

**EXPLORING THE GENDER-STEREOTYPES IN MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS CHOICE AMONG CHINESE
UNDERGRADUATES**

ZHUANG CHUN MEI

**SUBMISSION OF RESEARCH REPORT FOR THE FULFILLMENT
OF THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ART**

**THE CULTURAL CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA
KUALA LUMPUR**

2015

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate whether gender-stereotypes with musical instruments exist in China and to explore the reasons for instrument choice. Survey one was designed to measure subjects' perceived gender associations of 10 Western orchestra instruments and 7 Chinese traditional musical instruments. Subjects were 194 college level undergraduates from LinYi University, China. They were asked to indicate the perceived degree of each instrument from very masculine to very feminine on a 5-point scale. The result showed the gender-stereotypes towards musical instruments also existed among the Chinese undergraduates. The rank order of the 10 Western orchestra instruments from masculine to feminine was Trombone, Trumpet, Saxophone, Drum, Clarinet, Guitar, Cello, Piano, Flute and Violin in this study. To compare with the previous related Western studies, the Clarinet was perceived as more masculine and the Drum was perceived as more neutral in this study. In addition, the degree of instrument-gender stereotyping was lessened, this may be due to the homogeneous society of China, or introverted character of Chinese. The rank order of the 7 Chinese traditional musical instruments from masculine to feminine was Suona, Xiao, Dizi, Erhu, Guqin, Guzheng, and Pipa.

Survey two aimed to explore the reasons that influence participants' choice of musical instruments. 51 subjects were recruited from the LinYi University Students' Folk String and Wind Orchestra. Survey two listed 15 reasons for the instrument choice,

subjects were asked to rate each item on a 5-point Likert scale from “not influential” to “very influential.” The results showed the most influential reason was the “I liked the sound of the instrument.” While the “The instrument was inexpensive to buy or rent.” item had almost no influence. Several reasons that were not previously identified were revealed in the open-ended responses.

ABSTRAK

Tujuan kajian ini adalah untuk menyiasat sama ada gender stereotaip dengan alat muzik yang wujud di China dan meneroka sebab-sebab bagi pilihan instrumen. Survey Satu telah dibentuk untuk mengukur identifikasi jantina, subjek dilihat sebanyak 10 instrumen orkestra Barat dan 7 alat muzik tradisional Cina. Subjek adalah 194 pelajar peringkat kolej dari Linyi University, China. Mereka telah diminta untuk menunjukkan tahap yang dilihat setiap surat cara dari yang sangat maskulin untuk sangat feminin pada skala 5-point. Hasilnya menunjukkan gender stereotaip terhadap alat-alat muzik juga wujud di kalangan pelajar Cina. Perintah pangkat daripada 10 instrumen orkestra Barat dari lelaki kepada perempuan adalah Trombon, Trumpet, Saxophone, Drum, Klarinet, Guitar, Cello, Piano, Violin, dan Seruling dalam kajian ini. Untuk membandingkan dengan sebelumnya kajian yang berkaitan dengan Barat, klarinet itu dilihat sebagai lebih maskulin dan Gendang telah dilihat sebagai lebih neutral dalam kajian ini. Di samping itu, tahap stereotaip alat jantina telah berkurangan, ini mungkin disebabkan oleh masyarakat homogen China, atau watak pendiam Cina. Perintah pangkat 7 alat muzik tradisional Cina dari lelaki kepada perempuan adalah Suona, Xiao, Dizi, erhu, Guqin, Guzheng dan Pipa.

Survey dua bertujuan untuk meneroka sebab-sebab yang mempengaruhi pilihan peserta alat muzik. 51 responden yang telah diambil dari Orkestra Rakyat Universiti Linyi Pelajar dan Wind Orchestra. Survey dua disenaraikan 15 sebab-sebab untuk pilihan cara

itu, subjek diminta untuk menilai setiap perkara pada skala Likert 5-mata daripada "tidak berpengaruh" kepada "sangat berpengaruh." Keputusan menunjukkan sebab yang paling berpengaruh adalah "saya suka bunyicara itu". Sementara "instrumen itu murah untuk membeli atau menyewa" hampir tiada pengaruh. Beberapa sebab-sebab yang tidak dikenal pasti sebelum ini telah dinyatakan di dalam jawapan 'open-ended'.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am indebted to Dr. Pan Kok Chang for his guidance and assistance throughout my pursuit of this degree. I am very grateful for his encouragement in this process. As research director, his careful editing, input, and insight have been crucial to the completion and success of this document, and I appreciate everything he has contributed. I am very grateful to my friend Wang Bing Lin for his assistance in helping me to analyze the databases. I am particularly grateful to my family for their support and encouragement throughout my studies. My mother, Lu Rui Xiang, my father, Zhuang Shou De, and my husband, Dong Jin Liang, have especially provided loving encouragement to me every step of the way. I dedicate this document to them.

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