Cultural Diversity within a Country and Cultural Similarity

between Countries: An Effect of International Trade

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Abstract

We present an evolutionary model of cultural change to investigate how interna-

tional trade helps "cosmopolitan culture," which is a mixture of local cultures, to

prevail. We find that there is a stable stationary state in which both cosmopolitan

culture and local culture coexist in a trading country. We interpret this as a theo-

retical reproduction of what we typically observe: cultural diversity within a country

and cultural similarity between countries. However, this result is dependent on a way

how parents transmit their cultural type to their children. When parents have perfect

empathy to their children, local culture may go extinct due to international trade.

Key Words: Cultural diversity, Cultural transmission, Trade

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1