

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE: A COMPARISON BETWEEN
CHINESE STUDENTS AND AMERICAN STUDENTS

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

From birth to death, the crucial stages of the life cycle are childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age.¹ Old age is considered to start at about sixty-five.² It is the last stage of the life cycle. At this stage, the physical abilities of individuals become increasingly limited. Mental capacities may decline and individuals again become more or less dependent upon others for the provision of essential needs.³ Also, some social and psychological adjustments are required as the occupational role gives way to one of leisure-in-retirement; as the combined roles of spouse-and-parent shift, after children leave home, to the role of spouse without parental responsibilities, and later perhaps to widowhood; as

¹Rose Laub Coser, ed., Life Cycle and Achievement in America (New York: Harper and Row, 1969), p. vii.

²Theodore Lidz, The Person: His Development throughout the Life Cycle (New York: Basic Books, Inc., 1968), p. 476.

³Ibid., p. 76.

relationships to descendant kin proliferate to grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and numerous in-laws; and as preparation is made for ultimate death.¹

Charles Horton Cooley said the attitudes and behaviors of others toward a person serve as a mirror in which the individual sees himself and to a large extent this mirror determines the image a person forms of himself which, in turn, strongly influences his behavior.² In other words, old people not only are sensitive to the attitudes of others, but also they respond to these attitudes by sometimes rather subtle alterations in their own attitudes and behavior. In order to help old people to have better adjustments, it is very important to know the attitudes toward old people.

Survey of Past Research

A series of studies investigating the attitudes of different age groups toward old people has been made.

¹Matilda White Riley Et al., "Socialization for the Middle and Later Years," in David A. Goslin (ed.), Handbook of Socialization Theory and Research (Chicago: Rand McNally and Company, 1969), p. 951.

²Erdman Palmore, "Sociological Aspects of Aging," in Ewald W. Busse and Eric Pfeiffer (ed.), Behavior and Adaptation in Late Life (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1969), p. 34.

The most extensive research efforts in the study of attitudes toward old people have come from Tuckman and Lorge, who investigated the attitudes of a young adult group of graduate students toward old age as measured by a questionnaire consisting of misconceptions and stereotypes about old people. Their fundamental hypothesis was that in the culture of the United States with its emphasis on youth and speed, old people are expected to play a decreasingly active role in social and industrial life. These cultural expectations encourage the formation of misconceptions and stereotypes about old age.¹ The responses indicated that graduate students looked upon old age as a period of life characterized by economic insecurity, poor health, loneliness, failing physical and mental powers, and resistance to change.² These findings would suggest that old people are living in a social climate which is not conducive to feelings of adequacy, usefulness, security and to good adjustment in their later years.³

¹Jacob Tuckman and Irving Lorge, "Attitudes toward Old People," Journal of Social Psychology, Vol. 37 (1953), p. 249.

²Ibid., p. 260.

³Ibid.

Another article of Tuckman, Lorge and Spooner, "The Effect of Family Environment on Attitudes toward Old People and the Older Worker," is concerned with the relationship between the beliefs of parents and those of their children toward old people and the older worker. This study of individuals within a family unit confirms previous findings that there is substantial acceptance of the cultural stereotypes about aging and indicates that the home environment contributes considerably to the similarity in attitudes between parents and between parents and their children.¹

In another study of Tuckman and Lorge, "The Influence of a Course in the Psychology of the Adult on Attitudes toward Old People and Older Workers", the responses of 124 graduate students about old people and the older worker were measured both before and after instruction.² The findings indicated that the course on the psychology of the adult had little effect on the attitudes of these graduate students and they subscribed

¹Jacob Tuckman, Irving Lorge and George A. Spooner, "The Effect of Family Environment on Attitudes toward Old People and the Older Worker," Journal of Social Psychology, Vol. 38 (1953), p. 211.

²Jacob Tuckman and Irving Lorge, "The Influence of Changed Directions on Stereotypes about Ageing; before and after Instruction," Educational and Psychological Measurement, Vol. 14 (1954), pp. 128-129.

substantially to the misconceptions and stereotypes about old people and the older worker.¹

Lane, who used a modified form of the Tuckman-Lorge questionnaire on a sample of 400 high school and college students, found that attitudes were generally favorable although relatively few perceived the aged in such a way as to imply very favorable attitudes. On the other hand, none of the subjects had attitude scores in the very unfavorable category. The implication of this apparent neutralism of youth toward the elderly is that aged persons in association with youth may be existing in a climate of tolerance rather than in one of acceptance and responsiveness.²

Hickey and Kalish in their article "Young People's Perceptions of Adults" indicated that Tuckman, Lorge, and Abrams have studied the role concepts in a broad survey of junior and senior high school students. Tuckman, Lorge, and Abrams found that the high school students looked upon adolescence as a period of activity and new experiences, while the 20's were viewed as a period of establishment,

¹Jacob Tuckman and Irving Lorge, "The Effect of Institutionalization on Attitudes toward Old People," Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology, Vol. 47 (April, 1952), p. 337.

²Betty Lane, "Attitudes of Youth toward the Aged," Journal of Marriage and the Family, Vol. 26 (May, 1964), p. 230.

adjustment, and goal orientation, and still a certain amount of movement and activity. The 60's and 70's, on the other hand, were considered to be a period of inactivity, lack of interests, and complete loss of adult roles. Even though this study shows youth to have a clearer concept of the roles of old age than was shown in the Lane study, there is still evidence that the common stereotypes and misconceptions have already begun to affect the attitudes of adolescents toward the aged.¹

A similar study, by Kastenbaum and Durkee, investigated the attitudes of different groups of adolescents and young adults by use of the Age-Appropriate Attitudes Technique. Young people had a predominantly negative appraisal of older people and tended to omit any consideration of the later years of their own lives. Old age appeared risky, unpleasant, and without significant positive values. The now-orientation of youth tended to block any extension of themselves into the period of old age.²

¹Tom Hickey and Richard A. Kalish, "Young People's Perceptions of Adults," Journal of Gerontology, Vol. 23 (April, 1968), p. 215.

²Robert Kastenbaum and Nanay Durkee, "Young People View Old Age," in Robert Kastenbaum (ed.), New Thoughts on Old Age (New York: Springer Publishing Company, Inc., 1964), pp. 237-248.

An exploratory study was conducted by Hickey, Hickey, and Kalish to investigate the reactions of children toward the elderly. Over 200 third graders wrote brief paragraphs on their feelings and thoughts about old people. A response was considered anything that the child noted as characteristic of an old person qua old. There was no limit to the number of possible responses on any one paper. From this study it was evident that old people were perceived as being either very nice to children or quite mean and unkind. Old people were also seen as very lonely, bored, inactive, and possessed of much leisure time.¹

Nathan Kogan's study of students of two universities shows unfavorable attitudes toward old people which were associated with feelings of anomie, and with negative dispositions toward ethnic minorities and toward a variety of physically disabled groups.²

Kastenbaum and Durkee reported the findings of investigation by Calhoun and Gottesman. The conclusions

¹Tom Hickey, Louise A. Hickey and Richard A. Kalish, "Children's Perceptions of the Elderly," The Journal of Genetic Psychology, Vol. 112 (June, 1968), pp. 227-234.

²Nathan Kogan, "Attitudes toward Old People: The Development of a Scale and an Examination of Correlates," Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology, Vol. 62 (January, 1961), p. 54.

of Calhoun and Gottesman were that "...there is compelling reason to believe...that a stereotype of old age as a period of physical, social, and emotional decline is commonly held in this culture."¹ Old people were seen most negatively with regard to their energy, health, activity, strength, attractiveness, popularity, happiness, tempo of behavior and social desirability. On a more positive note, they were regarded as "wise" and "kind."²

In Drake's study, a shorter list of erroneous and stereotyped statements was used to determine whether the attitudes which college students hold toward older people were influenced by frequency of contact, physical closeness of contact, and intimacy of contact between themselves and older people. On the basis of the information gathered by this study it was concluded that, in terms of living arrangements, intimacy, and frequency of close contact of the sample of college students tested, the opinions held toward older people did not vary to any statistically significant degree.³

¹Kastenbaum and Durkee, op. cit., p. 240.

²Ibid.

³Joseph T. Drake, The Aged in American Society (New York: The Ronald Press Company, 1958), p. 383.

Do old people really constitute a social minority in American society? Milton L. Barron believes that, as a category, old people possess some of the characteristics of a social minority just as woman, as a category, do.¹ Barron stressed some of the similarities between the position of the old people and of ethnic, racial, and religious minorities on the American scene. In particular, Barron referred to the stereotyping of old people by other age groups and the discrimination against older people in employment and other areas of life.² Drake pointed to some of the major differences between the status of old people and that of the traditional minorities in the United States. These differences stem from the fact that the old people do not constitute an independently functioning subgroup with a unique history, language, and culture. With these considerations in mind, Drake suggests that old people be designated a "quasi-minority".³

These studies have demonstrated that American society in general stereotypes old people with largely negative images.

¹Milton L. Barron, "Minority Group Characteristics of the Aged in American Society," Journal of Gerontology, Vol. 8 (October, 1953), p. 481.

²Ibid., pp. 477-481.

³Drake, op. cit., pp. 386-388.

Statement of the Problem and
Purpose of the Study

The United States is a highly industrial country. The society of an industrial country tends to be minutely specialized, excruciatingly impersonal in interpersonal relationships, completely utilitarian and bluntly realistic.¹ Competitive achievement and future orientation are also emphasized by this type of society. China, on the other hand, is a developing country. Because Confucianist philosophy and filial piety are chief commandments in Chinese culture, society has long given high status to old people.² As a consequence, in Chinese society, old age is the most important part of life and everyone aspires to it.³ The purpose of the study is to compare attitudes toward old people among American students and Chinese students in the United States.

¹Ferdinand Tonnies, Gemeinschaft und Gesellschaft, Trans. and ed. by Charles P. Loomis (Michigan: The Michigan State University Press, 1957), pp. 66-67.

²Marshall B. Clinard, Sociology of Deviant Behavior, 3rd edition; (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1968), p. 573.

³Drake, op. cit., p. 8.

Selection of the Sample

Data to examine the hypotheses were collected by means of a structured questionnaire. All of the Chinese students enrolled in the Spring Semester, 1973, at Texas Woman's University and North Texas State University, Denton, Texas; East Texas State University, Commerce, Texas; and at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, served as respondents of the study. The number of American students in each university for the study consisted of the same as the number of Chinese students in that university. One of the sections of American Government class in each university was used to draw this sample.

The Hypotheses of the Study

The following are the hypotheses to be examined in the study.

1. The Chinese students are more likely to have positive attitudes toward old people than are the American students.
2. For the Chinese students, the longer their stay in the United States, the less likely they are to have positive attitudes toward old people.
3. There is some association between age of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between

age and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

4. There is some association between sex of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between sex and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

5. There is some association between type of university the student is attending and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between type of university and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

6. There is some association between classification of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between classification and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

7. There is some association between marital status of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between marital status and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

8. There is some association between religious preference of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between religious preference and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

Variables

The independent variables which were used in the present study were the following: nationality of student, the length of residence in the United States, age of student, sex of student, type of university the student is attending, academic classification of the student, marital status of student, and religious preference of student.

The dependent variable which was selected for use was attitudes toward old people.

The Pretest

The questionnaire was constructed by the writer using the models of the Tuckman-Lorge Questionnaire¹ and the Kogan Questionnaire.² It contained questions in two areas. The first part included the general information

¹Seymour Axelrod and Carl Eisdorfer, "Attitudes toward Old People: An Empirical Analysis of the Stimulus-Group Validity of the Tuckman-Lorge Questionnaire," Journal of Gerontology, Vol. 16 (January, 1961), pp. 77-79.

²Kogan, op. cit., p. 46-47.

about the respondents. The second portion was composed of attitude statements. In order to aid in selecting questions for a final questionnaire, a pretest was administered to 17 Chinese students--2 females and 15 males--at Texas A & M University, College Station, and the University of Texas, Arlington. The pretest was also given to 37 students in Introduction to Sociology class at the Texas Woman's University. Respondents were instructed prior to filling out the questionnaire that any comments or suggestions about the questionnaire would be greatly appreciated.

Some students on the pretest gave their comments. Almost all of them felt that questions about attitudes toward old people were a little bit too general, because everyone is very different and has one's own personal characteristics. In solving this problem, an original instruction at the beginning of attitude questions was changed. "Below are statements about old people. Please circle only one answer to each statement. The answer should be the one which more accurately corresponds with your reaction to the statement" was changed to "Below are statements about old people. Please circle only one answer to each statement. The answer should be the one which most accurately corresponds with your reaction to

old people as a group. (not any single individual you know)." This was the only change made as a result of the pretest.

The Questionnaire

The final questionnaire included two sections. A copy of the questionnaire can be found in Appendix A, p. 86.

The first section had nine questions. Questions 1 through 7 gathered information on the respondent's age, sex, education, marital status, religion, and ethnic background. Questions 8 and 9 were additional information about Chinese students.

The second section was intended to measure the student's attitudes toward old people. Twenty-nine items made up this section of the questionnaire. Among these, fourteen were positive statements about old people and are as follows: 10, 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 30, 32, and 34 through 38.

- 10. Old people should have high status in society.
- 14. Old people are wise.
- 16. Old people are merciful.
- 17. Old people are as easy to understand as younger people.

- 18. When faced with a new situation, old people are able to adjust to it.
- 21. Old people have a fine sense of humor.
- 22. Old people have time to do all things they like.
- 30. Old people are intelligent.
- 32. Old people are interested in religion.
- 34. Old people are tolerant toward others.
- 35. Old people are considerate.
- 36. Old people are interested in public affairs.
- 37. Old people are kind.
- 38. Old people are calm.

The fifteen negative statements are: 11, 12, 13, 15, 19, 20, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, and 33.

- 11. Old people are a burden to their family.
- 12. Old people always talk too much.
- 13. Old people are pretty stubborn.
- 15. Old people are very hard to get along with.
- 19. One of the qualities of most old people is they like to talk about the "good old days".
- 20. Old people are untidy.
- 23. Old people get angry easily.
- 24. Old people are very often lonely.
- 25. Old people are always absent-minded.

- 26. Old people are slow in learning.
- 27. Old people like talking to themselves.
- 28. Old people have short memories.
- 29. Old people are unable to take care of themselves.
- 31. Old people stick to their own opinions.
- 33. Old people are not productive.

Procedures for Data Analysis

Data were classified and coded according to specified criteria. In the following chapters, data will be presented by tables and will be carefully analyzed by using appropriate statistical procedures such as Yule's Q and gamma. Then, comparison will be made between Chinese and American students.

Scoring Techniques

The type of scale used in the study followed the pattern devised by Likert. For each of the attitude statements on the questionnaire the respondent could make any one of five possible answers. These five answers were (1) strongly disagree, (2) disagree, (3) uncertain, (4) agree, and (5) strongly agree. Each answer was given a numerical score. The highest and lowest points for every question were 5 and 1. Five points could be

attained from answering strongly agree with each of positive questions or answering strongly disagree with each of negative questions about old people.

The total scores of twenty-nine questions which were designed to measure the student's attitudes toward old people ranged from 29 to 145.

Limitations

The study was limited to the four universities in northern part of Texas. For American students, the sample was not a random sample. The questionnaire was only given to members of American Government classes at the four universities.

This study was conducted to compare attitudes toward old people between Chinese students and American students. All of the past research was concerned with American students' attitudes. To the writer's knowledge, there are no related studies about attitudes toward old people in Taiwan, China.

The next chapter will present a description of the sample. Chapter III will focus on analysis of the data. Chapter IV will be summary and conclusions.

CHAPTER II

DESCRIPTION OF THE SAMPLE

The present chapter is a description of the sample. Three hundred and fifty six questionnaires were distributed and three questionnaires were not returned. Of these 353, twenty-three were discarded for the following reasons:

10 were not Chinese or not American

6 did not complete the questionnaire

6 missed one or two questions about attitudes
toward old people

1 was not a student

23

The remaining 149 Chinese students and 181 American students comprised a sample of 330 respondents who were used in the study.

The distribution of the students according to the age groups is presented in Table 1. One hundred and thirty eight (42 per cent) out of 327 students are 18 through 20 years of age. One hundred and sixty seven (51 per cent) are 21 through 29 years of age, and 22 students (7 per cent) are 30 years of age and over.

TABLE 1
DISTRIBUTION OF THE STUDENTS BY AGE

Age*	Nationality		Total
	Chinese	American	
18-20	16 (11 %)	122 (68 %)	138 (42 %)
21-23	53 (36 %)	39 (22 %)	92 (28 %)
24-26	37 (25 %)	9 (5 %)	46 (14 %)
27-29	24 (17 %)	5 (2 %)	29 (9 %)
30-32	13 (9 %)	2 (1 %)	15 (5 %)
33-35	2 (1 %)	1 (.5%)	3 (1 %)
36-38	0	1 (.5%)	1 (.3%)
39-41	1 (.6%)	0	1 (.3%)
42-44	1 (.6%)	1 (.5%)	2 (.6%)
Totals	147 (100 %)	180 (100 %)	327 (100 %)

* Two Chinese students and one American student gave no answer.

The number of Chinese students from 18 to 20 years of age is 16 (11 per cent) while 122 (68 per cent) American students are from 18 to 20 years of age. One hundred and fourteen Chinese students (78 per cent) fall into the 21 to 29 age groups while 53 (29 per cent) American students fall into the 21 to 29 age groups. Only 17 (11 per cent)

Chinese students are 30 years old and over whereas 5 (3 per cent) American students are 30 years old and over. As a whole, the Chinese students are older than the Americans.

The distribution by sex and nationality is presented in Table 2. Fifty eight per cent of the respondents in the study are females whereas 42 per cent are males (because Texas Woman's University has females only). Forty nine per cent of the Chinese students and 66 per cent of the American respondents are females.

TABLE 2
DISTRIBUTION OF THE STUDENTS
BY SEX AND NATIONALITY

Sex	Nationality		Total
	Chinese	American	
Female	73 (49%)	118 (66%)	191 (58%)
Male	76 (51%)	62 (34%)	138 (42%)
Totals	149 (100%)	180* (100%)	329 (100%)

* One American student gave no answer.

Tables 3, 4, and 5 represent the various universities that students are attending. Table 3 indicates the distribution of students at Texas Woman's University, North Texas State University, East Texas State University, and

Southern Methodist University. Table 4 shows the distribution of students in one single sex university (Texas Woman's University) and in three coeducational universities (North Texas State University, East Texas State University, and Southern Methodist University). Table 5 is the distribution of students in three state universities (Texas Woman's University, North Texas State University, and East Texas State University) and in one private university (Southern Methodist University).

TABLE 3
DISTRIBUTION OF THE STUDENTS
BY NAME OF UNIVERSITY

Name of University	Nationality		Total
	Chinese	American	
Texas Woman's University	45 (30%)	54 (30%)	99 (30%)
North Texas State University	60 (40%)	74 (41%)	134 (41%)
East Texas State University	19 (13%)	22 (12%)	41 (12%)
Southern Methodist University	25 (17%)	31 (17%)	56 (17%)
Totals	149 (100%)	181 (100%)	330 (100%)

TABLE 4

DISTRIBUTION OF THE STUDENTS
BY TYPE OF UNIVERSITY

Type of University	Nationality		Total
	Chinese	American	
Single Sex University	45 (30%)	54 (30%)	99 (30%)
Coeducational Universities	104 (70%)	127 (70%)	231 (70%)
Totals	149 (100%)	181 (100%)	330 (100%)

TABLE 5

DISTRIBUTION OF THE STUDENTS
BY TYPE OF UNIVERSITY

Type of University	Nationality		Total
	Chinese	American	
State Universities	124 (83%)	150 (83%)	274 (83%)
Private University	25 (17%)	31 (17%)	56 (17%)
Totals	149 (100%)	181 (100%)	330 (100%)

TABLE 6
CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENTS

Classification	Nationality		Total
	Chinese	American	
Freshman	15 (10%)	30 (17%)	45 (13%)
Sophomore	25 (17%)	90 (50%)	115 (35%)
Junior	14 (10%)	48 (26%)	62 (19%)
Senior	8 (5%)	8 (4%)	16 (5%)
Graduate Student	87 (58%)	5 (3%)	92 (28%)
Totals	149 (100%)	181 (100%)	330 (100%)

The list of the classification of students as shown in Table 6 indicates 58 per cent of the Chinese students are graduate students (all of the Chinese students at Texas Woman's University, North Texas State University, East Texas State University, and Southern Methodist University were included in the study and most of them had bachelor degrees already). The other 42 per cent of students are freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Because the sample of American students came from American Government classes, 50 per cent of students are sophomores; 26 per cent and 17 per cent are juniors and freshmen. Seniors

and graduate students are only 7 per cent of all American students in the study.

The students were asked to indicate their marital status in the questionnaire. The answers available to the student were: single (never married), engaged, married, separated, divorced, and widowed. Most of the respondents (72 per cent of the Chinese students and 74 per cent of the American students) are single (never married).

TABLE 7
MARITAL STATUS OF STUDENTS

Marital Status	Nationality		Total
	Chinese	American	
Single (never married)	108 (72%)	134 (74%)	242 (73%)
Engaged	6 (4%)	16 (9%)	22 (7%)
Married	34 (23%)	29 (16%)	63 (19%)
Separated	0	0	0
Divorced	0	2 (1%)	2 (1%)
Widowed	1 (1%)	0	1
Totals	149 (100%)	181 (100%)	330 (100%)

TABLE 8
RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE OF STUDENTS

Religious Preference*	Nationality		Total
	Chinese	American	
Catholic	31 (21%)	21 (12%)	52 (16%)
Protestant	41 (28%)	137 (76%)	178 (54%)
Jewish	1 (1%)	2 (1%)	3 (1%)
Other	5 (3%)	6 (2%)	11 (3%)
None	70 (47%)	14 (9%)	84 (26%)
Totals	148 (100%)	180 (100%)	328 (100%)

* One Chinese student and one American student did not indicate religious preference.

Table 8 shows the religious preference of the students. Forty seven per cent of the Chinese respondents (70) in the study do not have any religious preference whereas only 9 per cent of the American respondents (14) claim to have no religious preference.

Table 9 consists of the information obtained from Chinese students regarding the length of residence in the United States. The largest percentage of Chinese students (37 per cent) had been in the United States 12 months or less. Twenty four per cent and 18 per cent of students

had lived in the United States from 13 to 24 months and from 25 to 36 months, respectively. Twenty one per cent of the Chinese students indicated they had lived in the United States 37 months or more.

TABLE 9

DISTRIBUTION OF CHINESE STUDENTS BY THE LENGTH
OF RESIDENCE IN THE UNITED STATES

The Length of Residence (in months)	Chinese Student
1-12	55 (37%)
13-24	36 (24%)
25-36	27 (18%)
37-48	13 (10%)
49-60	8 (5%)
61-72	2 (1%)
73 and over	8 (5%)
Totals	149 (100%)

The data in Table 10 show that 55 per cent of the Chinese students came from Taiwan while 41 per cent came from Hong Kong. The remainder came from Malaysia, Thailand or were born in America.

TABLE 10

DISTRIBUTION OF CHINESE STUDENTS
BY PLACE OF ORIGINAL RESIDENCE

Place of Original Residence	Chinese Student
Taiwan	82 (55%)
Hong Kong	61 (41%)
Other	5 (4%)
Totals	148*(100%)

* One Chinese student gave no answer.

TABLE 11

ETHNIC BACKGROUND OF AMERICAN STUDENTS

Ethnic Background	American Student
White	154 (85%)
Black	23 (13%)
American Indian	0
Mexican American	4 (2%)
Totals	181 (100%)

Table 11 indicates 85 per cent of the American students are whites; 13 per cent are blacks and 2 per cent are Mexican American.

Summary

The sample consists of 149 Chinese students (73 females and 76 males) and 181 American students (118 females, 62 males, and one gave no answer) at Texas Woman's University, North Texas State University, East Texas State University, and Southern Methodist University.

The Chinese students are older than the Americans. Over three-fourths of the Chinese students are in their 20's while over two-thirds of the American students are under 20. This is congruent with the fact that 58 per cent of the Chinese respondents in the study are graduate students while one half of the American students are sophomores.

Most of the students, both Chinese and American, had never been married.

Nearly half of the Chinese students stated they do not have any religious preference while only 9 per cent of the American students stated that they have no religious preference.

Most of the Chinese students came from Taiwan; nearly four out of ten had been in the United States 12 months or less.

Eighty five per cent of the American students in the study are whites.

The responses to questions by nationality can be found in Appendix B, p. 91.

The following chapter will focus on the findings of the study related to the hypotheses.

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

In this chapter, the data collected for this study are analyzed in terms of the stated hypotheses. The results are based on students' responses to a structured questionnaire (described in Chapter I) which measured attitudes toward old people.

In view of the differences between Chinese and American societies and in view of the findings of previous studies it is suggested that there is a difference in the attitudes of Chinese and American students toward old people. It is assumed that the Chinese students in general are more likely to have positive attitudes toward old people than are the American students. However, no cross-cultural researches have been made concerning the attitudes toward old people.

The total scores of attitude questions in the study ranged from 29 to 145. All students' scores fell into 89 to 118 (positive attitudes toward old people) or 59 to 88 (negative attitudes toward old people). No students had scores above 118 (very positive attitudes

toward old people) or had scores under 59 (very negative attitudes toward old people). The distribution of students' attitude scores is presented in Table 12.

TABLE 12
ATTITUDE SCORES OF STUDENTS TOWARD
OLD PEOPLE BY NATIONALITY

Attitude Scores	Nationality		Total
	Chinese	American	
119-148 (very positive attitudes toward old people)	0	0	0
89-118 (positive attitudes toward old people)	79 (53%)	150 (83%)	229 (69%)
59- 88 (negative attitudes toward old people)	70 (47%)	31 (17%)	101 (31%)
29- 58 (very negative attitudes toward old people)	0	0	0
Totals	149 (100%)	181 (100%)	330 (100%)

Hypothesis 1

Hypothesis 1 stated that the Chinese students are more likely to have positive attitudes toward old people than are the American students.

As indicated by the data in Table 13, 47 per cent of the Chinese students held negative attitudes toward old people whereas only 17 per cent of the American students held negative attitudes toward old people. While 53 per cent of the Chinese students had positive attitudes toward old people, 83 per cent of the American students had positive attitudes toward old people. The data suggested that the American students are more likely to have positive attitudes toward old people than are the Chinese students.

TABLE 13

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY
NATIONALITY OF STUDENT

Attitudes toward Old People	Nationality		Total
	Chinese	American	
Positive	79 (53%)	150 (83%)	229
Negative	70 (47%)	31 (17%)	101
Totals	149 (100%)	181 (100%)	330

$$Q = .622$$

The data in Table 13 show that a substantial association¹ existed between the variables ($Q=.622$)².

Although Hypothesis 1 was not concerned with the race of American student, it was of interest to learn whether the race of American student would be associated with their attitudes toward old people.

While the majority of the American students, both the black and the white, had positive attitudes toward old people, a larger percentage of the black students than of the white students held negative attitudes toward old people. The data suggested that the white students are more likely to have positive attitudes toward old people than are the black students.

¹Robert Sokol, Laboratory Manual for Introductory Sociology (New York: Harper and Row, 1970), p. 33.

Values of Yule's Q	Appropriate Phrase
.70 or higher	A very strong---association
.50 to .69	A substantial---association
.30 to .49	A moderate---association
.10 to .29	A low---association
.01 to .09	A negligible---association
.00	No association

²Yule's Q is used as the measure of association between two nominal variables. The coefficient is presented to show the degree of association.

Table 14 indicates that a substantial association ($Q=.588$) existed between race of American student and attitudes toward old people.

TABLE 14
ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY
RACE OF AMERICAN STUDENT

Attitudes toward Old People	Race		Total
	Black	White	
Positive	14 (61%)	132 (86%)	146
Negative	9 (39%)	22 (14%)	31
Totals	23 (100%)	154 (100%)	177

$Q=.588$

Summary: The data indicated that the American students are more likely to have positive attitudes toward old people than are the Chinese students at least in this sample. The association between the variables was substantial.

There was also a relationship between race of the American student and attitudes toward old people. The association between the variables was substantial.

Hypothesis 2

Hypothesis 2 stated that for the Chinese students, the longer their stay in the United States, the less likely they are to have positive attitudes toward old people.

Table 15 shows the data on the relationship between the length of Chinese student stay in the United States and attitudes toward old people. The length of Chinese student stay in the United States was divided into four categories: 37 months and over, 25 to 36 months, 13 to 24 months, and one to twelve months. Thirty nine per cent of the Chinese students who had lived in the United States 37 months and over had negative attitudes toward old people whereas 47 per cent who had lived in the United States twelve months or less had negative attitudes toward old people. Students who had been in the United States 37 months and over are more likely to have positive attitudes toward old people than students who had been in the United States under 37 months. The gamma coefficient was .091 indicating a negligible positive relationship between the variables.¹

¹Gamma is an extension of Yule's Q to be used for tables of any size where both variables are ordinal measures.

TABLE 15

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY THE LENGTH OF
CHINESE STUDENT STAY IN THE UNITED STATES

Attitudes toward Old People	The Length of Chinese Student stay in the United States (in months)				Total
	37 and over	25-36	13-24	1-12	
Positive	19 (61%)	15 (56%)	16 (44%)	29 (53%)	79
Negative	12 (39%)	12 (44%)	20 (56%)	26 (47%)	70
Totals	31 (100%)	27 (100%)	36 (100%)	55 (100%)	149

Gamma=.091

Table 16 indicates that there was a negligible association ($Q=.082$) between place of Chinese students' original residence and their attitudes toward old people. The Chinese students from Taiwan were evenly divided in their attitudes toward old people with 50 per cent indicating positive attitudes and 50 per cent negative attitudes while 54 per cent of the Chinese students from Hong Kong held positive attitudes and 46 per cent had negative attitudes toward old people.

TABLE 16

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY ORIGINAL
RESIDENCE OF CHINESE STUDENT

Attitudes toward Old People	Original Residence		Total
	Hong Kong	Taiwan	
Positive	33 (54%)	41 (50%)	74
Negative	28 (46%)	41 (50%)	69
Totals	61 (100%)	82 (100%)	143

$$Q=.082$$

Summary: There was almost no association between the length of Chinese student stay in the United States and attitudes toward old people.

There was almost no association between original residence of Chinese student and attitudes toward old people either.

Hypothesis 3

Hypothesis 3 stated that there is some association between age of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between age and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

When the age of students is associated with attitudes toward old people, as given in Table 17, a Gamma of $-.300$ suggested a moderate negative association. Seventy three per cent of the students who are 30 years old and over had positive attitudes toward old people compared with 80 per cent who are 20 years old and under. Students who are 21 to 29 years of age had the lowest percentage of positive attitudes toward old people.

TABLE 17
ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE
BY AGE OF STUDENT

Attitudes toward Old People	Age			Total
	30 and over	21-29	20 and under	
Positive	16 (73%)	100 (60%)	110 (80%)	226
Negative	6 (27%)	67 (40%)	28 (20%)	101
Totals	22 (100%)	167 (100%)	138 (100%)	327

Gamma= $-.300$

When nationality of the student was held constant, the relationship between age of student and attitudes toward old people is different for both the Chinese students and the American students. Tables 18A and 18B present the association between the variables.

TABLE 18

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY AGE OF STUDENT,
CONTROLLING FOR NATIONALITY

18A. Chinese				
Attitudes toward Old People	Age			Total
	30 and over	21-29	20 and under	
Positive	12 (71%)	55 (48%)	10 (62%)	77
Negative	5 (29%)	59 (52%)	6 (38%)	70
Totals	17 (100%)	114 (100%)	16 (100%)	147

Gamma=.096

18B. American

Attitudes toward Old People	Age			Total
	30 and over	21-29	20 and under	
Positive	4 (80%)	45 (85%)	100 (82%)	149
Negative	1 (20%)	8 (15%)	22 (18%)	31
Totals	5 (100%)	53 (100%)	122 (100%)	180

Gamma=.080

Table 18A presents the relationship between the age of Chinese student and their attitudes toward old people. Seventy one per cent of the Chinese students who are 30 years old and over had positive attitudes toward old people, and 62 per cent of the Chinese students who are 20 years old and under had positive attitudes toward old people. Chinese students who are 21 to 29 years of age had less positive attitudes toward old people than the other two age groups. A low positive association was shown by a gamma coefficient of .096.

Table 18B indicates there was a negligible positive association ($\text{Gamma}=.080$) between the age of American student and attitudes toward old people. The percentage of cells containing the age groupings of student did not show much differentiation. The majority of the American students in three groups had positive attitudes toward old people. The lowest percentage of positive attitudes toward old people was 80 per cent.

Summary: From the results it is suggested that there was a moderate association between age of the student and attitudes toward old people in the total sample. When nationality of the student was controlled the association between the variables decreased among both the Chinese

students (a low association) and the American students (a negligible association).

Hypothesis 4

Hypothesis 4 stated that there is some association between sex of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between sex and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

TABLE 19

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY SEX OF STUDENT

Attitudes toward Old People	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Positive	90 (65%)	138 (72%)	228
Negative	48 (35%)	53 (28%)	101
Totals	138 (100%)	191 (100%)	329

$$Q=.163$$

As shown in Table 19, a larger percentage of the female students (72 per cent) had positive attitudes toward old people than the male students (65 per cent). The data indicated there was a low association ($Q=.163$) between the students' sex and their attitudes toward old people.

When nationality of the student was held constant, the relationship between sex of student and attitudes toward old people changes among the Chinese students. The association between the variables is presented in Tables 20A and 20B.

From Table 20A it appeared that a slightly larger percentage of the Chinese male students had positive attitudes toward old people than the Chinese female students. Forty five per cent of the Chinese male students had negative attitudes toward old people. Of the Chinese female students, 49 per cent had negative attitudes toward old people. There was a negligible association ($Q=.092$) between sex of Chinese student and attitudes toward old people.

For American students, there was a low association ($Q=.268$) between the variables of sex of the student and attitudes toward old people. Most of the American males (77 per cent) and females (86 per cent) had positive attitudes toward old people. There was more percentage difference here than among the Chinese. American students in general had a more positive attitudes toward old people than did Chinese students.

TABLE 20 A

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY SEX OF STUDENT,
CONTROLLING FOR NATIONALITY

20A. Chinese			
Attitudes toward Old People	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Positive	42 (55%)	37 (51%)	79
Negative	34 (45%)	36 (49%)	70
Totals	76 (100%)	73 (100%)	149

Q=.092

20B. American

Attitudes toward Old People	Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
Positive	48 (77%)	101 (86%)	149
Negative	14 (23%)	17 (14%)	31
Totals	62 (100%)	118 (100%)	180

Q=.268

Summary: There was a low association between sex of student and attitudes toward old people in the total sample. When nationality of the student was controlled, however, the low degree of relationship between sex and attitudes toward old people did not persist among the Chinese students.

Hypothesis 5

Hypothesis 5 stated that there is some association between type of university the student is attending and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between type of university and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

As the data in Table 21 indicate there was a negligible association ($Q=.079$) between type of university (single sex or coeducational) and attitudes toward old people. Students in single sex university and in coeducational universities alike had positive attitudes more than negative attitudes toward old people.

TABLE 21

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY TYPE OF
UNIVERSITY STUDENT IS ATTENDING

Attitudes toward Old People	Type of University		Total
	Coeducational Universities	Single Sex University	
Positive	158 (68%)	71 (72%)	229
Negative	73 (32%)	28 (28%)	101
Totals	231 (100%)	99 (100%)	330

$$Q = .079$$

When nationality of the student was held constant, the relationship between type of university student is attending (single sex or coeducational) and attitudes toward old people did not change among both the Chinese students and the American students. Tables 22A and 22B show the association between the variables for the Chinese and the American students separately.

For the Chinese students, there was a negligible association ($Q = .073$) between type of university the student is attending and attitudes toward old people. More students (both in single sex and in coeducational universities) had positive attitudes rather than negative attitudes toward old people.

TABLE 22

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY TYPE OF
UNIVERSITY STUDENT IS ATTENDING,
CONTROLLING FOR NATIONALITY

22A. Chinese

Attitudes toward Old People	Type of University		Total
	Coeducational Universities	Single Sex University	
Positive	54 (52%)	25 (56%)	79
Negative	50 (48%)	20 (44%)	70
Totals	104 (100%)	45 (100%)	149

$$Q = .073$$

22B. American

Attitudes toward Old People	Type of University		Total
	Coeducational Universities	Single Sex University	
Positive	104 (82%)	46 (85%)	150
Negative	23 (18%)	8 (15%)	31
Totals	127 (100%)	54 (100%)	181

$$Q = .120$$

A higher percentage of American students who are in single sex university held positive attitudes toward old people than American students who are in coeducational universities. More of all the students in both types of university had positive than negative attitudes toward old people. The value of Yule's Q ($Q=.120$) for American students was low.

The Chinese students in general had a more negative attitudes toward old people than did the American students.

It was of interest to know whether there is an association between type of university (state or private) and attitudes toward old people.

As the data in Table 23 indicate, the percentage differences were virtually nonexistent, with 70 per cent of the students in the private university, and 69 per cent of the students in state universities indicating positive attitudes toward old people. More students, regardless of type of university, had positive than negative attitudes toward old people. There was no association ($Q=.008$) at all between type of university the student is attending and attitudes toward old people.

TABLE 23

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY TYPE OF
UNIVERSITY STUDENT IS ATTENDING

Attitudes toward Old People	Type of University		Total
	Private University	State Universities	
Positive	39 (70%)	190 (69%)	229
Negative	17 (30%)	84 (31%)	101
Totals	56 (100%)	274 (100%)	330

$$Q = .008$$

The association between type of university the student is attending (state or private) and attitudes toward old people controlling for nationality is presented in Tables 24A and 24B.

The Q value increased for the Chinese students. As is indicated in Table 24A, 44 per cent of students in private university held positive attitudes toward old people whereas 55 per cent of students in state universities held positive attitudes toward old people. While 56 per cent of students in private university had negative attitudes toward old people, only 45 per cent of students in state universities held negative attitudes toward old

TABLE 24

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY TYPE OF
UNIVERSITY STUDENT IS ATTENDING,
CONTROLLING FOR NATIONALITY

24A. Chinese			
Attitudes toward Old People	Type of University		Total
	Private University	State Universities	
Positive	11 (44%)	68 (55%)	79
Negative	14 (56%)	56 (45%)	70
Totals	25 (100%)	124 (100%)	149

 $Q = .214$

24B. American

Attitudes toward Old People	Type of University		Total
	Private University	State Universities	
Positive	28 (90%)	122 (81%)	150
Negative	3 (10%)	28 (19%)	31
Totals	31 (100%)	150 (100%)	181

 $Q = .363$

people. The association between the variables ($Q=.214$) was low.

The original Q value ($Q=.008$) also increased for the American students. Most of students both in the private university and in state universities held positive attitudes toward old people. More students (19 per cent) in state universities had negative attitudes toward old people than did students (10 per cent) in the private university. There was a moderate association ($Q=.363$) between the variables (see Table 24B).

Summary: The data suggested that there was little or no relationship between type of university the student is attending (single sex or coeducational) and attitudes toward old people. When nationality was controlled the relationship did not change among both the Chinese students and the American students.

There was no association at all between type of university the student is attending (state or private) and attitudes toward old people. When nationality was held constant, the Q value increased for both types of students.

Hypothesis 6

Hypothesis 6 stated that there is some association between classification of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between classification and

attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

TABLE 25
ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY
CLASSIFICATION OF STUDENT

Attitudes toward Old People	Classification		Total
	Senior and Graduate Student	Freshman, Sophomore and Junior	
Positive	61 (56%)	168 (76%)	229
Negative	47 (44%)	54 (24%)	101
Totals	108 (100%)	222 (100%)	330

Gamma=-.411

In Table 25 some of the categories for the classification of student were grouped together and the data were analyzed according to the two levels of classification: senior and graduate students; freshman, sophomore and junior.

Fifty six per cent of senior and graduate students compared to 76 per cent of freshman, sophomore and junior had positive attitudes toward old people. Less than half of senior and graduate students, and nearly one-fourth of freshman, sophomore and junior had negative attitudes toward old people. A gamma of -.411 suggested a moderate

negative degree of association between classification and attitudes toward old people.

Tables 26A and 26B show the association between the original variables with nationality controlled.

As can be observed from Table 26A, 53 per cent of senior and graduate students and 54 per cent of freshman, sophomore and junior revealed that they had positive attitudes toward old people. On the other hand, 47 per cent of senior and graduate students and 46 per cent of freshman, sophomore and junior indicated negative attitudes toward old people. There was a negligible negative association between the two variables, as indicated by a gamma coefficient of $-.022$. There was little relationship between classification of Chinese student and attitudes toward old people.

To compare Tables 26A and 26B the American students in general tended to have a more positive attitudes toward old people than did the Chinese students.

Eighty five per cent of American senior and graduate students had positive attitudes toward old people, compared to the 83 per cent of freshman, sophomore and junior group who had positive attitudes toward old people. A slightly larger percentage (17 per cent) of freshman, sophomore and junior had negative attitudes toward old

TABLE 26

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY CLASSIFICATION
OF STUDENT, CONTROLLING FOR NATIONALITY

26A. Chinese

Attitudes toward Old People	Classification		Total
	Senior and Graduate Student	Freshman, Sophomore and Junior	
Positive	50 (53%)	29 (54%)	79
Negative	45 (47%)	25 (46%)	70
Totals	95 (100%)	54 (100%)	149

Gamma=-.022

26B. American

Attitudes toward Old People	Classification		Total
	Senior and Graduate Student	Freshman, Sophomore and Junior	
Positive	11 (85%)	139 (83%)	150
Negative	2 (15%)	29 (17%)	31
Totals	13 (100%)	168 (100%)	181

Gamma=.068

people than senior and graduate students (15 per cent). There was a negligible positive association with a gamma of .068.

Summary: The data indicated that freshman, sophomore and junior students were more likely to have positive attitudes toward old people than senior and graduate students. There was a moderate negative association between classification and attitudes toward old people. When nationality of the student was controlled the association between the variables for both the Chinese students and the American students was almost nonexistent.

Hypothesis 7

Hypothesis 7 stated that there is some association between marital status of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between marital status and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

The relationship between the marital status of student and attitudes toward old people is given in Table 27.

TABLE 27
ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY
MARITAL STATUS OF STUDENT

Attitudes toward Old People	Marital Status		Total
	Married Student	Single Student	
Positive	45 (71%)	182 (69%)	227
Negative	18 (29%)	82 (31%)	100
Totals	63 (100%)	264 (100%)	327

$$Q=.063$$

Seventy one per cent of married students had positive attitudes toward old people while 69 per cent of single students had positive attitudes toward old people. While the majority of students (both married and single) had positive attitudes toward old people, a slightly larger percentage of single students than of married students held negative attitudes toward old people. Table 27 shows almost no association ($Q=.063$) between marital status of student and attitudes toward old people.

The association between marital status and attitudes toward old people with nationality controlled is presented in Tables 28A and 28B.

TABLE 28

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY MARITAL STATUS
OF STUDENT, CONTROLLING FOR NATIONALITY

28A. Chinese

Attitudes toward Old People	Marital Status		Total
	Married Student	Single Student	
Positive	21 (62%)	57 (50%)	78
Negative	13 (38%)	57 (50%)	70
Totals	34 (100%)	114 (100%)	148

Q=.235

28B. American

Attitudes toward Old People	Marital Status		Total
	Married Student	Single Student	
Positive	24 (83%)	125 (83%)	149
Negative	5 (17%)	25 (17%)	30
Totals	29 (100%)	150 (100%)	179

Q=.020

The Chinese single students were evenly divided in their attitudes toward old people with 50 per cent indicating positive attitudes and 50 per cent negative attitudes while 62 per cent of the Chinese married students held positive attitudes and 38 per cent had negative attitudes toward old people. Table 28A indicates that there was a low association ($Q=.235$) between the variables.

Table 28B presents the relationship between marital status and attitudes toward old people among American students. Most students (married and single) had positive attitudes toward old people. The percentage of students holding positive attitudes and negative attitudes toward old people was the same for married students and single students. The association ($Q=.020$) between the variables was almost nonexistent.

Summary: There was almost no association between marital status of student and attitudes toward old people in the total sample. When nationality of the student was controlled, the association between the variables for the Chinese students was low and for the American students was almost nonexistent.

Hypothesis 8

Hypothesis 8 stated that there is some association between religious preference of student and attitudes

toward old people. This relationship between religious preference and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

TABLE 29
ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY RELIGIOUS
PREFERENCE OF STUDENT

Attitudes toward Old People	Presence of Religious Preference		Total
	no Religious Preference	some Religious Preference	
Positive	51 (61%)	177 (73%)	228
Negative	33 (39%)	67 (27%)	100
Totals	84 (100%)	244 (100%)	328

$$Q=.262$$

Table 29 presents the relationship between the presence of religious preference of student and attitudes toward old people. Sixty one per cent of students with no religious preference had positive attitudes toward old people, whereas 73 per cent of students with some religious preference had positive attitudes toward old people. A greater percentage of students with no religious preference (39 per cent) than students with some religious preference

(27 per cent) had negative attitudes toward old people. A Yule's Q of .262 showed a low association between the variables.

Data with respect to the relationship between the presence of religious preference of student and attitudes toward old people controlling for nationality are presented in Tables 30A and 30B.

A comparison of the presence of religious preference of Chinese student and attitudes toward old people is given in Table 30A. Fifty three per cent of students with no religious preference and 54 per cent of students with some religious preference indicated positive attitudes toward old people. More students (with no religious preference and with some religious preference) had positive than negative attitudes toward old people. The association, as measured by Yule's Q was negligible ($Q=.020$).

Most American students both with no and with some religious preference had positive than negative attitudes toward old people. Eighty one per cent of students with some religious preference and 93 per cent of students with no religious preference had positive attitudes toward old people. Nineteen per cent of students with some religious preference in comparison to only seven per cent of

TABLE 30

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE
OF STUDENT, CONTROLLING FOR NATIONALITY

30A. Chinese			
Attitudes toward Old People	Presence of Religious Preference		Total
	no Religious Preference	some Religious Preference	
Positive	37 (53%)	42 (54%)	79
Negative	33 (47%)	36 (46%)	69
Totals	70 (100%)	78 (100%)	148

$$Q = .020$$

30B. American			
Attitudes toward Old People	Presence of Religious Preference		Total
	no Religious Preference	some Religious Preference	
Positive	13 (93%)	135 (81%)	148
Negative	1 (7%)	31 (19%)	32
Totals	14 (100%)	166 (100%)	180

$$Q = .498$$

students with no religious preference held negative attitudes toward old people. As indicated in Table 30B, the association ($Q=.498$) between religious preference of American student and attitudes toward old people was substantial.

Two hundred and forty four students in the study reported that they have a religious preference. Among these students, 52 are Catholics, 178 are Protestants, 3 are Jews and 11 are Taoists or Buddhists.

Tables 31, 32A and 32B are given for additional information about the type of religious preference (Protestant or Catholic) of student and attitudes toward old people.

TABLE 31
ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY RELIGIOUS
PREFERENCE OF STUDENT

Attitudes toward Old People	Type of Religious Preference		Total
	Protestant	Catholic	
Positive	130 (73%)	35 (67%)	165
Negative	48 (27%)	17 (33%)	65
Totals	178 (100%)	52 (100%)	230

$$Q=.136$$

Protestants and Catholics alike tended to have positive attitudes toward old people. As indicated by the data in Table 31, 73 per cent of the Protestants reported positive attitudes toward old people while 67 per cent of the Catholics reported positive attitudes toward old people. The data in Table 31 show that a low association ($Q=.136$) existed between the variables.

The association between the variables when nationality is controlled is presented in Tables 32A and 32B.

Table 32A gives the association between the type of religious preference of Chinese student and attitudes toward old people. Catholics were nearly evenly divided in their attitudes with a slightly higher percentage (52 per cent) indicating positive attitudes toward old people while 54 per cent of Protestants held positive attitudes toward old people. There appeared to be very little difference in attitudes toward old people between Catholics and Protestants. There was a negligible association ($Q=.041$) between the variables.

For American students, the association between the type of religious preference and attitudes toward old people ($Q=.437$) was moderate. Seventy nine per cent of Protestants had positive attitudes toward old people

TABLE 32

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE BY RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE
OF STUDENT, CONTROLLING FOR NATIONALITY

32A. Chinese			
Attitudes toward Old People	Type of Religious Preference		Total
	Protestant	Catholic	
Positive	22 (54%)	16 (52%)	38
Negative	19 (46%)	15 (48%)	34
Totals	41 (100%)	31 (100%)	72

$Q=.041$

32B. American			
Attitudes toward Old People	Type of Religious Preference		Total
	Protestant	Catholic	
Positive	108 (79%)	19 (90%)	127
Negative	29 (21%)	2 (10%)	31
Totals	137 (100%)	21 (100%)	158

$Q=.437$

compared with 90 per cent of Catholics. Twenty one per cent of Protestants had negative attitudes toward old people compared with only 10 per cent of Catholics. Most students (both Protestant and Catholic) had positive than negative attitudes toward old people.

Summary: The association between the presence of religious preference (with no or with some religious preference) of student and attitudes toward old people was low. When nationality of the student was held constant, the association between the variables for the Chinese students was almost nonexistent and for the American students was substantial.

For those students reporting a religious preference, there was a low association between the type of religious preference (Protestant or Catholic) and attitudes toward old people. When nationality of the student was controlled there was almost no association between the variables for the Chinese students and a moderate association between the variables for the American students.

CHAPTER IV

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

How people view persons who are elderly is vitally important because these attitudes are likely to influence their interactions with old people, and likely also to influence the attitudes and behavior of old people.

People of various societies may view old people in a wide variety of ways. The broad traditions of China, with its emphasis on stability, continuity, and conservation, make old age the most honored period of life and one in which old people are respected.¹ The United States with its accent on youth and growth and speed, tends to ignore old age and to have a predominantly negative appraisal toward old people.²

The purpose of the study was to examine and then to compare attitudes toward old people among American students and Chinese students in the United States.

¹Robert J. Havighurst, "Old Age-An American Problem," Journal of Gerontology, Vol. 4 (October, 1949), p. 298.

²Ibid.

One hundred and forty nine Chinese students (73 females and 76 males) and 181 American students (118 females, 62 males and one gave no answer) enrolled in the Spring Semester, 1973, at Texas Woman's University, North Texas State University, East Texas State University, and Southern Methodist University were included in the study.

The study sought to examine eight hypotheses:

1. The Chinese students are more likely to have positive attitudes toward old people than are the American students.

2. For the Chinese students, the longer their stay in the United States, the less likely they are to have positive attitudes toward old people.

3. There is some association between age of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between age and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

4. There is some association between sex of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between sex and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

5. There is some association between type of university the student is attending and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between type of university and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

6. There is some association between classification of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between classification and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

7. There is some association between marital status of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between marital status and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

8. There is some association between religious preference of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between religious preference and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

It was assumed in Hypothesis 1 that there would be a relationship between nationality of student and attitudes toward old people. It was predicted that the Chinese

students are more likely to have positive attitudes toward old people than are the American students.

The Chinese and the American students do differ in their attitudes toward old people. The findings, however, suggested that the American students are more likely to have positive attitudes toward old people than are the Chinese students. The findings also indicated that there was a relationship between race of American student and attitudes toward old people with white students generally more positive.

Yule's Q was utilized as the measure of association between variables and Table 33 below presents a summary of the values of Yule's Q for Hypothesis 1.

TABLE 33
SUMMARY OF VALUES OF YULE'S Q FOR HYPOTHESIS 1

Attitudes	Yule's Q
Attitudes toward Old People by Nationality of Student	.622
Attitudes toward Old People by Race of American Student	.588

As is indicated in Table 33 the association between nationality of student and attitudes toward old people was substantial. The association between race of American student and attitudes toward old people was substantial.

Most American students in this study had positive attitudes toward old people (even more than Chinese students). It contradicted the findings by Tuckman and Lorge, Kastenbaum and Durkee, and Kogan whose respondents had a predominantly negative appraisal of old people.

Hypothesis 2 stated that for the Chinese students, the longer their stay in the United States, the less likely they are to have positive attitudes toward old people.

The findings with respect to Hypothesis 2 suggested that there was almost no association between the length of Chinese student stay in the United States and attitudes toward old people. There was almost no association between original residence of Chinese student and attitudes toward old people.

A summary of the values of Gamma and Yule's Q for Hypothesis 2 is presented in Table 34 below.

TABLE 34
SUMMARY OF VALUES OF GAMMA AND
YULE'S Q FOR HYPOTHESIS 2

Attitudes	Gamma	Yule's Q
Attitudes toward Old People by the Length of Chinese Student Stay in the United States	.091	
Attitudes toward Old People by Original Residence of Chinese Student		.082

More Chinese students in this study had positive than negative attitudes toward old people. This differed from the reports by Tuckman and Lorge, and Tuckman, Lorge, and Spooner that cultural expectations and family environment encourage the formation of misconceptions and stereotypes about old people.

Hypothesis 3 stated that there is some association between age of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between age and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

The summary of the values of Gamma for Hypothesis 3 is presented in Table 35 below.

TABLE 35
SUMMARY OF VALUES OF GAMMA FOR HYPOTHESIS 3

Attitudes	Gamma
Attitudes toward Old People by Age of Student	-.300
Controlling for:	
Nationality	
Chinese	.096
American	.080

There was a moderate negative association between age of student and attitudes toward old people. When

nationality of student was controlled there was a low positive association between age of Chinese student and attitudes toward old people; there was a negligible positive association between age of American student and attitudes toward old people.

College students in the studies of Kogan, Tuckman and Lorge stereotyped old people with largely negative appraisal. Different groups of adolescents and young adults in the study of Kastenbaum and Durkee had negative images about old people. However, more students among three age groups in this study had more positive attitudes than negative attitudes toward old people. The findings of this study differed from the findings of previous researches.

Hypothesis 4 stated that there is some association between sex of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between sex and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

There was a low association between sex of student and attitudes toward old people. When nationality was controlled there was also a low association between sex of American student and attitudes toward old people. The

association between sex of Chinese student and attitudes toward old people, however, was almost nonexistent.

The summary of the values of Yule's Q for Hypothesis 4 is shown in Table 36 below.

TABLE 36

SUMMARY OF VALUES OF YULE'S Q FOR HYPOTHESIS 4

Attitudes	Yule's Q
Attitudes toward Old People by Sex of Student	.163
Controlling for:	
Nationality	
Chinese	.092
American	.268

More students (both male and female) in this study had positive attitudes toward old people. It is not in agreement with the studies of Tuckman and Lorge.

Hypothesis 5 stated that there is some association between type of university the student is attending and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between type of university and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

The summary of the values of Yule's Q for Hypothesis 5 is presented in Table 37.

TABLE 37

SUMMARY OF VALUES OF YULE'S Q FOR HYPOTHESIS 5

Attitudes	Yule's Q
Attitudes toward Old People by Type of University the Student Is Attending (Single Sex or Coeducational)	.079
Controlling for:	
Nationality	
Chinese	.073
American	.120
Attitudes toward Old People by Type of University the Student Is Attending (State or Private)	.008
Controlling for:	
Nationality	
Chinese	.214
American	.363

The findings indicated that the association between type of university (single sex or coeducational) and attitudes toward old people was almost nonexistent. When nationality was held constant, the association between the variables for Chinese students was almost nonexistent and

the association between the variables for American students was very low.

There was no association at all between type of university (state or private) and attitudes toward old people. When nationality was held constant, the Q value increased for both the Chinese students and the American students.

There were no previous studies of the relationship between type of university the student is attending and attitudes toward old people. The findings relating to Hypothesis 5 may encourage this kind of study.

Hypothesis 6 stated that there is some association between classification of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between classification and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

Gamma was utilized as the measure of association between classification of student and attitudes toward old people. Table 38 presents a summary of the values of Gamma for Hypothesis 6.

TABLE 38

SUMMARY OF VALUES OF GAMMA FOR HYPOTHESIS 6

Attitudes	Gamma
Attitudes toward Old People by Classification of Student	-.411
Controlling for:	
Nationality	
Chinese	-.022
American	.068

The data in Table 38 indicated that a moderate negative association between classification and attitudes toward old people. When nationality was controlled there was little or no relationship between the variables for both the Chinese students and the American students.

The finding that more students in different classifications had positive attitudes toward old people is similar to Lane's study and is not consistent with the studies of Kogan, Tuckman and Lorge, and Hickey, Hickey and Kalish.

Hypothesis 7 stated that there is some association between marital status of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between marital status and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

The results indicated that there was almost no association between marital status of student and attitudes toward old people. When nationality was controlled the association between the variables for Chinese students was low and for American students was almost nonexistent.

Table 39 is the summary of the values of Yule's Q for Hypothesis 7. To the knowledge of the writer, no empirical research has been done in this area.

TABLE 39
SUMMARY OF VALUES OF YULE'S Q FOR HYPOTHESIS 7

Attitudes	Yule's Q
Attitudes toward Old People by Marital Status of Student	.063
Controlling for:	
Nationality	
Chinese	.235
American	.020

Hypothesis 8 stated that there is some association between religious preference of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between religious preference and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

Table 40 presents a summary of the values of Yule's Q for Hypothesis 8.

TABLE 40
SUMMARY OF VALUES OF YULE'S Q FOR HYPOTHESIS 8

Attitudes	Yule's Q
Attitudes toward Old People by Religious Preference of Student (with some or no Religious Preference)	.262
Controlling for:	
Nationality	
Chinese	.020
American	.498
Attitudes toward Old People by Religious Preference of Student (Catholic or Protestant)	.136
Controlling for:	
Nationality	
Chinese	.041
American	.437

There was a low association between the presence of religious preference of student (with no or with some religious preference) and attitudes toward old people. When nationality was held constant, the association between the variables for Chinese students was nonexistent and for American students was substantial.

The association between the type of religious preference (Catholic or Protestant) and attitudes toward old people was low. When nationality was held constant, the association between the variables for Chinese students was almost nonexistent and for American students was moderate.

There was no specific study in the literature concerning the relationship between religious preference of student and attitudes toward old people. However, the results of the data used in this study relating to the variable of student religious preference indicates the need for further study.

The social climate of America is generally unfavorable toward aging and toward old people.¹ Many attitude studies about old people have shown that different ages subscribe to erroneous and stereotyped ideas concerning old people.

However, the results of the present study differed from the results of most of the previous studies and suggested that the American students had positive attitudes toward old people even more than Chinese students. The

¹Ethel Shanas, "Some Observations on Cross-National Surveys of Aging," The Gerontologist, Vol. 3 (March, 1963), p. 8.

results also indicated that there was almost no association between the length of Chinese student stay in the United States and attitudes toward old people. The degree of association between independent variable (age of student, sex of student, type of university the student is attending, academic classification of the student, marital status of student or religious preference of student) and dependent variable (attitudes toward old people) in the present study was almost nonexistent or very low.

In conclusion, several points may be drawn to explain these results of the study.

American students included in the study may really have more positive attitudes toward old people than respondents of the previous studies. Or it may be that the American students expressed more positive attitudes toward old people because of their respect for the nationality of the writer. In the final analysis there is some question about whether the American students expressed their true attitudes in their responses.

On the other hand, the questionnaire was constructed by the writer using the models of the Tuckman-Lorge Questionnaire and the Kogan Questionnaire. China is a non-English-speaking country. The culture of China differs from that of the United States. Whether all terms

used in the questionnaire have the same meaning to Chinese students as to American students and whether questions meaningful to American students are really meaningful to Chinese students too are problems.

To the writer's knowledge, all of the past research was concerned with American students' attitudes toward old people in general. No article reviewed has studied the relationship between such particular factors as type of university the student is attending, classification of student, marital status of student, etc. and attitudes toward old people. The present study is a pioneering of this kind of study and also a pioneering cross-cultural study about attitudes toward old people. Techniques of inquiry and analysis may need to be improved.

It is also important to stress the fact that the findings of the present study were based on the limited number of college students in the northern part of Texas. Furthermore, the study dealt only with the attitudes of Chinese students in the United States and not with the attitudes of Chinese students in Taiwan, China.

The sample selected for the study was not random, but purposive. This precludes generalizations from the sample findings. It is the hope of the writer that the

findings of this study will enlighten and encourage the pursuit of more extensive and refined cross-cultural studies about old people.

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APPENDIX A

QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear Respondent: I am collecting data for my thesis and am interested in your attitudes about people who are 65 years old and over. Please answer all questions on this questionnaire. Thank you for your cooperation.

INSTRUCTIONS: In most questions, please circle the answer of your choice. In some cases, however, you are asked to write the appropriate answer.

Do not sign your name!

1. Sex:
(1) female (2) male
2. Age: _____
3. University you are attending:
(1) Texas Woman's University
(2) North Texas State University
(3) East Texas State University
(4) Southern Methodist University
4. Classification:
(1) freshman (2) sophomore (3) junior (4) senior
(5) graduate student
5. Marital Status:
(1) single (never married) (2) engaged (3) married
(4) separated (5) divorced (6) widowed
6. Religious Preference:
(1) Catholic (2) Protestant (3) Jewish (4) none
(5) other (please indicate) _____
7. Ethnic Background:
(1) White (2) Black (3) American Indian (4) Chinese
(5) other (please indicate) _____

Questions 8 and 9 for Chinese student only.

8. Years you have been living in U. S.: _____

9. Place you came from:
 (1) Taiwan (2) Hong Kong
 (3) other (please indicate) _____

Below are statements about old people. Please circle only one answer to each statement. The answer should be the one which most accurately corresponds with your reaction to old people as a group. (not any single individual you know)

10. Old people should have high status in society.
 (1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
 (4) agree (5) strongly agree
11. Old people are a burden to their family.
 (1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
 (4) agree (5) strongly agree
12. Old people always talk too much.
 (1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
 (4) agree (5) strongly agree
13. Old people are pretty stubborn.
 (1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
 (4) agree (5) strongly agree
14. Old people are wise.
 (1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
 (4) agree (5) strongly agree
15. Old people are very hard to get along with.
 (1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
 (4) agree (5) strongly agree
16. Old people are merciful.
 (1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
 (4) agree (5) strongly agree
17. Old people are as easy to understand as younger people.
 (1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
 (4) agree (5) strongly agree
18. When faced with a new situation, old people are able to adjust to it.
 (1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
 (4) agree (5) strongly agree

19. One of the qualities of most old people is they like to talk about the "good old days".
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
20. Old people are untidy.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
21. Old people have a fine sense of humor.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
22. Old people have time to do all things they like.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
23. Old people get angry easily.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
24. Old people are very often lonely.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
25. Old people are always absent-minded.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
26. Old people are slow in learning.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
27. Old people like talking to themselves.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
28. Old people have short memories.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
29. Old people are unable to take care of themselves.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree

30. Old people are intelligent.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
31. Old people stick to their own opinions.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
32. Old people are interested in religion.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
33. Old people are not productive.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
34. Old people are tolerant toward others.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
35. Old people are considerate.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
36. Old people are interested in public affairs.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
37. Old people are kind.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree
38. Old people are calm.
(1) strongly disagree (2) disagree (3) uncertain
(4) agree (5) strongly agree

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

APPENDIX B

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS BY NATIONALITY

10. Old people should have high status in society.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	7	2
(2) disagree	30	42
(3) uncertain	43	55
(4) agree	59	74
(5) strongly agree	10	8

11. Old people are a burden to their family.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	32	36
(2) disagree	75	104
(3) uncertain	25	23
(4) agree	17	18
(5) strongly agree	0	0

12. Old people always talk too much.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	4	32
(2) disagree	55	123
(3) uncertain	35	13
(4) agree	51	11
(5) strongly agree	4	2

13. Old people are pretty stubborn.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	6	5
(2) disagree	40	58
(3) uncertain	44	31
(4) agree	53	77
(5) strongly agree	6	10

14. Old people are wise.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	2	0
(2) disagree	38	31
(3) uncertain	81	59
(4) agree	26	78
(5) strongly agree	2	13

15. Old people are very hard to get along with.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	8	23
(2) disagree	86	118
(3) uncertain	38	24
(4) agree	13	13
(5) strongly agree	4	3

16. Old people are merciful.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	4	1
(2) disagree	28	28
(3) uncertain	52	78
(4) agree	58	65
(5) strongly agree	7	9

17. Old people are as easy to understand as younger people.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	8	11
(2) disagree	49	62
(3) uncertain	36	25
(4) agree	51	76
(5) strongly agree	5	7

18. When faced with a new situation, old people are able to adjust to it.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	9	21
(2) disagree	70	89
(3) uncertain	33	43
(4) agree	32	26
(5) strongly agree	5	2

19. One of the qualities of most old people is they like to talk about the "good old days".

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	3	1
(2) disagree	1	20
(3) uncertain	15	16
(4) agree	117	120
(5) strongly agree	13	24

20. Old people are untidy.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	9	29
(2) disagree	74	130
(3) uncertain	53	13
(4) agree	13	8
(5) strongly agree	0	1

21. Old people have a fine sense of humor.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	1	0
(2) disagree	44	18
(3) uncertain	78	73
(4) agree	24	81
(5) strongly agree	2	9

22. Old people have time to do all things they like.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	5	7
(2) disagree	43	97
(3) uncertain	41	36
(4) agree	57	37
(5) strongly agree	3	4

23. Old people get angry easily.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	7	5
(2) disagree	75	112
(3) uncertain	41	44
(4) agree	25	18
(5) strongly agree	1	2

24. Old people are very often lonely.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	2	1
(2) disagree	17	5
(3) uncertain	12	14
(4) agree	100	104
(5) strongly agree	18	57

25. Old people are always absent-minded.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	7	19
(2) disagree	52	123
(3) uncertain	36	27
(4) agree	49	12
(5) strongly agree	5	0

26. Old people are slow in learning.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	4	12
(2) disagree	25	97
(3) uncertain	37	40
(4) agree	75	31
(5) strongly agree	8	1

27. Old people like talking to themselves.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	4	10
(2) disagree	29	95
(3) uncertain	40	52
(4) agree	70	24
(5) strongly agree	6	0

28. Old people have short memories.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	9	10
(2) disagree	43	74
(3) uncertain	36	45
(4) agree	56	50
(5) strongly agree	5	2

29. Old people are unable to take care of themselves.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	6	19
(2) disagree	73	117
(3) uncertain	41	32
(4) agree	27	12
(5) strongly agree	2	1

30. Old people are intelligent.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	2	2
(2) disagree	27	9
(3) uncertain	85	61
(4) agree	33	98
(5) strongly agree	2	11

31. Old people stick to their own opinions.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	2	2
(2) disagree	15	33
(3) uncertain	23	36
(4) agree	95	94
(5) strongly agree	14	16

32. Old people are interested in religion.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	3	1
(2) disagree	24	7
(3) uncertain	33	50
(4) agree	76	91
(5) strongly agree	13	32

33. Old people are not productive.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	6	27
(2) disagree	74	113
(3) uncertain	42	27
(4) agree	25	14
(5) strongly agree	2	0

34. Old people are tolerant toward others.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	3	3
(2) disagree	47	37
(3) uncertain	51	62
(4) agree	46	78
(5) strongly agree	2	1

35. Old people are considerate.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	2	1
(2) disagree	15	13
(3) uncertain	35	61
(4) agree	88	101
(5) strongly agree	9	5

36. Old people are interested in public affairs.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	5	2
(2) disagree	49	30
(3) uncertain	57	62
(4) agree	34	81
(5) strongly agree	4	6

37. Old people are kind.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	2	0
(2) disagree	14	4
(3) uncertain	37	52
(4) agree	83	109
(5) strongly agree	13	16

38. Old people are calm.

	Chinese	American
(1) strongly disagree	5	1
(2) disagree	26	34
(3) uncertain	49	88
(4) agree	61	57
(5) strongly agree	8	1

ABSTRACT

ATTITUDES TOWARD OLD PEOPLE: A COMPARISON BETWEEN CHINESE STUDENTS AND AMERICAN STUDENTS

Sandra Wu-tsao Chang

The purpose of this study was to examine and then to compare the attitudes of Chinese and American students toward old people.

The instrument used in this study was a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was administered to the Chinese and American students at Texas Woman's University, North Texas State University, East Texas State University, and Southern Methodist University. The number of respondents utilized was 330 (149 Chinese students and 181 American students).

The major assumption of this study was that there is a difference in the attitudes of Chinese and American college students toward old people and eight hypotheses were examined.

The hypotheses examined were:

1. The Chinese students are more likely to have positive attitudes toward old people than are the American students.
2. For the Chinese students, the longer their stay in the United States, the less likely they are to have positive attitudes toward old people.
3. There is some association between age of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between age and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.
4. There is some association between sex of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between sex and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.
5. There is some association between type of university the student is attending and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between type of university and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

6. There is some association between classification of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between classification and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

7. There is some association between marital status of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between marital status and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

8. There is some association between religious preference of student and attitudes toward old people. This relationship between religious preference and attitudes toward old people is also expected to occur among both the Chinese students and the American students.

It was found that the American students are more likely to have positive attitudes toward old people than are the Chinese students at least in this sample. The association between the variables was substantial.

The association between the length of Chinese student stay in the United States and attitudes toward old people was almost nonexistent.

The findings of this study indicated that there was little or no relationship between age, sex, type of

university the student is attending, classification, marital status or religious preference of student and attitudes toward old people.

VITA

Sandra Wu-tsao Chang was born in Shanghai, China on October 3, 1945, the daughter of Ko-chen Lee Chang and I-jen Chang. After completing her studies at Taichung Girls' Middle School, Taichung, she entered Tunghai University in 1964 where she finished her Bachelor's Degree in Arts, in 1968. Later she entered University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri for further study. In January, 1972, she transferred to the Graduate School in Sociology at Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas.

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