

# PÀPÀYÀ POST

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## THE UPCOMING MERGER: NPUE and NPIC

蔡妙瑛 鄭舒怡

In August 2014, a brand new university will appear, National Pingtung University. This “new” university is combination of National Pingtung University of Education (NPUE) and National Pingtung Institute of Commerce (NPIC). NPUE centers on education and is 74 years old. NPIC centers on commerce and is 16 years old. Each student of these two universities can chose different classes because there is different professional knowledge at NPUE and NPIC. As a result, students have more choices to learn what they want. This could be a big advantage of the merger.

We wondered what students at National Pingtung University thought about the two universities upcoming merger. What is their standpoint on this issue, do they

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agree or disagree? So, we aimed to investigate how the students felt about the upcoming merger. What do the students think the advantages or disadvantages will be for students? Why?

We asked about 20 students at National Pingtung University of Education aged 20-21. 70% of the students disagree with the merger of these two universities, and 10% of the students agree. About 20% of students had no comment about this issue. In general, most students think that there are many disadvantages. First, the sources will be deprived. For example, we may have to share the dorms with too many students, and that may cause an overload. In addition, some popular classes may be closed at these two universities. Second, because of the combination of the two universities, the “new” university will be named National Pingtung

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University. The name may not allow people to distinguish the focus of the university. Finally, the distance between these two universities will be inconvenient. To the students who don't have any transportation, they need to take at least 20 minutes to NPUE or NPIC. However, there are also some advantages. The most important is students have more choices to learn different professional knowledge. For example, NPUE's students can learn commerce, and NPIC's students can learn more about education. This is a benefit of the merger.

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## The Sunflower Movement in Taiwan

楊惠婷  
蔡政成

The Sunflower Movement in Taiwan is a protest against the black-box operation, Cross-Strait Service Trade Agreement, and the KMT. Afterwards, the appeal (or political pursuit) of the Sunflower Movement kept changing almost day by day. At first, they just wanted the president to reply to them. After the president replied, they asked the legislature to cancel the agreement. Most protesters didn't read the 50 pages of Cross-Strait Service Trade Agreement itself; they just watched the 3-minute-online clips made by the DPP. The Democratic Progressive Party instigated this riot by making comments about the Cross-Strait Service Trade Agreement. Their articles and clips showed that the

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agreement will be a financial threat to Taiwan. Students and other civil groups just listened to those comments. The leader of the DPP, Tsai Ing-wen, is afraid of the success of Cross-Strait Service Trade Agreement. Therefore, she told Taiwanese people a negative prediction. Actually, no one can predict whether the agreement will do harm to Taiwan or not because it hasn't been carried out yet. In addition, it was the DPP that enforced the black-box operation. They didn't allow the KMT to reconfirm the details of the agreement. It was the DPP that opened the door of the legislative Yuan, and let the students in. The main leaders of Sunflower Movement support the DPP.

Some of the behavior of the sunflower movement just went too far. As the old Chinese proverb goes, "The new-born lamp isn't afraid of fierce tigers", which means the young people, are bold to do anything even when they are just youth. Initially, we supported their statement of anti-black box operation in cross-strait service

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trade agreement. Things like that cannot be accepted, just like the Malaysian Barisan Nasional turning off the light while opening the ballot boxes. Afterwards, the protest went wrong in many aspects, such as being violent. Some student protesters took aggressive action to achieve the goal. They destroyed public property. The main leaders of the whole movement were under obligation for making up what they had done, but they refused to fix it. They also demanded all the citizens to pay for the compensation. They blamed people who did not post comments on Facebook. They had a fierce argument with their parents. They also skipped their classes, and put homework away to join the demonstration. Of course, people have the right to participate in a democratic movement, but they have to think twice before joining it. Does occupying the legislative Yuan work anything out? Most of students think what they did was beneficial to Taiwanese future, while there are still a lot of “real adults” who have their own thought, unlike innocent students.

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We've asked 25 people, "What's your opinion about The Sunflower Movement". These people were aged twenty to forty. 20% of the people are into the movement. Actually, they were all students. 80% people who already have jobs suppose that the whole drama is written by the DPP. Adults said, "It is a ridiculous story." Now that the politicians have found out that the media easily persuades teenagers, they are planning to let 18-year-old kids have a right to vote. Overall it seems that people can tell right from wrong. Students cannot represent all of the Taiwanese. In addition, this event makes us think about the education problem in Taiwan. Why do teenagers choose the wrong voice to believe?

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## TAIWANESE ON BUS IN CRASH IN CHINA

王美懿  
楊珮玲

On May 24, a very serious bus crash happened in China. The tour bus reportedly overturned during a torrential downpour shortly after noon and landed in the Jiulong River in Zhangzhou. The Xiamen Tourism Bureau said that 19 people were rescued from the accident; however, the rescue team armed with a heavy crane reportedly found the bodies of the seven missing travelers still inside the bus after they lifted the vehicle out of the water, and these seven people had showed no signs of life.

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This bus crash accident was very horrible. Because of this report, we aimed to investigate how the public felt about this disaster. The China Post mentioned that it was the deadliest accident in China during the past 10 years. Reports varied on the seriousness of injuries sustained by the other 15 tourists. Earlier reports by local news outlets including the Central News Agency and TVBS said that the surviving tourists suffered only from minor injuries. In addition, most people felt sorrowful about this accident because of the death of 7 people. For example, an Internet user said, “It is scary to think that when you are traveling in a tour where is not safe. We take tours, and of course we want security and safety. My heart goes out to the friends and families of all the victims of this terrible occurrence.” Another person mentioned, “It makes me think of the terrible ferry crash in South Korea.” Although the press reported this disaster in China, we still questioned this

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opinion by asking people what they thought was really true. The first question is “Was the accident was caused by low quality owing to a low price?” Then, we also asked one is “After watching this news, are you afraid of traveling in China?”

On Jan. 5, 2014, we interviewed 20 university students aged 21-22. They are the juniors of English Department at NPUE. According to the statistics of the interview, about the first question, we discovered that 25% of the people considered that the accident was caused by low quality owing to a low price; 10% thought this was just an accident. However, 65% believed this reason has no influence on the accident because they said it depends on the driver’s problem. About the second question, we can see 85% of people will not be scared of and worried about traveling in China, and 24% of them also mentioned that they are not



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going to travel there in the future. In general, most people believe that a low price is not the main point of the low quality of traveling. In addition, they will not be afraid to go to China because of the horrible bus accident and still love to traveling where they want to go.

## The Taiwanese People in *Vietnam*

李若萍  
黃煒甯

2014 Vietnam anti-China protest happened on 13, May. It was a series of anti-China demonstrations that were held by the Vietnamese. This event attributed to China deploying an oil rig in a disputed region of the South China Sea. Therefore, the Vietnamese military dispatched warships that

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have resulted in a mutual confrontation between China and Vietnam on the sea. From then on, the Vietnamese began to drive out the Chinese.

We aimed to investigate how the public felt about this event. Our first question is: “If you were a Taiwanese businessman, would you stay in Vietnam or not?” Most people chose to leave Vietnam because they are afraid of being hurt and they feel that Vietnam is dangerous. They want to leave temporarily to make sure of their personal safety. However, a few people think they are not Chinese and they didn’t make any mistakes so they don’t need to leave. The second question is, “Do you agree with China’s behavior?” Nearly everyone did not agree because they think this behavior is very selfish and aggressive. Nevertheless, one person had a neutral opinion. He thinks the South China Sea is a controversial region.

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We asked twenty university students aged 20~22. First, if you were a Taiwanese businessman, would you stay in Vietnam or not? 90% of the students chose to leave because they thought that Vietnam is dangerous and insecure. 10% of the students chose to stay since they thought that it was not their business. Second, do you agree with China's behavior? 95% of the students disagree with it because they thought that this behavior is egoistic. Only 5% of the students had a neutral opinion because the South China Sea is a controversial region. In general, most people believed that China should think twice before they decided to take action. In addition, Vietnam should not be impetuous. Both of them should compromise in order to avoid a major argument.

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## Taipei MRT Attack

蕭琮翰  
李振維

An attack occurred aboard a Taipei Metro train on May 22. Four people were killed and 24 others injured in the incident. It is the first such attack on the city's subway system since it opened in 1996. The attacker was a 21-year-old college student, identified as Cheng Chieh, an environmental engineering sophomore student at Tunghai University in Taichung, the third largest city in Taiwan. According to the police, Cheng said he had wanted to do "something big," like killing on the train, when he was in elementary school. When he was in high school and college, he told his classmates of the idea. Tunghai University got a tip from the killer's former high school classmates that he posted something on his Facebook page says "I'm going to do something big." The college arranged a counseling session

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for Cheng, but he didn't show up. He then attended another meeting with a military officer, and seemed to be quite normal. Plus, Cheng has no medical record of mental illness, so after the attack happened, everyone who knew him was shocked.

The incident had sparked a debate about whether the death penalty is an appropriate punishment for such crimes. We conducted a survey to find out what people thought. In the survey, we asked two questions: 1. Do you think the death penalty is appropriate for Cheng? 2. Do you think the death penalty could stop the crime? After we asked people these two questions, we got some interesting results. As for the question 1, 85% of the people said that the death penalty is appropriate for Cheng, 15% believed the opposite, but as for the second question, there was 45% of them who considered that the death penalty could stop the

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crime, which meant that over half of the people thought that the punishment didn't work.

Based on this result, we could assumed that people wanted those bad criminals, such as in the case of Cheng Chieh, to be sentenced to death, but on the other hand, people thought that there might be a better way to stop the crime than killing the criminals. Also, according to some opinions during the survey, we could sum up that people considered the death penalty as “an eye for an eye” revenge for the victims, which was simply “He killed someone, so his head should be chopped off.” No matter what thought you stood for, no matter if the death penalty is appropriate or not, may we remind you that we should pray from the loss of lives in this horrible attack, and may peace live in everyone's heart.



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## *The Mysterious Malaysian Flight 370*

何承勳  
傅敬云  
林冠廷

Malaysian flight 370 departed from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, and it lost contact with air traffic control on 8 March 2014 at 01:20, less than an hour after takeoff. At 07:24, Malaysia Airlines reported the flight missing. The aircraft was carrying 12 Malaysian crew members and 227 passengers from 14 nations. There has been no confirmation of any flight debris and no site has been found.

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This event was extremely paradoxical. As a result, we did some research and asked 39 people a question, what do you think happened to Malaysian flight MH370? According to our research, because of the terrifying experience of the 911 terrorists' attack in the U.S.A, there are about 23% of people thought that the plane might be hijacked by the some terrorists. 21% of people thought that the horrible air crash might be caused by some mechanical problems. 13% people regarded it was the lack of the abilities of solving emergency problems as the reason for the missing plane. In addition, 13% of the people also thought it was a "normal" air crash that it was caused by accident such as weather changes or birds. Around 10% people believed that there might be some unexplainable power around the world and the plane then just disappeared like some planes in the history that disappeared when crossing through the Bermuda Triangle.

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What's more, there are about 8% of people who considered the whole plane, including those poor passengers, were all kidnapped by aliens. 5% of people believed that the Malaysian flight MH370 just fell to somewhere and it has just not been found yet, and another 5% of people thought that it was caused by some operating personnel errors. Only 3% people regarded that this was merely China's trick.

It is obvious to see that there are more than 1/3 of people believed the plane was hijacked by the terrorists. However, we still don't know what really caused the miserable air crash of the Malaysian flight MH370, we really hope that the truth can be discovered and let all the people know as soon as possible.

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## The Investigation about Korean Ferry Sinking

林筠芳  
鄭佳宜

The sinking of the Korean ferry occurred on 16 April, 2014 on the way from Incheon towards Jeju. The Korean ferry overturned while carrying 476 people, mostly secondary school students. The vessel sent a distress signal from 2.7 kilometers off Gwanmaedo island at 8:58 Korean Standard Time. Eventually, 296 passengers died in this accident.

We aimed to investigate how the public felt about this accident because we didn't feel that enough had been said. Therefore, we conducted interviews to add new insight

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and asked, “Do you think the passengers should have tried to escape even when they were told to stay where they were?” In addition, we also asked “Why do you think most passengers did not escape from the ferry?”

We asked 20 university students aged 20-22. 92% of the people believe that if they were told to stay on the ferry, they still want to escape because they trust their own intuition over the crew. They didn’t want to sit still waiting for death. 8% of the people think that they would stay on the boat because if they saw their friends and classmates on board, they would still accompany them. It can give them more security than jumping off the boat. On top of

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that, some people would trust the professional crew. In addition, although some people would try to escape; however, they still think some people would want to stay on the boat to save other people. Overall it seems that most people think they would not obey the captain's instruction. They think if they did not jump off, they would die on board. Thus, they would choose to strive for the opportunity to live.



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## The Ukraine-- Crimea crisis

林郁馨 李培意

What happened in Ukraine is an international crisis principally involving Russia and Ukraine over control of the Crimean Peninsula, which until February 2014 was administered by Ukraine. Currently, the Crimean peninsula is controlled by the Russian Federation, a status which is not recognized by the United Nations. On 21 February President Viktor Yanukovich fled Kiev, and the next week, the Ukraine parliament appointed an interim president with an interim government. Except for Russia, the new government was recognized by the United Nations. Beginning on February 26, pro-Russian forces began to gradually take control of the Crimea Peninsula. While troops occupied or guarded Crimea's parliament building, the Crimean parliament voted to dismiss the Crimean

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government, replace its Prime minister, and call a referendum on Crimea's autonomy. On March 18, Russia and Crimea signed a treaty of accession of republic of Crimea and Sevastopol into the Russian Federation. On April 15, the Ukrainian Parliament declared Crimea as a territory temporally occupied by Russia.

In this paper, we aim to investigate how the public felt about the referendum concerning whether Crimea should be part of Russia or Ukraine. In addition, due to the fact that Russia is a powerful country, they can provide many sources and benefits to Crimea and the people in Crimea to a certain degree are related to Russia. We can't help but associate the situation with the Taiwan-China relationship. If we have the chance to vote whether to be a part of China or just be an independent with sovereignty, which side you will support. We conducted interviews to add new insight concerning this issue.

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We asked thirteen students aged 19-22 in our class the two questions. 62% of the students believe that Crimea should be part of Ukraine because they want to avoid wars and fighting while 38% of the students believe that change is the better way to improve their lives. When asked about Taiwan-China relationship, 100% think that Taiwan should be independent so that we would have more freedom to do what we want or what we say.

In general, most people don't like changing because that may cause lots of unknown problems and sometimes cause fighting even though changing can bring them more sources and benefits. As we related this problem to our relationship with China, we can see that all of the people would like Taiwan to be independent. They have similar reasons for the choice such as refused to rule by China or need more freedom. Both ways have good and bad reasons; it depends on what you think it should be.

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## GUNS IN AMERICA

洪佩珮 紀沐暄 李唯瑄

Six students at the university of California at Santa Barbara were killed by a 22-year-old college student named Elliot Rodger on May 23rd, 2014. Rodger had warned of his intentions in his emailed manifesto and a youtube video posted the day before, in which he was seeking to kill sorority women and others at the university as revenge for the way that women had rejected him, especially those who had spurned his romantic advances.

After this shooting in America, we aimed to investigate how the public felt about the gun problem. Should America ban the use of guns? If not, what should America do about the gun problem?

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Among twenty people we have asked, 70% of people agreed that guns should be banned because gun problems have become a serious social security problem. The best way to prevent this is to ban all the guns. Only 10% of people have no opinion about banning guns in America because they don't live in America. However, 20% of the people who disagreed with banning guns thought that instead of banning all the guns, there is something else they can do. First, they can raise the age to own guns. An eighteen-year-old teenager can own guns; however, it is the age that the mental side of adolescents is not mature yet. There are more possibilities that they might misuse guns more than adults. Second, the government should have strict gun control. For example, allowing specific occupations to have guns; however, not ordinary people. Most

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people live in big cities; they don't need guns. Therefore, farmers, soldiers, and hunters can own guns. Farmers, who usually live on big land, can be attacked by animals so they need to have guns to protect themselves. Soldiers, of course who fight for people, should own guns. Hunters, who live by hunting animals can own guns because they live by the land.

In conclusion, there are 70% of the people who agreed to ban guns, and 20% of the people think America should raise the age of owning guns and enforce strict gun control.



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## Taiwanese Attitude towards the Situation between Taiwan and China

徐薇婷

Over nearly six decades, the authority of Taiwan, ROC, is still in dispute. Some Taiwanese consider themselves as Taiwanese while the others think they are Chinese. A conflict that nowadays whether Taiwan is an independent county or not; if it's not it leads to another issue in that the ROC government is the legitimate authority of the China or People's Republic of China is the true legitimate authority of China. Many people tend to stand for remaining in the present situation because they don't want to cause any wars and all they want is a peaceful life. The graph "Change of Unification- Independence Stances of Taiwanese" carried by the Election Study Center National

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ChengChi University國立政治大學選舉研究中心shows the change of attitude towards the situation between Taiwan and China by comparing statistics from 1994 to 2013.

According to the research carried out by Election Center National Cheng Chi University, the percentage of people who want to maintain the status quo and decide at later date steeply declined from 38.5% to 24.8% from 1994 to 1995; however it reached another climax of 38.7% by 2006 and slowly went down to 32.6% by 2013. The figure of “maintain status quo indefinitely” steadily grew from 9.8% to 26.3% over the 18 years period while there was a steady growth in the percentage of people who want to maintain the status quo and move toward independence in opinion from 8.0% to 17.2% over an 18 year period. In the figure, the support of independence as soon as possible remains about the same from 3.1% to 5.7%. On the other hand, after 1996

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the number of people who choose “maintain status quo, move toward unification” gradually decreased and the percentage in 2013 is only 9.2% while it reached the climax of 19.5% in 1996. As for “unification as soon as possible”, there was a sharp decrease in 1995 from 4.2% to 2.3% and then this figure remained about the same.

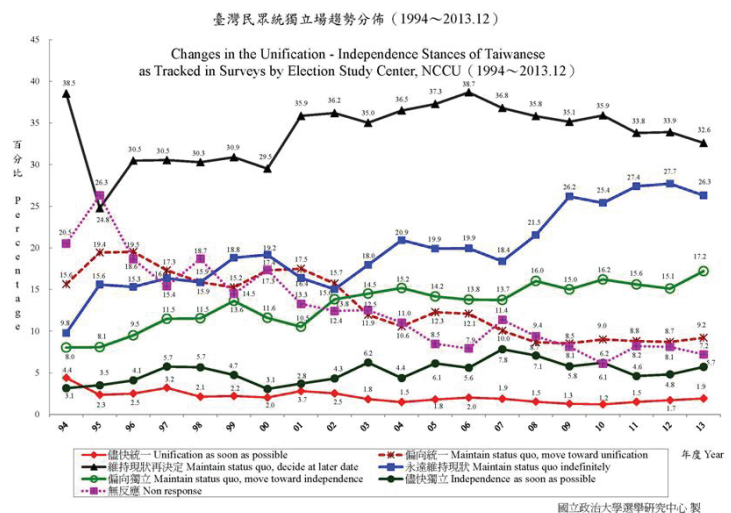
The statistics show that nowadays most people, over 75%, want to maintain the present situation between Taiwan and China and in general, the figure of “maintain status quo indefinitely” has increased most. By comparison, more people, nearly 23%, choose independence rather than unification, which is about 11%. Owing to this, we can know that most people only want to live in the situation we have right now; they don’t want to make the choice between unification and independence. People don’t want to be unified with China because China is not a democratic country; however if Taiwan officially announced itself as an independent country, it might cause wars and even the

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U.S.A wants Taiwan to maintain the present situation. Thus, most people in Taiwan choose maintain the status quo between Taiwan and China.



Reference:

Election Study Center National ChengChi University, important political attitude trend distribution (2014, February 12) Trends in Core Political Attitudes among Taiwanese May 24, 2014 Retrieved from Election Study Center National ChengChi University, website:<http://esc.nccu.edu.tw/course/news.php?Sn=167>

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## Punishment? Rewarding? Which is better for our kids?

劉芳伶

There are two methods for teachers to motivate student's learning. One method is to punish students if students cannot achieve the teachers' goals. The other method is to reward and praise students if students do a good learning. As for myself, I think rewarding students is more effective.

Rewarding students is more effective than punishing students due to many reasons. We all have experiences to meet different kinds of teachers. Some teachers are very strict, once we cannot achieve their goals, we will get punishments from them and this gives us lots of pressure. Moreover, we will probably not like the subject. For



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example, I remember when I was in high school, our PE teacher was very strict. She shouted at students who could not achieve her goals. I will never forget she shouted at a student who couldn't swim " Even a dog swims better than you." She put a lot of pressure on us. PE class was a nightmare for me during my high school period.

Instead, if teachers reward or praise us on how we do our work, usually we will get more motivation to learn more and will spend more time on that subject. For example, when I was young, I went to painting class and tried hard to learn





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painting skills. Our teacher did not hesitate to give compliments to every student and this inspired many of her students to set goals to become a painting teacher or majors in this field. As for me, I liked it so much that I ever painted during my leisure time.

People can get great achievement when they are encouraged from others. Do not hesitate to give compliments and let teachers make a win win situation for students and themselves.



Pictures Resouces from:

<http://www.outlookindia.com/printarticle.aspx?265983>

<http://www.alleducationschools.com/education-careers/elementary-education/teaching-elementary-school>

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## *The Beauty of the Grecian Urn*

楊惠婷

Unlike other romantic poetry, this poem does not make people cry. It did mention love, and yet what Keats wants to discuss is not love but beauty. He is talking about the art, not the maker. I think it is sarcastic that the author didn't think about the urn maker's thought. Nevertheless, we don't merely analyze the poem, we do think of the author. What is the difference between sculpture and literature? Both of them are art.

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I went to a museum seeing that kind of stuff when I was in junior high. I didn't see anything interesting, but John Keats didn't agree. He stared at it and kept thinking. He saw the messages on it: some were happy, some were sad. Fortunately I met John Keats in this poem. He let me re-think the boring stuff then changed my mind.

Keats standing there could hear the music across the centuries. He thought that was beautiful." Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard are sweeter." Next to the musician was a young couple who were about to kiss. The moment was frozen in time so the young man could never kiss the young woman. Though she could never receive the kiss, they were in the perfect moment in time. The trees didn't have to worry about the leaves. They wouldn't fade, either. At the end of the poem, Keats told us that the urn itself would remain. John Keats considered that

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immortality is truth and beauty. (For instance, the piper can send the melody and message to the girl, and the girl's youth will not fade.)

For ages the urn was passed along. "Beauty is truth, truth beauty," is the most discussed line in all of Keats's poetry. For Keats, the truth is eternity. However, I think mortality is more beautiful. Just like how we feel about the four seasons. We know spring is comfortable and cozy because we just weathered through chilly winter. John Keats experienced the bitter and painful condition, so he can tell which is sweet. If he didn't know what agony is, how could he know truth and beauty? Those young people on the urn never knew the transience; they don't know how the world changes. They are too innocent to know what truth and beauty is. They don't date each other, how could they know love? It must be hard for them to live on an urn. They can do

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nothing but thinking and feeling. They are stuck in forever time. I see nothing beautiful here. In my opinion, only mortality can bring us beauty.

A lot of people have been attempting to prolong life from past to present. What they hope is to become immortal. Poets have expressed in certain poems the desire to remain as they are with their beloved despite time and death; furthermore, the novels such as in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, the Count crossed the time (400 years) to find his lover. He did make the woman "RELOVE" him again, but her fiancé became alone. *Dracula* hurt the innocent man. In this case, immortality does nothing good. What if both the couples are immortal?

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I suppose it is still not good. Every fairy tale's ending is that the charming prince and a pretty prince live happily together. The author cannot speak more after this situation because their love may fade after entering a marriage. There will be no sense of mystery. Though the financial condition may not be a problem for a royal family, they may have troubles within the family's relationship. Plus, the youth would fade. For John Keats, immortality would be beautiful due to being forever young. Nevertheless, I think it is not. We won't cherish every beautiful moment until we know life is not a bed of roses at first. It's human nature.

After reading the poem, I want to break the urn to pursue the beauty. Now that the urn turns into pieces, they become mortal. Therefore, they had sweet memories before and being told, remaining beautiful now.



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## Essay on the Old Man and the Sea

郭宜庭

The Old Man and the Sea is one of Ernest Hemingway's important works, which reflects his philosophic view on life, including three concepts such as Naturalism, Existentialism along with Nihilism. Each will be explained as follows.

First of all, we can consider the Old Man and the Sea—at least on the surface—a work of Naturalism, which is about the relationship between humans and nature. Santiago's struggling confrontation is against not only the great fish, sharks, but the sea as well. Also, when it comes

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to the man-nature relationship, it inevitably comes with a matter of life and death—all creatures mortal and doomed to die anyways, and nature serves as an outside force which dominates human's destiny, just as Santiago's interpretation "A man is not much beside great birds and beasts." So, we can take it as a work of Naturalism with regard to Santiago's struggle against the marlin, fierce sharks and other kinds of natural forces.

Second of all, Hemingway attempts to approach the story with a view of Existentialism, which tends to focus on self-discovery through extreme experiences so as to prove one's existence. Take Santiago for example; this idea is clearly expressed in his sufferings such as physical pain, exhaustion, and isolation during the battle on the sea. That is, plenty of sufferings exemplify what an existential protagonist must meet with. Also in an existential

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viewpoint, “destruction” is inevitable. In response to failure, Santiago has a positive outlook on it—“A man can be destroyed but not defeated.” Although a terminal defeat is there for sure, he never gives up trying as in the hope of finding the essence of existence in the universe. So, Santiago’s struggling serves as a good model of Existentialism, with regard to the old man’s succession of sufferings in his life.

Last but not least, the novella reveals the idea of Nihilism as well, which seeks to portray the belief that the universe is just like a bystander and human’s seeking the essence of life is nothing but meaningless, senseless and hopeless. Hemingway clearly illustrates the concept in Santiago’s exploring; that is, Santiago’s achievement of nothing on his tragic voyage demonstrates the idea of

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Nihilism—what makes it absurd is that every effort he makes ends up in vain; what also appears absurd is that Santiago never stops fighting despite the notice of ultimate failure. These repetitions of absurdity reflects a phenomena that human's seeking the meaning of existence and their inability to find any in the universe eventually, which is a nihilistic point of view.

To sum up, with regard to the interaction between Santiago and nature, his ever-struggling life and blind pursuit of meaning in life, we can view the Old Man and the Sea as a combination of three basic ideas—Naturalism, Existentialism as well as Nihilism.

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## MY IMPRESSION OF WESTERN FOREIGNERS

楊惠婷

I've met seven foreigners in Taiwan, in junior high, senior high, and college, when I took foreign teacher' courses. All I meet are teachers. At first, I think there is no definition of the typical western foreigners. They come from diverse countries with different cultures and family backgrounds. Afterwards, I find them warm, accessible, enthusiastic, and caring.

Andrew is the first foreigner who I talked to. He always dresses like an artist, especially a painter. I can only tell you that he is gentle and I can't recall my junior high memory completely. I can't describe Andrew in detail.

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The second foreigner I met in my senior high school was a teacher of our English Conversation Club. I had to communicate with Kyle Knutson about a topic we were going to discuss during the class. Sometimes, I chat with Kyle about food, movies, and gossip after class. He also taught at elementary schools. Perhaps that is why he always made us laugh and it was because that kids let him learn the combination of teaching and entertaining.

After entering into university, I have a lot of chances speaking to foreign teachers. Dr. Ma and David teach literature courses. Kim teaches reading and writing. Wayne is in charge of English ability training class. Michael is excellent in special topics such as sci-fi and horror.



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Dr. Ma is retired now. He used to say jokes in the class. I remember that he always gave us extremely difficult assignments and super-easy exams. As to David, he is patient. In David's classroom, each person's ideas and opinions are valued. This semester we are learning a novel and two poems. I wrote an email to David telling him that I totally can't figure out what the novel is talking about. Afterwards, he spent the whole hour re-explaining the novel. Also, I wrote only two paragraphs for the essay but he asked us to write five. Then, David wrote the outline for me to help me finish the assignment.

Kim is the only female foreigner I've ever met. However, she is very cool like a man. Sometimes she is cooler than male. Every time the class is going to have an end, she always says, "Questions? Answers? Jokes? Okay, I got one!". It's her habit to say, "Look at you!", "Poor kid.",

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Holy cow!”, “How’s that?”, “Un-huh!” The most important of all, she is kind-hearted. She rescued cats and dogs in Taiwan; and she checks essays for students from other departments. I think Kim is creative and unique. I like her very much.

Wayne is a gentleman and he finishes things step by step. One of my friends thinks that Wayne is serious and yet I don’t think so. It is only because that Wayne is always smiling instead of laughing or showing dramatic facial expression like Kim. Sometimes Wayne is humorous. He has a good temper. Additionally, he is an extremely nice teacher. Though he is busy, he spares time to help students from other department to practice English speaking. He is the ruler in the class. Wayne lets students decide the date of the exam. Once you ask Wayne questions, he will answer you in a very detailed way. He is great!

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Michael is talented and super-social. He enjoys doing various activities such as joining a band, making dishes, watching movies, and chatting. I hope I can be as knowledgeable as him when I am 30. I want to be good at a basic level of history, art, cosmetic applicators, and literature in my middle age, and yet I don't want to be as talkative as Michael. Just joking!

The conclusion is that they are all good teachers. They create a sense of community and belonging in the classroom. They are approachable, not only to their students, but to everyone in the campus. They are different, but have something in common: kind-heartedness.

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