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**The Challenges of Cross Cultural Romance in Taiwan:
Perspectives from College Students**

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The Challenges of Cross Cultural Romance in Taiwan: Perspectives from College Students

Purpose: The study attempts to find out the perspectives of college students in Taiwan regarding their views on Cross Cultural Relationship and on the issue of Caucasian males dating with Asian females and Asian males dating with Caucasian females.

Audience: Taiwanese college students

I. Introduction

- A. The globalization has become universally, thus without a doubt that Taiwan will be facing with the fact that more and more foreigners come here for work or study.
- B. The registered interracial marriages in Taiwan have been increased from 7.8% in 1998 to 15.9% in 2003 (Skowroński et al).
- C. There are plenty of people cannot get used to the appearance of interracial couples and some of the Taiwanese hold a curious attitude toward this novel type of relationship.
 1. CCR is an abbreviation of Cross Cultural Romance. It first appears on an online platform PTT, indicating Taiwanese dating with the people from outside of Taiwan which is a controversial term for some Taiwanese people.
 2. The term has been twisted by some angry Taiwanese PTT users that start a discriminated term “ㄟㄟ尺”, particularly meaning that the Taiwanese girls dating with Caucasian males, and the girls are being called Xicanmei or White Lovers, saying that the girls just want to hook up with the white guys (Bardenhagan).
- D. Thesis statement: Taiwanese college students generally still have stereotypes on

cross cultural couples in Taiwan; therefore, the two controversial terms “CCR” and “ㄘㄘㄖ” explored throughout the study conveyed the idea that the Taiwanese ought to adopt a fair and liberal attitude towards every difference.

II. Western and Asian Fetishes

A. What Asian people have stereotype on Western people

1. Orientalism→colonialism and imperialism
2. Power issue→inequality
3. Physically attractive (sensitive, interesting, and humorous)

B. The Stereotypes that on Asian People

1. Exotic appearance
2. Submissively sensuous

III. The difficulties and challenges that Cross Cultural Couples probably would face with

A. Language and communication

1. Not completely fluent in other’s language which can be a struggle for the couples
2. The cultural difference may influence the perspective of “criticism, emotional expressions, changes in emotional state, and overall relationship satisfaction” of intercultural couples (Skowroński et al.).

B. Family opposition and suspicion

1. Parents would be concerned about the partner’s social status and its impact on the family. (Skowroński et al.)
2. The most influential impact in one’s relationship that the parents’ objection would be the greatest struggle for intercultural couples. (Canlas et al.)

C. Community view→ stereotype and discrimination

1. The interracial couples fear the society’s acceptance on them since there are still discrimination and stereotypes in people’s mind (Canlas et al.).

2. They feel pressure because of the criticism from other people, and they sometimes receive angry words or stares by people (Kim)

IV. Methodology

- A. Data Instrument design
- B. Data collection procedure

V. Results of the analysis of the questionnaire and the discussion

- A. Taiwanese college students' perspective on the word "foreigner" → Most of them agree with the statement "I think the word 'foreigner' refers to the people from outside of Taiwan."

- B. The differences and perspectives of "CCR" and "ㄟㄟ尺"

1. "CCR" is more like a neutral term for Taiwanese college students.
2. Most of the Taiwanese college students tend to consider "ㄟㄟ尺" as a negative term.

- C. Fetishes and stereotypes exist in Taiwan

1. There are comparisons and contrasts between a Caucasian female dating with an Asian male and a Caucasian male dating with an Asian female.
2. What the possible causes are for Taiwanese having stereotypes on the intercultural relationship.

- D. The perspectives from the experienced and unexperienced Taiwanese college students on the difficulties that the interracial couples may face with.

VI. Conclusion and solution

- A. Although the stereotypes and discriminations cannot be eliminated in a short time, Taiwanese people still ought to be respectful to everything.
- B. By all-round education, impartial media, and self-adjustment, the Taiwanese society would be more advanced and open.

The Challenges of Cross Cultural Romance in Taiwan: Perspectives from College Students

Introduction

Nowadays, as the human's advancement, the globalization has become universal, thus without a doubt that Taiwan will be facing with the fact that more and more foreigners come to Taiwan for work or study. With the increasing number of the foreigners in Taiwan, it is predictable that there is a growing number of Cross Cultural Romance Couple appearing in Taiwanese's daily life. According to a registered interracial marriages rate in Taiwan, the cross cultural marriages have been increasing from 7.8% in 1998 to 15.9% in 2003, and the rate is being anticipated that it would keep rising for the next fifty years (Skowroński et al.). Therefore, from the numbers shown in the rate, it is obvious that interracial marriage has gradually become a common phenomenon in Taiwan, and the Taiwanese people should open their mind to embrace the difference. However, since the foreigners were not common seeing in Taiwan two decades ago, there are still plenty of people cannot get used to the exotic appearances as well as the interracial romance while the others hold a curious attitude.

For now, although interracial relationship is still a non-mainstream in Taiwan, it is gradually becoming prevalent so that the Taiwanese starts to look into it and defines a term for it through the Taiwanese chatting online platform called PTT. There is no academic source discussing the terms because the terms are particularly used among Taiwanese Internet users that are too informal and new, so after reading plenty of blogs and articles online, the researcher provides the definitions of the terms by herself. CCR, the abbreviation of Cross Cultural Romance, indicating Taiwanese dating or marrying with the people from outside of Taiwan, is more like a neutral one describing the intercultural relationship. On the other side, the term has been twisted by some angry Taiwanese online users and media that they make a discriminated term “ㄘㄘ尺” out of CCR, for the characters are similar, and it particularly is

used to tease or discriminate the Taiwanese females dating with Caucasian males. Sadly, those girls are also called Xicanmei or White Lover, saying that they just want to hook up with the white guys (Bardenhagen). Inevitably, the intercultural couples in Taiwan would probably encounter more challenges than the mono-cultural do, for there are plenty of difficulties exist in the relationship with cultural differences. Besides, some of the couples may be discriminated by some angry people who do not approve with this relationship. Taiwanese college students generally still have stereotypes on cross cultural couples in Taiwan; therefore, the two controversial terms “CCR” and “ㄟㄟ尺” explored throughout the study conveyed the idea that the Taiwanese ought to adopt a fair and liberal attitude towards every difference.

Literature Review

Western & Asian Fetishes

Since Taiwan has not completely internationalized yet, there are still some common fetishes exist among the Taiwanese people that affects their viewing of the interracial romance more or less. First of all, the historical background of East and West strongly influences the social status that some of the Asian people are in a comparatively lower stage when facing the Western people. Bitna Kim, a Korean professor at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, states “colonialism and imperialism were the fundamental historical factors that formed Orientalism as an ideology to define the West as a superior civilization and power and East as an inferior” (239). Besides, she indicates that “Orientalism” is twisted by people because of “the West’s colonialism and political domination over the East,” and it comes out with a false description when Asian think the Westerners are superior than they are (Kim). Therefore, the historical background of being colonies and colonists forms the perspective of inequality when it comes to people with different races and colors (Chow). Since the ideology has rooted in some of the Taiwanese people’s minds, it somehow empowers the Westerners because some Asians think the Westerners are in a higher class. As a consequence,

the inequality of racial status influences the motives when Whites and Asians choosing the relationship, and the one in the lower status may prefer the other person in the higher one in order to reach the “comfort level” (Chow).

In addition to the status and power issue, the exotic appearance is one of the Western fetishes that many Asians infatuate the external appearance of Caucasians. Since the Caucasian Westerners have physical features different from Asian and there are ideologies such as they have “positive behavioural and attitudinal traits and peripheral qualities” such as having the ability of speaking English well, these factors may be one of the reasons why some Asians fall for the Western fetishes (Skowroński et al.). For instance, in Taiwan, there are people considering that if the person has a Western face, he or she can speak English well; however, this is not always the truth since he or she may come from a country that does not take English as their native language. Another example from Bardenhagen’s interviews, in which he interviews several girls who have dated with White males and asks them to talk about their opinion on CCR and Western fetishes, showing that some Taiwanese girls tend to “project stereotypes on people from foreign countries,” and what their thoughts are mostly imagination but not real. Additionally, some people think that the Westerners’ “exotic appearance” is physically attractive, and the ideas that they are sensitive, romantic, and humorous have stayed in Asian’s mind, so it may influence the Asian’s preference as choosing the future partner (Chow; Canlas et al.).

On the other side, there are unreal perspectives of Asian exist in Western countries as well. Similarly, the physical appearance is the primary and obvious factor for most of the people. In Kim’s study, she interviews ten Caucasian males about their fetishes and stereotypes on Asian females, and many of them consider the Asian females as mysterious, caring, intelligent, and family-oriented. However, these are actually the fantasies that people perceive from the society without truly understanding the cultures which is just the same of the Western fetishes from Asians. Besides, both Chow and Kim remark that their Westerner

interviewees tend to think Asians are sensuous and submissive that the two scholars consider is a “misconception” to describe the Asian people.

Without a doubt, there must be reasons of existence of those stereotypes and fetishes; nevertheless, those specific examples do not represent all of the Asians or all the Westerners, and the people should avoid believing the fetishes without verifying them. However, what makes the fetishes be rooted in most of the people’s mind? In fact, the media takes an important part in bringing the messages, no matter correct or incorrect, to the people because it is powerful enough to convey ideas to people as well as change their minds (Kim). An online blog *Taiwan Explorer*, which allows people to share their thoughts of Taiwan with online surfers, posting an article and discussing how the Taiwanese media influences the Taiwanese’s perspective on White males. The article makes two extreme and opposite news from Taiwanese media, and one of the news holds a total negative attitude towards interracial romance while the other is totally the contrast (“Two”). Therefore, people should be aware that the media is not always accurate, and they have to figure out the truth based on the real experience so that the fetishes could be decreased effectively.

Challenges and Difficulties

Interestingly, for some researchers, the interracial relationship is difficult to be maintained and established because it has more conflict and pressure, and an outcome shows that compares to mono-cultural ones, the interracial couples have 11% more crisis to break up (Tili and Barker; Canlas et al.). Just as the previous paragraphs discussed, the Taiwanese still has some stereotypes in regard of foreigners, and with the issue of Cross Cultural Romance, there are more challenges for the couples to face and deal with. Initially, the most common challenges for intercultural couple are language and communication. Predictably, under most circumstances, the intercultural couples do not share a same native language so that they ought to use a common one to communicate, and it is possible for them to feel frustrated when they have trouble with the communication. Rosenblatt and Stewart conduct the

interviews in their study, and they discover that the intercultural couples have the obstacle to communicate even though they share a common language. One reason is that they are not equally fluent in the shared language while another is because of the cultural differences, thus some of them cannot translate the words of some circumstances correctly to the people in need. Besides, there are plenty of idioms and slangs in a language, and the intercultural couples probably would not completely understand those cultural terms as well (Rosenblatt and Stewart). Consequently, the cultural difference between the couples may influence the perspective of “criticism, emotional expressions, changes in emotional state, and overall relationship satisfaction” of them (Skowroński et al.).

Family opposition and suspicion is another vital obstacle for intercultural couples. Since the parents in Asia put emphasis more on the ancestors and their own religions, it may be the problem that they object their beloved children to leave them to a foreign country. Also, the Asian parents would be concerned about the social status of their children’s partner and the relationship’s impact on the family, for they fear that it would affect their children losing his or her cultural roots, particular for male children (Skowroński et al.). Hence, it is obvious that the family’s objection has a harmful impact on intercultural relationship. Some reports even demonstrate that the couples have to make their relationship work by overcoming the family’s opposition (Canlas et al.).

Last but not least, the community and social view pose a threat to the relationship, for the stereotypes and discriminations are still widely rumored by some people. Having the experience of being discriminated, some couples are under pressure of getting society’s acceptance or disapproval which is unfair for them to undertake this distress (Canlas et al.; Skowroński et al.). As a Korean who has dated with a Caucasian guy, Kim gives examples from her own experiences that she was being asked by people “Isn’t there any Korean guy?” or “I don’t understand why you are dating with white trash” (244). From these words, the readers can tell how discriminated some people are, and she states many people “look down

on those European male/ Asian female couples” which they often receive angry comments and stares on the road. Therefore, the challenges for intercultural couples are considerable and tough so that the couples should stay strong and find the solutions. For other people, in order to eliminate the unnecessary stereotypes, they ought to be respectful to every relationship that is different from theirs.

Method

Procedure

In attempt to investigate the Taiwanese College students’ perspective on Cross Cultural Romance in Taiwan, the terms “CCR” and “ㄟㄟ尺,” their personal experiences, and their possible solutions for the difficulties in this relationship, the use of a quantitative-based questionnaire was chosen. In the first part of the questionnaire, the basic information is asked such as the respondent’s gender, school, and grade level. Besides, the researcher desires to understand their first thought when the word “foreigner” comes to their mind so that the question of the term “foreigner” is placed at the very first page before the respondents start to fill out the following questions. The second part focuses on the Taiwanese’s college students’ thoughts on the term “CCR” and the possible stereotypes they have. In the first section, under this part the term “CCR” and “ㄟㄟ尺” are provided to let the respondents show their attitude and thoughts about these two terms created by Taiwanese Internet users. While in the second section, there are some discriminated statements of common stereotypes Taiwanese possibly have on CCR, and the respondents choose their opinions through the rating from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”. Since the researcher attempts to figure out Taiwanese college students’ idea when they see the Asian females dating with Caucasian males versus the Caucasian females dating with Asian males, the related questions are in this part.

Last but not least, the Taiwanese college students’ personal experience is an important factor in this study, too. In the third part, the personal experience such as whether they have dated with foreigners and what were the difficulties they had met in the relationship are

included. Therefore, the respondents are separated in the third part—one part of them is for the people who have been in CCR relationship whereas the other part is for those who have not. Therefore, they answer different types of question, but the purpose is the same and the questions are similar. At the end of the questionnaire, the respondents provide their possible solutions in order to eliminate the unnecessary discriminations, solve the difficulties that CCR couples have faced with and search for the original factors that lead to these thoughts.

Data Analysis

For analyzing the questionnaire, the researcher uses descriptive statistics including counts, percentage, and mean score, and further utilizes the statistics to draw the pie charts and bar graphs to discuss.

Participants

In total, the researcher collects 124 responses from the questionnaire released on the social media and Internet. Respondents, from the age of 18-22, consist of 91 females (73.4%) and 33 males (26.6%), and there are 72 respondents out of total are from Fu Jen Catholic University while the rest of them (41.9%) are from other universities. Almost half of the respondents are in third grade of college, 25.8% are in their sophomore year, 10.5% are in the senior year, 5.6% are in the freshman year, and another 5.6% are in the graduate school.

Results and Discussion

Taiwanese College Students' Perspective of the Word "Foreigner"

Before starting the questionnaire, the researcher is curious how the Taiwanese college students would describe the word "foreigner" when it first comes to their mind. Therefore, the researcher presents several statements of the definition to let the respondents to rank their thoughts on them. In the first three questions, she asks their thoughts on whether the word refers to the people outside of Asia, Taiwan, or Caucasian people. There are over half of the respondents (72.5%) disagree or strongly disagree with the word "foreigner" refers to the

Caucasian and the people from outside of Asia. On the other hand, 96 of the respondents (77.4%) agree or strongly agree with the statement “I think the word ‘foreigner’ refers to the people from outside of Taiwan” while there are just 13 of them (10.4%) choose the opposite responses which means that when the word “foreigner” comes to the respondents’ mind, most of them consider it as the people who are not from their own country—Taiwan. However, interestingly, when being asked the question “When someone mentions ‘foreigner’, I often think they are referring to the white people,” 63 of them (50.8%) agree or strongly agree with this statement whereas 40 participants (32.2%) disagree or strongly disagree with it. Therefore, according to the result, although the Taiwanese college students themselves generally do not consider the word “foreigner” as the white people, when hearing others mention the word, some of them still instinctively think it refers to the white, and that is one of the stereotypes in their mind without being noticed. Besides, this outcome somehow relates to the historical facts that Chow suggests in the previous pages. Because of the colony background, the Taiwanese people may think of the Westerners when they hear the word “foreigner” that they are most familiar with.

“CCR” and “ㄘㄘ尺”

Since the terms “CCR” and “ㄘㄘ尺” have been discussed in Taiwan for a long time and they are controversial terms for people to describe the interracial relationship, the researcher desires to get more perspectives from the respondents. From the questionnaire, 71.7% of respondents regard this as a neutral term, 15.3% votes for positive, and 12.9% for negative. Some of the respondents comment that they think the term “CCR” is just a noun or an abbreviation for the intercultural couples that it does not have any specific meaning, no matter negative or positive. While some of them argue that why should romance be defined or judged since they think romance is a wonderful thing and there are no differences between every relationship. For instance, one of the respondents points out “Love is the same, regardless of distance or differences. Plus, everyone has the right” that every single person

has the right and freedom to choose his/her relationship (R16). On the other side, those who think “CCR” is a negative term comment that because some of them have seen the term on the chatting online platform or the social media, and it has been used by some angry Internet users teasing the girls who date or marry with Caucasian man, hence they regard it as a negative term.

However, the researcher further brings up another term “ㄟㄟ尺,” which is also a hot and controversial term discussed online. According to the questionnaire, 82 of the respondents (66.1%) have heard this term while 41(33%) have not, and 72 out of 82 respondents (87.8%) consider “ㄟㄟ尺” as a negative term, 10 (12.1%) think it is neutral. Interestingly, nobody chooses this term as a positive one, and most of the comments indicate that the term is used by the people who mock or tease the Taiwanese girls dating or marrying with the white. Besides, the media and the Internet play an important role, for they know this term as discriminated and negative through the media, and some of them point out that this term makes them uncomfortable. Also, from the comments, there are 11 of them indicating that “ㄟㄟ尺” is twisted from the original term “CCR”, which corresponds to Bardenhagen’s statement at the beginning of the study.

As a consequence, since the majority of the respondents express their ideas that “CCR” is more like a neutral term while “ㄟㄟ尺” is a negative one, the Taiwanese people should be respectful towards any type of relationship, and it would be rude if anyone use any term to mock the relationship of foreigner and Taiwanese.

Fetishes and Stereotypes in Taiwan

As the researcher argues before, there are still some fetishes and stereotypes, without being noticed by the Taiwanese or not, staying in some of their mind. From the questionnaire, the respondents are given several statements that are possibly some stereotypes in Taiwan, and the respondents can express their opinions of these statements by choosing the rating from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”. By providing the statements, the researcher

eagers to explore the perspectives from Taiwanese college students on cross cultural romance issue. From the statement “The Western fetishes are still deep in the Taiwanese’s mind, (ex. The Westerners are romantic)” the 79 approvers (63.7%) outnumber the 21 disapprovers (16.9%). Hence, it suggests that even though Taiwanese consider themselves can be rational and just to everything, they may still be unaware of some stereotypes. From Skowroński and Canlas, they both indicate that there are still some fetishes exist among Taiwanese which further influences their preference and thoughts. Therefore, the statement “Taiwanese female tends to expect a cross cultural relationship” is discussed by plenty of people online, in public, or in private, and interestingly, 34 people (27.4%) hold a neutral attitude while 47 (37.9%) choose “agree” and 43 (34.6%) select “disagree”. Unexpectedly, the votes of two opposite sides are pretty close that 1/3 of the respondents think the Taiwanese girls have thought about having a CCR relationship whereas another 1/3 of them do not think so.

“CCR” is more like a neutral term, according to the questionnaire, and it is the abbreviation of cross cultural relationship; however, most of the Taiwanese tend to focus more on the issue of the Taiwanese female dating with the Caucasian male which causes a lot more controversial comments instead of emphasizing the Taiwanese male dating with the Caucasian female. As a consequence, the researcher lists two multiple selection questions asking the respondents’ view on the Taiwanese female and male dating with the Caucasian female and male in order to find out if the Taiwanese college students have different attitudes toward these relationships. For the questions “How would you feel when seeing an Asian female dating with a Caucasian male” and “How would you feel when seeing an Asian male dating with a Caucasian female,” nearly a half of the respondents vote that they do not have specific feelings and they think this relationship is the same as those of other types.

Nevertheless, the stereotypes such as “This Caucasian male is probably a playboy” and “This Asian female may just prefer to date the Caucasian guys than males of other ethnics” for the Asian female dating with Caucasian male, respectively get 29 (23.3%) and 17 (13.7%) votes.

On the contrary, although there are respondents who choose the selections “The Asian male dating with the Caucasian female’s relationship may not last long” and “This Asian male may just prefer the white female,” the votes are almost a half than the previous question, which is 8 (6.4%) and 10 (8%) separately. Most importantly, compared to the 29 votes (23.3%) of “The Caucasian male is probably a playboy,” the selection “The Caucasian girl is probably a playgirl” receives 0 votes from the respondents. From the result, it can be speculated that the relationships of Asian girls dating with Caucasian males and Asian males dating with Caucasian girls may be treated differently by Taiwanese people since some of them probably still have their own stereotypes when facing with these relationships.

Since there is existence of CCR stereotype in Taiwan, the researcher is curious that how the stereotypes are created. Therefore, the respondents provide their opinions for an open-ended question “For what reasons Taiwanese may have stereotypes on CCR couples?” and the researcher has categorized the responses from the Taiwanese college students and found out those answers are somehow connected to each other. First and foremost, several respondents have mentioned the term “Xenophilia,” meaning that the people desire or being attracted by foreign people, culture, or customs. Some argue that the Taiwanese tend to be Xeophilic, for an amount of them are obsessed to the exotic appearance of Caucasians and their culture. For instance, one participant comments “Taiwanese tends to value the Western countries highly, and they have longings of their cultures or people” (R 32). Furthermore, unfortunately, the respondents point out that the Taiwanese often regard themselves as inferior than those other from foreign countries, and the English-speaking countries seem much better than Taiwan itself for them. Hence “Taiwanese weakens their confidence when comparing themselves with the Western countries,” suggests that the “Orientalism” and colonial historical facts are the possible reasons for their sense of inferiority. Lack of enough experience and sufficient knowledge is also a reason suggested by the respondents, for the Taiwanese are acquainted with the relationship so that they just can guess or receive the

comments from other people or media. Consequently, the misunderstandings or stereotypes gradually appear among Taiwanese from mouth to mouth. As Kim discusses, media is the most influential factor for people to receive knowledge, and the respondents frequently mention this word in their comments on the reason why Taiwanese may have stereotype. From the movie, magazine, news, and the Internet, some Taiwanese unilaterally grasp the concept of CCR without truly experiencing it by themselves which undoubtedly causes some longings or discriminations.

In addition to Xenophilia, media, historical facts, and fantasy, the respondents note that envy and jealousy are part of the reasons why Taiwanese have stereotypes on CCR. One of the respondents makes an example that some of the Taiwanese consider foreigners as wealthy or good-looking and they show discriminations out of jealousy. She further demonstrates that if a Taiwanese girl dates with a Filipino, there may be less offensive comments on them; however, a Filipino is the same as a Caucasian since they are all foreigners that there should be no such stereotype on any relationship (R81).

The Possible Difficulties of CCR

The researcher separates the respondents into two in this part—the ones who have been in CCR relationship and the ones who have not, and they can provide their experiences or opinions respectively on the questions that the difficulties CCR couples may encounter. The ones who have CCR experience should answer the question “Have you faced with these difficulties when you are in the CCR relationship?” and below the question are a variety of possible obstacles offered by the researcher. The CCR respondents have to rate from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree” based on their previous personal experiences. On the other hand, the question for those who do not have CCR experience is “Do you think the CCR couples may face with these difficulties?” and the selections below are exactly the same as the previous question. By doing so, the researcher wants to figure out whether the difficulties that the public generally guesses match the reality.

Start from the striking contrast from the respondents, “language,” “family opposition,” “communication” and “religious belief” receive a rather high number of votes from inexperienced respondents which over a half of them agree that these four conditions are the considerable difficulties for CCR. However, less than a half of the experienced respondents agree with these points, and most of them instead choose “no opinion” and “disagree” in terms of these four statements. As Ronsenblatt, Stewart, and Skowroński discuss, these challenges indeed exist in the society, but since the Taiwanese society has become more globalized and advanced, the traditional perspectives from Taiwanese are no longer suitable for every CCR relationship.

Both of the experienced and unexperienced respondents mostly agree with that “distance” and “personal traits and behaviors” are the obstacles for the CCR couples. For the intercultural couples, the distance is an unavoidable factor for the lovers since they originate from different countries, and before their marriage, they have to be tested by the distance. Besides, the difficulty of “personal traits and behaviors” may include cultural difference or personality that affects the CCR relationship. On the other hand, less than 5 respondents out of 30 agree with the points “being teased by people” and “being looked down by people” which matches the outcomes from the unexperienced respondents. As the researcher argues previously, more and more foreigners come to Taiwan, and the Taiwanese are getting used to a variety of novel phenomenon so that the out-fashioned comments appear much less than before.

Conclusion and the Possible Solutions

Although some of the respondents think that the stereotypes and discriminations cannot be eliminated by Taiwanese people in a short time, there are still some possible ways to reduce the hearsays as well as prevent the couples from the baseless rumors. First of all, the education is vital in one’s life, and the Taiwanese has been educated that they should be respectful to different races since they were young, specifically for the immigrants from

South Eastern Asia. However, not only the South Easterners, but also every single person and relationship should be respected, so the Taiwanese could elaborate more on the education such as the moral and civic class in terms of this issue. Besides, the media leads the society as well as shapes the people's thoughts; as a result, the media ought to report everything in a neutral attitude without any dramatic or extraordinary addition. When facing with any issue, the media should utilize the just and fair perspective in order to narrate it to the audience so that the audience will not be misled. Lastly, for the interracial couples, the relationships belong to themselves, and even though there will inevitably be an amount of challenges in front of them, it is their duty to solve the problems together and prove that they are as happy as the mono-cultural ones. In a nut shell, whether engaging in an intercultural relationship or not, the Taiwanese ought to use a healthy attitude and be open-minded towards this issue, and by all-round education, impartial media, and self-adjustment, the Taiwanese society would be more advanced and open.

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Appendix

1. The Questionnaire

跨國戀情在台灣可能遇到的挑戰: 來自台灣大學生的觀點 The Challenges of Cross Cultural Romance in Taiwan: Perspectives from College Students

我是輔仁大學英文系三年級的學生。因為課程的需要，目前正在進行一項小調查，題目為「跨國戀情在台灣可能遇到的挑戰: 來自台灣大學生的觀點」。本問卷所獲得的資料絕對會保密，僅做學術上的用途，希望您盡可能按照實際想法來作答。在填答的過程中您不會受到任何傷害，您也有權隨時停止填答這份問卷。

輔仁大學英文系三年級馬汝敏敬上

Hello! I am a junior student from the English department of Fu Jen University. Currently I am carrying out a little survey to fulfill course requirements. The topic of my survey is "The Challenges of Cross Cultural Romance in Taiwan: Perspectives from College Students". All data acquired from this questionnaire will be confidential and only used for academic purposes. I hope that you can answer according to your actual thought. You will not be harmed during the process of answering. You also have the right to stop filling out this questionnaire anytime you want.

Sincerely

Monica Ma

1. 您的性別 Your gender *

- ☐ 男 Male
- ☐ 女 Female
- ☐ 其他： _____

2. 您就讀哪一間大學 Which university are you studying in? *

- ☐ 輔仁大學 Fu Jen Catholic University
- ☐ 其他： _____

3. 您就讀於幾年級 What grade are you in? *

- ☐ 1年級 Freshman
- ☐ 2年級 Sophomore
- ☐ 3年級 Junior
- ☐ 4年級 Senior
- ☐ 其他： _____

4. 對於「外國人」這個詞您的看法是? What do you think about the word "foreigner"? *

	非常不同意 Strongly disagree	不同意 Disagree	沒意見 No opinion	同意 Agree	非常同意 Strongly agree
我覺得「外國人」這個詞是指那些來自亞洲以外的人。I think the word "foreigner" refers to the people outside of Asia	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
我覺得「外國人」這個詞是指西方白人。I think the word "foreigner" refers to the Caucasian people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
我覺得「外國人」這個詞是來自台灣之外的人。I think the word "foreigner" refers to the people from outside of Taiwan	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
當有人提到「外國人」這個詞，我通常覺得他們指的是西方白人。When someone mentions "foreigner", I often think they are referring to the white people.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
當有人提到「外國人」這個詞，我通常覺得他們指的是來自台灣之外的人。When someone mentions "foreigner", I often think they are referring to the people not from Taiwan.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

台灣大學生對於跨文化戀愛的觀點以及可能的刻板印象 **Taiwanese College Students' Perspective and Possible Stereotypes on Cross Cultural Romance (CCR)**

5. 您對「CCR」(跨文化戀愛) 這個名稱的觀點? What do you think of the term "CCR" (Cross Cultural Romance)? *

- ☐ 負面的名稱 Negative term
- ☐ 中立的名稱 Nuetral term
- ☐ 正向的名稱 Positive term
- ☐ 其他: _____

6. 呈上題，是什麼讓您選擇這個答案? 請簡短說明。 Following the last question, why did you choose the answer? Could you provide a short explanation? *

您的回答

7. 您曾聽過「ㄟㄟ尺」這個名稱嗎? Have you heard the term "ㄟㄟ尺" before?

- ☐ 有，我有聽過。 Yes
- ☐ 沒有，我沒有聽過。(直接跳至第10題) No (go to the question 10 directly)

8. 您對於「ㄟㄟ尺」這個名稱的觀點? What do you think of the term "ㄟㄟ尺"?

- ☐ 負面的名稱 Negative term
- ☐ 中立的名稱 Nuetral term
- ☐ 正向的名稱 Positive term
- ☐ 其他: _____

9. 承上題，是什麼讓您選擇這個答案? 請簡短說明。 Following the last question, why did you choose the answer? Could you provide a short explanation?

您的回答

10. 以下的敘述請問您的想法是? What do you think about the following statements? *

	非常不同意 Strongly disagree	不同意 Disagree	沒意見 No opinion	同意 Agree	非常同意 Strongly agree
「CCR」是特別指亞洲女生和西方白人交往。"CCR" specifically means Asian female dating with Caucasian male.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
台灣女生普遍期待能擁有跨文化戀情。Taiwanese female tends to expect a cross cultural relationship.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
在台灣的西方外國男性普遍追尋和台灣女性交往。The male Westerners in Taiwan mostly are searching for a Taiwanese girlfriend.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
在台灣的外國女性普遍追尋和台灣男性交往。The female Westerners in Taiwan mostly are searching for a Taiwanese boyfriend.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
台灣人對於西方的迷思 (例如: 外國男性很浪漫) 還深深存在許多人心中。The Western fetishes are deep in the Taiwanese's mind. (ex. The Westerners are romantic)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

11. 當您看到亞洲女性和西方白人男性交往時，您的想法是? (複選題) How would you feel when seeing an Asian female dating with Caucasian male? (Multiple selection) *

- ☐ 這段感情並不會很持久。 Their relationship would probably not last long.
- ☐ 這位亞洲女性只偏好跟西方白人男性交往。 The Asian female may just prefer to date the Caucasian guys than males of other ethnics.
- ☐ 這位西方白人男性可能只是玩玩的，並不會認真對待感情。 The Caucasian male is probably a playboy.
- ☐ 我並沒有特別的想法。 I do not have specific feelings.
- ☐ 我認為交外國的男女朋友是一件很正常的事。 I think it is normal to have a boyfriend/ girlfriend from different country.
- ☐ 我羨慕這段跨文化戀情。 I envy this relationship.
- ☐ 其他： _____

12. 當您看到亞洲男性和西方白人女性交往時，您的想法是? (複選題) How would you feel when seeing an Asian male dating with Caucasian female? (Multiple selection) *

- ☐ 這段感情並不會很持久。 Their relationship would probably not last long.
- ☐ 這位亞洲男性只偏好跟西方白人女性交往。 The Asian male may just prefer to date the Caucasian girls than females of other ethnics.
- ☐ 這位西方白人女性可能只是玩玩的，並不會認真對待感情。 The Caucasian female is probably a playgirl.
- ☐ 我並沒有特別的想法。 I do not have specific feelings.
- ☐ 我認為交外國的男女朋友是一件很正常的事。 I think it is normal to have a boyfriend/ girlfriend from different country.
- ☐ 我羨慕這段跨文化戀情。 I envy this relationship.
- ☐ 其他： _____

13. 對您來說，您覺得是什麼原因讓台灣人對於跨文化情侶有刻板印象，請您簡短回答? In your opinion, for what reasons Taiwanese people may have stereotypes on CCR couples? *

您的回答 _____

個人對於跨文化戀情經驗Personal experiences on CCR

14. 您曾經有過跨文化戀情嗎? (也包括約會) Have you been in a cross cultural relationship? (Dating is included) *

- ☐ 有，我曾有過跨文化戀情。(請繼續回答15-17題) Yes (You can answer the questions 15-17)
- ☐ 沒有，我沒有此經驗。(您可以跳至18-20題) No (You can skip to questions 18-20)
- ☐ 其他： _____

15. 承上題，如果您有跨文化戀愛經驗，您的男朋友/女朋友是來自亞洲外嗎? Following the last question, if the answer is yes, is your boyfriend/girlfriend from the outside of Asia?

- ☐ 是。yes
- ☐ 不是。no
- ☐ 其他： _____

16. 承14題，您如何遇見您的跨文化男朋友/女朋友，請簡短回答? (如果您不願意回答的話可跳過此問題) Following the question 14, how did you meet your boyfriend/girlfriend? (You can skip the question if you do not want to answer)

您的回答

17. (有過跨文化戀情的人) 您曾經在此段關係中遇過什麼困難或挑戰? (For those who have been in the CCR Relationship) Have you faced with these difficulties when you are in CCR relationship?

	非常不同意 Strongly disagree	不同意 Disagree	沒意見 No opinion	同意 Agree	非常同意 Strongly agree
語言。Language	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
溝通方式。Communication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
家庭反對。Family opposition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
被人們嘲笑。Being teased by people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
被人們看不起。Being looked down by people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
距離。Distance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
個人特質及個性。Personal traits and behavior	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
性別關係。Gender roles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
宗教信仰。Religious belief	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

沒有過跨文化戀愛經驗的人 For those who have not been in the Cross Cultural Relationship

18. (沒有過跨文化戀情的人) 您覺得跨文化情侶們可能會遇到下列這些困難或挑戰嗎?(For those who have not been in the CCR Relationship) Do you think the CCR couples may face with these difficulties?

	非常不同意 Strongly disagree	不同意 Disagree	沒意見 No opinion	同意 Agree	非常同意 Strongly agree
語言。Language	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
溝通方式。 Communication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
家庭反對。Family opposition	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
被人們嘲笑。Being teased by people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
被人們看不起。Being looked down by people	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
距離。Distance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
個人特質及個性。 Personal traits and behavior	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
性別關係。Gender roles	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
宗教信仰。Religious belief	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

19. (沒有過跨文化戀情的人) 您曾經想過試試看此種戀情嗎?(For those who have not been in CCR relationship) Have you thought about having a CCR relationship?

- ☐ 有，我曾想過。 Yes
- ☐ 沒有，我從來沒想過。 No
- ☐ 其他： _____

20. 承上題，為什麼? Following the question 19, why?

您的回答 _____

可能的解決方式Possible solutions for the difficulties and discriminations

21. 依照您的想法，有什麼可能的解決方法去克服這些困難或者是消除人們的刻板印象?In your opinion, what are the possible solutions for overcoming the difficulties and eliminating the discriminations on CCR relationship? *

您的回答 _____