



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

**THE ADAPTATION OF TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTS IN
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

by

HAUNNTARNG TSENG

Submitted in part fulfilment of the
requirements for the degree of

DOCTOR PHILOSOPHIAE
(SOCIOLOGY)

in the

FACULTY OF ARTS

UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

PRETORIA

NOVEMBER 1991

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Ever since I left Taiwan, I have been concerned with the adaptation of Taiwanese immigrants.

Emigration from Taiwan to overseas countries has become a trend for choosing a better living environment. My late uncle emigrated to South America in the 1960s. He never took the decision to return home, although many of his Taiwanese friends, who had moved to South America at the same time, had already returned home to Taiwan.

Today, many thousands of Taiwanese immigrants have settled permanently in South Africa, and questions such as 'What do they feel about this new country?' and 'Do they plan to stay here for good?' arise.

My attempt to explain this phenomenon suggests that returning to one's country of origin depends on individual decision making and adaptation level in the receiving country.

I deeply appreciate the meticulous guidance of Professor J S Oosthuizen, the promoter of this thesis, in formulating the theoretical and methodological details of the study, as well as his approval of this proposal. I am also grateful to Professor J C Pretorius and Professor H.J.C. Van Rensburg, whose critical minds and warm hearts have deeply awed me and provided me with beneficial suggestions for my work.

Special thanks go to Dr Rosemary Gray, a senior lecturer in the Department of English, who painstakingly did the proof reading and editing of this study, and to her husband, Mr Derek Gray, for his helpful encouragement; the two departmental secretaries, Mrs M M Otto and Mrs A Oelofse, and others lecturers in the Department of Sociology, Professor J P Groenewald, Mr S Welgemoed, Mr N R Pollock and Mrs E H Du Toit, who always managed to solve the problems of a relentless student.

I also want to thank all those who helped me with the data collection : Mr Caston Kim Sing, the general secretary of Transvaal Chinese Association; Mr Water Pon, the Chung Hwa Youth Club; Mr Kenneth Fung, the vice-chairman of the Pretoria Chinese Association; all those Taiwanese immigrants and local born Chinese respondents who willingly participated in this lengthy survey, and my friends of the Chinese Bible Study Club and those in the same commune as myself for their concern with my work.

Finally, words cannot express my heartfelt thanks to my wife, Jennifer, for her dedication and sacrifice.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	xii
SUMMARY	xiii
OPSOMMING	xv
CHAPTER ONE - INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 The problems of this study	1
1.2 The main objectives this study	3
CHAPTER TWO - TAIWANESE IMMIGRATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS BACKGROUND	5
2.1 Taiwanese immigrants in the Republic of South Africa	5
2.1.1 The period before 1986	11
2.1.2 The period from 1986 to 1991	13
2.2 Development in Taiwan	14
2.2.1 Current international migration policies in Taiwan	22
2.2.2 The overseas Chinese and international migration in Taiwan	24
2.2.3 The impact of Taiwanese emigrants on the socio-economic sectors in Taiwan	27
CHAPTER THREE - ACCULTURATION AND ADAPTATION	30
3.1 The concept of acculturation	30
3.2 Acculturation situations	31
3.3 Acculturation contexts	35
3.4 Acculturation in Sociology	37
3.5 Psychological paradigm of acculturation	40
3.6 Communication as a medium of acculturation	47
3.7 Adaptation	48

	PAGE
3.8 The factors related with adaptation and acculturation	50
3.9 Conclusion	60
CHAPTER FOUR - RESEARCH METHOD	63
4.1 An exploratory study to explain acculturation	63
4.2 A path model to explain the desire to re-emigrate	76
4.3 Specific research questions	78
4.4 The research instrument	80
4.5 Operationalization of major variables	81
4.6 Sample universe and sampling procedure	89
4.7 Demographic characteristics of the sample	93
CHAPTER FIVE - RESULTS OF ACCULTURATION LEVEL	105
5.1 Discriminant analyses of acculturation level	105
5.2 Adaptation strategy, intercultural and ethnic communication	110
5.3 The contributions of communication to acculturation level	116
5.4 Other demographic variables : Contributions to communication activities and acculturation level	121
5.5 Two types of cultural communication and demographic variables : Relative contributions to acculturation level	127
5.6 Summary	130
CHAPTER SIX - RESULTS OF DISSATISFACTION LEVEL AND DESIRE TO RE-EMIGRATE	144
6.1 Discriminant analyses of desire to re-emigrate	144
6.2 Dissatisfaction levels among local Chinese and Taiwanese immigrants in the Republic of South Africa	148



	PAGE
6.3 Dissatisfaction level and the desire to re-emigrate	154
6.4 Contributions of demographic variables to dissatisfaction patterns and desire to re-emigrate among Taiwanese immigrants	161
6.5 Two patterns of dissatisfaction and demographic variables : Relative contributions to desire to re-emigrate	164
CHAPTER SEVEN - THE MODEL OF TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTS' DESIRE TO RE-EMIGRATE	181
7.1 Dissatisfaction and acculturation as two intermediate variables	181
7.2 Socio-economic achievements, adaptive abilities and family ties as independent variables	182
7.3 Path analyses	187
7.3.1 Original path model	188
7.3.2 Alternative path model	197
CHAPTER EIGHT - DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS	212
8.1 Methodological implications of the study : The measurement problems of acculturation, dissatisfaction and desire to re-emigrate	212
8.2 Path model and hypotheses	219
8.3 Demographic variables : Determinants of acculturation, dissatisfaction and desire to re-emigrate	223
8.4 Implications of this study for future empirical studies of acculturation, dissatisfaction and desire to re-emigrate	227
References	230
Appendix 1 : Copies of cover letters (English and Chinese)	239
Appendix 2 : Sample copy of questionnaire	241

LIST OF TABLES

	PAGE
TABLE 1-1 SOUTH AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS BY YEAR OF ARRIVAL OR APPROVAL	29
TABLE 4-1 AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS	99
TABLE 4-2 THE FIRST PERSON IN THE FAMILY TO SETTLE IN SOUTH AFRICA	99
TABLE 4-3 LENGTH OF STAY OF THE TAIWANESE RESPONDENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA	99
TABLE 4-4 LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF THE RESPONDENTS	100
TABLE 4-5 TYPE OF OCCUPATION OF THE RESPONDENTS	100
TABLE 4-6 FAMILY INCOME DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESPONDENTS	100
TABLE 4-7 MONEY TRANSFERRED FROM OVERSEAS BY TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTS	101
TABLE 4-8 THE FAMILY STRUCTURE	101
TABLE 4-9 RELIGION OF THE RESPONDENTS	102
TABLE 4-10 ENGLISH ABILITY OF THE RESPONDENTS	102
TABLE 4-11 NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT THE RESPONDENTS ARE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN BY FREQUENCY (%)	103
TABLE 4-12 FREQUENCY OF ETHNIC AND INTERCULTURAL INTERPERSONAL CONTACTS PER MONTH BY FREQUENCY (%)	103
TABLE 4-13 EXPOSURE TO CHINESE AND SOUTH AFRICAN PRINT MEDIA BY FREQUENCY (%)	104
TABLE 4-14 EXPOSURE TO SOUTH AFRICAN TELEVISION AND RADIO PROGRAMMES PER DAY BY FREQUENCY (%)	104
TABLE 5-1 VARIABLES USED IN DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS	132
TABLE 5-2 TEN VARIABLES IDENTIFIED AS DISCRIMINATING VARIABLES IN DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS	133
TABLE 5-3 CLASSIFICATION MATRIX : ACTUAL VS. PREDICTED CULTURAL IDENTIFICATIONS	133



	PAGE
TABLE 5-4 PRODUCT MOMENT CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF ETHNIC COMMUNICATION	134
TABLE 5-5 PRODUCT MOMENT CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION	134
TABLE 5-6 PRODUCT MOMENT CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF ADAPTATION	134
TABLE 5-7 PRODUCT MOMENT CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS BETWEEN COMPONENTS OF INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION AND THE COMPONENTS OF ETHNIC COMMUNICATION	135
TABLE 5-8 FACTOR STRUCTURE OF INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION : VARIMAX ROTATED FACTOR MATRIX	135
TABLE 5-9 FACTOR STRUCTURE OF ETHNIC COMMUNICATION : FACTOR MATRIX	136
TABLE 5-10 FACTOR STRUCTURE OF INTERCULTURAL AND ETHNIC COMMUNICATIONS : FACTOR MATRIX FOR SEVEN-FACTOR, VARIMAX ROTATED SOLUTION	137
TABLE 5-11 FACTOR STRUCTURE OF INTERCULTURAL AND ETHNIC COMMUNICATIONS : FACTOR MATRIX FOR TWO FACTOR, VARIMAX ROTATED SOLUTION	138
TABLE 5-12 SUMMARY OF STEPWISE MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF ACCULTURATION AND TWO COMMUNICATION FACTORS (ALL IMMIGRANTS)	139
TABLE 5-13 SUMMARY OF STEPWISE MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF ACCULTURATION AND TWO COMMUNICATION FACTORS (EARLY STAGE AND ADVANCED STAGE SAMPLES)	139
TABLE 5-14 COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED AS DISCRIMINATING AND NONDISCRIMINATION VARIABLES BETWEEN HIGH AND LOW ACCULTURATION GROUPS	140



	PAGE
TABLE 5-15 COMPARISON OF THE BETA WEIGHTS OF INDEPENDENT VARIABLES IN THE SEPARATE REGRESSION ANALYSES OF TWO COMMUNICATION DIMENSION FOR THE TWO DIFFERENT STAGES OF IMMIGRATION	141
TABLE 5-16 SUMMARY OF STEPWISE MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS EXPLAINING INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION BY DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES	141
TABLE 5-17 SUMMARY OF STEPWISE MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS EXPLAINING ETHNIC COMMUNICATION BY DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES	142
TABLE 5-18 SUMMARY OF STEPWISE MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS EXPLAINING ACCULTURATION LEVEL BY COMMUNICATION VARIABLES AND DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES	142
TABLE 5-19 SUMMARY OF STEPWISE MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS EXPLAINING ACCULTURATION LEVEL BY COMMUNICATION AND DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES FOR THE TWO STAGES OF IMMIGRATION.	143
TABLE 6-1 SIX VARIABLES IDENTIFIED AS DISCRIMINATING VARIABLES IN DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS OF THE DESIRE TO RE-EMIGRATE	166
TABLE 6-2 CLASSIFICATION MATRIX : ACTUAL VS. PREDICTED DESIRE TO RE-EMIGRATE IDENTIFICATION FOR ALL RESPONDENTS	166
TABLE 6-3 SIX VARIABLES IDENTIFIED AS DISCRIMINATING VARIABLES IN DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS OF THE TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTS' DESIRE TO RE-EMIGRATE	167
TABLE 6-4 FIVE VARIABLES IDENTIFIED AS DISCRIMINATING VARIABLES IN DISCRIMINANT ANALYSIS OF DESIRE TO EMIGRATE FOR LOCAL CHINESE	168
TABLE 6-5 CLASSIFICATION MATRIX : ACTUAL VS. PREDICTED TAIWANESE DESIRE TO RE-EMIGRATE FOR TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTS AND LOCAL CHINESE	168
TABLE 6-6 PRODUCT MOMENT CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS AMONG THE TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTS' INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF DISSATISFACTION	169



	PAGE
TABLE 6-7 PRODUCT MOMENT CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS OF THE LOCAL CHINESE INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF DISSATISFACTION	170
TABLE 6-8 FACTOR STRUCTURE OF TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTS' INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF DISSATISFACTIONS : VARIMAX ROTATED FACTOR MATRIX	171
TABLE 6-9 FACTOR STRUCTURE OF LOCAL CHINESE'S INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF DISSATISFACTION : VARIMAX ROTATED FACTOR MATRIX	172
TABLE 6-10 FACTOR STRUCTURE OF TAIWANESE IMMIGRANT'S INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF DISSATISFACTIONS : VARIMAX ROTATED SOLUTION FOR TWO FACTORS	173
TABLE 6-11 FACTOR STRUCTURE OF LOCAL CHINESE'S INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF DISSATISFACTIONS : VARIMAX ROTATED SOLUTION FOR TWO FACTORS	174
TABLE 6-12 SUMMARY OF STEPWISE MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS OF DESIRE TO (RE-)EMIGRATE AND TWO DISSATISFACTION FACTORS FOR(TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTS AND LOCAL CHINESE)	175
TABLE 6-13 DISSATISFACTION ELEMENTS IDENTIFIED AS DISCRIMINATING AND NONDISCRIMINATING VARIABLES BETWEEN HIGH AND LOW DESIRE TO RE-EMIGRATE GROUP FOR TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTS	176
TABLE 6-14 DISSATISFACTION ELEMENTS IDENTIFIED AS DISCRIMINATING AND NONDISCRIMINATING VARIABLES BETWEEN HIGH AND LOW DESIRE TO RE-EMIGRATE GROUP FOR LOCAL CHINESE	177
TABLE 6-15 SUMMARY OF STEPWISE MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS EXPLAINING DISSATISFACTION WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS BY DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES FOR TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTS	178
TABLE 6-16 SUMMARY OF STEPWISE MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS EXPLAINING DISSATISFACTION WITH PERSONAL ELEMENTS BY DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES FOR TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTS	179
TABLE 6-17 SUMMARY OF STEPWISE MULTIPLE REGRESSION ANALYSIS EXPLAINING DESIRE TO RE-EMIGRATE BY DEMOGRAPHIC AND DISSATISFACTION VARIABLES FOR TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTS	180



	PAGE
TABLE 7-1 PRODUCT MOMENT CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS AMONG THE INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES FOR TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTS	203
TABLE 7-2 FACTOR STRUCTURE OF INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES : FACTOR MATRIX FOR SIX FACTORS	204
TABLE 7-3 FACTOR STRUCTURE OF INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS OF DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES : FACTOR MATRIX FOR THREE FACTORS	205
TABLE 7-4 ORIGINAL VERSUS REPRODUCED CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS OF THE ORIGINAL PATH MODEL	206
TABLE 7-5 STANDARDIZED PATH COEFFICIENTS FOR ORIGINAL AND ALTERNATIVE PATH MODELS OF DESIRE TO RE-EMIGRATE	206
TABLE 7-6 ORIGINAL VERSUS REPRODUCED CORRELATION COEFFICIENTS OF THE ORIGINAL PATH MODEL	207
TABLE 7-7 ORIGINAL CORRELATIONS, DIRECT, INDIRECT, AND SPURIOUS EFFECTS BETWEEN THE VARIABLES IN THE ALTERNATIVE PATH MODEL	208



LIST OF FIGURES

	PAGE
FIGURE 4-1 PATH DIAGRAM INDICATING THE MEDIATING FUNCTIONS OF DISSATISFACTION AND ACCULTURATION LEVEL IN THE PROCESS OF DESIRE TO RE-EMIGRATE	98
FIGURE 7-1 CAUSAL LINKAGES AND PATH COEFFICIENTS IN THE ORIGINAL PATH MODEL OF DESIRE TO RE-EMIGRATE	209
FIGURE 7-2 FIRST ALTERNATIVE PATH MODEL AND PATH COEFFICIENTS	210
FIGURE 7-3 FINAL ALTERNATIVE PATH MODEL AND PATH COEFFICIENTS	211



**THE ADAPTATION OF TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTS IN THE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

by

HAUNNTARNG TSENG

Promotor : Prof J S Oosthuizen
Department : Sociology
Degree : Doctor Philosophiae

SUMMARY

Of the financially independent immigrants the Taiwanese immigrants in 1990 became the fourth largest immigrant group, according to the statistics of the Department of Home Affairs of the Republic of South Africa. The reasons why they were motivated to immigrate are, firstly, the incentives policies for business investors and immigrants implemented in this country; secondly, the less restrictive application procedures for permits of permanent residence in South Africa encourage them to apply; thirdly, the immigration consultants, both in Taiwan and South Africa, entice them to come; and finally, since the Exit Control Act has been loosened, there is a fashionable trend of emigrating overseas, as a result of the worsening living environment in Taiwan.

This study tries to identify the determining factors for the Taiwanese's desire to re-emigrate; it also deals with their willingness to settle in South Africa. Three socio-demographic variables are used as independent variables by

factor analysis, namely, personal socio-economic achievement in South Africa, personal adaptive abilities in South Africa, and personal family ties with Taiwan. The two intermediate variables, acculturation level which is also called "internal adaptation", and dissatisfaction level which is also called "external adaptation", are the causes of their desire to re-emigrate or willingness to settle.

The sampling method used is purposive sampling. Discriminant analysis methods were used to distinguish high and low levels of acculturation, dissatisfaction, and desire to re-emigrate. The stepwise regression methods were run for a path model which deals with the direct, indirect and spurious effects on the respondents' desire to re-emigrate.

Even though the study leaves some methodological questions behind, it successfully builds a path model which is able to explain the factors that influence the Taiwanese immigrants' desire to re-emigrate.

This study suggests that a recipient country, such as South Africa, should train the adaptive abilities, especially language abilities of Taiwanese immigrants in order to raise their acculturation level; that they should be helped to attain socio-economic achievement in their new country in order to decrease their dissatisfaction level and to increase their willingness to stay permanently in the new country so preventing them from becoming transients.



DIE AANPASSING VAN TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTE IN DIE REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA

deur

HAUNNTARNG TSENG

Promotor : Prof J S Oosthuizen
Departement : Sosiologie
Graad : Doctor Philosophiae

OPSOMMING

Van die finansieel onafhanklike immigrante na die Republiek van Suid-Afrika was Taiwaneese teen 1990 op drie na die grootste groep immigrante volgens die statistiek van die Departement Binnelandse Sake. Redes vir die motivering van Taiwaneese immigrasie na Suid-Afrika is die volgende: eerstens omdat die amptelike aansporingsmaatreëls gunstig vir sakebelegging en immigrasie is; tweedens omdat die minder streng aansoekprosedure om permanente verblyfsvergunning in die Republiek van Suid-Afrika Taiwaneese aanspoor om aansoek om permanente verblyf te doen; derdens omdat die immigrasiekonsultante in Suid-Afrika en Taiwan hulle hierheen lok; laastens het daar sedert die verslapping van die bepalinge van die Taiwaneese Emigrasiebeheerwet 'n mode posgevat om te emigreer, aangehelp deur die verswakking van die lewensomstandighede in Taiwan.

Hierdie studie poog om die faktore te bepaal wat by Taiwaneese immigrante in Suid-Afrika die begeerte laat ontstaan om te re-emigreer; dit handel ook oor hulle bereidheid om hulle in Suid-Afrika te vestig.

Deur middel van faktoranalise word drie sosiaal-demografiese veranderlikes as onafhanklike veranderlikes

aangewend, naamlik eie sosiaal-ekonomiese prestasie in Suid-Afrika, persoonlike aanpassingsvermoëns in Suid-Afrika, en persoonlike familiebande met Taiwan. Die twee tussenliggende veranderlikes, te wete akkulturasievlak, ook genoem "interne aanpassing", en die ontevredenheidsvlak, wat ook genoem word "eksterne aanpassing", is die hooforsake vir hulle begeerte om te re-emigreer of om hulle te vestig.

Die steekproef is verkry deur doelbewuste steekproef-trekking. Diskriminantontleding is gebruik om te onderskei tussen hoë- en laevlak-akkulturasie, ontevredenheid, en die begeerte om te re-emigreer. Stapsgewyse regressie-tegnieke is gebruik om 'n voorlopige padmodel te bereken vir direkte, indirekte en skyneffekte op respondente se begeerte om te re-emigreer.

Hoewel die studie nie alle onsekerheid uit die weg ruim nie, slaag dit daarin om 'n voorlopige model daar te stel wat dit moontlik maak om die faktore bloot te lê wat 'n invloed het op Taiwaneese se begeerte om te re-emigreer.

Die ondersoek toon dat Taiwaneese immigrante aanpassingsvaardighede geleer behoort te word deur die ontvangsland, in dié geval Suid-Afrika. Die aanleer van die landstaal/ landstale is belangrik ten einde hulle akkulturasievaardighede te verbeter. Bystand met hulle sosiaal-ekonomiese vordering in die land van vestiging sal ook dien om hulle ontevredenheidsvlak te verlaag en daartoe bydra dat hulle hulle permanent in Suid-Afrika sal vestig eerder as dat hulle verblyf kortstondig van aard sal wees.