The Influence Japanese Culture Have On Students in Miaoli Senior High School

Lin, Cong-xiu (林琮修)
Li, Min-jean (李敏禎)
Chen, Rou-yu (陳柔妤)

Class 210

National Miaoli Senior High School
I. Introduction

A. About Japanese Culture

Japan has a long history and abundant conservative cultures, such as the art of tea, flower arrangement, kendo, sumo and geishas, etc. Fuji and cherry blossom are also Japanese culture symbolic representatives.

B. Why Is Japanese Culture Influential To People In Taiwan?

a. Colony

Japan has ruled Taiwan three times. The first time was during the year 1895 to 1915. Japan robbed the land and the industries in Taiwan in a severe way, and treated Taiwanese unfairly, which made Taiwanese rebel with force.

The second time was during the year 1915 to 1931. Democratic concept prevailed in this time. Taiwanese people aspire for democracy; however, Japanese government dominated Taiwan with assimilation principles, so Taiwanese people didn’t succeed.

The third time was during the year 1931 to World War II. Japanese rulers destroyed formal organizations in Taiwan and tried to annihilate ethnical awareness. Under their control, Taiwanese could only defy negatively.¹

b. Mass Media

Information technologies advance increasingly. Medium transmit messages fast, and people accept information more conveniently. Because of being in the neighborhood, Japanese and Taiwanese culture interflow frequently. Not only Japanese TV shows and dramas but Japanese books and magazines have a comparative impact on Taiwan, particularly on teenagers. Besides, Internet makes it easier to access any information at home; thus, people can get any Japanese information at their fingertips.

c. Others

Geographically speaking, Japan is adjacent to Taiwan. Besides, Japan is the country that most Taiwanese visit every year.² Moreover, Japan had been influenced by Chinese cultures. The culture proximity² is one of the reasons why we Taiwanese to accept Japanese cultures so easily.
C. The Influences Japanese Culture Brings

a. Music

Music industry in Japan is now one of the biggest industries in the world and affecting the music scene in other countries. Along with the expansion of Japanese music industry, J-pop has been getting popular in some countries in Asia. In fact, some J-pop musicians often tour around Asia, including Taiwan.  

We can find that Taiwan absorbs Japanese cultures almost have common foundations, and the other which not same with Taiwan are rejected outside. For example, Taiwanese songs are effected by Japanese songs a lot. Particularly, describe the songs which is living of countries and sorrow songs, all close Japanese songs.  

b. Animes and Mangas

Most comic books and cartoons shown on TV in Taiwan are from Japan.  Many teenagers spend a lot of time watching Japanese cartoons and reading Japanese comic books. They are so crazy about Japanese animation so that some of them even make up and dress up themselves as the characters in animes or mangas, which is the so-called “Cos-play.”  

c. Food

We can find Japanese restaurants everywhere in Taiwan, and the Japanese food they offer are very decent. As the result of the Japanese delicacy shows on TV, Taiwanese tend to accept Japanese food more and more and even fall in love with it.  

d. Idols

Due to the popularity of mass media, people acquire information more conveniently, and Taiwanese people start to admire Japanese idols. Nowadays, quite a few teenagers worship Japanese idols very much; they are crazy about those Japanese singers or actors. Japanese idols always cause whoopla when coming to Taiwan. Fans wait for their idols in the airport, buy tickets to concerts, and take a taxi to follow the idols wherever the idols go.  

II. Thesis

A. The Interview
In order to see if senior high school students are really influenced so much by Japanese, we conducted an experiment. We designed a questionnaire, which included 10 questions, and we had 100 interviewees, whom we divide into 3 groups based on their grader. We tried to see if there would be any difference among the three groups.

**B. The Analysis of the Results of the Questionnaire**

The results of our questionnaires are as follows.

   If yes, the reason is ____________________

![Chart showing the percentage of senior high students' buying Japanese books.](chart1.png)

The above chart shows the percentage of senior high students’ buying Japanese books. Under half of the students are willing to buy books about Japanese. Besides, boys seem to be fonder of Japanese cultures than girls.

Q2. Do you want to take a trip to Japan after reading books about Japanese cultures? □Yes. □No.

![Chart showing the percentage of students willing to take a trip to Japan.](chart2.png)
From the above chart, we found that after reading some books introducing Japanese cultures, more than half of the students will have a desire to travel to Japan. Besides, more girls than boys have this kind of thought. Interestingly, the younger the senior high boys are, the more they want to travel to Japan, while girls do not have this inclination.

The reasons that they want to take a trip to Japan are that Japan is a more advanced country, that Japanese products are of good quality, and that the tourist attractions and the delicious food shown in the TV shows are so inducing.

Q3. Do you agree with the trend to be crazy about Japanese cultures? □ Yes. □ No.

All in all, more than half of our interviewees accept the mania to crazily love Japanese cultures. Generally speaking, more girls than boys identify with the trend to be crazy with Japanese cultures.

Roughly speaking, more than half of the interviewees do want to learn Japanese. While in senior one and senior three, more boys than girls consider learning Japanese, in senior two, more girls than boys do.

In the recent years, Japanese has become the second choice for Taiwanese to learn as our foreign language. Everywhere we can see the cram school offering to teach Japanese.

Q5. Do you hope your husband/wife is a Japanese? □Yes. □No.

Though more than half the interviewees admire Japanese culture, not many of them are willing to marry a Japanese spouse. The above graph shows that about 50 percentage of the senior-three students want a Japanese spouse, which is significantly different from senior-one and senior-two students.
Q6. Do you join the Animation Club? □ Yes. □ No.

We wanted to know if those who are really crazy about Japanese culture would join the animation club for in Taiwan the development of animation is deeply influenced by Japan. The results showed that, except the senior-one female group, about one-fifth girls join the animation club while less than one-tenth of boys do. They join other clubs which are more attractive to them, such as the swimming club, the dancing club and the scouts. It appears that students in Miaoli senior high schools do not indulge in Japanese animation.

Q7. Do you like to listen to Japanese music? □ Yes. □ No.
There are significant differences between girls and boys. More than half of the girls do enjoy listening to Japanese music while few boys do except for senior-one boys. About half of the senior-one boys like to listen to Japanese music.

Q8. Do you recommend Japanese products to your friends? □ Yes. □ No.

About one-third of our senior-one and senior-two interviewees would recommend Japanese products to friends while more than half of the senior-three interviewees would. Besides, boys seem to be more willing to recommend Japanese products than girls.

Q9. Do you like Japanese idols more than Taiwanese idols? □ Yes. □ No.
Most of our interviewees prefer the native idols to Japanese ones while more than 60 percentage of the senior-three boys prefer Japanese idols.


In general, more than half of our interviewees enjoy watching Japanese movies and more girls than boys like watching Japanese movies. Of the three groups, senior-two students do not so much enjoy Japanese movies while senior-three students love Japanese movies the most.

III. Conclusion

Japanese culture does have a great impact on Taiwanese, especially teenagers. Teenagers enjoy reading Japanese comic books, watching Japanese TV shows and listening to Japanese songs. Teenagers also chase Japanese fashion, admire Japanese idols very much, and are eager to take a trip to Japan.

The results of our questionnaire show that many of our interviewees do admire Japanese cultures but not so much crazily. Most of them want to travel to Japan and agree with the trend to be crazy about Japanese. Moreover, many of them would like to learn Japanese and enjoy listening to Japanese music. However, they do not want to get a Japanese spouse and they still prefer Taiwanese idols to Japanese ones. Our interviewees seem to be rational.

II. Reference

1. Wikipedia
http://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E5%8F%B0%E7%81%A5%E6%B2%BB%E6%99%82%E6%9C%9F
（检索日期:97年9月18日）

2. 奇摩知識家

3. 遲恒。文化研究月報。「哈日」與都市空間的文化研究—「哈日之城」西門町。第14期。2002年4月15日。
http://www.ncu.edu.tw/~eng/csa/journal/journal_park92.htm
（检索日期:97年9月20日）

4. 奇摩知識家

（检索日期:97年9月15日）

6. 由文化觀點看-日本文化對台灣的影響
（检索日期:97年10月1日）

7. 陳仲偉。日本動漫畫的全球化與迷的文化。唐山出版社。2004年。

V. Questionnaire

Sex: □ Male □ Female

Grade: □ One □ Two □ Three

   If yes, the reason is ______________________

2. Do you want to live in Japan after reading books about Japanese cultures? □ Yes. □ No.

3. Do you agree with the trend to be crazy about Japanese cultures? □ Yes. □ No.

4. Do you have idea of learning Japanese language? □ Yes. □ No.

5. Do you hope your husband/wife is a Japanese? □ Yes. □ No.
6. Do you join the Animation Club?  □Yes.  □No.

7. Do you like to listen to Japanese music?  □Yes.  □No.


9. Do you like Japanese idols more than Taiwanese ones?  □Yes.  □No.