

Some student reflections on understandings they have come to after studying the transdisciplinary unit *The Spare Room*:

What is culture?

*"Culture is what is unique to the country you live in, the morals you live by, the beliefs, the rituals, the language"*

*"Culture is language, rituals, customs, beliefs, behaviour. It is not of a country but the people in it. Australia is multicultural"*

What do you think makes our (Aussie) culture unique?

*"Who says it's unique? BBQ, thongs and beer is a stereotype. It's changed a lot since British colonization, but not all of it"*

*"Well, there is our language like 'Gday mate', our National Anthem and our friendliness"*

*"We are very laid back"*

What makes Japanese culture unique?

*"From an Australian point of view, Japan is kind of isolated. It hasn't been corrupted or changed by other cultures much"*

*"They have their own idioms, they bow a lot and eat lots of rice"*

*"Attitudes towards education, afraid of shame, less individuality"*

Does language come out of culture, or does culture come out of language, or suggest an alternative answer?

*"Both language affects culture and culture affects language"*

*"Without one you wouldn't have the other"*

*"Language and culture are like a chain reaction"*

How do language and culture contribute to your identity?

*"They make you who you are, they shape your beliefs and how you want to live your life."*

*"The way you speak to someone gives a good preview of what your personality is like"*

What role does the use of idiom have in culture?

*"It sort of gives a signature. Like Australian idioms are different to others'. It also reflects how people live."*

*"It is an element that helps shape culture"*