A Proposal to Research The Transitional Value System Across Chinese Culture

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Abstract

This research is primarily analyzing the progress of the shifting value system through Chinese culture. To be more precise, this article is based on the context of Chinese culture to illustrate the main course of the transitional value system. In addition, the brief introduction of Chinese Cultural Values (CCVs) will be presented. The relationship between Chinese culture and value system is also discussed.

Introduction

Throughout the whole Chinese history, complex and variable cultural context influences the value system constantly. At the same time, the multidimensional and dynamic value systems are always linked with the Chinese culture. Owing to the interaction among the Chinese culture and value system, it is important to figure out the profound relationship between these issues. In order to give effect to this study, having a structure from which to come through is extremely significant.

To begin with, it is a need for has a brief review of Chinese cultural context. Through four thousand years of histories, Chinese culture is consistent and updated by the same language (Chinese). To a certain extent, the feature of Chinese culture is conservative and unique. While Ying Fan (2000) claimed that the traditional Chinese culture consists of diverse thoughts, including Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, etc. There is no doubt that Confucianism is the most influential thought, which forms the foundation of the Chinese cultural tradition and still provides the essential for the standards of Chinese interpersonal behavior (Pye 1972).

After the introduction of cultural background, it focuses on the changing Chinese value system from the ancient to the present time. Furthermore, it is concluded with a discussion of the significance of this research. In order to further elaboration, empirical evidence is needed in order to enhance this investigation. Quoting the research consequence from several scholars and drawing data from multifarious surveys, this research explores how the Chinese culture and the changing value system interact each other.
Theoretically, the fundamental conceptions of the culture, cultural values and Chinese culture will be run through the entire research. First of all, Ying Fan (2000) summed up other scholars definitions and described culture as the collection of values, beliefs, behaviours, customs, and attitudes that distinguish a society. A society’s culture provides its members solutions to problems of outward accommodation and domestic combination. Then Ying Fan claimed that values are always incorporated into the national culture. And the cultural value cannot only shape people’s faith but also influence people’s behaviors. Indeed, a value system is a collection of consistent values and measures; moreover, it is the representation of what people expected in the society. Most important is the case that the basic identity of Chinese people is given by Chinese culture. To be more specific, the core values are unparalleled and concordant, which are shaped by the culture of 4000 years history of histories and maintained by the same language (Chinese).

However, it is not indispensable to happen authentically. Realistically, however, this research is too nonobjective to reach the distinct goal. Nevertheless, carrying out diversified surveys is the expedient measure to make up the imperfection.

**Statement of Research Question**

My research topic is the transitional value system across Chinese culture and my specific research is to consider how the Chinese culture and the changing value system interact each other. The significance of this research question is the examination of the linkage between the Chinese culture and the value system. For example, since China is still changing, so are the nation’s cultural values. Opening doors policy and the economic reforms have reshaped the value system. According to the situation, the future research still needs to study the evolvement of Chinese culture, and especially the interaction of three major elements: traditional culture, communist ideology and Western values (Ying Fan, 2000). What’s more, the core purpose of this research is to take a little step in the permanent progress of comprehending the Chinese culture and value system. Therefore,
it is meaningful to carry out the research.

My major arguments and propositions are the Chinese culture and the changing value system interacts each other; moreover, they are a supplement each other and depend on each other for existence. The fundamental factors of this relationship are value systems have influenced Chinese cultural orientations and communication behaviors from the ancient to the present time (Xing Lu, 1998) and values related to the norms of culture, but they are more international and ideational than norms of culture.

**Methods**

This section presents the evidences and measures, which I intend to answer my research question and expound my arguments.

The primary goal of my research is to summarize the different authors’ opinions about the Chinese cultural values and classify them into categories. In order to figure out the major kinds of the classification of Chinese cultural values, I have read several papers about this aspect and analyze the distinction and the resemblance. After an abundant literature review on Chinese culture, I realized that since the culture is dynamic, the cultural values are always changing.

The second goal of my research is to present the context of Chinese culture. Similarly, I have checked Chinese history during the past 100 years. The cultural context has transformed consequentially. It is obvious that the influence of Confucianism and traditional culture has been descending since the twentieth century. Then, after the establishment of the People’s Republic of China, the Chinese Communist Party has been the only party in the ruling. Since that, the whole country has been dominated under the Chinese communist/socialist ideology.

A third primary goal of this research is to compare Chinese value systems with other countries (such as America and Australia). Owing to the data from the World Values Survey (WVS) and the Rokeach Value Survey (RVS; Rokeach 1973), the Chinese value systems are more collective rather than the western countries.
How to explain and understand this distinct? It is clearly that Confucianism, modernization theory and theory of individualism and collectivism are the coping answers. (Hong Xiao, 2005)

Moreover, this research always encompasses the Confucianism, the reason why is that Confucianism is a strictly affected profoundly thought. In other words, the Chinese cultural tradition is constituted by Confucianism and affords the element for Chinese behavior yet. (Pye, 1972)

When it moves on to the data and measures, this research draws data from the survey and face-to-face interviews. Data from the World Values Survey (WVS) are also being used. I analyze the Chinese responses from the waves of World Values Survey (1990-2014).

In this research, it is important to select the characteristic samples. In order to cogitate the typicality of the Chinese sample, I compared the demographic variable quantity—mean age and gender of the Chinese urban population. Thus, with the aim of respect to age, the survey sample, which I choose, is comparable with the urban population.

In addition, due to the fact that the survey of the Chinese sample is drawn from the urban area, it is uncertain that the outcome of the survey represents the whole Chinese population. Nevertheless, urban China is more subject to Western influence and progressive ideas than population in rural area.

To examine the research questions, I select the WVS questionnaire that is related to value systems across Chinese culture. In addition, some questionnaires came from close-ended questions whereas others came from open questions. Sometimes respondents answered questions by practising their own thoughts. Sometimes they selected result from a range of answers. And other times they just choose one answer from several representations. All these variable measures are used in the questionnaires resulted in difficulty to structure an ordinary extent.
Discussion and Conclusion

Due to the survey and interview, this research focusses on the transitional value system across Chinese culture. Despite there still have some problems with this study, I found that the findings of this research could be explicated in significant ways. Furthermore, I have faith in that the results will move on a small step in the permanent progress of understanding of value systems to our culture that is involved.

The purpose of this research is to present content to the value systems across Chinese culture. Although it is viable to do the surveys and interviews, they still have quite a few problems need to figure out. For example, like other surveys, the data from WVS are submitted to probable self-reporting partialities, consisting of the impression of social responses. Moreover, Chinese data are more liable to this rather than other countries. As a result of this reason, some respondents afraid of getting the political troubles, so they may have pretend their actual thoughts. However, the impact of desirable society on responses is limited, because all the responses are guaranteed in anonymity.
References


