Skill transference and international migration:

A theoretical analysis on skilled migration to the Anglosphere[*]

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Abstract

In this paper, we analyze how skill transference from an origin to destination country, captured by lower productivity at the destination caused by differences in language use, affect the skilled worker international migration, by using a multi-country NEG model proposed by Gasper et al. (2017). Specifically, our interest is to explain how less frictional countries in terms of linguistic communication such as the Anglosphere (English-speaking countries) attract more high-skilled international migrants. The analysis based on asymmetric skill transference among countries, in which countries are divided into two groups, smoother and less smooth skill transference groups, the former of which corresponds to Anglosphere (English-speaking countries) and the latter non-Anglosphere (non-English-speaking countries) finds that countries in the Angloshere are more likely to be the industrial core attracting all skilled (and imperfectly mobile) workers than countries in the non-Anglosphere. Also, we find that less frictional migration from the non-Anglosphere to Anglosphere always accelerates industrial agglomeration in the Anglosphere core country, while less frictional migration within the Anglosphere and widening the Anglosphere (an increase in the number of countries constituting the Anglosphere) does not always accelerate industrial agglomeration in the Anglosphere due to market crowding effect.

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