

Review of Bachelor Thesis

Author: **Nguyen Thi Van Anh**

Title: **Vietnamese Women in Korean Families: The clash between two Confucian - dominated cultures**

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The presented thesis is the first Bachelor Thesis completed within the English study programme of Transcultural Communication. It is a promising start of a project that still suffers from growing pains, documented also in the thesis of Van Anh Thi Nguyen, a diligent and hardworking student from Vietnam. The student chose a topic dealing with cultural issues in her region of origin and that she felt passionate about. The flow during the writing period was somewhat discontinuous, with an intense phase during the last two months before the deadline. Given my longterm absence and impossibility of face-to-face consultations, I highly value the student's ability to work independently and develop a meaningful structure of her paper. As said above, the weakest point of the thesis is the vague anchoring of the explanation lense in the overarching concept of transcultural communication; the expression is just hinted in the first paragraphs in the Introduction, without developing a robust argument how the thesis reflects transculturality, including the very understanding of the term, far too often being confused with multi-, inter- and crossculturality.

The thesis discusses a recent phenomenon in South Korea, where the male population, especially in rural areas but recently also in towns, is struggling with insufficient availability of potential spouses. The student explains the history and causes of the current situation and describes how the shortage is being solved with importing Vietnamese wives to the country. She analyses the status of these women and the various drivers standing behind their motivation to get involved in the venture. In the most deeply elaborated chapter of the thesis, the student unveils cultural, political and religious roots of different gender roles and family values in Vietnam and South Korea. She identifies the clashes and shows how and why they lead to paradoxical outcomes little beneficial to the Vietnamese immigrants.

The thesis is satisfactory when it comes to language, formal requirements, literature review and analysis. There was no empirical research carried on for the purpose of the thesis, but that is not necessary at this stage. No Vietnamese academic writings are included among the sources. Is that because there is no literature on the issue in Vietnamese, or has the student decided not to included it, and if so, why?

Questions suggested for the discussion: Which measures could improve the situation of Vietnamese spouses „imported“ to South Korea? Can the initial assumptions and expectations of the Korean men and Vietnamese women, and also their families, be harmonised prior to the marriage? How does the student see the future of Korean-Vietnamese marriages?

In Longyearbyen, 16 December 2019



Mgr. Zdenka Sokolíčková, Ph.D. M.A.