

B19 Ahmed / Lebanon / Course of studies unknown

Interaction partner(s): German lecturer
Moment of enquiry: SS 08
Experience of difference: Ways of cultivating relationships between students and lecturers

Ahmed, a student from Lebanon, would like to give one of his professors, whom he perceives as especially friendly and open-minded, a present. He has already passed one of the professor's exams and needs to pass several more. Ahmed feels that the professor is supporting his integration process and would like to show his appreciation. When visiting his family in Beirut during the semester break, he purchases a large illustrated book about Lebanese culture. At the start of the new semester, Ahmed goes to see the professor during his consulting hours to hand him the gift, but the professor declines it. He refuses to accept the book and asks the Lebanese student to take it back with him. Ahmed is disappointed about the rejection of this present and perceives the professor's behaviour as rude and insulting.

1. What function does the gift have for the Lebanese student?
2. Why does the lecturer not accept the gift?