



東海大學學生報告 ePaper

報告題名：

台灣人對安樂死看法之研究：大學生 vs. 中年人

Research for Taiwanese aspect toward euthanasia:

College students vs. Middle-aged people

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中文摘要

在台灣時間 6 月 17 日傍晚，前資深體育主播「傅達仁」接受瑞士組織「尊嚴」的協助自殺，享年 85 歲，然而，在台灣，他並非首例支持安樂死的名人，2017 年三月，台灣知名作家「瓊瑤」向他的兒子以及媳婦交代未來的後事，同時表明拒絕多項醫療處置，並期望台灣未來針對安樂死立法合法化，由於近年來，人權意識抬頭，安樂死這個議題一直是國際上討論激烈的議題，但只有少數國家合法接受主動安樂死，例如：比利時、盧森堡、荷蘭、哥倫比亞，至於協助自殺的部分則有：瑞士、加拿大、荷比盧、美國 7 個洲以及華盛頓，目前以操作方式來說，安樂死分為以下三種：「一、主動安樂死：『由醫師主動為病人結束性命』，二、陪伴/協助安樂死：『病人主動要求，且親自執行結束生命』，三、被動安樂死：『停止療程，使其自然死亡』。」

在台灣，現有的法律僅有「安寧緩和醫療條例」，此法律保障癌症末期患者或重大疾病患者，醫師可依患者預立的醫療決定，終止、撤除或不施行急救及維生醫療，以及衛福部所提出預計在明年一月上路的「病人自主權利法」，癌症末期患者和重大疾病末期患者可預立醫療決定，自主決定是否要終止、撤除或不施行急救及維生醫療，但因安樂死所牽涉的相關法律議題及社會接受度，短時間內不討論，由此得知，台灣政府尚未對安樂死提出周全的法律以及計畫。

除了政府立法以外，也需民眾的配合，所以我們設計了一份問卷，針對同年齡的大學生，以及年齡相較之下，屬於我們長輩的中年人，針對兩個族群進行調查，希望透過問卷的調查可以得知對於安樂死的意見以及支持與否的原因。

關鍵字：安樂死、安寧治療、大學生、中年人

Abstract

At June, 17th, Taiwanese senior play by play man, FU,DA-REN(傅達仁), received assisted suicide from Dignitas, which is a euthanasia mechanism in Switzerland, and died at the age of 85. However, he is not the first celebrity who supported euthanasia being legalized in Taiwan. In 2017, March, famous writer, Qiong Yao(瓊瑤), wrote an open letter to her son and daughter-in-law, and pointed out that she refuse to accept medical treatments. Moreover, she also hoped that the government can legalize the law of euthanasia in the future. Recent years, because of the growing of human right, euthanasia has become a serious issue being discussed in the whole world. However, only a few countries are legally accepted for active euthanasia, for example: Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and Colombia. Besides these country, the countries which legally accept assisted suicide are Switzerland, Canada, Benelux, 7 U.S. States, and Washington. In terms of operations, euthanasia is divided into the following three categories, including active euthanasia, assisted suicide, and passive euthanasia.

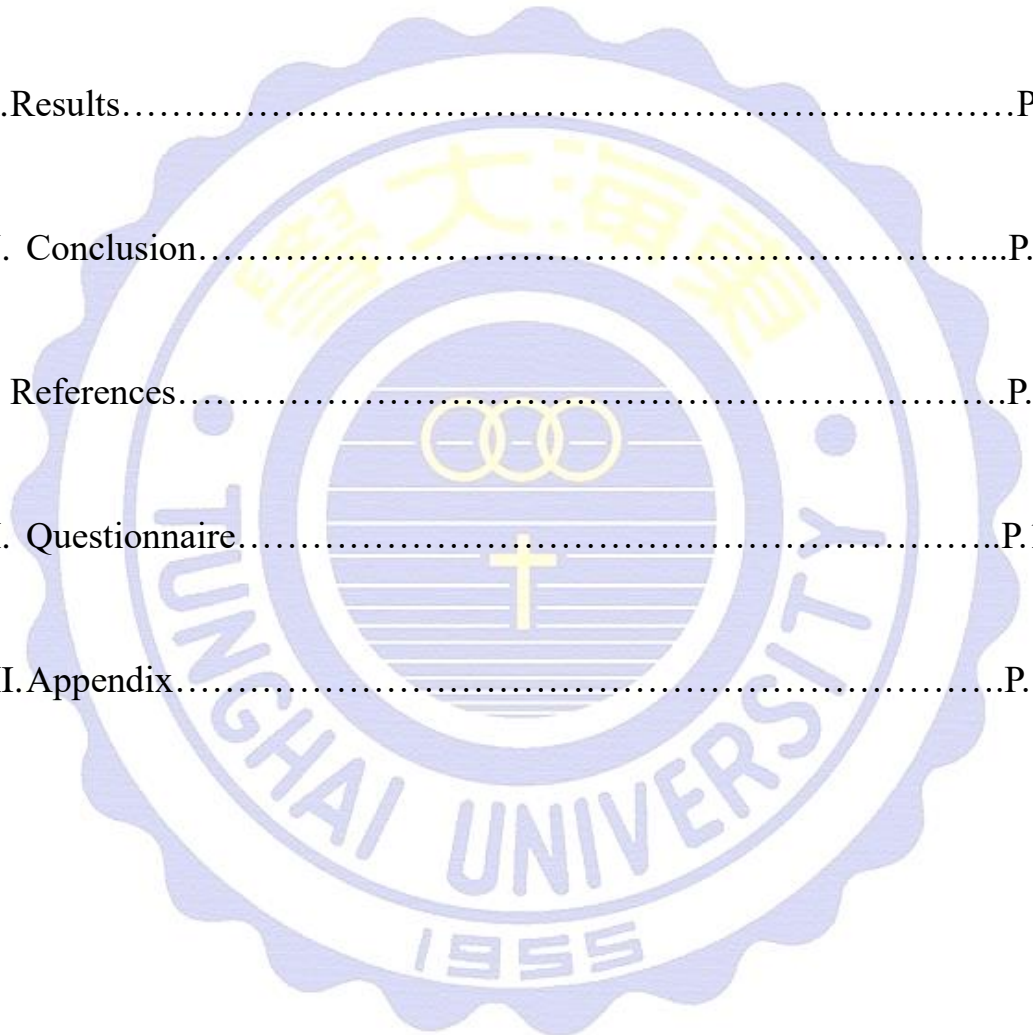
In Taiwan, the existing law which is related euthanasia is only the “Hospice Palliative Care Act.” The law ensure that for patients of terminal cancers or patients of emergent disease, the doctor may terminate, withdraw or not perform emergency and life-saving medical treatment according to the patient's pre-established medical decision. Another law which is mentioned by Ministry of Health-and-Welfare is set out on the journey in January, 2019, name “Patient's Self-determination Right Act.” The law ensure that patients of terminal cancers or patients of emergent disease can decide on their own that whether they want to terminate, withdraw or not perform emergency and life-saving medical treatment according to the patient's pre-established medical decision. However, because euthanasia involve Criminal Code and public opinion, the government will not discuss about euthanasia in a short period of time.

Even in a short time, Taiwan may not legally accept euthanasia, but we still want to investigate the opinion of Taiwanese people. We design a questionnaire for the university students, as the similar-age group, and the middle-age people. With the survey for these two groups, we want to figure out the opinions of euthanasia and the reason why they agree or disagree.

Keyword : Euthanasia 、 Hospice Care 、 College students 、 Middle-aged people

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Introduction

Certainly, we live in this disconcerting era. Everywhere filled with too much freedom, highly education, excellent medical care, etc. It seems that the majority of people live respectively well. At least human beings are able to satisfy the hunger, extinguish the thirst, and sustaining our basic living. Compare to the life in the past, it seems that we are much happier. Nonetheless, our social problems are permanently exist, which consume our spirits invisibly until the solution is terminal one day. The range of social problems countless exist everywhere in the corner of our life. One of them is far more critical that people need to deal with it without recklessness as a result of its tightly connection between life and death: the decision of the final step in our life – euthanasia. Euthanasia, or we can call it with vulgar name, the mercy killing, and the definition is that a doctor is allowed by law to end a person's life by a painless means, as long as the patient and their family agree.

Absolutely, euthanasia is highly controversial and require critical discussion to face it. Interestingly, back to 2500 years, people are strongly against euthanasia. The Hippocratic Oath is well known in this field, he says “I will neither give a deadly drug to anybody who asked for it, nor will I make a suggestion to this effect.” However, this notion nowadays changed, some people reckon the euthanasia as a method to release pain in lifetime and can die with dignity. The issue of life and death is undoubtedly not that simple to decide, and euthanasia itself can be disputed at always. In this sense, it triggers our group’s highly enthusiasm to survey the euthanasia. From diverse information and different responses, we will analyze the decision of euthanasia between middle-aged adults and university students.

There is tremendous difference between both of them. Objectively, adults have experienced tough life in the sophisticated society. In other words, middle-aged adults taste the truest feeling of life as a socialized human being. They knew much better how sorrowful of losing family members: the total amounts of drowning in struggle of the deceased affectionate people are more than students’ experiences. The age gap between both of them is another issue must be putted our attention on it. Middle-aged adults are almost 30 40, what they believe, the tradition, status quo, those of them are not identical as the younger generation. What is majority of middle- aged adults’ attitude toward euthanasia? How about the attitude of university students? Does the economy situation will somehow transform their attitudes, how about religion? Indisputably, the gap in the two can be conspicuously distinguished, and the difference makes the research filled with unpredictable uncertainty and unprecedented interests.

Method

From the research of 台灣同志諮詢熱線協會, nearly 92% of residents in Taiwan hold the positive opinion on euthanasia. The association considered that it is because the lack of approval rate of Taiwan's long-term care system. That is, Taiwanese people tend to show less confidence about whether the medical system in Taiwan is able to provide everyone appropriate care when we are old. To extend the coverage of the research, we decided to design a questionnaire to collect the different voices from both campuses and public. In our questionnaire, we will figure out the attitudes of college students (age 18 to 23) and middle-aged people (age 40 to 65) about the euthanasia and how several factors such as age, religion and economic condition affect people's aspects toward euthanasia.

The outline of the questionnaire:

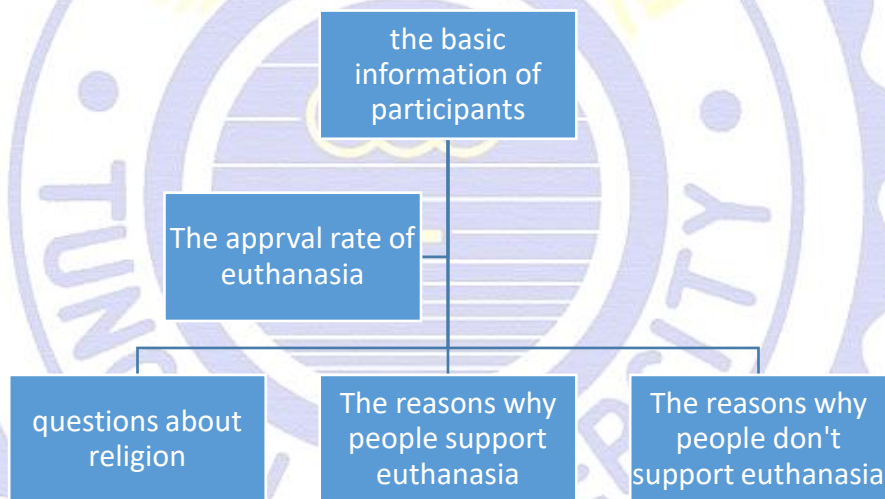


Figure 1: The outline of the questionnaire

Since we wanted to know the different opinions between college students and middle-aged people, at the very beginning of our questionnaire, we collected the basic information of our participants including, the age range, educational background and occupations. Except for the basic information, we also asked that whether you allow yourselves to conduct euthanasia and if so, whether you allow your family members to receive the treatment as well. Furthermore, in the questionnaire, we designed several chain questions to know will the aspects of college students and middle-aged people change or be affected when people in different workplace, educational background and economic status.

In our survey, we adapted the online survey and few hardcopies when it's

necessary. By the due day of our research, we received totally 200 responses, 103 of middle-aged people and 97 of college students. The responses came from mainly three areas of Taiwan which are Northern area, Central area and Southern area. The responses from Eastern area are dramatically less than other three areas, thus, our research basically **cannot** represent the residents in eastern Taiwan.

We listed several potential possibilities to examine why people will support or not support the euthanasia, for instance, the euthanasia can protect the right of patients that they can choose the moment to end their lives and also make them die with dignity. Participants have 5 options, totally/strongly agree, agree, average, disagree and totally/strongly disagree. By the attitudes shown in responses, we can obtain the data that we required.

Results

In our questionnaire, we designed our questions based on three main ideas:

1. Will college students more support the euthanasia than the middle-aged people do?
2. Will different religions people believe affect the opinion of people's aspects of euthanasia?
3. Will the different economic conditions affect the opinion of people's aspects of euthanasia?

The questionnaire is divided into 3 parts. Part 1 is constructed by several basic information that we need to know to analyze the questions in part 2 and part 3. Besides, part 1 also contained the chain questions about religion, for instance, do you know the attitudes of the religion that you believe toward euthanasia? Agree or disagree? In the part 2, we have several potential reasons why people support the euthanasia. Similarly, in part 3, we have several potential reasons why people don't support the euthanasia. For the whole statistic, we have 200 valid responses. The result will show our discovery on the three main ideas of this questionnaire.

1. Will College Students More Support the Euthanasia Than the Middle-aged People Do?

At first, we supposed that college students will show more positive opinion on the euthanasia than middle-aged people do because the euthanasia is a new word and the death issue seems to be a taboo in Chinese traditional aspect. However, we discovered

that, generally, university students and middle-aged people **BOTH** stand at the positive side toward euthanasia. For college student, as shown in Figure 2, the positive opinion (totally agree and agree) occupied 70 %, neutral opinions (average) are 37%, and negative opinions (disagree, totally disagree) are 3 %. Whereas, middle-aged adults show MORE strong positive opinion than college students did. For middle-aged people, as shown in Figure 3, the positive opinion (totally agree and agree) occupied 80 %, neutral opinions (average) are 13%, and negative opinions (disagree, totally disagree) are 7 %.

From the statistics, comparing to the university students, middle-aged adults are prone to accept the euthanasia more easily. Besides, the option of totally agree from middle-aged adult occupied 34%. On the contrary, the option of totally agree from university students only 18%. Conspicuously, middle-aged adults widely agree with euthanasia.

The attitude of "middle-aged" people toward euthanasia

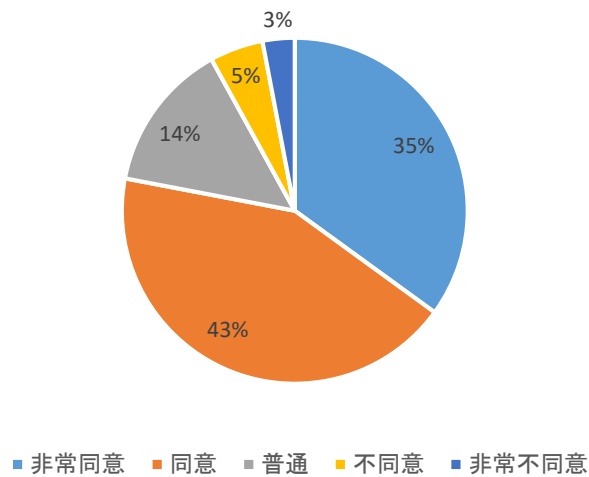


Figure 2: The Attitude of "Middle-aged" People toward Euthanasia

The attitude of "college students" toward euthanasia

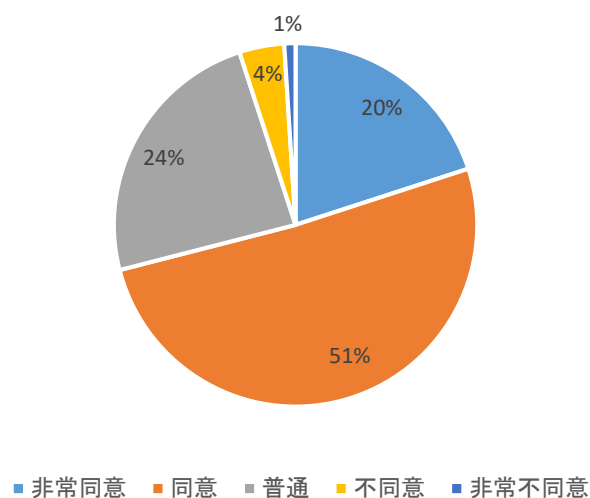


Figure 3: The Attitude of "College Students" Toward Euthanasia

2. Will Different Religions People Believe Affect the Opinion of People's Aspects of Euthanasia?

According to the responses we have received, 70% of middle-aged people who believe Buddhism and Catholicism selected "NO" in the question: Whether the religion you believe disagree the euthanasia? However, no matter either Buddhism or Catholicism they choose, this two religion are both disagree the euthanasia. From Catholic News Agency, Euthanasia is not a future problem. It is a present problem. It is happening now and becoming increasingly accepted. And we are asleep, not realizing that the road we are on will lead to the massive elimination of the elderly and "incompetent," ("A Catholic View On Euthanasia") and anyone else considered to be a burden to society. By the content above, we can see the evidence that Catholicism's attitude toward euthanasia is obviously negative. As for Buddhism, in 明日的佛教, Master Sheng-Yen once said, "the euthanasia is definitely unacceptable." ("不可「安樂死」_明日的佛教 聖嚴法師著") Therefore, we discovered that people in all ages seems have less understanding about the religion they believed.

To our astonishment, although most people showed their shortage of the understanding of religion, it seems that this fact won't affect their opinion toward euthanasia. In the date, shown in Figure 5, 69% of college students said that religion won't change or affect their opinions on euthanasia and the data of the same question on middle-aged people is 76%, shown in Figure 4. This data totally surprised us because we supposed that the middle-aged people will show higher loyalty to their religion. However, the fact is opposite.

Whether the religion you believe affects your opinion on euthanasia?(Middle-aged)

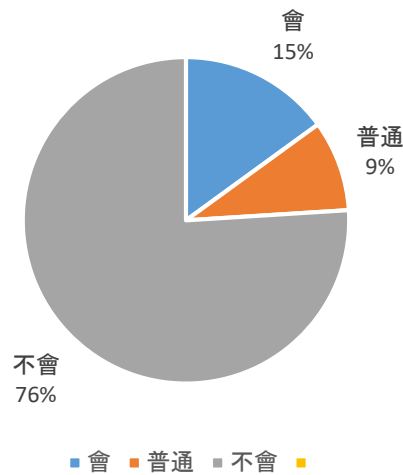


Figure 4: The Attitudes that Whether Religion Affects Middle-Aged People's Opinion

Whether the religion you believe affects your opinion on euthanasia?(College students)

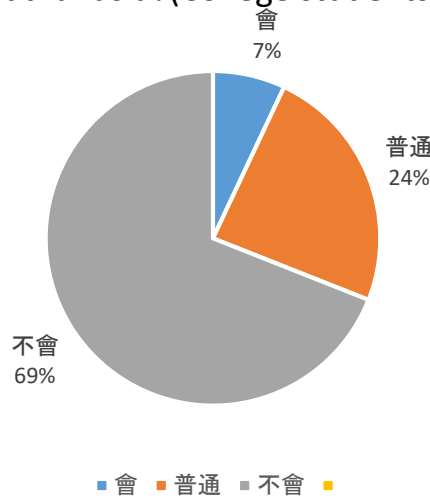


Figure 5: The Attitudes that Whether Religion Affects College Students Opinion

3. Will the Different Economic Conditions Affect the Opinion of People's Aspects of Euthanasia?

In our expected result, we expected that people in inferior economic status will show higher supportive opinion toward the euthanasia since the cost of mercy killing is tremendous high in the case of FU, DA-REN. However, in the data, the well-off class people and normal class people show the same tendency of euthanasia, shown in Figure 6 and 7. It means that economic status will not or just slightly affect people's

aspect toward euthanasia.

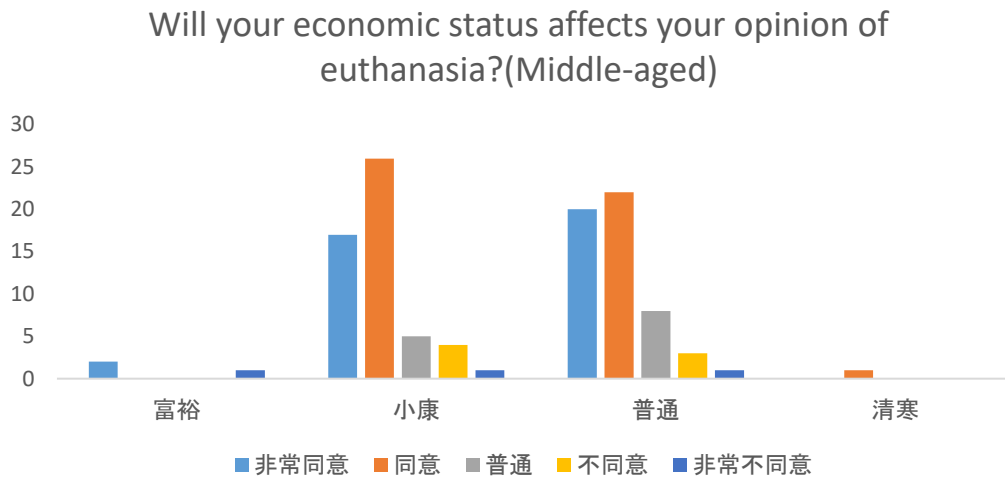


Figure 6: Will Economic Status Affects Middle-Aged People's Opinion

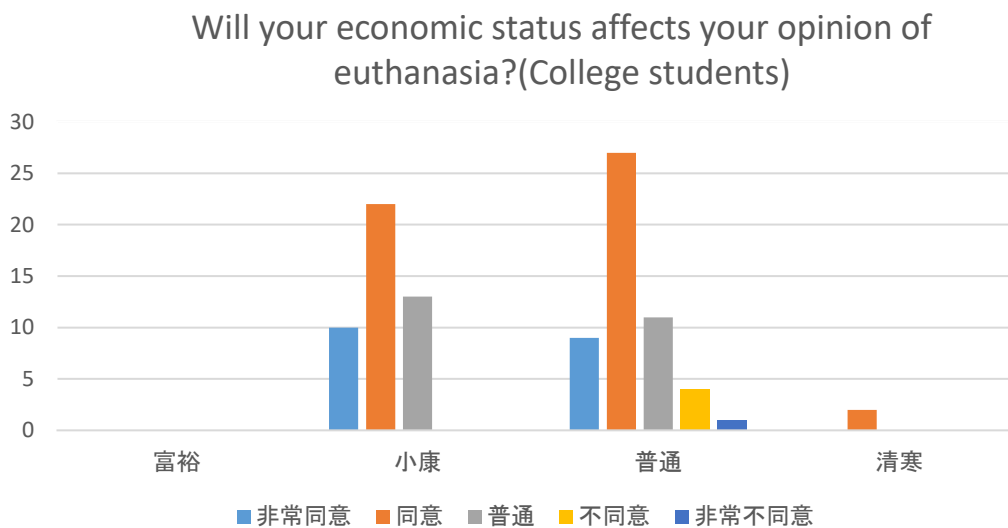


Figure 7: Will Economic Status Affects College Students' Opinion

Conclusion

In terms of methods of survey, our group begin questionnaires to figure out the attitudes of college students (age 18 to 23) and middle-aged people (age 40 to 65) toward the euthanasia and how several factors such as age, religion and economic condition affect people's aspects toward euthanasia. Additionally, we also questioned people whether they agree with the euthanasia and if so, whether you allow your family members to receive the treatment as well. Furthermore, in the questionnaire,

we designed several chain questions to investigate college students and middle-aged people will be change or be affected when people in different workplace, educational background and economic status.

Hitherto, we received totally 200 responses, 101 of middle-aged people and 99 of college students. The responses from 3 different region of Taiwan which are Northern area, Central area and Southern area. Basically, we don't take the statistics from eastern Taiwan because we lack sufficient samples and responses.

And in the first question: Will college students more support the euthanasia than the middle-aged people do? The conclusion is contrary, middle-aged people far more support the euthanasia than college students. From the results, in terms of college student, the positive opinion (totally agree and agree) occupied 70 %, neutral opinions (average) are 37%, and negative opinions (disagree, totally disagree) are 3 %. Whereas, middle-aged adults show STRONGER positive opinion than college students did. For middle-aged people, the positive opinion (totally agree and agree) occupied 80 %, neutral opinions (average) are 13%, and negative opinions (disagree, totally disagree) are 7 %.

From the statistics, middle-aged adults are more inclined to agree with the euthanasia. Besides, the option of totally agree from middle-aged adult occupied 34%. On the other hand, the option of totally agree from university students only 18%. Thus, middle-aged adults have more tendency to agree with the euthanasia.

As for second question, different religions people believe affect the opinion of people's aspects of euthanasia? From the responses we have received, 70% of middle-aged people who believe Buddhism and Catholicism selected "NO" in the question: Whether the religion you believe disagree the euthanasia? However, no matter either Buddhism or Catholicism they choose, two religions are both disagree the euthanasia. As we mention above, the evidence exhibits that Catholicism's attitude toward euthanasia is obviously negative. As for Buddhism we discover that people in all ages seems have less understanding about the religion they believed.

To our astonishment, although most people showed their merely superficial comprehension toward religion, this fact won't affect their opinion toward euthanasia. In the statistics, 69% of college students said that religion won't change or affect their opinions on euthanasia and the data of the same question on middle-aged people is 76%. From the statistics above, both students and middle-aged people exhibit not much connection between religion and the euthanasia.

Referring to the last question, will the different economic conditions affect the opinion of people's aspects of euthanasia? Our group's initial expectation is that people in inferior economic status will show higher supportive point toward the euthanasia since the cost of mercy killing is tremendous high in the case of FU,DA-

REN(傅達仁). Nevertheless, from the data, people in the well-off class and normal class show the similar inclination of euthanasia. In short, this factor, economy, don't straightly have impact on the decision of the euthanasia.

Whatever people's opinion toward euthanasia are agree or disagree. Our research still the tip of the iceberg. The unknown of mercy killing still remain there as long as we are mortality, all we can do through the investigation to discover the better position toward this issue. Euthanasia, the question and decision between life and death, still remain there, now or never.



台灣大學生與中年人安樂死意見問卷調查

這是一份來自東海大學外文系二年級學生的問卷調查，為了確保問卷數據的準確度，填寫者僅提供給台灣國民寫，並無冒犯之意，謝謝配合

1. 請問您的年齡區間?

- 18~22 歲
- 40~49 歲
- 65 歲以下

2. 請問您的性別?

- 男
- 女

3. 您現在居住的地區?

- 北部地區(台北市/新北市/桃園市/新竹縣)
- 中部地區(苗栗縣/台中市/彰化縣/南投縣/雲林縣)
- 南部地區(嘉義縣/台南市/高雄市/屏東縣)
- 東部地區(宜蘭縣/花蓮縣/台東縣)
- 離島地區

4. 請問您的教育程度?

- 碩士/博士
- 大學/五專
- 高中/高職
- 國中
- 國小
- 其他:

5. 請問您的職業?

- 學生
- 軍公教
- 金融業
- 科技業/資訊業
- 製造業
- 服務業
- 農林漁牧業
- 醫療相關
- 藝文相關
- 運輸業
- 傳播業



- 商業
- 自由業
- 家管
- 待業中
- 退休
- 其他:

6. 請問您家中的經濟狀況?

- 富裕
- 小康
- 普通
- 清寒

7. 您支持台灣通過有關實施安樂死的法律嗎?

- 非常同意
- 同意
- 普通
- 不同意
- 非常不同意

8. 如果台灣通過實施安樂死的法律，您考慮過實施安樂死嗎?

- 非常願意
- 願意
- 普通
- 不願意
- 非常不願意

9. 承上題，您支持您的家人實施安樂死嗎?

- 非常願意
- 願意
- 普通
- 不願意
- 非常不願意

10. 請問您的宗教信仰為以下何者?

- 佛教
- 道教
- 基督教
- 天主教
- 伊斯蘭教
- 無信仰
- 其他

11. 您所信仰的宗教的教義是否反對安樂死?



(若不清楚您的宗教定義，請勾其他，幫忙附註不清楚)

- 是
- 否
- 其他:

12. 您所信仰的宗教是否會影響您對安樂死的看法?

- 會
- 不會

13. 以下為支持的考量因素，若您支持安樂死，請依照您考量程度依序回答

- a. 安樂死可以維護病人選擇死亡的權利並同時保有尊嚴的離世
 非常同意 同意 普通 不同意 非常不同意
- b. 站在家屬角度，不願讓病人繼續長期處在重症的緩慢痛苦中
 非常同意 同意 普通 不同意 非常不同意
- c. 久病床前無孝子，擔心龐大的醫療費會影響家庭
 非常同意 同意 普通 不同意 非常不同意
- d. 安樂死可以減輕社會醫療負擔
 非常同意 同意 普通 不同意 非常不同意
- e. 其他:

14. 以下為不支持安樂死的因素考量，若您不支持安樂死，請依照您的考量程度依序回答

- a. 在病患意識不清醒的情況下，例如植物人，家屬或親人不能主動剝奪患者的生命
 非常同意 同意 普通 不同意 非常不同意
- b. 可能成為沒有責任或無心照顧家屬的子女擺脫病患的機會
 非常同意 同意 普通 不同意 非常不同意
- c. 賦予醫護人員殺人的權利，有悖於醫護救人的倫理
 非常同意 同意 普通 不同意 非常不同意
- d. 可能成為有心人士犯法的工具，例如黑市交易
 非常同意 同意 普通 不同意 非常不同意
- e. 安樂死會影響醫療技術的發展
 非常同意 同意 普通 不同意 非常不同意
- f. 安樂死需要花費龐大的費用
 非常同意 同意 普通 不同意 非常不同意
- g. 宗教的教義不允許
 非常同意 同意 普通 不同意 非常不同意
- h. 其他:

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