Junior Research Paper Convention: Abstract Form CCIII/Spring 2025

Tsai, Rola. Section D. "Culture Identity Through Language: The Usage and Preservation of Taiwan Hokkien at FJCU"

Abstract

This study explores generational differences in the usage and perception of Taiwanese Hokkien and its role in shaping cultural identity among Taiwanese people at Fu Jen Catholic University (FJCU). The research project examines how language use correlates with cultural awareness and attitudes toward language preservation among Taiwanese individuals on the FJCU campus, focusing on two age groups, 18–25+ and 30–50+. Data were collected through questionnaire survey methods, yielding 95 valid respondents. Among them, 65 respondents were aged 18 to 25+, and 30 respondents were aged 30 to 50+. Among the younger generation (18-25+), only 15.4% are fluent in Hokkien, whereas 53.3% of the older generation (30-50+) are fluent speakers. In terms of daily usage, 43.3% of the older generation (30-50+) use Hokkien daily, compared to only 18.5% in the younger generation (18-25+). Despite these differences, both groups observed a decline in the usage of Hokkien, with 75.8% of the younger group (18-25+) and 70% of the older group (30-50+) acknowledging this trend. These results indicate a growing awareness of the importance of language in shaping cultural identity, and they suggest that efforts to preserve and promote Hokkien should focus on both media exposure and educational integration, targeting younger generations while reinforcing family-based language use.

Notes:

- 1. My RP belongs to the category of: □ Literary Studies or Social Studies
- 2. Related sources:
- Wang, Austin Horng-En, Yao-Yuan Yeh, Charles K.S. Wu, and Fang-Yu Chen. "Why Does Taiwan Identity Decline?" *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, forthcoming.https://austinwang.faculty.unlv.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Why-did-Taiwan-Identity-decline_full-name.pdf
- Sandel, Todd L., Wen-Yu Chao, and Chung-Hui Liang. "Language Shift and Language Accommodation across Family Generations in Taiwan." *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, vol. 27, no. 2, 2006, pp. 129-146.
- Huang, Yuannan, and Haoyan Song. "A Study of Cultural Representation in Hokkien (Southern Min) Textbooks." *Frontiers in Education*, vol. 9, 2024, https://doi.org/10.3389/feduc.2024.1387377.