



東海大學學生報告 ePaper

報告題名:

娘惹生活文化對現代馬來西亞人的影響

**The influence of Nyonya culture to modern
Malaysian**

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I. 摘要

峇峇娘惹族群曾在 15 世紀初至 17 世紀時，於東南亞代表著中國文化在異地落地生根。這些中國移民在東南亞，尤其是馬來西亞當地所生下的後代，男的叫做峇峇，女的稱為娘惹。而透過峇峇娘惹族群，我們可以瞭解當時的海上絲路以及鄭和下西洋對於中國沿岸居民的影響。透過電視劇「小娘惹」，得知當時這個族群的生活習俗以及飲食習慣等。我們接著透過線上訪談、網路資料以及文獻分析出娘惹到後來沒落的原因。藉此，我們可以得知娘惹的興盛以及沒落的關係軸並推斷出中國文化如今在東南亞是否有與當地結合發展出更特殊的文化的可能。

關鍵字:峇峇娘惹 鄭和下西洋 小娘惹 海上絲路 中國移民

II. Abstract

The Baba Nyonya, one of the groups that symbol Chinese culture in South East Asia, has landed their footprint overseas during 15 to 17 centuries. The descendents of those Chinese migrants have born in South East Asia, especially in Malaysia.

The men were called Baba(峇峇), and women were named Nyonya(娘惹). Therefore, we can understand the influence of the Maritime Silk Road(海上絲路) and Zheng He ' s seven trips to the western seas(鄭和下西洋).

Through the television drama series called “The Little nyonya”, it is able indicate the group of custom and food habits.

Afterwards, we will collect information through online interview, internet resources and literatures in order to analyze the actual reason that causes Nyonya culture to be declined. Thus, we can find out the relationship between its rise and fall and infer the possibility for Chinese culture to develop a more special culture in South East Asia.

Key Words: Baba Nyonya、 Zheng He's seven trips to the western seas、

The Little Nyonya、 Maritime Silk Road、 Chinese Migrants



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III. Introduction

When we first heard about Nyonya cuisines, we have drawn on the special words “Nyonya,” hoping to know its meaning. In addition, as our Malaysian group member was able to give supportive information to this topic, we had more confident to conduct this issue.

In fifteen century to seventeen century, people from China Coast immigrated into Malaysia and begin their livings in a new land. While Chinese young men abroad and worked in Malaysia, they also married aboriginal beauties. Since the two different culture combined together, they had their offspring named Baba Nyonya (People usually used Nyonya as its abbreviation.) Malay and other areas become the first Nyonya people to active in the zone. The origin of this phenomenon can be traced to Ming dynasty in China, which is the time when

Maritime Silk Road became a hot trend in Asia that also brought Zhang He, one of the greatest navigators to explore the world by leading fleet. Therefore, it was the first time when people in Malay Peninsula had a chance to communicate with Chinese people. Unfortunately, most of the Malaysians nowadays seems to be unfamiliar with Nyonya, in fact, this culture is getting faded in Malaysia. Due to

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this condition, we think that it is important to inform people of its condition and provide the result to show the current situation of this culture so researchers could be able to think about the further development of combining Chinese culture with local Malaysian culture in order not to lose this unique feature.

Being curious about how Nyonya is and what the meaning is, we planned to use interview and online sources to know the life style of Nyonya. And to look up the differences when these new immigrations constitute themselves as a group and the

reason why it is falling and disappearing in Malay's society.

Method

In order to find out the level of Nyonya nowadays in Malaysia, we decided to make an online interview to contact and find out further details from Malaysians. In our interview paper, we mainly focus the questions to be related with people's livings, such as food, dressings, celebrations etc; So as to let our interviewees can think about the coverage of Nyonya culture in their daily lives. Please refer to Appedix.

Results

After our interviewees' answers, we concluded 8 results from their relationships to Nyonya and to see whether Nyonya's cuisine 、 clothing 、 festival still exist in Malaysian's daily life or not.

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I.Interviewees' Background Information:

The total people we interviewed were 17, in that 5 males and 12

females

(Figure 1), all of them being Malaysians, the people were between the age group of 20-28(Figure 2)

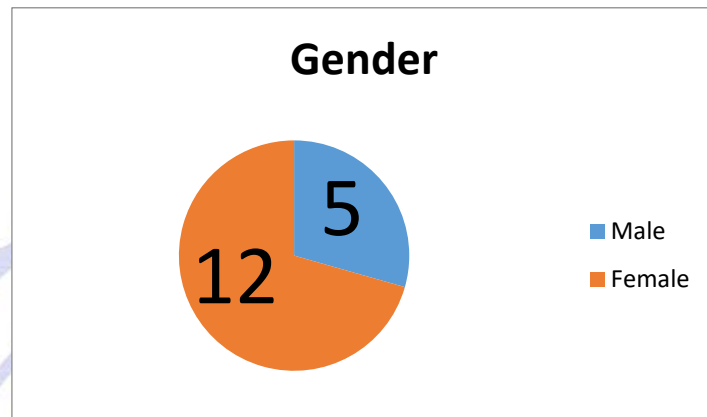


Figure 1

Age

(11 条回复)

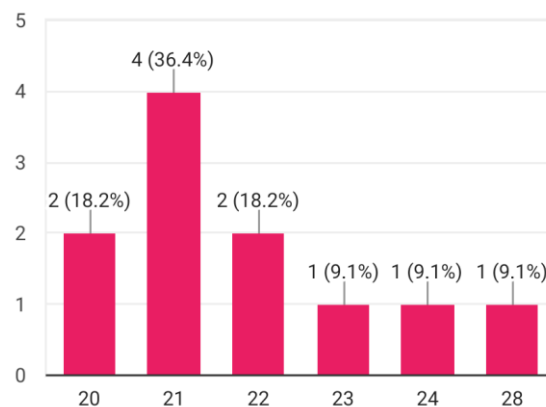


Figure 2

II. Relationship

(The brief introduction to your relationship with Nyonya culture.)

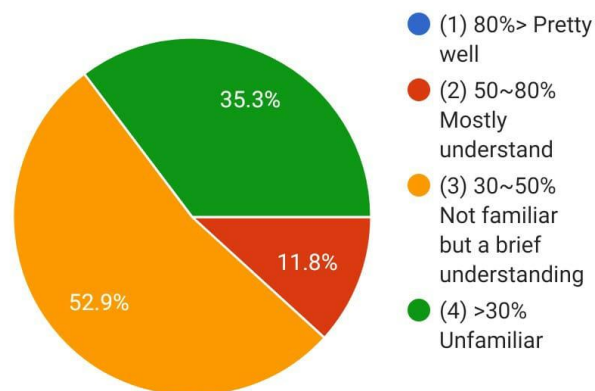
When we asked about their relationship with Nyonya

people 16 people said that they didn't have any relationship with them but 1 person said she was from Nyonya background and she had some basic understanding about Nyonya culture and lifestyle.

III. Knowledge

(The percentage of their understanding of Nyonya culture.)

Next we discussed with them regarding their understanding about Nyonya culture. Nine people replied that they have a brief understanding level between 30~50%, six people responded that they are really unfamiliar with this issue and 2 people are mostly understood about Nyonya(Figure 3).



IV.Cuisine

(The eating style for Nyonya people.)

When we asked them next about their food and eating style, 15 interviewees could answer and also familiar with it as well.

They shared different points of views (figure 4). Besides, few said their dishes were more delicious and curry

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they prepared had unique taste. Mostly their foods were spicy and sour. They mentioned specifically like Nyonya kuih(娘惹糕) (figure 5), laksa(叻沙) in (figure 6), Chicken kapitan(甲必丹咖哩雞) in (figure 7), Sambal prawn(辣醬蝦) in (figure 8) etc which were delicious food items they had tasted before. Few said as it was similar to Chinese food, and 2 said they had no idea about it.

The dishes are delicious.

Curry nyonya

I'm not quite familiar with the eating style of Baba and Nyonya, I just know that their foods are basically spicy and sour. I did try many of their cuisines before, like stinky bean sambal prawn, assam pedas fish, babi pongteh, nyonya kuih and more.

娘惹糕

I don't know about those.

Nyonya Laksa, chicken Kapitan. I tried those before.

Nyonya kuih

Adding lots of spices

Mostly kuih mui & something spicy like nyonya spicy chicken

Figure 4
Sample of the Answers



(Figure 5)



(Figure 6)



(Figure 7)



(Figure 8)

V. Costume

(The Wearing style for Nyongya people.)

Next we are more curious about the Nyonya's dressing style. They shared the name of it which was called Nyonya kebaya and that it would be unique (figure 9 10). They had their own cultural characteristics. Nyonya kebaya has more batik print and fancy works. Nyonya kebaya (figure 11) are quite popular in Malaysia. The appearance is like Malay's baju kebaya. Some people said the woman's cloth is more likely to Malay traditional cloth and the man's cloth will look like Chinese traditional one. But in current scenario Nyonya garments are not so popular because we can't find them nowadays. Few said it looked like traditional Malay style and Campur Indian style.

Unique and has their own cultural characteristics.
Nyonya kebaya
I don't think traditional Nyonya clothes are popular among all Malaysian, probably only among Malay community. I do know that Nyonya Kebaya is one of style of Kebaya, compare to the regular Baju Kebaya wore by Malays, Nyonya Kebaya have more batik print and more fancy.
很靠近馬來人的服裝
Batik clothes.
It's quite popular in Malaysia. Their family members do usually wear it. The appearances looks like Malay's baju kebaya.
yes
N/A
nyonya kebaya is one of style of kebaya, compare to the regular Baju Kebaya wore by Malays, Nyonya Kebaya have more batik print and more fancy.
很靠近馬來人的服裝
Batik clothes.
It's quite popular in Malaysia. Their family members do usually wear it. The appearances looks like Malay's baju kebaya.
yes
N/A
Chinese traditional clothes with Malay pattern/ design on it
baju kebaya
I think Nyonya garments are not popular now because we can't find it nowadays.

Figure 9

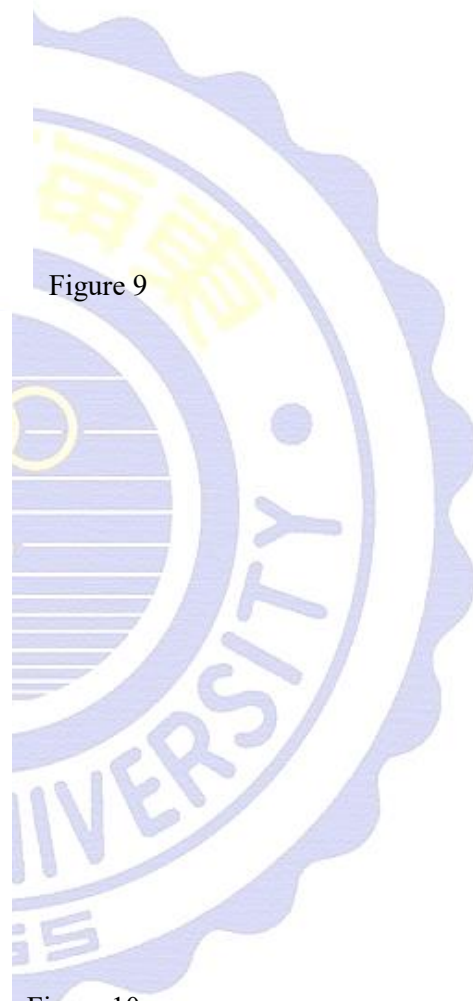


Figure 10



Figure 11

VI. Festival

(The special festival celebration for Nyongya people.)

Next we asked them about their festival celebration. 8 people said they had no idea but some shared interesting information like how the Nyonya people celebrate all Chinese traditional festivals and Malay festivals along with Hari raya festival (開齋節) (figure 12).

Hari raya and Chinese new year
They celebrate Chinese New Year, Mid Autumn Festival and other Chinese festival since they are half chinese descendants.
慶祝方式像華人
I am not familiar with those.
They celebrate same festival as Malaysia's Chinese.
I dont know
N/A
Dont know ..
和華人差不多
I think no. Nyonya celebrate the same festival as chinese culture.

Figure 12

VII.Language

(The language of Nyonyan people.)

When we enquired about their language and communication with Nyonya people many said mostly they use Mandarin for communication. So people said that Nyonya people can speak Multilanguage like English, Chinese, Malay with Hokkien words. But they were not sure if the Hokkien words existed or not.

VIII.Supplement Answers

(Asking for additional information.)

When we asked about additional information about Nyonya they said that recently the majority of Baba Nyonyas

converted to Muslims since that was a Malaysian Law (to convert to muslim if they got married to Malay people or they were a part of Malaysia). Few said the Nyonyas were the mixed bloods of Western people and Asians. Some people denied knowing anything about it.

Conclusion

Based on our research, we have found that Nyonya culture phenomenon is waning in Malaysian society. Although Nyonya cuisine seems to be popular for Malaysians, almost everyone could not have a well knowledge of the customs and traditions of Nyonya. By these outcomes in our research, we could know people in Malaysians are no longer familiar with Nyonya culture, but this culture still makes its influences on local customs in cuisine and wearing until nowadays.

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Appendix: Questionnaire

1. The brief introduction to your relationship with Nyonya culture. (e.g. Do you have Nyonyan background in your family?)

請簡短介紹您和娘惹文化間的關係。(例:您的家庭有沒有娘惹文化的背景?)

2. The percentage of their understanding of Nyonya culture.

您對娘惹文化的了解程度比例

(1) 80%> Pretty well 非常了解

(2) 50~80% Mostly understand 大部分了解

(3) 30~50% Not familiar but a brief understanding 不熟悉但是稍有認識

(4) >30% Unfamiliar 非常不熟悉

3. The eating style for Nyonya people. (e.g. What kinds of food they usually have, Have interviewees ever tried it before? The way they make the cuisine.)

娘惹的飲食文化(例: 哪些料理他們經常食用? 受訪者是否有品嚐過? 娘惹食物的料理方法。)

4. The wearing style for Nyongya people. (e.g. Are Nyonyan garments popular? Do their family members usually wear it?

What are the appearances looks like?)

娘惹的穿著文化(例:娘惹的服飾流行嗎? 他們的家庭成員是否經常穿著? 服飾的外表。)

5. The special festival celebration for Nyongya people. (e.g. The meaning for the celebration, The way how they celebrate it.)

娘惹的特殊節慶(例: 節慶的慶祝意義、慶祝的方式。)

6. The language of Nyonyan people. (e.g. What kind of language they usually communicate with people, The phenomenon of existence of this language.)

娘惹的語言(例: 什麼樣的語言是他們經常和他人溝通的? 這項語言的現存情況)

7. Asking for additional information. (Whether they have other important details to supply.)

額外資訊(是否有其他細節可以補充?)