The Research of Views on Exotic Love
- Effects on Adolescents in Taiwan

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Abstract

Nowadays, there are more and more foreigners who would like to visit Taiwan which makes it possible for most of us to connect with them. Adolescents in Taiwan have gradually come to welcome having some form of relationship with a foreigner. Sometimes, if they have the opportunity to choose whom they would like to get along with between Taiwanese and foreigners, many may think of foreigners as their ideal choice. Therefore, we want to conduct research into the reasons for this phenomenon and what are the factors which give rise to adolescents developing the concept that a relationship with a foreigner is somehow more desirable that one with a local Taiwanese person. We also would like to investigate how this phenomenon influences our daily life and society which perhaps may cause some kind of tide.

Keywords: Foreigner, Relationship, Mixed race, Mate, Communication
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I. Introduction

I.1. Motivation of the study

The education about English in Taiwan is more crucial than before which makes the students have advanced capabilities to get more chances to make overseas friends. Nevertheless, we gradually find that why there are so many thoughts differing from each other about the motivation in making oversea friends. Some students make foreign friends to improve their speaking abilities while others do not have the same opinion. Some people think that they can not only make progress in English but they can acquire further information and cultures in other countries. What’s more, if there is a possibility for them, perhaps, they will have a special relationship with foreigners. Nowadays, we can hear some ideas about preferences for getting married to the foreigners which could be a considered a form of xenophilia which is not so commonly accepted by people who have conservative or xenophobic values. Hence, we would like to know what factors which contribute to this kind of situation. Also, we would like to conduct research into social values about exotic love and their influences.

I.2. Background of the Study

Nowadays, more and more teenagers prefer to make friends with foreigners as a result of the fact that most of us now have more occasions to speak in English. Most youngsters think that making foreign friends is an interesting thing to do which is not so easy for other people in Taiwan. Also, there are more and more foreigners who would like to visit Taiwan for its beautiful scenery, the low price of food, and even for its Chinese culture. Consequently, we have much more chances to get to know overseas friends and become friends with them. Since mass communication media is available commonly, people are able to acquire knowledge and information without restriction. Moreover, the technology has come a long way which makes it possible for people to travel around the world. Another effective reason is that Taiwanese girls have more opportunities to connect with foreigners and would even like to have a close or romantic relationship with them. With this kind of circumstance, there is a tendency for teenagers to prefer having a relationship with foreigners rather than dating Taiwanese.
I.3. Literature Review

In a thesis by Kaohsiung Normal University’s Chu-Yin Yew, it was mentioned that many decades ago females in their country often had a lower status and fewer rights or lived in a poor community, economy country. They would consider marrying a foreigner in order to have a better livelihood. However, because of the different culture, social value, life style and language differences, misunderstandings were commonplace. And when Taiwanese have much expectancy and imagination regarding exotic love, some people felt that it was a combination of vanity or a phony marry which was based on mutual benefits. Nowadays the international communication has become more and more frequent and the population of those seeking exotic love has also increased, and thus more people are open to accept different ethnic, groups and discrimination and hostility towards foreigners has diminished.

I.4. Research Questions

To better understand the problems and phenomenon of exotic love in our society, the research questions proposed in this study are presented as follows.

RQ1. What is the desire of having an exotic love for males and females, respectively?
RQ2. What are the advantages of exotic love?
RQ3. What are the weaknesses of exotic love?
RQ4. How does the exotic love influence our social value in Taiwan?

II. Methods

Our study purpose was to understand why the phenomenon of Taiwanese females marrying the foreigners has become more and more common. Also, why do many Taiwanese men marry foreign brides especially those from other Asian countries? Then, we distributed some questionnaires to the participants.

II.1. Participants

There were 100 participants in this questionnaire survey. There were 75 and 25 females and the males, respectively. They were all senior high school students in central Taiwan. They all study at the Department of Applied Foreign Languages, so
they have a measure of comprehension about foreigners. Among these participants, their age ranged from 16 to 18 years. Most of them think the exotic love is great and a few of them have no comment.

II.2. Instruments

Our study method mainly is using the questionnaire survey. It contains five parts and there are seven questions totally. The part I is used to know the gender and age about the participants. Then, the part II is designed to realize whether people accept exotic love and have a desire to have a relationship. In part III, we designed the question to know if people can have a choice, the foreigners in which country do they have affections for. As for the part IV, we investigate to understand the advantages and weakness of the exotic love. Last, we would like to research what are the influences of exotic love on teenagers.

III. Finding & Discussion

III.1. Results of Data Analysis

Based on our questionnaire survey, there are three people who don’t accept exotic love, one of which is male while the others are female. About 97% people accept exotic love totally.

According to the results shown in Figure 3.1, there are fifty females (66%) who have a great relish for having an exotic love while there are eight male (32%) who feel like having an exotic love. Obviously, in this figure, male doesn’t have great intention to have exotic love.

![Figure 3.1 The purposes of having an exotic love](image-url)
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Figure 3.2 indicates that most of the male (44%) have a considerable relish for having an exotic love with Japanese females. The main reason which contributes to this kind of phenomenon could be that they consider the Westerners usually are taller and more robust than Easterners. In turn, the eastern male would rather take the female in the same region as their mate.

![Figure 3.2 The desire of having an exotic love with which country for males](image)

Figure 3.3 shows that almost all the female students feel like establishing a relationship with European and American people. As for the highest percentage of this question, the female students prefer to have a relationship with the British people which may be due to the fact that British are stereotypically regarded as having a gentle attitude and also most of the eastern people regard the appearances of the Caucasians as handsome.

![Figure 3.3 The desire of having an exotic love with which country for females](image)
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In Figure 3.4, the participants chose their best answers to our questions which are about what are the advantages of having exotic love. As for male, their opinions are practically about the convenience of language learning (30%), promoting culture exchange (26%), and developing international perspectives (28%) which are about acquiring knowledge and education. As far as females are concerned, they have more affections for having a mixed-race child (22%) than male which is due to their preference for bearing a child with a different ethnicity.

![Figure 3.4 The advantages of exotic love](image)

In the light of Figure 3.5, the female participants’ opinions which are concerned about the disadvantages of exotic love are evenly distributed on the four preceding (17%~23%). As regards the males, there are eighteen (29%) students who consider the greatest weakness of exotic love is that the difference of values might cause an altercation.

![Figure 3.5 The weaknesses of exotic love](image)
The last figure indicates what are the influences on our social value affected by the commanding exotic love. In this chart, both male and female have viewpoints on the two preceding which are about none of the restriction to marry Taiwanese (28% totally) and owning expectations and desires to marry foreigners (35% totally). However, as for concerning about the long-distance gene which might give it an opportunity to bear a mixed-race child, the female think it play a partly role on our value.

![Figure 3.6 The exotic love influence our social value in Taiwan](image)

### III.2. Discussion

As for the research question one, “What is the desire of having an exotic love for male and female, respectively?”

Based on the questionnaire, there are fifty female students (66%) who feel like having a relationship with foreigners. While there are twenty-five female students (33%) do not think so which means that over half of female students have expectation for developing exotic love. In contrast, there are only eight male students (32%) may consider exotic love which is almost twice less than the male students who do not want to have a relation with overseas people.

Considering the research question two, “What are the advantages of exotic love?”

The advantages for having an exotic love can be concluded as the following description. There are two main reasons which play a vital role in this phenomenon, one of which is that the participants have great affections for obtaining new...
knowledge which is about lifting capacity of connecting with external people. Therefore, having a relationship with foreigners enables them to acquire multiple aspects information. Second, female consider having a mixed race child to be superior to having a child with someone of the same ethnic group.

In light of the research question three, “What are the weaknesses of exotic love?”

According to the questionnaire, both the male and female students look upon long-distance relationships as an inconvenient aspect for communicating with their own family. Also, another main disadvantage is that because the background of their companion is of great difference which may contribute to some altercations over their lifestyle.

In view of the research question four, “How does the exotic love influence our social value in Taiwan?”

There was a high percentage of the two preceding choices which are about people may not restrict to get married with the domestic people and they may have some wishes for getting married with the foreigners respectively. On the other hand, more female regard long-distance gene from both side of parents may be due to notions about their children possibly being more brilliant on their academic performance or even their appearance.

IV. Conclusion

The intention of this research is to analysis and explore the expectations and thoughts of having an exotic relationship for male and female students who all majors in Applied Foreign Languages and so may have more opportunities to connect with foreigners. In line with the preceding discussion, we get to know the difference of the male’s and female's opinions on this aspect. All the major viewpoints are presented below.

1. Almost all the adolescents can accept the exotic love while there is phenomenon which showed that female teenagers have more passion and wish for getting along with the foreigners.

2. The male students prefer to have a relationship with Easterners such as Japanese rather than to have an exotic love with Western female. As for females, most of them feel like developing a relation with Europeans and Americans, most of whom are Caucasians.

3. The participants look upon the advantages of getting an exotic love as three
main points which are the convenience of language learning, promotion of cultural exchange, and development of international perspectives. In view of females’ opinion, most of them have some expectations of having a mixed-race child with superiorities features which may be related to some controversial issues.

4. As far as the weakness of exotic love are concerned, the major reason is that because the background of both sides of the relationship are significantly different that this may lead to conflict.

5. The living style and technology have come a long way that enable people shorten their concrete and abstract distance of communicating which leads to the fact that people will not be restricted to have a relationship with domestic citizens. Consequently, the viewpoints of value about having an exotic love have been gradually changed via the commanding situation which gives it a rise to some expectations for having a relationship with foreigners.

Last but not the least, these findings and discussions might not represent all the adolescents’ thoughts of exotic love in Taiwan since the participants all major in Applied Foreign Languages which is of great opportunity to get along with foreigners than others, and this research is with brief sample size. To sum up, via the findings presented, we comprehend the main thoughts over exotic love from the male and female students who also give their intentions and minds on the pros and cons of exotic love. Moreover, not only should we always take the value of love of eventful consideration but we should think twice before we leap.

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