

Analysis on Mainland Chinese’s Attitude Towards Taiwan Chinese And Its Possible Effects

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ABSTRACT

China is showing a uncompromising attitude towards the Taiwan problem. And there are more military exercises around the South China Sea. Professor of National Defense University People's Liberation Army Zhang Zhaozhong thinks that China has shown the determination to unite the whole country [1]. The mainland Chinese’s attitude toward Taiwan Chinese is essential if the country is united, and the attitude will determine whether Taiwan people would be treated well. Data were collected on the website Zhihu, which was a application like "Quora" in China. The author analyzed the top 20 answers which receive most agreements of the question "Do most Mainland Chinese hold a aversion attitude toward Taiwan Chinese?" The result shows that due to the Taiwan people they met in person or on the internet, most Mainland Chinese showed a negative attitude toward Taiwan Chinese. Meanwhile, the answers show that the main reason is Taiwan Chinese’s hate and their negative attitude towards Mainland Chinese. And towards those Taiwan Chinese who recognize themselves as Chinese, Chinese people often hold a friendly attitude to them. Only when Taiwan Chinese accept their identity as Chinese, Chinese people would hold a positive attitude towards them.

Keywords: *Taiwan China Attitude Unity, Zhihu comments, text analysis*

1. INTRODUCTION

According to open record by Taiwan Ministry of Defense, American naval vessels have passed across the Taiwan Strait 9 times in 2020 so far. And every time People's Liberation Army Navy have sent naval vessels to monitor the American naval vessels. This shows that China has the determination to face the American Navy on the Taiwan problem, said Professor Zhang Zhaozhong from National Defense University People’s Liberation Army[2]. And in 31th, August, The Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi said that anyone who challenge the One China Rule is trying to be the enemy of 1.4 billion Chinese[3].This shows that Taiwan would be a part of China. At that time, the Mainland Chinese' attitude towards Taiwan Chinese determines whether Taiwan Chinese would quickly get into the society. However, due to the govern of Democracy Progressive Party, the Taiwan Chinese are taught to refuse the identity as Chinese. And this is the reason why some Mainland Chinese holds an aversion to the Taiwan Chinese. To determine the attitude of Mainland Chinese to the Taiwan Chinese, this paper analyze the 20 answers which received

the most agreement to the question, "Is it a main stream to hate Taiwan Chinese?" on a website called "Zhihu", which is similar to Quora.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

The paper analyzed 20 answers, which received the most agreement to the question "Is it a mainstream to hate Taiwan Chinese?" on the website Zhihu[5]. And through the top 20 answers which most people agrees, the Parper analyzes the answers and tries to figure out the reasons.

3. BASIC DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

All the answers show an aversion to the Taiwan Chinese. In order to determine why these people hate the Taiwan Chinese, the author analyzed the different types of reasons they hate the Taiwan Chinese. The first classification is how they contact with the Taiwan Chinese. The results are shown in table 1.

Table 1 The Way the Mainland Chinese In The Answers Contact with the Taiwan Chinese

	Numbers	Percent(%)
Contact in person	8	40

Contact on the internet	9	45
Saw in the Taiwan TV programs	3	15
Total	20	100

Although the number of the answers this paper analyzed is not large, but these answers all received large amount of agreements, which are more than 10 thousands. The statistics show that due to the development of China, many people have choose to travel to Taiwan, but most of them gained a negative impression about the Taiwan Chinese there. And due to the development of Internet in China, the online users' number in China is 0.9 billion. Some of them have the access to the foreign Internet, so they could contact

with the Taiwan Chinese online and watch their TV program. And that is the main way Mainland Chinese contact with Taiwan Chinese.

Then, all the answers give out the reason why they hold an aversion attitude toward Taiwan Chinese. All those reasons could be divided into 2 types. The first one is the attack to Chinese's political regimes. The second is the discrimination toward Mainland Chinese. The results are shown in table 2.

Table 2 The Reason Why The Answers Hold A Negative Attitude Towards Taiwan Chinese

	Numbers	Percent(%)
Attack to Chinese political regime	15	75
Discrimination to Mainland Chinese	9	45
Both two reasons	4	20

4. REASONS ANALYSIS

There two main reasons Mainland Chinese hate the Taiwan Chinese are the attack to China's political regime and the discrimination to Mainland Chinese. The main reason why Mainland Chinese hate the Taiwan Chinese: the statistics show that the attack to China government is 75% of those reasons. Under the government of the Communist party of China, China has gained great achievement. The Gross Domestic Product of China increased from 67.91 billion dollars in 1952 to 12242.776 billion dollars in 2019(From National Bureau of Statistics of China)[4]. The rank of Gross Domestic Product of China is the second among all the countries in the world. So Chinese all respect and appreciate the China Communist Party. According to the answers, the Taiwan Chinese which they contact with tend to attack the China Communist Party because they think China Communist Party is an evil government due to their education and the propagation of the media. And when they attack the China government, Mainland Chinese would be angry about that.

The second reason is that Taiwan Chinese holds a discrimination toward Mainland Chinese. In the 1970s to 2000s, China is a fairly poor and little-developed country. But China has become the second largest country in the world and its people are becoming rich and confident, while the Taiwan Chinese still regard Mainland Chinese poor and low-educated. And at this circumstance, Taiwan Chinese often discriminate the Mainland Chinese. This is because

their government and media continue to report how poor China is, which is not true. For example, due to Taiwan TV program Guanjiashike, Chinese is too poor to eat meat, and Chinese could only eat rat to obtain protein. And every time there is a heavy rain near Three Gorges Dam, they claim that the dam would collapse, which never happened. When Chinese government advocates that people eat up every meal to reduce the waste of food. However, the Taiwan TV program claims that Chinese government do not allow Chinese people to eat food, which is more than the limit, or he would be arrested. Everyone who comes to China would know all of these are fake news, but for those who haven't been to Mainland China, they would believe the media and the news.

What is more, Taiwan Chinese are used to see Mainland Chinese as inferior people, and through the propagation, Taiwan Chinese refuse to accept the fact that China is a strong and rich country, especially when the Taiwan economy has been stagnant for several years. And under the influence of Mainland China, there are few countries which committed Taiwan, and this is another reason why Taiwan Chinese attack the Chinese Government and Mainland Chinese.

5. DISCUSSION

Nine answers mentioned that due to the Mainland Chinese education, they used to believe that Taiwan Chinese are friendly and highly-educated until they contact with the Taiwan Chinese. And all the answers states that they could

feel the hostility from Taiwan Chinese, and then they become to hate the Taiwan Chinese. This means that the problem could only be more severe if the Taiwan Chinese and Mainland Chinese continue to hate each others. The reason why Taiwan Chinese hate the Chinese government is their education and propagation. In order to make itself seems like a good government, the Taiwan government tried hard to describe Chinese government as an evil government which do not give its people basic human rights.

But due to the logic, if Taiwan Chinese believe that Chinese government is an evil government which use violent to rule the people, Taiwan Chinese should be sympathetic towards the Mainland Chinese instead of treating them with hatred and verbal attack. That is because they found all the Mainland Chinese support the government and hold gratitude towards the government. This is a paradox which is easy to realize: If Chinese government is an evil government, the people would not support the government. But Taiwan Chinese still choose to believe that Chinese government is an evil government while hating the Mainland Chinese people.

6. SUGGESTION

After Taiwan has become a part of China again, it will be crucial to show that Chinese government is not an evil government: It is just another kind of political regime. It is not right to think one political regime is inferior to another political regime, especially when the latter one has gained great achievement. So the first important change should be the change in education. The school should teach the students without stereotype, and the media should report with the truth instead of fake news. The teacher should educate the student that the political regime in the Mainland China is just a regime different to theirs, not a tyrannical one. They should accept the difference between the two political regimes, instead of attacking one political regime. The standard of a good regime is depend on what has it achieved. A good regime is not committed by attacking other regimes. Additionally, the communication between Taiwan Chinese and Mainland Chinese should be reinforced. Only when rational communication replaces the hatred, the misunderstanding between Mainland Chinese and Taiwan Chinese would disappear. The Taiwan Chinese and the Mainland Chinese have the same language, and have the culture of Confucianism. If two region could communicate with other rationally, it will not be difficult to understand each other. For example, Taiwan singer Jay Zhou is very popular in Mainland, and some Chinese TV programs are popular in Taiwan, too. These show that the people in the two region have a lot in common.

So there are three suggestions. The first is that the Chinese government should change the education in Taiwan. The education should be changed into using impartial sight to see the Mainland. At least they should create an environment free from discrimination. The second part is that the government should make some laws to punish whose media which make ridiculous fake news. This does

not mean that the media could only report the good news about China, but at least the report should base on the fact. And this would reduce the misunderstanding to China. The last suggestion is that the government should encourage the communication between Taiwan and the Mainland. For example, the government could make policies to reduce the travel cost from mainland to Taiwan, and also from Taiwan to mainland. Additionally, the government could reduce the taxes need for buying products during the traveling. This could make more people have the opportunities to go to the other region and contact with the local people. During this kind of trips, misunderstanding could be largely declined.

7. CONCLUSION

The results is that the attitude of Taiwan Chinese toward Mainland Chinese is responsible for the bad relationships between them. Taiwan Chinese hold a superior and negative attitude toward the Mainland Chinese and the adverse to the Chinese Government. To improve the relationship, both sides need to communicate rationally, instead of attacking each other from ideology. Mainland China and Taiwan would benefit each other in divergent fields, such as core plate production. This passage analyzes the attitude of the common people, and the data was collected from the Internet, so there has not many papers cited. In the future the culture and education difference would be vital, and thus could be further discussed.

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