

Bilingual Parenting: A Personal Narrative Story of Foreign Bride in Taiwan Towards Taiwanese-Indonesian Student Academic Achievement

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Abstract

This study aims to investigate the impact of bilingual parenting on academic achievement by using a qualitative research technique that entails evaluating the narrative story of a foreign marriage family living in Hsinchu City, Taiwan. Because of numerous instances published in Taiwan's media, people formed a stereotype that women from Southeast Asia came just to get nationality and enhance their family's economic status. As a result, spouses from Southeast Asia are stigmatized by this notion. Not only do they look down on them, but they are also treated harshly by family members such as in-laws. According to the interview, new immigrant spouse in Taiwan face a variety of problems, including economic troubles and verbal and physical assault, among others. This situation can result in the formation of an unfavorable family lively, occasionally referred to as a "broken home." These problems have an impact on children's conduct, which influences their attitudes and learning results. Notably, children from foreign marriages are especially vulnerable to verbal bullying, which can have an impact on their academic achievement. However, the research findings show that the children of the participants have a remarkable resilience, suggesting a potential to fight and overcome the negative impacts of verbal bullying, eventually minimizing its influence on their academic achievement.

Keywords: new immigrant, academic achievement, narrative story

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1. Introduction

Individuals and families have crossed borders in quest of better economic opportunities and a better quality of life in recent decades, resulting in a considerable increase in international migration (Zanabazar et al., 2021; Saksonova & Jansone, 2021). Taiwan stands out among the numerous nations experiencing these phenomena as a destination that has witnessed a significant influx of immigrants, including a significant number from Indonesia (*National Immigration Agency*, 2021).

Migration is motivated by a variety of factors, including marriage, family expansion, economic ambitions, and a variety of personal goals. Inter marriages in Taiwan began growing in 1983 and peaked in 1992, with miscegenation declining since the peak (Zhuang, 2010; Chen, 2019; Lin et al., 2021). The majority of migrant women marry working-class or farmer men in Taiwan (Yu, 2022). They usually arrive with little understanding of Chinese or other prevalent languages in Taiwan, making them feel even more alone. Hsia (2010), Hsia (2019), and Chen (2019) emphasized the oppression these women confront as a result of their economic status, lack of social support and networks, and unjust conduct rooted in their everyday lives, rules, and laws.

Foreign brides are a complicated subject in Taiwan. They are generally seen as outsiders and have difficulty finding job, since many Taiwanese employers are afraid to hire them. Furthermore, even when they do find work, they are not always treated fairly and equitably, and they may face prejudice based on racial stereotypes and assumptions (Hsia, 2008; Hsia, 2019; Cheng, 2020). This instinctive tendency to disregard persons from other groups is amplified by media coverage that fosters negative stereotypes of foreign women and their children as having low social standing. The problem is less about the actions of these foreign brides and more about their identity and ancestry (Chen and Chin, 2008).

New immigrants in Taiwan frequently confront a slew of difficulties as they adjust to their new surroundings. Language obstacles, prejudice, and a lack of social support are examples of these difficulties. Furthermore, many new immigrants fail to find job that matches their skills and experience, which leads to financial difficulties (Rich et al., 2022; Wu, 2023). They face prejudice and discrimination as well. Examples include exclusion from social and economic opportunities, as well as racial comments and cruelty. This can create a hostile environment for new immigrants, making it difficult for them to fully integrate into their new community and harming their mental health and well-being. They also have to deal with practical difficulties like as navigating the local healthcare system, obtaining access to government services, and finding affordable accommodation (Liang et al., 2019). Language barriers, cultural differences, and a lack of knowledge about local organizations and procedures may exacerbate these challenges.

Another problem encountered by spouses from Southeast Asia is difficulties in communicating, reading, writing Chinese or other languages commonly spoken in Taiwan. This makes it more difficult for them to teach their children about Taiwanese culture (Ho, 2003; Hsia, 2010; Hsia, 2019; Liang et al., 2019). The degree of education of the mother has a higher effect on the results of her children (Vu & Yeh, 2017). Mothers play an important role in developing their children's academic success and conduct, which may be impacted by their parenting style. Cultural background has an influence on parenting techniques as well as the values and attitudes instilled in children. The approaches used by a woman to raise her children can have an influence on their academic achievement, behavior, and socializing (Hsieh et al., 2015). In order to understand the child's academic achievement and general well-being, it is critical to examine both the mother's impact and cultural background. Vu and Yeh (2017) discovered that one of their participants employed a combination of Taiwanese and Vietnamese cultural components in their parenting approach.

Yang et al. (2014) highlighted the important effect that dads have in their children's academic achievement. The study discovered that a father's degree of education influences a child's behavioral issues. Contributing variables included a lower level of education and socioeconomic status, as well as less access to social supports. The participation of the father in parenting determines the parenting style used in a family. In Chinese society, the husband and his family wield tremendous power in determining children's upbringing, since the husband's opinions and values influence the wife's parenting choices.

Parental engagement has a somewhat good and visible impact on a student's academic progress. According to research by Castro et al. (2015); Fan and Chen (2001), the influence of parental participation is especially substantial for younger kids, students from low-income households, and students from minority ethnic backgrounds. Topor et al. (2010) agreed that parental participation has both direct and indirect effects on a student's academic achievement, with parental expectations and the student's drive to succeed serving as critical mediating elements. The indirect influence on academic accomplishment is assisted by two mediational mechanisms: parental achievement expectations and the student's drive to achieve.

The support of parents is an important aspect in determining a student's academic progress. In studies, parental involvement, such as helping at school, overseeing homework, and participating in school events, has been shown to boost a student's academic attainment (Chen & Chen, 2011). Furthermore, parental assistance, such as intellectual support, impacts a student's academic progress. Culture and familial background can also influence a student's academic performance. Cultural beliefs and ideals can influence parenting methods such as the emphasis placed on education and the disciplining techniques used. Furthermore, family background characteristics such as household income, education level, and parent occupation may impact a student's access to resources and opportunities that will assist them in academic success.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Foreign bride as a problematic in Taiwan

The media environment has been flooded with stories about runaway foreign brides, rising divorce rates, incidents of domestic violence, and, more lately, worries over the perceived 'substandard quality' of children born to foreign wives. The depiction of these conditions leads to a critical assessment of the 'foreign bride phenomenon' inside Taiwan's sociocultural framework. Observing the scenarios described, one might conclude that this phenomenon, classified as a social concern, has consolidated its standing as a recognized 'truth' inside mainstream Taiwanese society, as expressed by Hsia (2007). This acknowledgement emphasizes the issue's ingrained character, suggesting its awareness and acceptance as a palpable and significant component of Taiwan's social fabric (Kasai, 2022).

According to Hsia (2007) research, a continuous tendency among Taiwanese males, colloquially known as 'Going South,' may be seen. This practice includes the marriage of Taiwanese males to Southeast Asian women, a group that is frequently portrayed in the media as having lower levels of education, perceived dullness, and, at times, being judged unattractive. This phenomenon acts as a prism through which various intricate issues within Taiwan's social structure, marriage relationships, and gender ratios emerge. Concerns have been made in the media regarding the possible negative repercussions of this trend on several aspects of Taiwanese society (Yu, 2022).

The marriage of Taiwanese males to women from Southeast Asia highlights the complexities of Taiwan's socioeconomic system. The ramifications are far-reaching, addressing issues such as marriage dynamics, gender inequalities, and society standards (Wang, 2022). The phenomenon calls into question conventional societal attitudes, beliefs, and expectations about marriage, demanding a deeper look at how these relationships may be symptomatic of or contributing to alterations in established norms.

2.2 Broken family impacts to children education

Hsia (2007) and Lan (2019), a common tendency seen by law enforcement is that women frequently engage in 'fake marriage' as a strategic maneuver to gain Taiwanese nationality upon their arrival to Taiwan. This unusual pattern is enhanced by an interesting demographic aspect, which reveals a significant age gap of more than 5 years

between Taiwanese males and their overseas spouses. Such demographic dynamics take on increased relevance when the spouse dies, perhaps having a negative influence on the offspring's schooling.

The educational consequences derive from the fact that foreign women in these relationships have much lower educational levels than Taiwanese persons on average. This educational difference is seen as a possible trigger for adolescent criminality, bringing a societal problem that requires serious evaluation and response. The interaction of demographic determinants and societal results provides light on the subtle intricacies of immigration trends and their possible repercussions across all areas of Taiwanese society.

2.3 Interrelation between family and education

Lin and Lai (2014) discovered that the family history of new immigrant children has a substantial influence on their normal adjustment and life happiness. Their findings show that new immigrant pupils who live with both parents had greater scores in normal adaptation and life satisfaction than those who live with a single parent, whether the mother or father. This gap is ascribed to the possible difficulties experienced by single-parent homes, where the lone earner may struggle to offer adequate care and material resources, hurting the overall well-being and contentment of new immigrant pupils.

New immigrant children tend to spend a greater amount of time during the school day in the company of teachers or classmates. Positive adjustment to school norms and harmonious connections with instructors and classmates, according to Lin and Lai (2014), contribute to their emotions of fulfillment and joy in school life. However, if young toddlers struggle to adjust to their new surroundings, the repercussions might be severe. Chen (2010) investigated the experiences of teenagers from new immigrant households and discovered that they frequently face racial prejudice against minority groups. According to the findings of the study, minority racial identification has both direct and indirect impacts on psychological and behavioral adjustment, but has no direct impact on scholastic attainment or peer relationships. The indirect impact on life adjustment is mediated by self-esteem and racial bias perception.

3. Methodology

This qualitative narrative study intends to investigate the influence of parenting methods on scientific success among Taiwanese-Indonesian parents. It also aims to answer the following questions:

- (a) What difficulties do foreign spouses face while living in Taiwan?
- (b) What challenges do Taiwanese-Indonesian students confront in education environment?
- (c) To what extent does family support impact Taiwanese-Indonesian students' academic achievement?

The participant in this research is a foreign spouse originating from Pontianak, Indonesia. She is 60 years old now. She embarked on a significant life journey by marrying a Taiwanese man in 1994. The culmination of this union led her to Taiwan in 1996, where she settled with the primary intent of establishing a marital life. The participant's unique life trajectory, marked by cross-cultural matrimony and international relocation, provides a rich and nuanced perspective that contributes to the comprehensive exploration of the research questions at hand.

Semi-structured interviews are used in the study and are recorded for accurate data gathering. Interviews are transcribed into raw field notes after data collection to ensure preservation and accessibility. Following that, systematic coding classifies data based on its relevance to study subjects. This methodological technique not only organizes data but also allows for extensive analysis, allowing significant insights to be extracted from participant replies. The use of recorded interviews, transcription, and systematic coding improves methodological rigor for a thorough analysis of the study topics.

4. Findings and Discussion

The findings on the narrative account of an Indonesian foreign wife are explored in terms of family and environment responses to intermarriage, partner attitude, and the influence on children.

4.1 Family and environment responses to intermarriage

The Taiwanese spouse's family members, including her mother-in-law and other relatives, provided extremely nice remarks. Interactions with them were marked by a friendly and inviting atmosphere, free of any negative features that would have made the participants feel unwelcome inside the family context.

My brother-in-law met me at Taoyuan International Airport and gladly picked me up. Furthermore, my mother-in-law gave a warm welcome, going further than usual by offering various items that went above and beyond the original preparations made for my arrival.

This unwaveringly optimistic disposition continues, with no noticeable decline in conduct. The treatment continuously reflects the warm and friendly reception offered at arrival, providing a lasting sense of acceptance and consideration.

Human beings are naturally flawed, and my mother-in-law, with her loud personality, and I have had our fair share of squabbles. As a daughter-in-law, I was assigned unusual home tasks, which required me to adjust and

acquire these new obligations. Despite the rare disagreements, it is worth noting that their demeanor remained professional and kind, never devolving into rudeness.

When I delivered birth, the excitement was tangible. Every member of the family went to the hospital, but there was an unexpected moment when someone nearby, who was also giving birth, stated "I'm basically Taiwanese, and my in-laws don't treat me like that." This comment emphasized a difference in treatment, implying that, in my situation, I was regarded like a special person during this occasion.

Neighbors' unfavorable responses to foreign weddings paint foreign partners in a poor light, characterizing them as illiterate folks from a lower socioeconomic status. This negative reaction shows a societal prejudice that may be founded in assumptions and misconceptions about people from other cultural origins, thus adding to social stigma and obstacles for those participating in foreign unions. It emphasizes the significance of confronting and combating such discriminatory views in order to develop a more inclusive and understanding community.

Two out of every ten people have a bad opinion of me and other persons in foreign marriages. They believe that people from Indonesia or other Southeast Asian countries are illiterate and live carelessly, creating a stigma associated with foreigners marrying in Taiwan. Fortunately, my mother-in-law have been a source of comfort, chastising people who use abusive language. This assistance derives from the fact that I had earlier welcomed my in-laws to my home in Indonesia, allowing them to observe directly my household's well-being and prosperity.

There is a widespread prejudice that people from Southeast Asia who come to Taiwan for marriage are illiterate and lead irresponsible lives, which is sometimes fed by sporadic examples of people wanting to run away. This widely held misconception adds to an unfavorable overall perception of couples with foreign partners, putting a poor light on individuals involved in international weddings. It is critical to challenge and disprove these preconceptions in order to develop a more inclusive and understanding society view on mixed marriages.

My husband's grandmother had a relative who married an Indonesian woman in Beipu, Hsinchu. Unfortunately, the wife ran away, and her Indonesian family has been unable to trace her to this day. Her resolve to give up originates from the harsh treatment she received from her mother-in-law, who even refused to allow her to dine at the same table as them. Because of his joblessness and lack of cash, the husband was unable to defend his wife from such harassment.

The conduct displayed within a family has a significant influence on an individual's capacity to maintain a marriage. The dynamics, communication patterns, and support networks within a family unit all play a vital role in molding an individual's view of relationships and attitude to marriage. Positive family practices, such as efficient communication, empathy, and a supportive atmosphere, frequently develop a healthy outlook on marriage partnerships. The effect of family conduct extends beyond individual relationships, affecting the larger framework in which marriages are navigated and sustained.

One lingering characteristic that goes out is my mother-in-law seemingly casual and careless demeanor, which approaches everything with a relaxed manner. However, there was one significant moment in which she wrongly accused me of stealing money, which was completely incorrect. Despite the disclosure of the true offender, my mother-in-law opted not to notify me of the facts or apologize; instead, she chose to remain silent on the topic. This tragedy has left an indelible mark on the family relations, showing a lack of openness and responsibility.

The mother-in-law is frequently the source and indicator of the marital migrant's familial troubles. The migrant wife, like non-migrant Taiwanese spouses, is expected to engage in her husband's family as a loyal daughter-in-law. She must preserve her bond with her husband's family while also dealing with homesickness and loneliness in her new home (Yu, 2022).

4.2 Partner attitude

The husband's behavior at home has a considerable impact on the well-being of the family and the development of the children. His attitudes, communication style, and approach to issue solving all contribute considerably to the overall situation within the family (Zahrakar, 2022). A loving and active husband may provide a pleasant environment that promotes the emotional and psychological development of the children.

Whenever my mother-in-law chastised me, my husband always shelters me with his presence. He defends me in the face of his mother's reprimand and finds remedies to uncomfortable circumstances. My husband's unfailing support becomes a source of strength and encouragement for me as I navigate through family problems.

The role of the husband is extremely important in a family, as expressed by the participant in Beipu regarding his brother's wife. The husband's failure to fulfill his obligations, notably caring for his wife, was cited as a critical reason in the wife's choice to go. It highlights the importance of even the smallest gestures and acts of care from the spouse in maintaining marital stability and harmony.

I am really grateful that my husband continues to display his love for me and my family by performing simple acts of kindness such as purchasing groceries or aiding with home tasks.

A frequent belief in Taiwan is that a common custom sustains the notion that household responsibilities are largely the responsibility of women. This prevalent thinking generates an atmosphere in which women bear a disproportionate share of the responsibility of housekeeping, perhaps contributing to feelings of isolation and extra

strain within families. Addressing and altering established gender roles in household duties is critical for creating a more equal and supportive family environment.

My mother-in-law once chastised my husband for assisting me with housework, which is a regular occurrence in Taiwan, where traditional conventions restrict guys from participating in home tasks. This paradigm must be restricted, highlighting the significance of breaking down gendered expectations and encouraging partners to help each other with household responsibilities.

4.3 The influence on children

Bullying is a disturbing issue that, sadly, impacts children from foreign marriage households at school, where they are verbally abused by their peers. This type of prejudice underscores the difficulties that young children may face as a result of their various family backgrounds. It emphasizes the need of developing inclusiveness and creating awareness in educational settings in order to offer a welcome atmosphere for all students, regardless of ethnic or racial background in their families.

It breaks my heart to report that my child was bullied at school and received harsh remarks about his mother not being Taiwanese. Despite this, my kid remained strong and decided not to be influenced. Instead, he confronted the bullies with facts, saying, "My mother can take care of me and my family, while your mother is busy and can't do the same."

The perspectives and educational methods of parents have a considerable influence on their children's behavior and responses. Children pick up on and learn from their parents' activities and interactions in the home setting. A home that promotes good and attentive educational patterns may greatly contribute to the creation of children's personalities, giving a solid basis for their moral and social growth. As a result, parents' roles as models and educators in forming children's personalities and attitudes for the future are crucial. Chen and Gay (2020) found that Taiwanese instructors understood cultural disparities, they did not explore efforts to attain educational parity.

Despite the difficulties of having my child encounter peer bullying, I choose to respond with compassion and a good attitude. I showed my gratitude by providing meals, especially when the parents were busy and had entrusted their children to my care at home. This approach demonstrates a dedication to creating a pleasant workplace, stressing empathy and understanding even in challenging situations.

Bullying has the ability to adversely affect student achievement in school. Bullying's detrimental impacts may extend beyond the immediate emotional and psychological toll, impacting individuals who are targeted overall learning experience and achievements. To offer a supportive and conducive learning environment for all, it is critical to recognize and address the larger consequences of bullying on student well-being and academic progress. Family also take a high role, children with varied mother nations can maintain mental well-being in a favorable setting with outstanding family function, proper parenting style, proper family support, and better socioeconomic position (Chang et al., 2020).

My kid likes interacting with other pupils and has an outgoing attitude. Surprisingly, the incidences of bullying had no negative influence on her academic achievement. Rather than succumbing to bullying, she chose to confront and battle those who engaged in it. Furthermore, despite the difficulties, my child has thrived academically, routinely getting flawless 100-point ratings in all disciplines.

5. Conclusion

The purpose of this study is to investigate the effect of parenting on the academic performance of Taiwanese-Indonesian students. The study tackles various significant research topics, with first focus on understanding the difficulties encountered by foreign spouses staying in Taiwan. The prevalent misconceptions surrounding Southeast Asian couples, which frequently represent them as persons with lower education levels and believe that they come to Taiwan merely to improve their family's economic situation, contribute to negative assessments and discrimination directed against them. Furthermore, the influence of the husband's parents might cause tension in the family dynamics and not to be forgotten is how husband role in conflict resolution (Zahrakar, 2022). Economic concerns play a crucial role, since insufficient money forces women to seek jobs or even live with their husband's family, thus complicating their family and financial situations. A complete investigation of the multiple issues encountered by Taiwanese-Indonesian families is unfolding in this research, providing light on the complicated interconnections between parenting, societal preconceptions, and economic considerations.

Second, to look at the difficulties that Taiwanese-Indonesian children face in the school environment. Students from foreign marriage families are frequently targets of bullying in the school setting. The responsibilities of both teachers and parents appear as critical components in resolving this issue. Parents are expected to serve as role models for their children, instilling ideals and encouraging positive conduct. At the same time, instructors play a critical role in fostering positive attitudes in kids. Bullying's potential influence on an individual's emotional well-being, academic performance, and subsequent conduct in society emphasizes the need of treating it before worsens, which might have an influence till adolescence and develop serious depressive symptoms (Lin et al.,

2022).

Third, looking at the effect of family support on academic success among Taiwanese-Indonesian students. Family support has a significant impact; when parents fail to perform their duties, their children are more likely to mimic their parents' conduct. Immigrant brides who have been in Taiwan for a longer period of time, particularly more than ten years, report a lower degree of happiness (Li & Yang, 2021). However, participants in the study underlined a key life value, which was represented in the statement "watch our own behavior." This emphasizes the significance of parental supervision in developing learner values and habits. While some people choose not to stay in foreign marriages, the research intends to investigate positive answers to such circumstances. The research attempts to give insights into building healthy familial situations that enable Taiwanese-Indonesian kids to succeed academically despite possible hurdles by exploring the effect of family support in academic achievement.

"Why don't you ever tell others about your husband's bad behavior? I've known your husband since I was a youngster, and I'm well aware of how troublesome his conduct can be." a neighbor once asked. "Why would I choose to speak ill of my own husband?" I responded. If the situation were genuinely grave, I could decide to quit at any time without openly insulting him." This interaction demonstrates a personal decision to keep intimate problems private, preferring a respectful method to dealing with interpersonal challenges within the bounds of the marriage.

In recent years, the stereotype connected with marriages among people from Southeast Asian nations has significantly transformed, and unfavorable opinions are not as prominent as they once were. Following the 2016 election campaign, new immigrants were lauded as mothers of future Taiwanese citizens who, with their multicultural capital, may contribute to Taiwan's future change (Cheng et al., 2019; Yokata, 2022). Whether one marries a fellow Taiwanese or someone from a Southeast Asian nation, the need of keeping a pleasant attitude within the family is becoming more widely recognized. This emphasis on attitude arises from the realization that it has a substantial impact on a child's disposition and academic results. Recognizing this relationship highlights a larger social trend toward respecting varied family patterns and stressing a supportive environment for children's holistic development, regardless of their parents' cultural origins. The couples in this research are all from Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia. Future research might investigate into if similar events occur in other Southeast Asian nations, as well as China, Macau, and Hong Kong. This study also focuses on educational outcomes in general, while future research may examine more significant topics. This study can assist in determining how living in an intermarriage family influences student behavior, competencies, and learning outcomes.

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