

The Impacts of the New Southbound Policy on Higher Education in Taiwan: A Study of the Changes of Wenzao from 2016 to 2018

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ABSTRACT

The New Southbound Policy, an economic policy launched by the President Tasi Ing-wen's administration has caused mounting debates over issues in politics, economic, diplomacy, and also in academia. In this research I perceived the New Southbound Policy as a mage narrative constructed by the current government. Instead of economic lens, I zoomed this research in education realm. Because the policy emphasizes its people-centered approach which refers to citizen diplomacy and talent cultivation for Taiwan and for the region. Hence, I seek to explore the impact of the policy on higher education. My intent is to provide a wider picture of the policy effects. A case study of Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages was conducted to investigate the practice of the policy. To do so, I interviewed participants (staff, teachers and students of the Wenzao) within the policy and how the policy has brought any experiences to them. By centering on the interviews, I sort out some results that show the impacts of the policy. Basically, the policy shaped higher education in several perspectives, (1) resource distribution, (2) curriculum design and teaching, and (3) students' learning and willing to explore Southeast Asia. The

research might provide a particular and concrete side of the New Southbound Policy and would provide some practical suggestions.

Keywords: The New Southbound Policy, Southeast Asia, higher education, practice, impacts