



## CHAPTER V

## SUMMARY

Although the Chinese have been thought to be the least easily assimilable of immigrant people, it has been found that, to the contrary, a great number of them have been absorbed into Thai society to a certain degree. However it is still conjectural whether this behavioural and cultural assimilation is genuine or just done for "convenience". The answer to this problem was sought by finding out to what extent the criteria of genuine assimilation corresponded with the psychological identification of the Chinese with their host society.

In the past it has been almost impossible to ascertain the true self identification of the Overseas Chinese in Thailand. This uncertainty has given rise to considerable Thai doubts as to their loyalty to Thailand. So this study attempts to assess the psychological identity of the Second Generation Chinese residents, to see whether they think of themselves as Thai or Chinese. To this end the reference group theory was used. This suggests that immigrants tend to adopt the norms and values of their host society provided it has an open structure and a high rate of social mobility. From a sociologist's point of view, Thailand appears to have just these features. There is a "loosely structured social system" and considerable possibilities for changing one's social position.

The Chinese in Thailand were found to have no problems entering Thai society provided they accepted Thai cultural

behaviour.

Moreover, those who adopted Thai culture are accepted into Thai society. Once a Chinese has entered Thai society he is more likely to identify with Thai society. This is based upon Milton's theory which suggests that once the structural assimilation (entrance into institutions of the host society) occurs, identification assimilation will naturally follow.

This led to the hypothesis that the Chinese who adopted Thai culture will also identify with Thai society.

To test this hypothesis scales which could measure cultural behaviour and psychological identification were developed. The Cultural Scale was constructed to measure the degree of the Chineseness of the subjects. On it the subjects were grouped into four categories namely the "Chinese", the "Sino-Thai", the "high-Thai culture Sino-Thai", and the "Thai".

To measure the self-identification of the subjects, a standardized modified Bogardus Social Distance Scale was constructed. Six descriptions of hypothetical Thai and Chinese were used as stimulus persons. A low social distance expressed by a subject towards any group was taken as evidence for his identification with that group. The subjects were made up of 71 ethnic Chinese and 73 ethnic Thai secondary school students.

#### The results

The results in general tend to support the hypothesis. That is the ethnic Chinese who adopt Thai culture also tend to

show less social distance towards the Thai than towards the Chinese.

Among the results, the following are most significant findings in this study.

1. The "Extreme Chinese" were accepted most by the "Chinese" while the "Extreme Thai" was most rejected by the "Thai".

2. Whereas the differences in Social Distance scores given "The Extreme Chinese" and the "Chinese" by the other groups were found to be similar, the differences between the "Extreme Thai" and the "Thai" were significantly different.

3. The "high Thai culture Sino-Thai" were rejected by all subject groups especially the "Sino-Thai" and the "Chinese". However, for the "Thai", this group is the most acceptable of all the ethnic Chinese.

4. The acceptance of the "Sino-Thai" by the "high Thai culture Sino-Thai" was not reciprocated but rejected strongly.

5. The "Sino-Thai" did not show any strong attachment to nor receiving any strong acceptance by any groups.

Recommendation for further research:

The above results raised many questions which the author think deserve to be examined.

1. Do the Chinese have stronger attachment to their society than the Thais are to theirs?

2. What are the reasons for the "Thai"s rejection of the "Extreme Thai"?

3. Is it true that the "high-Thai culture Sino-Thai" were rejected by the "Chinese" and the "Sino-Thai" because they were perceived by both groups as turncoats?

4. Does the Chinese assimilation occurs at a cost of mentally sufferings for the Chinese? and to what extent?

5. What is the real identity of the "Sino-Thai"?

## APPENDIX A

## THE CULTURAL SCALE

1. I play games with my friends.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

2.\*I worship at my Chinese ancestor shrine at home.

- a. every day
- b. twice a month
- c. only important festivals
- d. rarely
- e. never

3. I like Western food.

- a. very strongly
- b. strongly
- c. indifferent
- d. dislike
- e. dislike very much

4. I speak Thai to my siblings.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never



5. I will get married in Chinese style.

- a. definitely
- b. probably
- c. may be
- d. probably not
- e. definitely not

6. I like Thai food.

- a. very strongly
- b. strongly
- c. indifferent
- d. dislike
- e. dislike very much

7. I seek out entertainment by going to Thai movies, listen to Thai songs.

- a. at every possible opportunity
- b. almost every possible opportunity
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

8. I like Japanese car.

- a. very strongly
- b. strongly
- c. indifferent
- d. dislike
- e. dislike very much

9. I worship at Budha image (shrine) at home.
- a. every day
  - b. every Wan phra
  - c. sometimes
  - d. rarely
  - e. never
10. I help my parents work at home.
- a. every day
  - b. almost every day
  - c. sometimes
  - d. rarely
  - e. never
11. I seek out entertainment by going to Chinese movies, listen to Chinese song.
- a. at every possible opportunity
  - b. at almost possible opportunity
  - c. sometimes
  - d. rarely
  - e. never
12. I speak Thai with my parents.
- a. every day
  - b. almost every day
  - c. sometimes
  - d. rarely
  - e. never
13. I listen to Elvis Presley's songs.
- a. every day

- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

14. I dress in Chinese style at home.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

15. I read Thai.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

16. I speak French with my friends.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

17. I like American car.

- a. very strongly
- b. strongly
- c. indifferent
- d. dislike
- e. dislike very much



18. I speak English to my parents.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

19. When I die, I want Thai funeral.

- a. very strongly
- b. strongly
- c. indifferent
- d. donnot want
- e. do not want at all

20. I speak Thai with my friends.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

21. I watch T.V.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

22. I play with my siblings.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

23. I speak Chinese to my parents.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

26. I speak English to my friends.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

27. I want a Chinese funeral, when I die.

- a. very strongly
- b. strongly
- c. indifferent
- d. do not want
- e. do not want at all

28. I listen to the Beatles.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

29. I like Chinese food.

- a. very strongly
- b. strongly
- c. indifferent
- d. do not want
- e. do not want at all

30. I dress in Thai style at home.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. **never**



\*  
31. I speak Chinese to my siblings.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

32. I worship at Christian church.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

33. I listen to Thai news from radio.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

34. I write English.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

35. I speak English to my siblings.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

36. I write Thai.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

37. I want a Christian funeral, when I die.

- a. very strongly
- b. strongly
- c. indifferent
- d. dislike
- e. dislike very much

38. I speak Chinese to my friends.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

39. I like German car

- a. very strongly
- b. strongly
- c. indifferent
- d. dislike
- e. dislike very much

40. I will get married Islamic style.

- a. definitely
- b. probably
- c. may be
- d. probably not
- e. definitely not

41. I read English

- a. every day
- b. almost everyday

- c. sometimes
  - d. rarely
  - e. never
42. I will get married Christian style.
- a. definitely
  - b. probably
  - c. may be
  - d. Probably not
  - e. definitely not
43. I write Chinese.
- a. every day
  - b. almost everyday *day*
  - c. sometimes
  - d. rarely
  - e. never
44. I seek out entertainment by going to Western movies, listen to Western song.
- a. at every possible opportunity
  - b. almost at every possible opportunity
  - c. sometimes
  - d. rarely
  - e. never
45. I listen to English news from radio.
- a. every day
  - b. almost everyday *day*
  - c. sometimes
  - d. rarely
  - e. never



46. I read Chinese.
- a. every day
  - b. almost everyday *day*
  - c. sometimes
  - d. rarely
  - e. never
47. I write French.
- a. every day
  - b. almost every day
  - c. sometimes
  - d. rarely
  - e. never
48. I listen to Sawalee (a Thai singer).
- a. every day
  - b. almost every day
  - c. sometimes
  - d. rarely
  - e. never
49. I dress in Western style.
- a. every day
  - b. almost every day
  - c. sometimes
  - d. rarely
  - e. never

50. I listen to Chinese radio news.

- a. every day
- b. almost every day
- c. sometimes
- d. rarely
- e. never

-----

\* These are items which are scored as Chinese cultural behavior.

APPENDIX B  
THE SOCIAL DISTANCE SCALE

Statements	Scale Point Value
1. I would marry this person.	0.
2. I would accept this person as an intimate friend.	8.1
3. I would treat this person as if he were my friend or relative.	13.1
4. I would respect this person.	14.4
5. I would invite this person to eat at my house.	17.5
6. I would trust this person.	18.5
7. I would accept this person as a close kin by marriage.	20.8
8. I might fall in love with this person.	23.1
9. I would try to get to know this person.	25.1
10. I would co-operate with this person in business.	32.3
11. I would accept this person as a speaking acquaintance.	37.1
12. I would be indifferent to this person.	58.7
13. I would make friends with this person only if it were beneficial for me.	59.4
14. I would talk to this person only to be polite (to keep social manners).	70.0
15. I want this person to go back to his own country.	73.1
16. I would not allow this person to attend my school.	78.1
17. I would despise this person.	82.7

Statements	Scale Point value
18. I would prohibit this person from owning property.	84.9
19. I would be glad to participate in lynching this person.	91.9
20. I would exterminate this person.	100.0

APPENDIX C  
SUBJECT CHARACTERISTICS

TABLE A  
ETHNIC NAME AND SEX OF THE SUBJECTS

Ethnic	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Chinese	31	40	71
Thai	38	35	73
Total	69	75	144

There are 71 ethnic Chinese subjects, 31 males and 40 females.  
Among 73 Thai subjects 38 are males and 35 are females.

TABLE B  
 LEVEL OF FATHERS' EDUCATION OF  
 CHINESE AND THAI SUBJECTS

Level of Father's education	Thai	%	Chinese	%	N
No formal education	2	2.8	14	19.6	16
Primary education	18	25.2	20	28.0	38
Secondary education	27	37.8	13	4.2	30
Technical or professional school education	8	11.2	12	2.8	10
Colleges and University education	5	7.0	-	-	5
University abroad education	-	-	4	5.6	4
No answer	13	18.0	28	39.2	41
Total	73	100	71	100	144

As seen in Table B the average Thai subjects' fathers tend to have primary and, secondary education (63%) while the Chinese subjects' fathers tend to have primary or no formal education (47.6%)



TABLE C  
 FAMILY INCOME PER MONTH OF THE CHINESE  
 AND THAI SUBJECTS

Family income per month	Thai	%	Chinese	%	N
Less than 500 baht	7	9.8	9	12.6	16
About 1,000 baht	22	40.8	15	20.0	37
About 2,000 baht	23	32.2	10	14.0	33
About 3,000 baht	9	12.6	9	12.6	18
About 4,000 baht	5	7.0	5	7.0	10
About 5,000 baht	-	-	2	2.8	2
About 6,000 baht	1	1.4	1	1.4	2
About 7,000 baht to 10,000 baht	2	2.7	4	5.6	6
More than 10,000 baht	-	-	2	2.8	2
No answer	4	5.5	14	19.6	18
Total	73		71		144
Mean	2,108.7		2,798.3		
Median	2,000		2,000		

The mean income of the Thai families is 2,108.7 baht and of the Chinese families is 2,798.3 baht. However, the median income of both groups falls into the 2,000 baht category. The income of Chinese families seems to be more disperse than the Thai. There are more extremely rich and poor Chinese families than Thai.

TABLE D  
PARENTAL BIRTH PLACE OF THE CHINESE SUBJECTS

Parents' birth place	Father	%	Mother	%	N
Thailand	7	9.8	20	2.8	27
China	64	90.2	48	67.2	112
No answer	-		3	4.8	3
Total	71	100	71	100	142

The majority of both parents of the Chinese subjects were born in China (90% of the fathers and 67.2% of the mothers).

Only 9.8% of the father were born in Thailand. There were more Thai born mothers than fathers, but the majority of the mothers were also born in China.