

天主教輔仁大學英國語文學系學士班畢業成果
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, FU JEN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
GRADUATION PROJECT 2018

指導教授：李桂芬老師

Prof. Gretchen Lee

真善美聖

**Matsu: Videos Project of Chinese Culture through Foreign
Languages—English**

學生：周曉雪撰

Zoe Chau Hiu Suet

Zoe Chau

403110369

Chinese Culture through Foreign Languages—English

Prof. Gretchen Lee

Graduation Project Report

Motivation

At the beginning, I actually had no idea about what to do for this project, because I do not have much knowledge about traditional Chinese culture, like the origin of some festival and why people would do some special things for certain festival. I had my topic confirmed until half of the semester is past. At first, I can only think of comparing a Chinese festival in Hong Kong and Taiwan, because I was born in Hong Kong, I am familiar with the custom there and Taiwan is a country that I think is similar with Hong Kong, so I think it will be interesting to find the differences in these two places. Before the conference with Professor Lee I only had the rough idea about the topic for the graduation project, but after the conference I finally determined my topic is Matsu and the birth of Matsu, also the presentation way is to film YouTube videos, since this is something that I always want to try, so I decided to present my project this way.

My motivation on doing this topic is I would like to know the similarity and difference of Chinese culture in different Asia countries. For example, I am from Hong Kong, but when I came to Taiwan I found that even though Hong Kong and Taiwan is geographically close to each other and have similar cultural background, they are still different in many ways. In Hong Kong and Taiwan, there are many religious activities existed in both places like the birth of Buddha, the ghost festival, the birth of Matsu, and etc. however the attitude and approach these religious activities are quite different. In this project my focus will be on Matsu, because Hong Kong used to be a fishing port and Taiwan is an island, they both have similar historical background and people in these two places also worshipping Matsu; however the custom of these two places are quite different. I also want to compare Matsu in China because Matsu is originally from China; I want to know are there any differences between China and the other two places, and why people in these three places approach Matsu differently.

Introduction

My graduation project is going to focus on the Chinese goddess of the sea Matsu and people's celebration of her birth. The project will be presented through videos, and all the video will be unloaded to YouTube. In my videos, I will provide information included Matsu's name, legend, figure, the temple, and people's

celebration of Matsu's birthday, and I am going to compare people's approach toward Matsu in three places, included China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. I will introduce the temples of these three places and what would people do on the date of Matsu's birthday, in order to see the differences. And after watching the videos, people will understand the origin of Matsu and the approach of China, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Video Links:

1. Names of Matsu—<https://youtu.be/rBVQNAyppCc>

In different places Matsu's name will be called differently. Thus, this video will introduce the names of Matsu.

2. Legend of Matsu—<https://youtu.be/sCnbGTV8m8M>

This video will talk about the legend story of Matsu.

3. Figure of Matsu—<https://youtu.be/k3TaY2ljRy8>

This video will introduce how the Matsu's figure often presented.

4. Introduction—<https://youtu.be/eHpRbLmLoq4>

This video will briefly introduce what will be covered in this channel.

5. Celebration in TW—<https://youtu.be/DcKAJv08O-A>

Taiwanese people's celebration toward Matsu will be introduced in this video.

6. Temple in TW—<https://youtu.be/5fgdOrfSzME>

This video will talk about the number of Matsu temples and introduces several famous Matsu temples in Taiwan.

7. Celebration in China—<https://youtu.be/obAThr8eJJQ>

This video is about the ritual of worshipping Matsu in China.

8. Temple in China—<https://youtu.be/MXPpdtRbTg0>

This video will introduce the cities in China that have Matsu temples.

9. Celebration in Hong Kong—<https://youtu.be/YYsu523dumg>

This video will introduce the Hong Kong people's celebration of the birth of Matsu.

10. Temple in Hong Kong—<https://youtu.be/Gwy4y7qtgZ8>

The Matsu temples in Hong Kong are quite different from Taiwan and China, and this video will talk about it.

Reflection

After deciding my topic, the first I did is to do research. I know that Matsu has many names, and different places may call her differently, for instance, Hong Kong called her Tin Hau (天后), Macau, Taiwan and some provinces of China also called her Mazu (媽祖), and there is another name called Tian Fei (天妃) (Ng). To me, different titles of Matsu is already interesting, then I read a research said that the prayer of Matsu believe that it is better to call Matsu as Mazu, instead of Tin Hau or

Tian Fei, while there are emergencies happen on the sea, because they think calling Matsu's formal titles would make her need to spend more time on dressing up, in order to suit the title, and it will delay her from rescuing. This part I think is enough to arouse my interest on Matsu. And then I also read some legend of her, like where did Matsu originally come from, what she did to make so many people worship her as the savior and protector of fishermen and sailor. Another thing I found interesting is that I never look at the Matsu statue in the temple seriously, so I do not know she is always accompanied with two evil monsters, Thousand-mile Eyes (千里眼) and Wind Ears (顺风耳), and the legend shows that these two evil monsters were originally wanted to marry Matsu, but they were failed to conquer Matsu, so they cannot marry her and become one of her friends (Edirons). I think their companies with Matsu help her to save people more easily, because they can watch and listen to things that are really far away, but this is only my speculation; there are no any legend shows the Thousand-mile Eyes and Wind Ears are going to help Matsu on saving people.

On the other hand, I found that among the three places, Taiwan is the location that has the largest number of Matsu temple, Matsu temple in China and Hong Kong are fewer than Taiwan. Therefore, I think people in Taiwan do believe and value Matsu a lot, not only because Taiwan is an Island which is surrounded by the sea, also because people there care the tradition and intend to keep it; Hong Kong is also a

place that near the ocean, but people there have less believe in Matsu, only the older generation and fishermen still believe in Matsu and worship her. So I think some tradition can or cannot exist is really depend on people's thought.

Furthermore, I work on this project on my own, during the process I do find some difficulties on finishing the project. The most difficult part I think is to record the video, because I am all along and no one can help me on my recording, I need to pad high the camera to the right position and adjust the angle, then I need to go back to my place and start the recording, which I think is really tired. Also, initially, I did not have a camera to do the filming, but fortunately my roommate borrow me her camera so I can work on the project, otherwise I actually considered changing my presenting method to make a poster or something else. However, I think using this method to present the project is good and appropriate, because there are different topic in each video, the views can choose what they want to view at, and I had aware that I should not make the videos too long, the views may lose their interest in watching the videos.

To finish the project along is indeed challenging, but I learned a lot in this project. I understood more about the tradition of Matsu, by understanding Matsu, I also learned more about the culture of China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. On the other hand, I realize that even though finishing everything on your own is really hard, but

this is not something you cannot do, and after finished everything, you will find satisfaction.

Work Cited

Edirons. "Chinese Protector Deities: Thousand-Mile Eyes and Follow-Wind Ears 千

里眼与顺风耳." *The Hong Kong Institute Religion Blog*, 21 Mar. 2011

Ng, Belinda. "Tin Hau – Chinese Goddess of the Sea." *Asia at Sea*. 25 Feb. 2014.

Web. 25 Jun 2017.