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: Sage Publications.

Kim, Y. (2005). Adapting to a New Culture: An Integrative Communication Theory. *In*

Theorizing about Intercultural Communication, ed. William B. Gudykunst. pp.

375-400. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Kreuter, M., & McClure, S. (2004). The role of culture in health communication.

Annual Review of Public Health, 25, 439-55.

Kwan, S. Y. & Holmes, M. A. (1999). An exploration of oral health beliefs and attitudes

of Chinese in West Yorkshire: a qualitative investigation. *Health Education*

Research, 14(4), 453-460.

Lambert, S., & Loiselle, C. (2007). Health information seeking behavior. *Qualitative*

Health Research, 17(8), 1006-19.

Liang, W., Wang, J., Chen, M., Feng, S., Yi, B., & Mandelblatt, J. S. (2009). Cultural Views, Language Ability, and Mammography Use in Chinese American Women. *Health Education & Behavior*, 36(6), 1012-1025.

Lin, J., Peng, W., Kim, M., Kim, S., & LaRose, R. (2012). Social networking and adjustments among international students. *New Media & Society*, 14(3), 421-440.

Lin, J., & Yi, K. (1997). Asian international students' adjustment: issues and program suggestions. *College Student Journal*, 31(4), 473-484.

Martin, F., & Rizvi, F. (2014). Making Melbourne: Digital connectivity and international students' experience of locality. *Media, Culture & Society*, 36(7), 1016-1031.

Ma, W. F., Huang, X. Y., Chang, H. J., Yen, W. J., & Lee, S. (2010). Impact of Taiwanese culture on beliefs about expressing anxiety and engaging in physical activity: a discursive analysis of the literature. *Journal of Clinical Nursing*, 19(7), 969-977.

McMillan, D., Chavis, D., & Newbrough, J. R. (1986). Sense of community: A definition and theory. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 14(1), 6-23.

McMillan, G. (2012, January 23). Tweets-per-second record reportedly shattered by Chinese microblogging service read more:

<http://techland.time.com/2012/01/23/tweets-per-second-record-reportedly-shattered-by-chinese-microblogging-service/>

-
- Mori, S. (2000). Addressing the Mental Health Concerns of International Students. *Journal of Counseling and Development, 78*(2), 137.
- Naimy, Z., Grytten, J., Monkerud, L., & Eskild, A. (2013). BMC Public Health. 37 (Jan 15).
- Neiger, B., Thackeray, R., Van Wagenen, S., Hanson, C., West, J., Barnes, M., & Fagen, M. (2012). Use of Social Media in Health Promotion. *Health Promotion Practice, 13*(2), 159-164.
- Neuman, W. L. (2011). Qualitative and quantitative research. In Eid, M. (Ed.), *Research methods in communication* (133). Boston, MA: Pearson Education.
- Park, H., Rodgers, S., & Stemmler, J. (2011). Health Organizations' Use of Facebook for Health Advertising and Promotion. *Journal of Interactive Advertising, 12*(1), 62-77.
- Reynolds, B. J. (2010). Building trust through social media.(Center for Disease Control experience with H1N1 swine flu response). *Marketing Health Services, 30*(2), 18.
- Robillard, J., Johnson, T., Hennessey, C., Beattie, B., & Illes, J. (2013). Aging 2.0: Health information about dementia on Twitter. *PloS One, 8*(7), E69861.
- Roe, C., Mcnamara, A., & Motheral, B. (2002). Gender- and age-related prescription drug use patterns. *The Annals of Pharmacotherapy, 36*(1), 30-9.
- Roslyn Kunin & Associates, Inc. (2009, February 12). Economic impact of

international education in Canada final report. Retrieved from

http://www.international.gc.ca/education/assets/pdfs/RKA_IntEd_Report_eng.pdf

Rubel, A., & Garro, L. (1992). Social and Cultural Factors in the Successful Control of Tuberculosis. *Public Health Reports (1974-), 107(6)*, 626-636.

Safko, L., & Brake, D. (2009). *The social media bible: Tactics, tools, and strategies for business success*. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons.

Sam, D. (2001). Satisfaction with life among international students: An exploratory study. *Social Indicators Research, 53(3)*, 315-337.

Scheppers, E., Van Dongen, E., Dekker, J., Geertzen, J., & Dekker, J. (2006). Potential barriers to the use of health services among ethnic minorities: A review. *Family Practice, 23(3)*, 325-348.

Shirky, C. (2009). *Here comes everybody: The power of organizing without organizations*. New York: Penguin Press.

Simich, L. (2011, June 19). Health literacy, immigrants and mental health. Retrieved from http://www.canada.metropolis.net/pdfs/immi_health/Immigrant%20Mental%20Health%20-%20pgs17-22.pdf

Spence, P., Lachlan, K., Westerman, D., & Spates, S. (2013). Where the Gates Matter Less: Ethnicity and Perceived Source Credibility in Social Media Health

-
- Messages. *Howard Journal of Communications*, 24(1), 1-16.
- Starosta, W. J. (1984). Qualitative content analysis: A Burkean perspective. In W., B. Gudykunst & Y., Y., Kim (Eds.), *Methods for intercultural communication* (pp. 185-194). Beverly Hills, CA: Sage.
- Sullivan, J. (2014). China's Weibo: Is faster different? *New Media & Society*, 16(1), 24-37.
- Talley, H. (2014). *Saving face disfigurement and the politics of appearance*. New York: New York University Press.
- Thackeray R., Neiger B. L., Smith A. K. & Van W., & Sarah B. (2012). Adoption and use of social media among public health departments. *BMC Public Health*, 12(1), 242.
- Ting, J., & Hwang, W. (2009). Cultural Influences on Help-Seeking Attitudes in Asian American Students. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 79(1), 125-132.
- Vance, K., Howe, W., & Dellavalle, R. P. (2009). Social Internet Sites as a Source of Public Health Information. *Dermatologic Clinics*, 27(2), 133-136.
- Ward, C., & Kennedy, A. (1994). Acculturation strategies, psychological adjustment, and sociocultural competence during cross-cultural transitions. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 18(3), 329-343.
- Ward, H., Mertens, T., & Tomas, C. (1997). Health seeking behaviour and the control of sexually transmitted disease. *Health Policy and Planning*, 12(1), 19-28.
- Wang, L., Rosenberg, M., & Lo, L. (2008). Ethnicity and utilization of family physicians:

-
- A case study of Mainland Chinese immigrants in Toronto, Canada. *Social Science & Medicine*, 67(9), 1410-1422.
- Wellman, B. (1979). The Community Question: The Intimate Networks of East Yorkers. *American Journal of Sociology*, 84(5), 1201-1231.
- Wellman, B. (2001). Physical Place and Cyber-Place: Changing Portals and the Rise of Networked Individualism. *International Journal for Urban and Regional Research* 25(2): 227-52.
- Wellman, B., Salaff, J., Dimitrova, D., Garton, L., Gulia, M., & Haythornthwaite, C. (1996). Computer networks as social networks: Collaborative work, telework, and virtual community. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 22, 213.
- Witte, K., & Morrison, K. (1995). Intercultural and Cross-Cultural Health Communication: Understanding People and Motivating Health Behaviours. In R. L. Wiseman (Eds.) *Intercultural communication theory* (pp. 216-246). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Wright, C. R. (1986). *Mass communication: A sociological perspective*. New York, NY: Random House.
- Wu, B. F. (2011). The limitations of Weibo may cause its drop in stock market. Retrieved from <http://finance.ifeng.com/usstock/mgggfx/20111216/5284360.shtml>.
- Wu, P., & Ang, S. (2011). The impact of expatriate supporting practices and cultural

-
- intelligence on cross-cultural adjustment and performance of expatriates in Singapore. *The International Journal of Human Resource Management*, 22(13), 2683-2702.
- Yan, K., & Berliner, D. C. (2013). Chinese International Students' Personal and Sociocultural Stressors in the United States. *Journal of College Student Development*, (1), 62-84.
- Ye, J. (2006). Traditional and Online Support Networks in the Cross-Cultural Adaptation of Chinese International Students in the United States. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 11(3), 863-876.
- Ying, Y., & Liese, L. (1990). Initial adaptation of Taiwan foreign students to the United States: The impact of prearrival variables. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 18(6), 825-845.
- Ying, Y. W., & Liese, L. H. (1991). Emotional well-being of Taiwan students in the U.S.: An examination of pre-to post-arrival differential. *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*, 15(3), 345-366.
- Yin, R. K. (2009). *Case Study Research: Design and Methods*. Los Angeles, Calif.: Sage Publications.
- Yum, J. (1982). Communication Diversity And Information Acquisition Among Korean Immigrants In Hawaii. *Human Communication Research*, 8(2), 154-169.
- Zalenski, R., & Raspa, R. (2006). Maslow's hierarchy of needs: A framework for

achieving human potential in hospice. *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, 9(5), 1120-7.

Zhang Z., & Zhang, W. (2013). "I am not what you thought I should be": Learning Accounts of Chinese International Students in Canada. *International Journal of Social Science and Humanity*, 3(6), 576.

Zheng, Y. (2014). Patterns and Motivations of Young Adults' Health Information Acquisitions on Facebook. *Journal of Consumer Health On the Internet*, 18(2), 157-175.

Zhou, T. & Zhu, M., X. (2011). *Luxury*. Beijing: University of International Business and Economics Press.

Appendix A: Health Related Weibo Posts Sample

1	匿名帮问，大多地区哪里比较好的老中医
2	免费眼镜也可以很漂亮！
3	匿名帮问~ 麻烦匿名帮忙问个问题吧，万分感谢 我是国际留学生，在多伦多，还没有开学，最近几天想去看看检查一下妇科，不知道哪里有讲国语的口碑不错的女医生可以信赖，还有关于留学生保险看病费用问题，万分感谢！
4	女用脱毛器是女性朋友们必不可少的“美容武器”，现 Remington Smooth & Silky 豪华脱毛器在 Walmart.ca 清仓特卖\$39(原价 \$74.96) 并包邮
5	需要免费眼镜的看过来~
6	需要免费眼镜的看过来~多市今早发生枪战 感谢@欲盖_弄潮 分享 多伦多 parliment/carlon 今早发生枪战，整条街都被封了，小伙伴们出门要小心阿
7	需要免费眼镜的看过来~
8	匿名帮问~ 感觉自从来了加拿大就变成疤痕性皮肤了,手上划了一道口子愈合以后疤痕一直下不去,以前在国内的时候可能几天就没有印子了,现在是几个礼拜印子还在。而且如果腿上撞到哪里以后,腿上的淤青也是一直下不去。这些都是来加拿大以后发生的,请问有没有跟我一样的啊? 是不是身体里面缺什么维生素?
9	帮问: 健康卡信息
10	多伦多 Eglington 和 Dufferin 附近一家床垫厂起火了, 火势达到 6 级, 所幸暂时没有人员伤亡报告。火灾现场附近至少有 4 栋建筑物的居民需要疏散, 由于大量浓烟冒出, 对周围的环境会造成影响, 提醒附近居民一定要注意关好门窗。感谢@蒜香小鳳鱼 分享消息
11	感谢分享--今天入手 Medela 的 free style breastpump。shoppers 原价 449 刀今天特价 382 刀, sunlife 保险可报 300 刀, 加上 20X points event 狂攒 8 万分(约等于 150 刀), 这是没花钱还倒赚的节奏啊!! 分享给加拿大有意买 breastpump 的孕妈们~
12	帮你问问~@Alida_Ada 你好, 能不能帮我问问小伙伴们, 在哈法哪里可以买到散装的小米和鲫鱼。下个月生宝宝, 坐月子期间要吃很多小米粥和鲫鱼汤, 所以想多买一些。
13	给跟我一样不幸肤质是 sensitive+dehydrated+oily skin 的姐妹们极力推荐一下我的洁面保湿法宝。尝试无数牌子后, 发现 gel 面霜和 Chanel hydra 精华配起来保湿又不刺激痘痘 洗面奶洗完脸上清爽又不会太干 实验一个月后真心推荐。谢谢分享@Nukumori
14	TRIA Beauty 加拿大官网】购买任意 Tria 护肤仪免费送护肤品礼品装, 全场包邮~TRIA 家用激光脱毛器外形小巧时尚并可手持~Tria 的激光能精准的到达毛发根部及毛囊, 最后可至完全没有毛发, 每次使用后避免日照, 还可有美白嫩肤的效果呢~
15	【帮问】加拿大海关允许带中药免煎药吗? 一般可以带多少? 需要报关吗? 还有就是放托运还是随身啊~另外请问多伦多哪儿有中药的免煎药卖啊~ @踩着影子跳旋舞曲 最近有过新闻, 有人带了含违禁成分的中成药进美国给判 5 年不得入境. 加拿大的规矩还真不知道, 呼唤有经验人士帮答
16	帮问~ @绿如江南 求万能的快报帮忙呀, 帮问一下蒙特利尔哪里有卖隔音棉的呀, 可以贴墙上那种, 墙壁完全不隔音, 隔壁一个老黑打呼噜超级响我根本睡不着……神经衰弱了都……谢谢啦!

17	帮问~ @间歇性精神分裂的阿思 能帮我问一下, 我的 Medical care card 一直没交钱, 差不多有半年了。。我能 cancel 么, , 交完钱之后能 cancel 么, 地址也没改好久没收到信了, 一直欠着会有欠债公司来找吧。
18	由于部分用户严重过敏, Fitbit 宣布停售最新款 fitbit force 腕带并召回在美国销售的 100 万个和在加拿大销售的 2.8 万个 Force 智能腕带。Force 用户可以获得全额退款。申请退款链接: 0 网页链接 CEO 关于召回事件公开信
19	各位男士应如何在女性经期时爱护你的她呢? 请看我们为您准备的【#快报陪你过三八节#之我女人的姨妈来了】没有男友的姑娘不要灰心, @北美美容快报 的小编为你准备了丰富的保养知识。也请继续关注@北美红娘快报 说不定你的另一半正在那里等你哦(PS, 姨妈没来的朋友也可以看看@北美育儿快报)
20	帮问--请问多伦多哪有好的 walk-in clinic 皮肤科医生? 最近长了很多粉刺闭口白头黑头, 去美容院清针还没清完又造成很多痘印要崩溃了[泪][泪]@北美美容快报 @加拿大省钱快报 @北美省钱快报
21	#昆明火车站砍人事件# CNN 首页已有报道 "27 killed in China railway attack". 0 网页链接 愿逝者安息, 严惩歹徒!
22	帮问~ @就不告诉你哈哈 请问一下多伦多哪里有 swisse 叶绿素买呢?
23	问~ @帮 FFFatheruuu 求推荐多伦多地区靠谱的牙医诊所 中国人, 交流起来方便些, 价格合理些, 好预约些[泪][泪] 牙齿不争气好痛, 整个人头都痛[抓狂][抓狂], 本想着回国治疗 可是实在疼到忍不了啦[生病][生病]
24	有机护肤品牌【Juice Beauty 果漾美人】护肤品大促销, 满\$200 立减\$75; 满\$100 立减\$25; 满\$75 立减\$15~ 可能需要付关税~ Juice Beauty 是美国天然年轻化品牌, 成分表很讨人喜欢, 采用 100% 有机认证的果汁作为基底水, 不添加人工染料和香料~ 明星产品有青苹果去角质面膜, 鲜果保湿喷雾~
25	Well.ca 今日特卖: Derma E Vitalizing 磨砂膏特价\$6.99(原价 \$14.79)。此产品菠萝-芒果香味; 富含热带琼涯海棠、石榴、绿茶、芦荟、维生素 A、C 和 E 等配方; 能温和去除老化角质, 使用后皮肤更光滑细嫩。 买满\$25 以上包邮。 活动只限今天(2/13)。
26	帮问--瘦脸 整容相关
27	Well.ca: Lily of the Desert 芦荟 80 干燥发质洗发水特价\$9.99 (原价 \$16.49)。买满\$25 以上包邮。 优惠只限今天(2/11)。富含 80% 或更多的芦荟和维生素 A 及 E, 滋养你的头发, 降低干燥和治疗头皮发炎。适合日常使用。
28	帮问~ @LittleHaolin 急, 能否帮问问大多地区哪有看娃娃哮喘的好医生? 小孩这几天呼吸不好。
29	帮问。@陶静静掉肉肉 万能的微博君, 求问大多地区哪个眼科医生比较好~
30	帮问~ @haruru 五碳糖 求问, 多伦多哪里可以回收过期的药? 谢谢!
31	Well.ca: Pai 鳄梨&霍霍巴油保湿日霜特价\$21.99 (原价 \$41.99)。此款面霜富含多种维生素, 有机鳄梨、霍霍巴油, 能深层滋养肌肤, 补充需要的水份; 恢复弹性。 买满\$25 以上包邮。 优惠只限今天 (2/6)
32	【奥斯卡影帝菲利普塞默霍夫曼去世 享年 46 岁】2 月 2 日, 因主演《卡波特》而荣获第 78 届奥斯卡最佳男主角的菲利普-塞默-霍夫曼(Philip Seymour Hoffman)被发现死于纽约的公寓中, 享年 46 岁。TMZ 称警方在他的尸体上发现了针头, 初步断定死于吸毒过量
33	【奥斯卡影帝菲利普塞默霍夫曼去世 享年 46 岁】2 月 2 日, 因主演《卡波

	特》而荣获第 78 届奥斯卡最佳男主角的菲利普-塞默-霍夫曼(Philip Seymour Hoffman)被发现死于纽约的公寓中，享年 46 岁。TMZ 称警方在他的尸体上发现了针头，初步断定死于吸毒过量
34	全植物的天然彩妆品牌 Tarte 官网全场 8 折~
35	喜欢娇韵诗 CLARINS 的小伙伴们，下手的时机到啦~以植物为本，提倡自然
36	新型毒品：看到这三种包装请报警
37	【站位，很重要！】那一刻，你站在哪里，或许就决定了你生命的长度…… 戳图，为生命转发！@交通安全网
38	惨不忍睹 实拍 401 公路 20 车连环相撞
39	帮问~@洛凡_ 渥太华的女汉子 study week 要去纽约玩~ 2/16 号出发 2/22 返回，酒店行程都已经订好噜，真诚求一位妹纸同行~帮忙扩散一下
40	final 攒人品，GAP 的 \$15off \$75 哭胖，谢谢分享！

Appendix B: Weibo Interaction Comments Sample

1. Xena_Leftheart: 突然发现这个是和我昨天那同款的红色诶！
2. JasmineShiminFan: 我也给我妈咪配这个一模一样的，不过是老花镜
3. 随鱼儿安-Eileen: 回复@Cc_要上学了:近视的 400 以下免费 度数换算为-100 就选择-1.0
4. 羊小鹿妮子要冲刺期末: 怎么买？
5. xoxoAxoxo: 为什么现在不能用了啊
6. 小田田-TL: 可以带度数的吗
7. Cc_Leave: 就镜框么？有没有帮配近视镜片哇？
8. 大菌菌_木须守护神兄: 回覆@再来一碗热粥够不够:耶!!! =333333333333=
9. 大菌菌_木须守护神兄: 回覆@吞吞慢同学:两个坏蛋=3=
10. 来一碗热粥够不够: 回复@大菌菌_木须守护神兄: 哈哈!! 被我抓到了!!!!
11. 吞吞慢同学: 回复@大菌菌_木须守护神兄:哈喽~~
12. 眼泪眼屎: Waterfront clinic 有个讲中文的 dr.shi
13. 大菌菌_木须守护神兄: 专科儿医生都是要先家庭医生或者 walkin 或者学校 clinic 的医生开 reference 才能看的。。而且都比较忙约起来麻烦。。其实学校 clinic 就很好。。可以跟前台说想要女医生~
14. bella2333: 讲中文不知道 但是 college 有一个 womens health college 可以检查 而且不错
15. 夜_喵喵: 去学校 clinic 预约一个 woman doctor 就可以啊
16. 洛新_森: 学校好像是 21 岁以后体检就包括妇科
17. 加国无忧: 如果你没课的这段日子里，你也买了学校的保险，就可以直接去学校的 clinic 看，设施和医生都比私人诊所好多了，学校都有免费的妇科检查。你把单子寄到保险公司，钱稍后会退给你的
18. Ariel 莹莹张有凌奶酱: 随便找个 walk in 就可以看…
19. 青衣-青衣: 妇科医生只接受由家庭医生或者 walk in 大夫转去的病人，这个

- 过程至少一个月以上。
20. 球小欣 Jessie: 不知道你有什么学校, UT 学校的医院每年都可以约一次免费体检的, 当中就包括妇科检查
 21. 維姬小姐的生活_江: 妇科没看过不清楚。我比较偏中医治病 自己也有固定的理疗师。留学生保险一般都是你去看病先自己掏钱, 看完病自己交钱后医院会给你收据 report。一般你的保险公司会有一个单子给你, 填完那个单子然后把单子和 report 一起邮寄到你保险公司。过了几天后他们会把钱给你支票寄回你的地址
 22. Ooo 二十二橋楓別雨 ooO: 妇科。。。。。
 23. 什么名字都被占: 回复@維姬小姐的生活_江:你好, 请问哪里有好的中医师呢?
 24. ConnieM: i have one, really good, but little hurt
 25. 西 zee: @我就叫安宁了
 26. 塔姐来颗蛋挞: @大頭大頭下雨也愁呀
 27. 姚斯悦爱吃提拉米苏: @V1vivL
 28. o 晗晗 oRacheL: @mboy
 29. 贝壳_只是个贝壳: @小小麦的小小生活
 30. 远豁重心: @Aod-寒假好想家 哈哈
 31. BCIT 二手书交易: 这个好用吗 清仓不能退哦
 32. Claire 赵靠谱: 这个好便宜! 夏天来了体毛多妹纸的福音! 需要快找我询价! -凸凸凸凸-: 这是拔的吧?
 33. 京九___: 回复@Lucas 好幸福:[黑线][黑线][黑线][黑线][黑线]
 34. 维维安_SETTLEDOWN: 回复@泠汐幽花:[爱你]没事就好
 35. 妖只是爱喝牛奶: 回复@维维安_SETTLEDOWN:每次多伦多出点什么事都是你第
 36. 一个问我有事没[泪]放心这地方离我很远。。。就你这么问着我也不敢有事 [泪][泪]
 37. 维维安_SETTLEDOWN: @泠汐幽花 离你近不近 有没有事?
 38. 海的女儿海莲娜: @XinXinBenny 不在你这吧
 39. _罕玥_: @_布鲁斯_
 40. 海的女儿海莲娜: 回复@XinXinBenny:哦[酷]
 41. inXinBennie: 回复@海的女儿海莲娜:那是工厂区, 那个区挺差的
 42. lunar-紫杉客: 看到烟了
 43. immykuangrz: 难怪早上出门的时候看到烟~~
 44. 多伦多的薰衣草: is it Eglinton avenue ?
 45. 全球笑话热门榜: [抱抱] @加拿大省钱快报 来了, 看了, 走了, 送上祝福! 你关 [来] 注我哦 [害羞]
 46. 耗兒魚 HalaMadrid: 等下过去抢床垫
 47. 羊妈真累爱_-: 我在 t&t 或者是华胜买到过唐山鲫鱼, 还是活的。小米哪里都有卖, 中国店应该都有
 48. Salin 豬: 小米在 sobey 有卖, 鲫鱼应该那个渔人码头有的你看下吧
 49. 维姐姐兼小奶娃的粮仓: 买不到鲫鱼 可以用三文鱼头代替
 50. 小眼睛的肉球球: 回复@Alida_Ada:散装的话你去 bulk barn 看看, 快到 bedford 有一家, dardmouth 有一家, 里面全是散装的东西, 挺全的, 不过

- 有时候不好挑，我上次买过一个类似小米的东西结果完全煮不出来，买过 soy powder 也不能熬豆浆，最后蒸点心了，感觉老外叫法和用法跟我们不太一样，你可以去看看
51. Alida_Ada: 谢谢大家！泰山的小米都是小包装的，坐月子期间要吃很多，买小袋袋的很不划算啊，所以想要买散装的[委屈]
 52. 最爱萌小萌: 小米哪个华人超市都有，大统华、丰泰肯定有，鲫鱼这里的品种和国内的不一样，虽然都叫鲫鱼！
 53. 小眼睛的肉球球: 我在哈法~嘿嘿~泰山有卖小米的，在 spring garden 那个星巴克路口往里面走，还挺全的一家中国超市，至于鲫鱼木有仔细搜寻过~他家有卖大骨头的，熬汤应该不错~
 54. Jac 太阳花里的幽幽: 我哈发木有大统华，好是忧伤[泪]
 55. 去加纳利的 echo: 多伦多这边是大统华有，估计那边应该也有吧
 56. janie_ye: 不知道有没有专业的月嫂想找工作的。。。
 57. 优优琪: balk barn 有小米
 58. 巨蟹牧羊熊: 大统华，丰泰都有鲫鱼卖，唐山鲫
 59. 加西温村人: 任何超市的 Bulk Food 那一区都会有 Millet, Superstore 的海鲜冻货柜里应该有鲫鱼。哈法华人超市应该可以从多伦多定货的。
 60. rongrong0429: 小米泰山有，鲫鱼就买不到了。。。
 61. xiao 小鹹: T&T 有吧
 62. 无影吾踪: bulk barn 啊，还新鲜
 63. 多伦多奢侈品复刻-: 微信: xy-luxury[爱你][爱你][爱你][害羞][害羞][心][心][心][鲜花][鲜花][鲜花][鲜花]
 64. 思维跳跃的瑞小球: 我是 5 月的预产期,鲫鱼我看到大统华还有丰泰还有鸿泰都有卖活的,冰冻的营养应该没有活的好吧.小米我没有留意~~~改天也去看看! 祝准妈妈顺利生产,生个可爱的宝宝! 加油!! @Alida_Ada
 65. 起风了变天了: 但哈发华人店个个牛逼像大爷，不订货。烂掉菜都放在冷藏柜里。家家如此。不知为何没有一家华人超市来，让他们全倒闭
 66. 某都民: 回复@Nukumori:默默攒钱[泪]
 67. 某都民: 完全一致的肤质[抓狂]真的这么有效吗吗[爱你]
 68. TomatoJessie: @璐妞儿
 69. TTTTTheresa: 图片是不是山茶花精华? 用了一整瓶真心好用! 保湿不油腻
 70. 喵只吃白菜不吃鱼: 没有觉得 lamer 特别好，感觉和 sisley 和资生堂都差不多。资生堂略油
 71. Nukumori: 回复@某都民:我用很管用 之前试过 kiehls 整套治痘的，洗完抹完脸上干的起白皮，clinique 的 Steps 的酒精味大的跟喝酒一样，买兰蔻不如用大宝，Estée Lauder 我无力吐槽，La Prairie 据说好用但是我是在闻不惯塑料味，Revive 我试过还 ok 但是那一套比 la mer 贵出一条街，植秀村的洗面奶好油。经验帖总结完毕[嘻]
 72. 玥小咩: 回复@某都民:都用过很久，没用
 73. 璐妞儿: 回复@TomatoJessie:还行 lamer 略贵不考虑 三十岁再说
 74. 我叫杨二肥: 贵妇啊…
 75. MushroomA: 洗面奶是哪款?
 76. Han-li 李韩宇: chanel+lamer, how classic[汗]
 77. 周伯妍: 转发微博

- 花]
- 104.小刺猬 SherryTang: 多伦多哪里有可靠的中医看啊?
 - 105.sssssSharon_J: 回复@我的满满生活:药方也是中文的啊....
 - 106.鑫宝 430: 看到这个想起,我儿子的奶奶要来了,准备带一些药膏,不知道会不会有问题
 - 107.良的 dropbox: 其他人种怎么那么恶心。
 - 108.徐姑娘 ivy: 帮顶[偷笑]
 - 109.爱城国际运输: 天 还是搬家吧[晕]
 - 110.绿如江南: 回复@神经病的脑子思维宽广: 我主要也是戴久了难受,效果还一般,醒来耳朵胀痛.....不过目前看来换一个质量更好的耳塞是最实际的办法
 - 111.绿如江南: 试过耳塞了,不过是一般的耳塞,没有用.....才想到隔音墙的
 - 112.慕容复读机: 往墙上粘放鸡蛋的那种灰纸架子,能隔音
 - 113.空想家能能: 还是搬家的好。带耳塞对身体不好。
 - 114.天涯小格: 耳塞吧!闹钟改震动放枕头边?
 - 115.非兄: shoppers 有卖
 - 116.Ooo 二十二橋楓別雨 ooO: 买耳塞啊。。。。这么简单的方法还要隔音墙
 - 117.MaomaoGen7: shoppers 有卖耳塞的。我觉得好用。客厅打麻将的话 带上也听
 - 118.ira 土豆: 买贵一点的耳塞。墙上挂壁毯。不到了
 - 119.Ms19 樱桃宁: 买对耳塞 巨管用
 - 120.trtge 章鱼: home depot 或者 home hardware 吧
 - 121.绿如江南: 真的谢谢亲们了!!!
 - 122.下死风肥爽猫: 我也想知道呢~。我目的是自己弄小隔音空间录音什么得~
 - 123.野原新君: 回复@披头散发的男阿姨:是懒 B 苏珊吗? [偷笑]
 - 124.披头散发的男阿姨: @野原新君 真心好笑!
 - 125.Hey 千年狸猫已成精: 耳塞呀骚年。我家楼下有个老外天天打鼾的。。虽然戴久了难受但是总比没法睡觉好
 - 126.刹啦 a 薨: 戴耳塞什么的。。那闹钟怎么办
 - 127.冰淇淋 linna: 搬家最管用。我以前有过一个白人女孩邻居,半夜老激情了,经常凌晨两三点把我 " 惊醒 ", 叫得比杀猪都动静大,气得我砸墙,她居然还跟我对砸,找管理员警告过她几次,还是无效,最后我果断搬家,真的要神经衰弱了[衰]
 - 128.加里加外: 买耳塞吧,我之前楼下有一对同胞,每逢一三五必定大战,而且每次男同胞的声音比女同胞还高八度,是在搞不清楚他们俩谁那个谁[思考]。带上耳机,世界马上美好了
 - 129.Sher 来晚星人从来不迟到: 戴耳塞耳朵好不舒服!! 我以前也想过隔音墙之类的,但实在不行还是搬家吧[泪]
 - 130.灵灵大喵: 好可怜,这个一定要帮一下,给墙壁隔音不一定可行,一面墙的话效果不大,因为声音是立体的,可以从其他角落钻进来。还是自己用耳塞比较靠谱,去网上买德国的 ohropax 蜡制耳塞! 店里一般没有,但比一般的泡沫耳塞好用多了~amazon 上时常断货,可以上 eBay,欧洲寄过来也不贵
 - 131.怪兽_chalotte: silicone ear plugs 在 pharmaprix 就有 我用过的 原来楼上走

- 路好大声的 我就用这个
132. CathERlne--Ho: 回复@听雨 Tia:谢谢, 如有需要可以继续联系我噢, 微信 2297498997
133. 听雨 Tia: @CathERlne--H-- 她家
134. Nephee 林歌: 就不告诉你哈哈
135. 牛村长 4423: 就不告诉你哈哈
136. 我叫瑟琳娜: 就不告诉你哈哈
137. 滴滴快跑: 就不告诉你哈哈
138. YJ 加拿大代购: 可以代 gou 哈~ 加拿大直 you, 1-3 周左右到手, 支 fu 宝交易. 有任何问题请私信~ #YJ 加拿大代 gou# [呵呵]
139. ninidououluxury90: 顶级 copy bags, jewelry , 美鞋等等, 直供北美!绝对顶级哦!! @妮妮豆豆奢品站
140. Simple-Life-together: 这个牌子加拿大有卖嘛? 实体店
141. ninidououluxury90: 专柜 bags, jewelry , 美鞋等等, 供北美! 绝对顶级哦!! @妮妮豆豆奢品站
142. ninidououluxury90: 专柜 bags, jewelry , 美鞋等等, 供北美! 绝对顶级哦!! @妮妮豆豆奢品站
143. ninidououluxury90: 专柜 bags, jewelry , 美鞋等等, 供北美! 绝对顶级哦!! @妮妮豆豆奢品站
144. 牛肉泡泡面: 回复@Shuaugo:不客气。整容有风险, 动刀须谨慎
145. 只怪自己过分美丽: 回复@牛肉泡泡面:好吧 谢啦
146. sombre_1216: 何苦非在加拿大弄 回国的时候转机去趟韩国 买点东西顺道就做了多好
147. 牛肉泡泡面: 回复@Shuaugo:我不是整形医院的, 只是正好因为治疗过头痛在医院被注射过一次而已。。。整形的话还是不要在加拿大吧, 听说泰国不错, 没有具体了解过
148. 牛肉泡泡面: 回复@Shuaugo:如果你的保险没有包括, 那么 1000 仅仅是美容院收取的药费。你可以拿上你的保险卡去任何一家药店, 让他们帮你查你的 medical botox 能不能 cover.不过要提醒你, 不是每一家美容院都可以做 medical botox, 只有注册的医生才可以做, 不然是犯法的而且后果自负
149. 牛肉泡泡面: 回复@Shuaugo:美容祛皱的肯定不可以阿。瘦脸其实医生不会说是瘦脸, 因为不合法, 而是治疗以一种头痛症状的附加疗效。。。医疗卡不包, 而是有些公司或者个人购买的医疗保险中的处方药可以报销。
150. 牛肉泡泡面: 回复@Shuaugo:一单位不是 1ml。如果是法令纹也就是 10-15 单位用量。瘦脸每一边 40-50 单位。注射费 30 左右吧。但是瘦脸属于 medical 范围, 需要医生处方
151. 牛肉泡泡面: 回复@Amy 一定要奋斗:对啊。国内当然比这里贵啊哈哈
152. MsNkk: 回复@Shuaugo: toronto cosmetic clinic 是多伦多整形医院, 价格在 \$550~\$650 之间, 取决于玻尿酸分子大小
153. MsNkk: toronto cosmetic clinic, i can refer doctor.
154. 牛肉泡泡面: 一般来说都是 10 加币一单位另加注射费。medical botox 保险可以报销, 诊所只收注射费
155. Alicia0131: 同求温哥华
156. 成你了: wo kao zhe lian yao shi shen ma yang zi zheng rong ye neng bao

xiao

157. 只怪自己过分美丽: 回复@牛肉泡泡面:整形医院呢 所以在加拿大注射 botox 瘦脸是不合法的? 顺便问一下玻尿酸价格 还有假体隆鼻价格 谢啦
158. 只怪自己过分美丽: 回复@牛肉泡泡面:所以一张脸大概要 100 单位 也就是 1000 加币? 那保险的话能全部都报销吗
159. 幸福可可妈: 这个还可以走保险? @
160. 只怪自己过分美丽: 回复@牛肉泡泡面:这个费用医疗卡能报销?
161. 只怪自己过分美丽: 回复@MsNkk:botox 呢
162. 只怪自己过分美丽: 回复@MsNkk:1ml?
163. 小摩女 Yan 嘻嘻: 回复@MsNkk:可以做双眼皮儿吗
164. 只怪自己过分美丽: 回复@MsNkk:这个是医院吗 价格呢
165. 只怪自己过分美丽: 回复@牛肉泡泡面:10\$ 1ml? 玻尿酸还是 botox
166. 只怪自己过分美丽: 谢啦
167. 小白痴 znjsjen: 回复@牛肉泡泡面: are you kidding me ,那岂不是比国内便宜吗?
168. MiChElle_婵: 同问 温哥华的
169. Tiffy_婷: 同问温哥华[馋嘴][馋嘴]
170. 起个毛线名儿: 求问温哥华哪里有[哈哈]
171. 麋鹿小姐不迷路: 回复@嫩瓜:我都是用防脱的
172. 你才蠢呢: @麋鹿小姐不迷路
173. 嚴_小吉: @黄雯 chen 就叫这名字 这个网站可以看看
174. YJ 加拿大代购: 可以代 gou 哈~ 加拿大直 you, 1-3 左右到手~ 支 fu 宝交易 ~ 有任何问题可以私信~ [呵呵]
175. 礼见礼: 试试精油薰香, 可以用尤加利、乳香、薰衣草
176. 空心汤_团: 等恢复了以后去学游泳吧, 我有个朋友的孩子严重的哮喘, 医生说只能游泳或打高尔夫, 其他运动都不行, 现在练游泳, 都不犯病了
177. i 依莎貝: 看家庭医生或去儿童医院, 专科也要通过他们介绍的
178. chimq: Dr. Bishay 416 2xx 3318 可以 walk in.抱歉, 电话记不全了
179. Salin 豬: 没有哪里好的, 只能问医生开药喷了, 我家也有小孩有哮喘
180. 闪光灯咔嚓: there is an eye clinic at Toronto western hospital. If it is emergency, just go there and the ER there will refer you.
181. ASHLEY 飞洋: 着急的话去 st Michael 挂急诊碰运气 那里的医生都不错
182. 多伦多的 George: 搭车问大多地区哪有看娃娃哮喘的好医生?
183. 琴琴不是点小猴: Walmart
184. 天安门上太阳升 80: COSTCO 药店可收
185. gejun: shoppers 的药店
186. 邻家女汉子: 交回任何一个药房, 从瓶子里倒出来全装在一个封口袋里就行
187. 杨泡泡的打气筒: 只能药店
188. 玉香笼-包包: 去问垃圾回收网站的 800 电话, 各个区不一样
189. 再不减肥没法活: 回复@Ms_BrightsideC:必须阿, 怎么用的完。[害羞]
190. Ms_BrightsideC: 回复@再不减肥没法活:[嘻嘻][嘻嘻][嘻嘻]我猜你没用完
191. 再不减肥没法活: 回复@Ms_BrightsideC:其实还蛮好用得诶
192. Ms_BrightsideC: @再不减肥没法活 亲 还记得你的腮红吗~
193. Ms_BrightsideC: 回复@再不减肥没法活:[害羞][害羞][害羞]

194. 柚晔: @欣_Sheen 我的眼影就是这个。。。。
195. Lemonaid: 回复@加拿大省钱快报:那就不如在 sephora 买, 关税太吓人
196. 加拿大省钱快报: 回覆@Lemonaid:这个是从美国发货的, 可能需要交关税。
197. 蓝田玉暖_96401: 回复@Lemonaid:亲, 关税一般要收百分之多少呀?
198. Lemonaid: 要关税么?
199. 机器猫不是剪刀手_: 我我我~找到人木有 PM 呗[害羞][太開心]
200. CAU 刘文刀: @凡小荣发觉冬天很漫长
201. 洛凡_: 已经找到小伙伴噜~谢谢官微君和大家[熊猫][熊猫]
202. 樱桃 cher 小圆子: hello 我是渥太华的~
203. BunnyOnTrip: 我和盆友两个人一起去也已经订好酒店机票了 时间也一模一样 如果你想的话可以 come and join us!
204. 洛凡_: 回复@桑小妮_GPA 能吃么:嗯
205. 是桑妮不是傻妮: 回复@洛凡_:你签证拿到了?
206. _____w_____: 同渥太华~study week 去奥兰多拉
207. 洛凡_: 万金难求一妹子啊[泪][泪]
208. 一只小 Connie: 我也想去。。没办美签要哭了。。
209. 樱桃 cher 小圆子: 妹子私信我~
210. 樱桃 cher 小圆子: 机票什么都订好了吗
211. 醋拌黄瓜: [泪]才跟别人定了奥兰多的旅行 其实更想去纽约啊 哎早不发出来
212. 神魔井-熊小熊 Vera: 虽然有计划想去但是呆 7 天太长了 QWQ。。。回来还要考试。。
213. PAUL 郭菠萝: 好多学校都 reading week
214. Quuberry: 时间对不上。。我们是 3 月。。有人去墨西哥么
215. 比郁闷还闷: 可以叠加吗
216. 宁泽涛的女朋友: 晕, 把 gap 看成 gpa 了, 还说 gpa 怎么也可以有 discount
217. 文韵韵 Anna: 怎么用啊

Appendix C: One Typical Weibo Post with Participants' Interaction Comments

匿名帮问~ 麻烦匿名帮忙问个问题吧, 万分感谢[泪][泪] 我是国际留学生, 在多伦多, 还没有开学, 最近几天想去看看检查一下妇科, 不知道哪里有讲国语的口碑不错的女医生可以信赖, 还有关于留学生保险看病费用问题, 万分感谢!

大菌菌_木须守护神兄: 回覆@再来一碗热粥够不够:耶!!! =333333333333=
大菌菌_木须守护神兄: 回覆@吞吞慢同学:两个坏蛋=3=
来一碗热粥够不够: 回覆@大菌菌_木须守护神兄: 哈哈!! 被我抓到了!!!!
吞吞慢同学: 回覆@大菌菌_木须守护神兄:哈喽~~
眼泪眼屎: Waterfront clinic 有个讲中文的 dr.shi
大菌菌_木须守护神兄: 专科儿医生都是要先家庭医生或者 walkin 或者学校 clinic 的医生开 reference 才能看的。。而且都比较忙约起来麻烦。。其实学校 clinic 就很好。。可以跟前台说想要女医生~
bella2333: 讲中文不知道 但是 college 有一个 womens health college 可以检查而且不错
夜_喵喵: 去学校 clinic 预约一个 woman doctor 就可以啊
洛新_森: 学校好像是 21 岁以后体检就包括妇科
加国无忧: 如果你没课的这段日子里, 你也买了学校的保险, 就可以直接去学校的 clinic 看, 设施和医生都比私人诊所好多了, 学校都有免费的妇科检查。你把单子寄到保险公司, 钱稍后会退给你的
Ariel 莹莹张有凌奶酱: 随便找个 walk in 就可以看…
青衣-青衣: 妇科医生只接受由家庭医生或者 walk in 大夫转去的病人, 这个过程至少一个月以上。
球小欣 Jessie: 不知道你是什么学校, UT 学校的医院每年都可以约一次免费体检的, 当中就包括妇科检查
維姬小姐的生活_江: 妇科没看过不清楚。我比较偏中医治病 自己也有固定的理疗师。留学生保险一般都是你去看病先自己掏钱, 看完病自己交钱后医院会给你收据 report。一般你的保险公司会有一个单子给你, 填完那个单子然后把单子和 report 一起邮寄到你保险公司。过了几天后他们会把钱给你支票寄回你的地址
Ooo 二十二橋楓別雨 ooO: 妇科。。。。。
什么名字都被占: 回覆@維姬小姐的生活_江:你好, 请问哪里有好的中医师呢?

Appendix D: Screenshot of One Typical Weibo Post with Participants' Interaction Comments

匿名帮问~麻烦匿名帮忙问个问题吧,万分感谢🙏🙏我是国际留学生,在多伦多,还没有开学,最近几天想去看看检查一下妇科,不知道哪里有讲国语的口碑不错的女医生可以信赖,还有关于留学生保险看病费用问题,万分感谢!

2014-4-9 02:06 来自 微博 weibo.com

收藏

转发 1

评论 16

👍 6

📢 微博社区管理中心举报处理大厅, 欢迎查阅! ×

😊 同时转发到我的微博

评论

全部 | 热门 | 认证用户 | 关注的人 | 陌生人



大菌菌_木须守护神兄 📢: 回覆@再来一碗热粥够不够:耶!!! =333333333333=

2014-4-9 14:08

查看对话 | 回复 | 👍



大菌菌_木须守护神兄 📢: 回覆@吞吞慢同学:两个坏蛋=3=

2014-4-9 14:08

查看对话 | 回复 | 👍



眼泪眼屎: Waterfront clinic 有个讲中文的dr.shi

2014-4-9 11:19

回复 | 👍



Ooo二十二橋楓別雨ooO 📢: 妇科。。。。。

2014-4-9 07:07

回复 | 👍



再来一碗热粥够不够 📢: 回复@大菌菌_木须守护神兄: 哈哈!! 被我抓到了!!!!

2014-4-9 06:07

查看对话 | 回复 | 👍

-  再来一碗热粥够不够 🍷: 回复@大菌菌_木须守护神兄: 哈哈!! 被我抓到了!!!!
2014-4-9 06:07 [查看对话](#) | [回复](#) | [👍](#)
-  吞吞慢同学 🍷: 回复@大菌菌_木须守护神兄: 哈喽~~~
2014-4-9 06:06 [查看对话](#) | [回复](#) | [👍](#)
-  大菌菌_木须守护神兄 🍷: 专科儿医生都是要先家庭医生或者walkin或者学校clinic的医生开reference才能看的。。而且都比较忙约起来麻烦。。其实学校clinic就很好。。可以跟前台说想要女医生~
2014-4-9 04:30 [回复](#) | [👍 1](#)
-  bella2333 🍷: 讲中文不知道 但是college 有一个womens health college可以检查 而且不错
2014-4-9 03:42 [回复](#) | [👍](#)
-  夜_喵喵 🍷: 去学校clinic预约一个woman doctor就可以啊
2014-4-9 03:39 [回复](#) | [👍](#)
-  洛新_森: 学校好像是21岁以后体检就包括妇科
2014-4-9 03:35 [回复](#) | [👍](#)
-  加国无忧 V: 如果你没课的这段日子里, 你也买了学校的保险, 就可以直接去学校的clinic看, 设施和医生都比私人诊所好多了, 学校都有免费的妇科检查。你把单子寄到保险公司, 钱稍后会退给你的。
2014-4-9 02:49 [回复](#) | [👍 2](#)
-  Ariel莹莹张有凌奶酱 ★: 随便找个walk in 就可以看...
2014-4-9 02:40 [回复](#) | [👍](#)
-  青衣-青衣 ★ 🍷: 妇科医生只接受由家庭医生或者walk in大夫转去的病人, 这个过程至少一个月以上。
2014-4-9 02:16 [回复](#) | [👍](#)



加国无忧 : 如果你没课的这段日子里, 你也买了学校的保险, 就可以直接去学校的clinic看, 设施和医生都比私人诊所好多了, 学校都有免费的妇科检查。你把单子寄到保险公司, 钱稍后会退给你的。

2014-4-9 02:49

回复 | 2



Ariel莹莹张有凌奶酱 : 随便找个walk in 就可以看...

2014-4-9 02:40

回复 | 1



青衣-青衣 : 妇科医生只接受由家庭医生或者walk in大夫转去的病人, 这个过程至少一个月以上。

2014-4-9 02:16

回复 | 1



球小欣Jessie: 不知道你有什么学校, UT学校的医院每年都可以约一次免费体检的, 当中就包括妇科检查

2014-4-9 02:16

回复 | 1



什么名字都被占: 回复@[维姬小姐的生活_江](#):你好, 请问哪里有好的中医师呢?

2014-4-9 02:15

查看对话 | 回复 | 1



维姬小姐的生活_江 : 妇科没看过不清楚。我比较偏中医治病 自己也有固定的理疗师。留学生保险一般都是你去看病先自己掏钱, 看完病自己交钱后医院会给你收据report。一般你的保险公司会有一个单子给你, 填完那个单子然后把单子和report 一起邮寄到你保险公司。过了几天后他们会把钱给你支票寄回你的地址。

2014-4-9 02:11

回复 | 2