

Cross-Cultural Marriages from the Southeast Asia to Taiwan: An Interview Analysis of Foreign Brides' Cultural Shock

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Abstract

My research object is interracial marriage. In recent decades, Taiwanese new immigrants have become an essential part of our population who aimed at having better career and lives in Taiwan. In terms of cross-cultural marriage, the maximum of them is Southeast Asian brides marrying to Taiwanese, mainly from Vietnam and Indonesia. However, evidence shows that this is not a rosy process. Taiwanese people do not understand how Southeast Asian brides have been through until they found mounting cases of divorces, domestic violence, and French leave. Therefore, I explore the way in which the Southeast Asian brides conquer their culture shock in Taiwan.

I interviewed 9 people who stayed in Taichung and Kaohsiung. There were four from Vietnam and five from Indonesia. Most of them experienced certain conflicts with their husbands and family, but now they are not trapped by marriages and they seek to move on and become “real Taiwanese”.

In conclusion, according the culture shock related information of literature review, most of the foreign brides experience each stage. However, the long or short periods they experience must be different. Some of them suffer lots of pain before, yet some do not.

Key words: Culture shock, Southeast Asia, Foreign Brides, Cross-cultural marriages