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Comparative Assessment of Cultural differences between Chinese and American Women

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Abstract

The culture is significant in society and it establishes the social behavior and norms found in human societies, as well as the knowledge, beliefs, arts, laws, customs, capabilities and habits of the individuals in these groups. The culture determines how some groups of people will behave in a particular situation without any form of coercion. The study examined the comparative assessment of cultural differences between Chinese and American Women. The review was literature-based. The findings of the study found that the culture of women in the USA was different from their counterparts in Chinese. The aspects of attitude, career and finances and projection of their problems were distinct from the two groups. The relative absence of attention to the differences of cultural vices among the women infers that what some group of people may support as good and acceptable may be comprehended to be wrong and unacceptable to another group of people in the same society. Therefore, women from America and China have different cultures that guide their daily living.

Keywords: *Cultural differences, American Women, Chinese women*

1.1 Introduction

A culture is a way of life of a group of people that determines the behaviours, beliefs and values of a particular group of people (Kalichman, Williams, Cherry, Belcher & Nachimson, 2014). The culture of people determines the overall behaviour of people and how they relate in a daily life Logie, James, Tharao & Loutfy, 2011). The culture differs from one group to another and an acceptable lifestyle in a particular place may be unacceptable in another region. Communities strive to protect their learning from the influence of another culture (Xie, Shauman & Shauman, 2013). According to Perry, Harp and Oser (2013), the culture of people determines the way of life to the community. The culture from the advanced nation influences the culture of the developing countries and people start to embrace the culture from the developed nation but becomes impossible the culture from the developing to change the culture of the developed nations (Rosette, Ashleigh & Robert, 2012).

Traditionally, women in many societies have always been considered an inferior creature who has to be naturally submissive to the male gender (Ghavami & Peplau 2013). women in many cultures are expected to perform the regular house duties while taking care of their children and cooking for their husbands (Xie, Shauman & Shauman, 2013). As time progresses, however, many activists and feminists advocated for equality of both genders all over around the globe which came in with many changes. Granting of equal rights to both men and women came with a lot of cultural and moral corruption though the levels vary a lot in different parts of the world (Acker, 2011). In China, for example, women never took the freedom as an ideal excuse to disregard the previously defined role of men in their lives which is exactly opposite in the USA as the divorce statistics are enough to explain the American woman's perception about marriage in today's world (Perry, Harp & Oser, 2013).

1.2 Objective

The researchers were interested to examine the comparative assessment of cultural differences between Chinese and American Women

1.3 Cultural Differences between American and Chinese Women

Considering that America and China are big countries full of women of different characteristics and perceptions about various aspects of life, this paper will compare the two based on the traits that are practiced by the majority women in the said respective countries (Margret & Patricia 2014). In the eyes of an American woman, marriage is perceived to be a private matter that cannot be intervened by any other third party. They believe that they are entitled to the right and freedom to live with the person they like. However, the worst comes when they find that their marriage was a mistake. They always will go for the second choice owing to the belief that it is brutal to force people who no longer love each other to stay together. American women have very little patience in marriage and will rarely give their husbands a second chance to make up for their mistakes (Pyke, 2010). For this reason, the rate of divorce in America has maintained the above normal status with some marriages lasting even as short as one week.

The Chinese women, however, on the other hand, perceive marriage as an essential institution. They always wish to live with their husbands for a lifetime once they get married. In their eyes, marriage is a very significant stage in their life and hence needs to be given as much care as possible for it to be maintained (Wisecup, 2011). A Chinese woman would consider it a great apocalyptic wrong if her partner decided to dissuade her from the marriage commitment that she has given a lifetime trial. A Chinese woman will be patient in marriage and will always try her best to keep the marriage working. Rarely will they allow termination of the marriage agreement and will do everything possible in her discretions to maintain the commitment (Ridgeway & Tamar, 2013).

American women desire to get love and show brevity in accepting love without hesitation while Chinese women, on the other hand, show a complicated attitude to it (Ridgeway, 2011). While and American woman considers it a happy thing to be in marriage, they rarely consider the possibility of sad times in the commitment. Even though they can give chances in the event of small misunderstandings, a repeat of harsh times leads to the judgement of mistaken marriages, and they solve this by staying away from their partners (Williams & Larissa, 2016). Chinese women, on the other hand, fear the sufferings that love brings. As described in their traditional moral concept, love is a happy feeling that comes with sacrifices and consequences that one should be willing to endure before getting into marriage (Wisecup, 2011). For these reasons,

Chinese women are very cautious and prudent when it comes to choosing their husbands. Even in an occasion where a man genuinely shows love to a Chinese woman, she will still consider aspects such as characters, health, career and education before deciding as to whether to marry the person or not as the decision will ultimately affect her life. This is, however, not the situation with American women. To them, all that matters is happiness. Hence the other factors will be given minimal consideration. As long as a man can make an American woman happy, by satisfying her emotional needs, he is the right person for marriage (Rosette, Ashleigh & Robert Livingston, 2012).

According to Veenstra (2011) to an American woman, her career and finances can replace her emotional needs. Being in a position to earn and sustain their lives in a high or manageable social class, an American woman believes that she has already achieved her life dreams hence is capable of maintaining her endurance. According to them, a good career and a good income will drive them to whatever type of life they want to live. This has caused some of them to even become single mothers by choice with the belief that only money is essential to support a child. In the Chinese world, however, the perception is different. A career should lead one to raise a happy family. The women read hard to attain their goals of ending up in a happy marriage where they will support the husband in maintaining the family (Pyke, 2010). According to the Chinese women, the father figure is crucial in the development of a child and hence being in a high paying career does not qualify them as superior to the man but instead as helpers in developing a healthy family (Rosenfield, 2012).

As a result of enlightenment, American women no longer view themselves inferior to the male gender (Sayer & Fine, 2011). They interact with them freely and even compete with them. Few social boundaries are evident and hence a man flirting an American woman would not be considered as sexual harassment. The Chinese women, on the other hand, give a lot of respect to their male counterparts. Their coexistence and interaction are defined by social boundaries that ought not to be crossed except in certain occasions (Perry, Harp & Oser, 2013). Flirting would be considered sexual harassment, especially if the woman is unfamiliar with the man who made the sentiments.

In the Chinese world, sex is considered as sacred and an essential aspect of marriage that should be used to keep the husband and wife together (Xie, Shauman & Shauman, 2013). American women, however, have put the great significance of sex as a need that men can rarely survive without (Rosenfield, 2012). For this reason, the American woman will find it worthy of punishing her husband with sex. By denying them men sex, the American believes that the man will do everything in their disposal to have the privilege back and hence problems will be solved in the process. Sex strikes have been frequent in America, where women use their bodies as weapons to get their rights. The continuous denial of sex in marriage in America is attributed to be partly the result of wives cynical use of sex to control other marriage areas (Perry, Harp & Oser, 2013).

American women have also proven to project their problems and failures onto men. Women, especially those who marry men below them, end up blaming the men as their causes for lagging regarding developments and career progression (Guendelman & Abrams, 2015). Although there is a general perception that emotions drive women, the American woman appears to be more emotional compared to the Chinese woman. Chinese women that marriage is the source of their problems and hence the men in their lives do not cause them failures but rather endure with them during the hard times. A Chinese woman is very submissive and humble. They give more respect to the male gender and consider themselves as a source of happiness to the men. When they fall in love, they do not exhaust their emotions but rather love genuinely for the sake of maintaining the institution of marriage in which they commit themselves for a lifetime (Kalichman, Williams, Cherry, Belcher, & Nachimson, 2014). When they showed loyalty, they are very loyal and are useful in reciprocating the good deeds done to them. With a large number of uneducated women in China compared to America, the few educated ones value their education and career as necessary in supporting their families (Heise, 2013).

1.4 Conclusions

The study concluded that the culture from the women in American was different from the culture of women in China. The research established that the perceptions of women in both countries are different from the aspects of attitude, career and finances and marriages. The women from each country have different ways of how culture is observed. The study also found that women need

to develop coalitions with other women of color to transform and expand their lifestyle that will be satisfactory to other regions. The race is the dominant category addressed, most notably in reports featuring women in only one race/ethnic group. The relative absence of attention to these categories as cultural performances suggests the recurring assumption that sample inclusiveness automatically implies the inclusion of gender, race and class, which is itself an artistic accomplishment. The relative absence of attention to the differences of cultural vices among the women infers that what some group of people may support as good and acceptable may be comprehended to be wrong and unacceptable to another group of people in the same society. Therefore, women from America and China have different cultures that guide their daily living.

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