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GRAND TOUR REPORT



Class:  **5D GROUP 2**



Members: Cowie Chan, Michelle Hui, Yanbie Lui,
Eunice Sze, Annie Law, Charles Lai, Michael Tse,
Yuko Po

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Chapter 1 - Introduction

Chinese always say “To the people, foodstuff is all-important” (民以食為先) and one of the most common friendly greetings among Chinese is “Have you eaten yet?” We are here to compare and contrast the differences in the street food culture between Taiwan and Hong Kong because they are both greatly influenced by Chinese culture and has colonial history, which shaped their distinctiveness. Food is one of the basic needs of human being and the study of food culture is an interesting topic in this grand tour project. Different cities and countries have their own “food culture”, which can reflect their ethnicity and even nationalism. Therefore, our project mainly studies about the differences in the street food culture between Taiwan and Hong Kong.

In Taiwan, the best-known snacks are present in the night market, where street vendors sell a variety of different foods, from local foods, drinks, sweets, to sit-down dishes. In these markets, one can also find fried and steamed meat-filled buns, oyster-filled omelet, refreshing fruit ices, Taiwanese meatball, and small sausage in large sausage and so on. These are some famous snacks in the night market.

The reason why Taiwan’s street food is well developed is because of the influences by their history background. Taiwan started from the Qing Dynasty, Han Chinese agricultural nation open immigration to her. Guangdong Qing Emperor Yongzheng (1720) reclaimed from the mountains in Fujian to Taiwan, in a very labor-intensive work, snack business person will be porter’s posture, pick all sorts of hot and cold snacks to the edge of the field, hillside supply reclamation edible.

Hong Kong was a place where large species of diversity in street food existed. Complex combinations and international gourmet expertise have given Hong Kong reputable labels of "Gourmet Paradise" and "World's Fair of Food". Hong Kong street food is characterized as the ready-to-eat snacks and drinks sold by hawkers or vendors at food stalls, including egg waffle, stinky tofu, fried chestnuts, imitation shark fin soup and so on.

The development of Hong Kong street food culture has a long history. Starting from the 19th century, Hong Kong has begun to have roadside stalls which are to take care of the required community of grassroots people. In 1950 to the early 1960s, the street food culture developed rapidly because it sells large species of diversity in snacks and the price is affordable. Therefore, it becomes attractive to the tourists and



the local people. However, due to the health problems, the roadside hawkers are gradually banished by the government. They decided to sell in legalized shops instead of the roadside stalls.

Our project will mainly compare and contrast about the differences in the street food culture between Taiwan and Hong Kong.



Chapter2 – Methodology

I) Choices of method

Questionnaire, photos, books and online research were used in this project with the aim of collecting more data and making a more detailed analysis for the topic.

Before the trip, we prepared a questionnaire to interview consumers at different night markets. Hence, we are able to understand and find out more about street food culture in Taiwan and Hong Kong. When we returned, we could analyze the data collected and made a conclusion on street food. The questionnaire was in Chinese version instead of English because Chinese was the mother tongue of Taiwanese. It made us easier collect data and work more efficiently.

Photos of street food and environment around night markets were taken when we visited. These photos could be used as the evidences and references for this project in order to show the diversity and hygiene of street food.

Books borrowed from library were used as a reference to make the findings more convincing. They also helped find out more background information about night markets in Kaohsiung.

Online research was used when there was unknown information. As there was unlimited resources and information on the Internet, online research helped find more on the project. It could be used as supplementary information when information could not be found on books.

II) Target groups

30 consumers at the night markets were selected randomly to ensure the result was fair. There was no specific target group of our project since people in different age groups had the chance of visiting night markets. Visitors from different countries could visit night markets freely.

All consumers could be one of the respondents because the aim of this project was to compare the differences of street food between Hong Kong and Tai Wan. Since some respondents had never visited Hong Kong, they could skip the questions related to Hong Kong street food.

III) Questionnaire

1. How old are you?
A. 18 or below B. 19-30 C. 31-50 D. 50 or above
2. Where do you come from?
A. Taiwan B. Hong Kong C. mainland D. Others
3. How many times have you been to Hong Kong?
A. 1-3 times B. 4-6 times C. 7 times or more D. 0 time (Please go to Q7)
4. Have you ever eaten street snacks in Hong Kong?
A. Yes B. No
5. In your opinion, which aspect is the most attractive for tourists?
A. Flavor B. Hygiene C. Uniqueness D. Price
6. Which street snacks do you prefer?
A. Hong Kong street snacks B. Taiwan street snacks
7. In your opinion, what is the fundamental factor of boosting economy of Taiwan?
A. Street snacks culture B. scenic spots C. further studies
8. What do Taiwan street foods have to improve?
A. Flavor B. category C. Hygiene D. Price
9. As you see, where do the consumers come from?
A. Taiwan B. Hong Kong C. western countries D. mainland
10. Will you visit Hong Kong?
A. Yes B. No

Chapter3 - Literature Review

People often tend to choose the food which was sold in local in the past, or which was close to their own culture. It based on people's backgrounds, traditions, living environments and the most important thing---creativity. This concept always appears in the research when talking about street food culture. Hong Kong and Taiwan were both famous on street food culture. These two places were very close to each other and both are located in coastal region.

Food culture can reflect the ethnicity and even nationalism of the place because in China, food is always putting in a major state. It can easily to notice by what the old generation always says "food is heaven". "People need to eat in order to live", these concepts was ingrained in our mind. Until now, according to the development, people own more, and then create more by making use of materials.

Hong Kong vs Taiwan

Why do Hong Kong and Taiwan street food attract us? It is simply because of they look similar, but totally different.

In Taiwan, night markets were everywhere, mainly opened at night. It is stated that there are about 15 Night Markets in Taiwan (Taiwan Night Market Snacks, 2009, P.7-12)'. They had a small scale and include so many kinds of street food. Every shop in Night Market is well connected. The whole night market is filling up by noise. There are around 100 shops in a night market. For example, oyster omelet(蚵仔煎), Tian bu la(甜不辣), flaky scallion pancake(鹽酥雞), etc. It is difficult to taste all the street food by one time, and different night market has their popular street food. At the same time, the food industry in Taiwan was on the track. (Street Food in Taiwan, 2007, P.7)

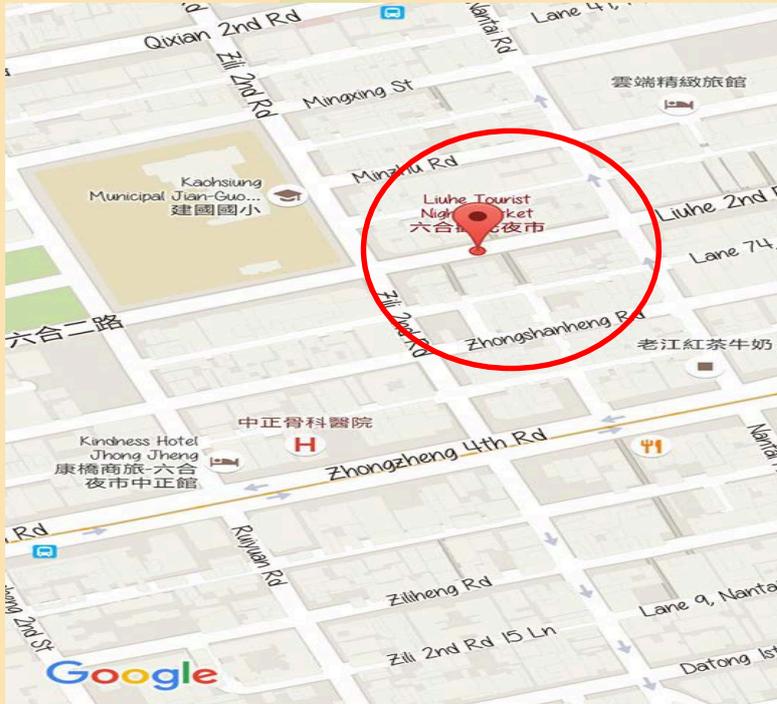
The title "Taiwan seeks recipe for success for its cuisine", was one of the different between Hong Kong and Taiwan. Since Taiwan did not have their unique flavors to its street food, therefore, by the creative of Taiwanese "Some of the food may have originated from China or been influenced by other countries, but it has been re-invented by the Taiwanese." It definitely proves that Taiwan is going to push it internationally (BBC News, 2015).

On the other hand, people usually enjoy their street food in the light time. Deep-fried pig intestine, smelly tofu, charcoal grilled squid and deep-fried fish were popular street food in Hong Kong (Great Taste of Hong Kong Street food, 2006, P.31). We can see many people stand in front of the shop waiting for their curry fish ball or offal. Strangely, we did not see oyster vermicelli and beef noodle in Hong Kong streets, beside the price, there is one thing that making Hong Kong and Taiwan street food culture becomes different. That is the living style. Hong Kong has a rapid rhythm, very busy and always working around the clock. In contrast, Taiwan has a “downshifting” life style. It is different from what Hong Kong people pursue----quick fix (BBC News, 2007). Therefore, it is seldom to see people who need to wait for a long time for buying street food. However, in Taiwan, people may have to wait at least 15-20 minutes for a cup of Takoyaki(章魚燒) or 5-10 minutes for having grilled squids. In Hong Kong, only need 5 minutes to buy and 10 minutes to eat. As a result, it makes a different street food culture between to places finally.

At the same time, Hong Kong’s street food was also on the track too. More and more people come to Hong Kong just because our street food. “The Michelin guide to street food has...delighted many food lovers in Hong Kong – particularly those fancying a comparatively cheaper bite than Michelin star-rated restaurants” (SCMP, 2016). It is the first time that Michelin Guide includes the Hong Kong street food. It shows that Hong Kong street food culture is becoming more well-known and international.

Chapter4 - Photographs Analysis

1) Kaohsiung, Taiwan



▲ Liuhe Tourist Night Market is located at the Liuhe 2nd Road, Kaohsiung. (From Google map)



▲ The one and only Liuhe Tourist Night Market, a popular and authentic local night market in Kaohsiung.



▲ A stall is making meat roll for visitors and customers immediately after they ordered. It is called “barbecue meat roll” and it is very popular in the night market as there are 3 or 4 stalls which are selling the same thing.



▲ The stall shown in the picture is selling deep-fry squid. The chef keeps deep-frying squids and those which are already done will be hung up in a long sharpened- stick in rows.





▲ This food stall sells many different foods such as beef roll, pork roll, squid etc. Most of them are grilled on a roaster.



▲ This stall sells deep-fry squid too but in a bigger size than the normal ones.





▲ This is the famous “Small sausage in big sausage” (大腸包小腸) and is well-known in the night market. It is in the “must buy list” of many tourists.

2) MongKok, Hong Kong



▲ Mongkok is one of the most popular landmarks for both Hong Kong citizens and visitors and its street food is well-known by the locals.

(From Goggle map)





▲ Egg puff is made of eggs and creams. It tastes sweet so it is very popular among both children and adults. It has many different flavors too such as chocolate, green tea.



▲ This food stall is very similar to those in Kaohsiung. They both sell seafood, beef and pork roll. However, stinky tofu is more popular in Hong Kong than in Taiwan.





▲ Imitation shark fin soup is also one of the favorite authentic foods of the locals in Hong Kong.

Summary:

From the above information and photos of Hong Kong and Taiwan's authentic street food, it shows some similarities and differences between these two cities. Taiwan's street food is more trends to have deep-frying food and most of them are seafood. On the other hand, most of the street food in Hong Kong is based on fish and beef. In addition, Taiwanese are very creative that they always combine or mix different foods into one and it turns out so delicious such as papaya milk and oyster omelet.



Chapter5 - Findings of the Interview

In order to find out the eating habits in Taiwan, our group had conducted a small survey on the street in both Taiwan and Hong Kong. A total number of 30 people have been interviewed. They are all mainly come from mainland China and local.

According to the survey result, the number of 5 people aged under 18 years old love Taiwan local snacks more than Hong Kong snacks because they are cheaper more delicious. Meanwhile, people aged above 18 years old think that there are more choices in Taiwan than in Hong Kong, however, the hygiene problem there is more serious than in Hong Kong.

Next, most of the interviewees think that most of the customers in the Taiwan night market are from mainland China and follow up by local and foreigners. Also, most of the interviewees think that snack culture in Taiwan is the most important factor to boost up Taiwan's economy.

About the survey conducted in Taiwan, people are more likely to eat Hong Kong street food, because the hygiene problem is better in Hong Kong.

To sum up, although people think that Hong Kong's street food are healthier than in Taiwan, more people prefer to eat in Taiwan but not in Hong Kong. It is because there is less choice and the dishes are very common in Hong Kong. Also, it shows that the Taiwan food culture is better than in Hong Kong in attracting tourists.

Base on the survey result, it is clearly shown that Hong Kong food culture is not as good as in Taiwan. Hong Kong government can do more promotion about our local culture. On the other hand, citizens can also think of new types of food in order to attract tourists. Also, promotion around the world is very important. It lets people know more about Hong Kong's special street food. By doing these, the Hong Kong food culture can be widely spread around the world and become more and more popular. It will also boost Hong Kong's economy.

Chapter6 - Conclusion

To conclude, there are clear similarities and differences between the food culture in Taiwan and Hong Kong. For the similarities, they both influence by history. For example, Hong Kong's milk tea and Taiwan's bubble tea. The milk tea is the mixed culture of Britain and China.

For the differences, the street food culture in Taiwan is more attractive than in Hong Kong. There are many night markets for people to taste the street food in one fixed location and it is large scale for selling different kinds of street food. These foods are cheaper and unique as the Taiwanese create its own Taiwanese color. Compare to Hong Kong, there is a downshifting lifestyle. Therefore, the shop owners pursue the taste of the food than the profits or the shorter producing time.

However, the Cantonese food is more hygienic and healthier than Taiwan. This is because the food shops in Taiwan usually located at roadside. And the food will be easily polluted by the pollutants. Also, the Hong Kong snacks contain vegetables and the cooking method of snacks is not deep-frying so the Hong Kong snacks are healthier than those in Taiwan.

There are many food stalls in night markets in Taiwan and there are less food stalls in Hong Kong nowadays. Most of the Hong Kong's shop owners have changed their business model into stores instead of stalls since 2003. And these shop owners have to face many problems. They needed to maintain the cheap price to attract more people while they need to afford the high rent. These problems make Hong Kong food culture out of the track and it is one of the reasons that Hong Kong food culture cannot boost Hong Kong's economy.

In order to maintain the competitiveness of Hong Kong local street food culture, the government should do more promotion base on it. Also, the government should give subsidies to the shop owners or cool down the market for the shop owners in order to create more unique street food. The citizens can retain our local street food culture by reflecting our opinions to the government or showing our support to the snacks shop owners.

Chapter7 - Reflections

17th March DAY1 – KAOHSIUNG

It was a special feeling that we had a grand tour with our lovely classmates. We went to Taiwan Kaohsiung for 5 days trip. It was a great experience for us.

After we landed Kaohsiung, we went to a nature conservation park-Tianliao Moon World Landform Park. It is famous for its world-renowned mudstone badlands. As we are all geography students, we got to know about many types of rock and we were amazed by the power of the Mother Nature. Those rocks are so unique that cannot be found in Hong Kong. Also, we walked up stairs and overlooked the whole park too.



18th March DAY2 - KAOHSIUNG

We visited our sister school which was I-Shou International School, an IB in Kaohsiung today. These schools are fabulous and we love them so much.

After a day of visiting the secondary school in Kaohsiung, we figured out something that is different from Hong Kong. In Taiwan, the education system is a lot like the American's as the lessons are both free for students. Students can bring their



laptops and use them during the lesson since the teachers believe that students can use Internet to check for anything which they don't understand and it can broaden their horizons. The relationship between students and teachers were really close. They just acted like friends. All in all, it was an unforgettable experience that we could have some lessons there.

19th March DAY3 - KENTING

We went to Kenting on 19th March. We visited the marine museum. It is something like the Ocean Park in Hong Kong. There are many different types of exhibitions and we learnt a lot about the marine ecosystem, which is really helpful as we are studying the ecosystem right now during our geography lessons. Also, we visited the Meinung Folk Village. There were so many interesting products like the tiny umbrella and samurai sword.



20th March DAY5 - KAOHSIUNG

We returned to Kaohsiung again, after staying for one day in Kenting. We went to the E-Da Theme Park! We spent the whole day there and of course we played a lot of games there, which were really awesome! Although it was not as big as Ocean Park, the rides were extremely excited than Hong Kong's one. It divided into different parts which were Acropolis, Santorini and Trojan Castle. We ran to the rides one by one, and challenge ourselves to play the extremely scary ride. Our bodies were flipped, we screamed and shouted. Although our voices had been hoarded, this was the best memory we have ever made!



21st March DAY5 - KAOHSIUNG

It was the last day that we stayed in Kaohsiung. Our last destination was the Confucian temple and Anting Tree House. It is a house inside an enormous tree. There was very silent and let me felt peaceful. A large scale of grass land and Chinese style buildings,



all of these made me wanted to sit down and read. We walked on the lane and soaked up the reading atmosphere. Finally, we got to the airport. We all wanted to stay in there, however, we couldn't. We're all sad that this tour is ending, but we're really happy because of what it was.



Chapter 8 – Appendix

Questionnaire

1. How old are you?
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2. Where do you come from?
A. Taiwan B. Hong Kong C. mainland D. Other
3. How many times have you been to Hong Kong?
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A. Yes B. No

Chapter9 - Bibliography

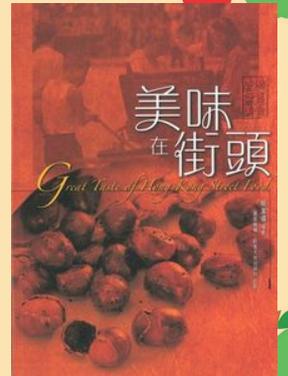
There are more references for our topic. There are three books that concerning about the street food in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

1. Great Taste of Hong Kong Street Food

Author: Kitty Choi (from Hong Kong)

Publisher: Food Paradise Publishing Co., an imprint of Wan Li Book Co Ltd

Year of publishing: 2006

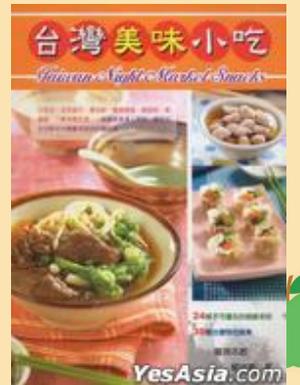


2. Taiwan Night Market Snacks

Author: Yang Shu-Yen (from Taiwan)

Publisher: Novum Organum Publishing House Pte Ltd

Year of publishing: 2009



3. Street Food in Taiwan

Author: Yang Shu-Yen (from Taiwan)

Publisher: Food Paradise Publishing Co., an imprint of Wan Li Book C., Ltd

Year of publishing: 2007

