

天主教輔仁大學英國語文學系學士班畢業成果
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Follow Me to Tainan guidebook and reflection

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Graduation Project—Ms. Gretchen Lee

Reflection

21 June, 2017

Reflection

Motivation

When this semester just started, I invited Cherry and Ginger to form a group together and work on the graduation project. We did not have any idea about what to focus on and how to complete the task. Later, Rick and Travis asked me if they could join the group, I was very happy because I like many friends to join a project.

I remembered that Ms. Gretchen passed down a book in class. The book is introducing temples in Pintong. The book is a portable one with Chinese and English context. Meanwhile, I tried to think about the purpose of our project and asked opinions from my partners. They agreed that we launch a book for foreigners. At that moment, we still have not decided the topic. I thought it is better for us to focus on a place which some of us are familiar with. Then, I recalled that during CCII, I gave a hometown presentation about Tainan. Tainan is my hometown, and I was born there. I spent all my summer and winter vacations living in Tainan. I am very familiar with the attractions and local snacks there. As a result, I proposed an initial and simple idea to my members about a guidebook of Tainan. Fortunately, my members love Tainan due to different reasons and they agreed to write and produce a guidebook of Tainan.

My personal motivation of choosing this topic was that I wanted readers to know more about the diverse culture and historical aspects of Tainan. It is a special place in Taiwan to which is worth travelers paying visit. There are so many attractions in Tainan which I

personally want to introduce to no matter local Taiwanese or foreign travelers. After some classes about the Taiwanese culture, temples and religious, I thought that we as Taiwanese who are able to use Chinese and English skills, should be able to translate our culture into English and let other people to understand our unique culture, especially culture of Tainan. I asked about my mother, who used to live in Tainan, and she said that she would support us and provide suggestions. Another motivation for me is that I think launching a guidebook of Tainan is a way for me to thank Tainan. It is a place which gives me warmth and teaches me to love our own culture.

Obligations

Right after our decision was made, I created a line group and a file on Google drive for our members to access. In order to set up the schedule, we had meetings on every Friday afternoon. I took the responsibility to organize the content of our guidebook and listed some of the must-included attractions in the file online. Later, we collected other special attractions that were carelessly ignored by us and added the places into our consideration. Then, we had a result of the attractions, stands and vendors which we were going to visit. I typed down the details and topics we have discussed during our meeting on the file and kept them as records so that we could trace back and know what was still missing. We read some guidebooks about Tainan in Chinese and asked Tainan locals (my relatives and friends of my mother) to recommend some must-visit places.

Later, we thought that it was better for us to walk through and visit those attractions which we were going to compose and write about. Consequently, we squeezed four days out of our busy and tight schedules and decided to head for Tainan. I made a rough schedule for our trip and booked THSR and bus tickets. In order to save money, we stayed in my home in

Tainan for the first night in the East District. For the following two nights, we stayed in aunt Fan's B&B. Since aunt Fan is my mother's best friend, and they have known each other for nearly thirty years, aunt Fan let us stay in her B&B a night for free. We only paid a little because she gave us many discounts and made the fee affordable for us. I was responsible for contacting aunt Fan and reminded Rick to rent a car in advance. It was better for us to travel by driving a car because we did not have much time to wait for buses or much money to pay for taxis.

During those days in Tainan. My primary obligation is to take photos of every place we visited and keep records. The weather in Tainan was so hot that I had to wear my hat and sunglasses all the time. The most unbearable thing was that I had to stand under the sun, hold the heavy camera and wait for travelers to be gone. Then I could press the shutter and get some nice photos. I took many photos of various elements in different attractions. Sometimes, I needed to take photos for five or six times in order to get a pretty and clear one. I adjusted aperture and ISO before taking every photo. It was so hot and I should not complain since it was my responsibility. Meanwhile, I hoped that we have enough photos to fill out our guidebooks. Fortunately, I have taken photo taking courses when I was a freshman. I always have passion for taking pictures, especially pictures of scenery. Along with taking photos, Rick as a driver and I was like a guide of my members, taking my members to every places and explain the features to them. I was very familiar with the parking places in Tainan so my members and I did not spend much time finding places to park. Sitting next to Rick, our driver, in the car, I was the one responsible to tell Rick which way to go. Sometimes, I used maps since there were some places which is a little bit far from downtown. I was confident to tell him which road to go since I was familiar with most of the roads and I had a sense of

direction.

After we came back to Fu-Jen from Tainan, we started to divide works to each of us. I was responsible for editing every photo, writing articles for Guan Gong Temple and four snacks. I also helped arrange the designs of our books and waited for hours in the store to print out our guidebook. I had pressure because I had to spy on everyone and make sure that they are writing, designing and doing their work. When someone did not turn in the work on time, I was the one to send warnings and help them.

Introduction to the Guidebook

Our guidebook is easy to read, portable and it contains rich information. We focus and categorize all the attractions into Central-West District, East District, South District, Anping District and Rende District. The monuments and snacks are mostly located in Central-West District; however, we included some particular attractions from other districts because the certain attractions are equally as important as those ancient and historical sites, for example, Chimei Museum. The content clearly shows the attractions and the page numbers. The photos and detailed information, for example, map, opening hours, telephone, address, GPS and charge, is included in every section. What makes our guidebook different is that we include “line-up rate” in every article related to stands and food. It provides reference for readers to be prepared that they should wait for some minutes before having seats. Our rate is reliable because we visited Tainan on Saturday and Sunday. Along with the line-up rate, we create a QR-code for every place introduced in the book. By scanning the QR code, readers are able to read more English reviews and the short clips filmed by us. The line-up rate and QR code are useful for travelers, and we believe that it provides more references for travelers.

Reflection

I feel that I am so lucky to be taught by Ms. Gretchen, who always provide new ideas and share sources for us to learn. We had clear direction and we knew what we were focusing on. I think it was because that we have clear purpose and motivation. We were working together for the same goal. In the beginning, I was afraid that we could not make it. I did not have experience of making a book, do not mention designing a book. It was hard for us but after we looked at other authors work in Chinese, we had ideas and plans. We made decision carefully because Graduation project is very important for us. We see this guidebook as a work that we could use on interviews in the future.

I am also lucky to have reliable team members, Ginger, Cherry, Rick and Travis. They are all my best friends, and we had good experience working with each other. They contribute to this project so much, and I appreciate their participation. Without them, I could not imagine what our guidebook would be like. Some of them are good at writing and editing, while some of them are good at designing. Everyone in this team is crucial, and we respect each other's professional. We created good memory during our trip in Tainan. Simultaneously, we knew each other more and even developed mutual interests. During our trip, we felt so hot and sometimes we even wanted to give up. However, we did not give up on visiting any place. Truly, there were some places that we originally decided to visit, because of time limitation, we could not make it, for example, Sicau Mangraove Green Tunnel.

I think next time if there are foreigners asking my advice for traveling in Taiwan. I would definitely recommend them to pay visit to Tainan. Luckily, I would have much to share and I could introduce and describe every attractions in English!