Ostracism is Lost in Translation: When Being Ignored and Excluded Does Not Matter

How do you feel when people around you start conversing in a language you do not understand? In addition to feeling ostracized, you may also wonder if they are talking about you. 122 undergraduates were assigned to a 2 (ostracism/inclusion) x 3 (English/English-Chinese/Chinese) between-S design. The Chinese-only condition had no effect on needs. Participants experienced greater distress when being ostracized than included by English only, while they found inclusion more distressing than ostracism by English switched to Chinese. In fact, there were more paranoid attributions made by participants who were included than ostracized, as well as when Chinese was adopted compared to English only. Participants also reported more prosocial thoughts when English was the only language spoken instead of Chinese, and more antisocial thoughts when they were included than ostracized.