THE ADAPTATION OF TAIWANESE IMMIGRANTS IN 
THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

by

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

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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 TAIWANNESE IMMIGRANTE IN DIE REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AФRlKA
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 Taiwannese teen 1990 op drie na die grootste groep immigrante volgens die statistiek van die Departement Binnelandse Sake. Redes vir die motivering van Taiwannese 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 Taiwannese aanspoor om aansoek om permanente verblyf te doen; derdens omdat die immigrasie- konsultante in Suid-Afrika en Taiwan hulle hierheen lok; laastens het daar sedert die verslapping van die bepalinge van die Taiwannese 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 Taiwannese 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 hoofoorsake vir hulle begeerte om te re-emigreer of om hulle te vestig.

Die steekproef is verkry deur doelbewuste steekproeftrekking. 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 respondent 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 leê wat 'n invloed het op Taiwannese se begeerte om te re-emigreer.

Die ondersoek toon dat Taiwannese immigrante aanpassingsvaardighede geleer behoort te word deur die ontvangsland, in die 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.