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RESEARCH REPORT

Immigration Acculturation Process: A Study of Adaptation Experiences of Elderly Dependent Chinese Immigrants in Auckland

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Abstract

Over the past decade, there has been a “new wave” of Asian immigrants to New Zealand. The majority of these immigrants are Chinese. Following the wave of immigration of younger Chinese, a large number of elderly Chinese immigrated to New Zealand in the past five years under the Family Reunion Category to live with their sons or daughters. In a new environment, many of them suffer from language difficulty, changing of relationships between family members, discontent, stress, and cross-culture shock. As elderly family members of an ethnic minority group, they have not received much attention in the New Zealand society. The main purpose of this study is to examine the adaptation experiences of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants who moved to New Zealand in recent years. For the purpose of this research, an elderly dependent Chinese immigrant is defined as an ethnic Chinese above the age of 50 and who immigrated to New Zealand in the last five years to be with their children.

In this study, the change of New Zealand’s immigration policies is summarized. Traditional Chinese value on child-parents relationships is discussed to indicate that in a new Chinese immigrant family, this issue impact on both the adjustment experiences of older parents and the adaptation processes of younger family members when they move to a new environment such as New Zealand. Dominant social gerontological theories are seen as limited in explaining the aging experience in adjustment of the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants. Assimilation theory is also described to try to give more explanation on immigrant adjustment. Finally, cross-cultural adjustment study which plays an important part in analyzing the immigrant’s acculturation in the foreign environment is adopted to examine the process of acculturation of the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants.

The main part of the study involved group-administered questionnaire surveys to measure the various aspects of the adaptation, while selected in-depth interviews were conducted by the researcher to explore the issue of influence of relationships between the elderly

dependent Chinese immigrants and other family members in the New Zealand environment.

The key findings of this study are: (1) The five main factors that influence the living condition in New Zealand of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants are language difficulty, medical care, transportation, cost of living, and relationships with other family members. (2) The 50 – 59 age group among the respondents thinks that immigration to New Zealand was helpful to their family. However, the same age group responded that they are suffering more stress in the New Zealand environment. (3) Respondents who have lived in New Zealand between 1 and 2 years support that learning English is important and equally understanding the local culture is important. (4) The study also showed that when the immigrant family coped well in the local culture, the influence of the five factors (language difficulty, medical care, transportation, cost of living, and relationships with other family members) significantly impact less on the living conditions of the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants in New Zealand. (5) Based on factor analysis, elderly Chinese immigrants who were less adaptive, less cooperative and less participative in the New Zealand environments responded that they may decide to leave New Zealand. As a corollary than, the immigrants and their families with high degree of contentment may decide to stay in New Zealand and become more adaptive, more cooperative and more participative. The results generally support the application of the four-stage adjustment model of Oberg (1960) in the study of expatriates and Expatriate Acculturation Process (EAP) Model of Selvarajah (1998) in the study of immigrants.

Chapter I Introduction

Over the past decade, the size of the Chinese population in New Zealand has grown from 26,616 in 1986 to 81,309 in 1996 (Statistics New Zealand, 1997). About 70 per cent of these Chinese New Zealanders were part of the “new wave” of immigrants who came to New Zealand after 1987. This “new wave” resulted from the introduction of the 1987 Business Immigration Policy (BIP) and the 1991 ‘Points System’ designed to import immigrants with professional skills and capital for investment (Ip, 1995). Following the wave of immigration of younger Chinese, a large number of elderly dependent Chinese immigrated to New Zealand in the past five years under the Family Reunion Category to live with their son or daughter. According to *Statistics New Zealand* (1986, 1996), there were only 2,641 elderly Chinese immigrants aged 50 years and over in 1986, and this number increased to 7,089 in 1996. For the purpose of this research, an elderly dependent Chinese immigrant is defined as an ethnic Chinese above the age of 50 and who immigrated to New Zealand in the last five years to be with their children. In a new environment, many of the new elderly Chinese immigrants are perceived to be suffering from language difficulty, changing of relationships between family members, discontent, stress, and cross-culture shock. As elderly family members of an ethnic minority group, they have also not received much attention in the New Zealand society.

Chinese traditional culture demands that offspring take care of the parents in their older age. Filial piety is a highly cherished value in the traditional Chinese family. The meaning of filial piety is threefold: to have gratitude for the care given by one’s parents, to respect and love one’s parents, and to be attentive to one’s parents’ desires (Li, 1985). Respect, love, and care for the elderly have always been traditional Chinese virtues. Duty, obligation, service, and self-sacrifice to the elders, all essential elements of filial piety, which characterized the parent-child reciprocal relationship in Chinese family, have formed the backbone of Chinese culture for more than 2000 years. In a new Chinese immigrant family, this issue impact on both the adjustment experiences of older parents and the adaptation processes of younger family members when they moved in a new

environment such as New Zealand.

In the 1960s, assimilation theory was prevalent in the studies of Chinese communities in English speaking countries. Its major concern was the perceived difference of traits exhibited by the immigrants as seen by host/receiving country. Gordon (1964) divided the process of assimilation into two types, behavioural assimilation (also defined as acculturation) and structural assimilation (Gordon, 1964:67). The first process, behavioural assimilation consists of intrinsic or extrinsic traits, which involves changes in cultural patterns of the immigrant to those of the host society. Intrinsic traits are “religious beliefs and practices, ethical values, musical tastes, folk recreational patterns, literature, historical language, sense of a common past, essential ingredients of the groups, cultural heritage and derive exactly from the heritage” (P.79). The extrinsic traits are “dressing patterns, manner, patterns of emotional expression, minor oddities in pronouncing and inflecting English, social class experience and values, and the external core of the group’s ethnic cultural heritage” (P.79).

The dominant theoretical perspectives in social gerontology were disengagement and activity theories in the 1980s. Disengagement is defined as an inevitable process in which the elderly individual and society make a gradual and mutual withdrawal. On the contrary, the activity theory claims that high social involvement and activity are major elements of successful aging and high morale (Colen and McNeely, 1983:18). However, both of them failed to reflect the historical and everyday experiences of the elderly within ethnic minorities.

Cross-cultural adjustment plays an important part in analysing the expatriate’s acculturation in the foreign environment. The concept of cross-cultural adjustment began with work on culture shock (Oberg, 1960). Oberg defined culture shock, as the period of anxiety before individual feels comfortable in a new culture. He developed an adjustment approach to deal with inter cultural competence with an emphasis on the adjustment process. Subsequent researches found that there was a personal difference between individuals in the process of cross-cultural adjustment, which includes the individual’s

internal, psychological, emotional state, and these variables should be measured from the perspective of the person experiencing the foreign culture (Black, 1990).

Failure of family members in adjusting to change in the new country is one of the most important factors that influence expatriate adjustment and performance. If a spouse or a family member, such as a child is experiencing difficulty in making cross-cultural adjustment, then expatriate performance and commitment may be adversely influenced as a result of high level of stress and discontent (Naumann, 1992). Unfortunately, there is no further research on the role of old parents involved in the process of expatriate family adjustment, especially in an Asian immigrant family.

Dr. Selvarajah of Massey University has conducted a number of researches on the process of Asian immigrant adjustment from the 1990s. He developed a four-stage Expatriate Acculturation Process (EAP) Model, which illustrates that an expatriate (immigrant) goes through four stages of cross-cultural adjustments when adapting to a foreign environment (Selvarajah, 1998). However, theory and information of older immigrants is still lacking in New Zealand.

“Expatriates, are included in the generic category of ‘sojourners’” (Aycan and Kanungo, 1997). The expatriation process is sometimes explained in terms of stage theories of sojourner adjustment. Kim (1988) states that since immigrants go through a similar process of cross culture adjustment as expatriates, the expatriate acculturation process model is applied in the current study of immigrant acculturation. This study will view the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants in common largely with ‘sojourners’ and ‘expatriates’ in making adjustments. However, there are some features unique to this group.

Chapter II Literature Review:

Part I Country of Immigration

2.1 Change of immigration policy

For most of the past 150 years, New Zealand has sometimes referred to as one of the “lands of immigration” on the Pacific rim, along with Australia, Canada, and the United States. Until the mid-1980s, immigration policies have favored the entry of people from Australia, the United Kingdom and countries in Western Europe in particular. In 1986, there was a significant change in immigration policy which saw the abandonment of a preference for immigrants from “traditional sources” (Trlin, 1992). New Zealand belatedly joined the other traditional lands of immigration on the Pacific rim by adopting much less discriminatory immigration policies, at least as far as sources of migrants are concerned (Lidgard, 1996).

More recently, immigrants with skills, money and a reasonable facility with the English language, are welcome to apply for residence. Since the 1986 policy review, further developments have increased the transparency of policy and immigrant selection processes for assessing and approving applicants for permanent residence, especially the passing into law of a new Immigration Act in 1987, and the adoption of a “points system” in 1991. The New Zealand Immigration Act, 1987 (and subsequent amendments) provides the legal framework for the immigration policy initiatives introduced in August 1986, and extended in 1990 and 1991 with the adoption of a “points system”.

The system was replaced in 1991 by a new approach that placed emphasis on increasing the level of human capital in New Zealand with the objective of contributing to economic growth. As Trlin (1997: 5) points out in his review of recent immigration policy developments: “To achieve this, the immigration flow would be controlled for both quality (measured via qualifications, work experience, age and capacity for investment as proxies for human capital) and quantity (involving an annual immigration target to maximise benefits and avoid undue pressure on social services)”.

There are four basic categories of permanent and long-term entry under current immigration policy. These are the “General Skills Category” (aimed at encouraging migrants who will increase New Zealand’s levels of human capital, enterprise and innovation as well as fostering international linkages); “Business Investor Category” (seeking migrants who will bring capital and enterprise to New Zealand, as well as fostering international linkages); “Family Category” (providing avenues for immigrants who have already settled in New Zealand to sponsor the entry of immediate family members); and “Humanitarian Category” (allowing for the entry of people whose circumstances suggest that the only reasonable solution to family-related problems is being granted New Zealand residence.) (NZIS, 1997). Aspect of the “Family category” is discussed in subsequent sections.

The “points system” was reviewed in 1995 and some modifications made to its operation. Currently (1998), two categories of migration are regulated by the points system: the “General Skills Category” (GIC) and the “Business Investor Category” (BIC). Under the GIC, migrants are selected on the basis of their skills and ability to settle in New Zealand as measured on the basis of their qualifications, employability (work experience, offer of employment, age), and several “settlement factors” (funds, partner’s qualifications, New Zealand work experience, family sponsorship). Applicants must meet the required number of points, or “pass mark” which is calculated each week by the New Zealand Immigration Service.

Entry under both the GIC and BIC from countries in Asia has declined significantly since the October 1995 policy amendments. In addition, a weakening domestic economy and reports by return migrants of difficulties of getting employment in New Zealand, coupled with recent financial turmoil in several Asian countries, have discouraged both short-term and long-term migration to New Zealand.

2.2 Elderly dependent Chinese immigrants

For the purpose of this research, an elderly dependent Chinese immigrant is defined as an ethnic Chinese above the age of 50 and who immigrated to New Zealand in the last five

years to be with their children.

In a recent overview of New Zealand's immigration policy, the NZIS (1997: 13-14) summarized the objectives of the "Family Category" of residence approvals as follows:

...to provide for New Zealand citizens or residents who wish to be joined in New Zealand by their spouse or partner, and to provide avenues for immigrants who have already settled in New Zealand to sponsor the entry of immediate family members and help them settle by providing practical and emotional support.

The numbers entering under the Family category have increased significantly in recent years, largely as a result of the rapid growth in immigration from Asia. Although this category operates outside the "points system", the numbers entering under it do form part of the government's global target for new immigrants. The balance in new migrant numbers has shifted away from the "General Skills" and "Business Investor" categories (economic migrants) to the "Family" and "Humanitarian" categories (social migrants).

Following the wave of immigration of younger Chinese, a large number of elderly dependent Chinese immigrated to New Zealand in the past five years under the Family Reunion Category to live with their son or daughter. According to *Statistics New Zealand* (1986,1996), there were only 2,641 elderly Chinese immigrants aged 50 years and over in 1986, and this number increased to 7,809 in 1996. In a new environment, many of them are suffering from language difficulty, changing of relationships between family members, discontent, stress, and cross-culture shock. As an elderly ethnic minority group, they have not received much attention in New Zealand society. According to the 1986, 1996 Census, the figures of Chinese population over age 50 is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Number of elderly dependent Chinese settlers by age groups

	50-59	60-69	70-79	Over 80	Total
1986	1476	895		270	2641
1996	3054	2819	1321	411	7809
1999					???

Source: Statistics census of New Zealand published in 1986, 1996.

Part II The Tradition Values in Chinese Family

2.3 Perspectives of filial piety

The beliefs that form the basis of the Chinese family can be traced directly to Confucius (551-479 B.C.), whose ideas became the basis of Chinese social and political life for more than 2,000 years. Confucius's ideas penetrated to the core of the lives of ordinary Chinese people, effectively defining for them what is meant to be human and acting as the guiding principles of Chinese social life (Smith, 1991).

There were many distinctive characteristics of the traditional family in China. First, and foremost, the Chinese family was patriarchal. Filial piety was a highly cherished value in the traditional Chinese family. Filial piety is a set of moral principles, taught at a very young age and reinforced throughout one's life, that emphasizes reverence toward the nation's leaders and one's elders. Duty, obligation, importance of family name, service, and self-sacrifice to the elders, all essential elements of filial piety, characterized Chinese family relations. The meaning of filial piety is threefold: to have gratitude for the care given by one's parents, to respect and love one's parents, and to be attentive to one's parents' desires (Li, 1985). Complete devotion to parents was expected. Such devotion was taught in childhood through emphasis on obedience, proper conduct, moral training, and the acceptance of social obligations (Ho, 1986).

The preferred parent-child relationship remains one of mutual interdependence. When they live together, parents and children are in almost constant contact, share their meals, and pool their money in a common hold budget. Contact with children who do not live together with their parents is more variable. They are more likely to visit their parents on their days off if they live in the same city or on holidays if they live farther away. During the Lunar New Year holiday period, all children make a major effort to return to the parents' home. Failure to visit one's parents at this time would be a major affront to the prevailing social customs (Davis-Friedmann, 1991).

2.4 Current structures of overseas Chinese family

The prevailing image of the traditional Chinese family as seen by the nineteenth century observers of China was of a unit large in size and complex in structure (Croll, 1985: 3). This view portrays the traditional Chinese family as a large patriarchal system with several generations living under one roof. Kinship ties formed the basic relationships in Chinese society and their significance was reinforced by the pseudo-religious precepts of Confucianism (Li, 1988: 57).

The economic circumstances of life in China imposed restrictions on the average family size that resembled the nuclear family of the western industrial countries in the twentieth century (Li, 1988: 58). The nuclear family is made up of parents (or parent) and their dependent child(ren). On the other hand, the extended family is composed of two or more nuclear families related by blood, this includes grandparents, uncles and aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews, or any combination of these (Jary and Jary, 1991). The joint family consists of grandparents, married sons, their wives and children residing together as a family unit.

Recent studies on overseas Chinese communities showed that the nuclear family unit was the dominant structure of the Chinese in Canada, the U.S.A., Australia, Singapore, Thailand, North Borneo, Hong Kong and other Southeast Asian countries (Li, 1988; Chow, 1983: 584). Thus, all these studies seem to challenge the popular belief of the traditional Chinese family as one large complex and united unit. Instead, the nuclear family unit has been the common form of family structure among the Chinese in these countries.

Part III Theories for Understanding Elderly Immigrants

2.5 Gerontological literature

A review of the gerontological literature indicates that there is a lacking of information and theory about the aged Chinese immigrants in New Zealand. In New Zealand, despite the changing racial composition of the population, the implications of ethnicity in aging

are still largely unexplored. The elderly Chinese in New Zealand, for example, have received virtually no attention in the gerontological literature and relatively little attention in the planning of community-based services for their aging or as consumers of social services.

Disengagement is defined as an inevitable process in which the elderly individual and society make a gradual and mutual withdrawal (Cumming, 1976). This process is described as universal, desirable and satisfying. This theory claims that an increased preoccupation with the self occurs when the elderly withdraw completely from the society by means of decreased emotional investment in people and objects in the environment as well as decreased interaction with others (Driedger and Chappell, 1987:14).

On the contrary, the activity theory assumes that morale and life satisfactions are a function of continued active participation in vital spheres of life (Colen and McNeely, 1983:18). This theory claims that high social involvement and activity are major elements of successful ageing and high morale (Markides and Mindel, 1987: 26). This view suggests that the aged have similar social and psychological needs to middle aged people (Driedger and Chappell, 1987:14). The activity theory indicates that the individual who continues to be active experiences optimal aging.

The disengagement theory is predicated on a "metaphor of equilibrium lost (with aging) and regained (with adjustment)". However, the activity theory is predicated on a metaphor of a continuing equilibrium in which older people seek to maintain their morale through high levels of participation in social activity. Both 'disengagement' and 'activity' theories have placed an emphasis on the 'pathology' of elderly people who are maladjusted, or with low morale and life satisfaction. However, social inequality and other structural bases of health and social problems of the aged are ignored (Kart, 1987: 79). They fail to reflect the historical and everyday experiences of the elderly within ethnic minorities, and their early life experiences have frequently been overlooked (Colen and McNeely, 1983; 19).

The major theoretical perspectives in social gerontology have developed without special attention to ethnic minority aged. In the 1970s and 1980s, the dominant theoretical perspectives in social gerontology such as the disengagement and activity theories were criticized for their normative bias towards adjustment of aging individuals to the society (Marshall and Tindale, 1978-79). These perspectives tend to focus attention on the elderly themselves rather than the “historical processes and social institutions which structure the social conditions experienced by old people” (Markides and Mindel, 1987). Thus, they also fail to describe the differences in life experiences among the majority and minority elderly.

2.6 Assimilation theory

Up to the 1960s, the theme of assimilation dominated race and ethnic studies in New Zealand (Pearson, 1976) and overseas (Li, 1986). Assimilation is defined as “the process whereby people of diverse origins conform to a single or amalgamated culture” (Li, 1988:129). This implies that immigrants abandon their traditional customs and practices in order to conform to the values and norms of the majority (Giddens, 1989).

Gordon divided the process of assimilation into two types, behavioral assimilation (also defined as acculturation) and structural assimilation (1964:67). The first process, behavioural assimilation, involves changes in cultural patterns of the immigrant to those of the host society. Behavioural assimilation or acculturation consists of intrinsic or extrinsic traits. Intrinsic traits are “religious beliefs and practices, ethical values, musical tastes, folk recreational patterns, literature, historical language, sense of a common past, essential ingredients of the group’s cultural heritage and derive exactly from the heritage” (Gordon 1964:79). The extrinsic traits are “dress patterns, manner, patterns of emotional expression, minor oddities in pronouncing and inflecting English, social class experience and values, and are the external core of the group’s ethnic cultural heritage” (ibid).

Structural assimilation applies to the large-scale entrance into cliques, clubs and institutions of the host society at primary group level i.e. have entered fully into the societal network of groups and institutions of the host society (Gordon 1964:70). Gordon

separates this into primary group relations and secondary group relations. Primary group relations are relationships that are intimate, face to face, involving the entire personality. This can occur with participation in social occasions and the choice of close friends. Secondary assimilation occurs when relationships are impersonal, tending not to come to the core of the personality. This occurs in association participation and religious affiliations.

In order to understand the relationship between ethnicity and aging, assimilationist thinkers suggest:

As individuals grow older, as a result of their exposure to the dominant culture, the degree to which they embody an ethnic tradition should be reduced and their sense of subjective identification with a distinct cultural heritage should decline. Similarly, there should be important cohort differences with regard to cultural distinctiveness, ethnic identification, and attendant life chances. Within a family for example, younger generations may be expected to replace traditional values and social patterns with more modern ones and many ethnic rituals might be expected to be discarded. The relationship between ethnic status and life chances would similarly be expected to decline with each successive cohort (Trela and Sokolovsky, 1979:118).

In this view the ethnic family is assumed to lose its cultural traits and distinctiveness over time as members become assimilated into the host society. Thus, ethnic variability in the provision of supports for the age in the family is expected to decline from the first to second generation. Family support for the aged is expected probably to disappear in later generations. Sociologists acknowledge the fact that assimilationist assumptions often influence scholarly debate and government policies in the areas of race and ethnic relations (Pearson and Thorns, 1983).

2.7 Modernisation theory on older immigrants

Modernization Theory claims that as nations become modernized and industrialized (measured by levels of scientific technology, urbanization, literacy and higher

educational attainment, and advances in health technology), the status of the elderly tends to decline as older people become less useful and important to society (Driedger and Chappell, 1987; Markides and Mindel, 1987). This theory tends to romanticize ethnic family life and argues that traditional families are more supportive of their elders, whereas modern families are less supportive (Payne and Strain, 1990:108; Rosenthal, 1986).

This view regards not only culture as static but also people's behaviour as following cultural rules. Thus, ethnic groups are seen to be more traditional and supportive than Anglos in the support of their elderly family members. In contrast, new Anglo rules are acquired as ethnic groups become more assimilated into the dominant society. It results in the loss of ethnic culture as well as the declining position of elderly family members (Rosenthal, 1983:11). This view, however, does not seem to have any empirical support (Peil, 1991; Markides and Mindel, 1987; Rosenthal, 1986,1983).

Overseas research does not often support the view that traditional ethnic families provide greater support for their elderly than modern Anglo families (Markides, Liang and Jackson, 1990). However, empirical evidence seems to suggest that ethnic subcultures develop in response to circumstances in the host society (Markides, Liang and Jackson, 1990). Ethnic differences in family support for the aged may be largely due to economic exigencies and the dynamics of discrimination (Rosenthal, 1986).

Part IV Cross-cultural Adjustment

2.8 The culture shock

The concept of "cross-cultural adjustment" began with work on culture shock (e.g., Oberg, 1960). Culture shock was defined as the period of anxiety before an individual feels comfortable in a new culture (Oberg, 1960). Subsequent research found that not all sojourners experience the same level of anxiety, or experience anxiety for the same length of time (Church, 1982). This led to the study of cross-cultural adjustment as an individual difference which could potentially be predicted, rather than as a fixed period of

anxiety that all sojourners will necessarily experience when they enter a new culture (Black, 1990). Given that cross-cultural adjustment is an individual's internal, psychological, emotional state, this variable should be measured from the perspective of the person experiencing the foreign culture (Black, 1990; Searle & Ward, 1990).

Rosalie Tung's (1981) seminal article examining the reasons for expatriate premature termination found that spouses' and expatriates' inability to adjust to living in the host country were the two most frequently cited reasons for assignments failing. This study also suggests that cross-cultural adjustment is important to the outcome of the assignment. Cross-cultural adjustment is the extent to which expatriates are psychologically comfortable with living abroad (Black & Gregersen, 1991; Nicholson, 1984). Cross-culturally adjusted expatriates "...represent a more integrative approach to a new culture, (they) are open to the host culture, but integrate new behavior, norms and roles into the foundation provided by (their) home cultures" (Church, 1982: 542). On the other hand, maladjusted expatriates are unable or unwilling to accept the host country's behaviors, norms, and roles; they view the host culture as inferior to their own. They tend to cohere to anything that reminds them of their home country (e.g., other expatriates from their home country, foods from their home country) whenever possible. Maladjusted expatriates also tend to show signs of emotional stress such as depression and homesickness (Church, 1982).

Cross-cultural adjustment plays an important part in analyzing the expatriate's acculturation in the foreign environment. Expatriates, as immigrants, may face problems with the adjustments when they are in a new country. Problems in a new environment could result in a number of reactions that may include premature return of the expatriate. Although cross-cultural maladjustment is one predictor of expatriates prematurely terminating their global assignments (Tung, 1981), as a criterion, it is important to note that not all maladjusted expatriates terminate their cross-cultural assignments. Some, despite their inability to adjust to the host cultures, remain abroad, (disliking their host national colleagues, disliking the host country). These individuals are willing to "do the time" and finish their global assignment; they are usually motivated to put forth a positive

impression to the parent organization (Tung, 1981). That said, given past research findings, some association is likely to exist between adjustment and desire to remain on the assignment (and the subsequent behavioral decision to stay or leave).

2.9 Expatriate acculturation models

Several scholars have attempted to explain expatriate acculturation by using the concept from sojourner literature: "culture shock." Culture shock (Oberg, 1960) is referred to as the unpleasant and negative reaction to the experience of entering to a new culture. The manifestation of culture shock includes strain, a sense of loss and feeling of deprivation, confusion, surprise, and feelings of impotence (Oberg, 1960). He developed an adjustment approach to deal with inter cultural competence with an emphasis on the adjustment process. This model generally assumed that people who move to another culture go through various stages as follows:

- (1) Honeymoon stage: characterised by fascination and enthusiasm, friendly but superficial relations with the locals.
- (2) Crisis: culture shock - differences in culture such as language and values lead to feelings of loss rejection, frustration, anxiety or anger.
- (3) Recovery: the crisis is gradually resolved as the expatriate starts to learn the language and culture of the host country.
- (4) Adjustment: the expatriate accepts cultural differences and even comes to appreciate them, although there may still be occasional instances of anxiety.

Since immigrants go through a similar process of cross-culture adjustment as expatriates (Kim, 1977, 1987, Kim & Gudykunst, 1984, 1988), the expatriate acculturation process model will be applied in the study of immigrant acculturation. A number of attempts have been made to model expatriation (Black, Mendenhall, & Oddou, 1991; Naumann, 1992) by linking long lists of predictors to a variety of outcomes. Although such models have contributed substantially to our understanding of critical antecedents, they have not paid adequate attention to the process of expatriate acculturation that involves different phases, variables that are in effect in each phase, moderators, mediators, and causal links.

Black, Mendenhall and Oddou (1991) developed five dimensions of the cross-cultural adjustment process: (1) predeparture training, (2) previous overseas experience, (3) organisational selection mechanisms, (4) individual skills, and (5) non-work factors. The first three dimensions describe issues that exist before the expatriates leave the home country, and the remaining two deals with issues that become apparent after the expatriate arrives at the foreign environment.

Dr. Selvarajah has conducted a number of researches on the process of Asian immigrant adjustment in New Zealand since 1990's. In 1998, he developed a four-stage Expatriate Acculturation Process (EAP) Model (refer to Appendix C), which illustrates that an expatriate (immigrant) goes through four stages of cross-cultural adjustments when adapting to a foreign environment (Selvarajah, 1998). Stage I is the pre-departure preparation stage prior to departing to the host country. Stage II is the initial experience stage where the expatriate makes contact with the host environment. This is similar to Oberg's (1960) 'honeymoon' phase. Stage III is the period of gestation where the expatriate begins to feel the differences between the host country environment and the home country environment. Stage IV is the period where adjustments and outcomes are established. The length of each stage may vary according to the expatriate's experiences and personality, including factors such as attitude to life, religious beliefs, and similarity of culture and past experiences (Selvarajah, 1996).

Stage I: Predeparture Preparation

Prior to departure, a number of push and pull factors of the borne country and the host country will influence the expatriate to the initial experiences in the host environment. Push and pull elements of the home country and the host country, such as salary, working conditions, career opportunities, national economic conditions, political conditions and cultural conditions will have a bearing on the expatriate's initial experiences in the host environment. The expatriate may prefer to leave the home country and go to a host country when pull factors (positive elements) in the host country and push factors (negative elements) in the borne country are stronger than the positive pull factors in the home country (Selvarajah, 1998).

Stage II: Initial Experience

At this stage the expatriate does not make permanent decisions or attitude formations to cope with the current situation. This stage, however, has a strong impact on the direction the expatriate may make to the adjustments and reactions in the host environment over a longer term. This initial phase is fairly short and is before the prolong exposure stage (Torbiorn, 1982; Harris & Moran, 1991). The lengths of this phase varies from few weeks to a year (Adler, 1986; Church, 1982).

Stage III: Gestation

At this stage, the expatriate and the family start experiencing the long-term realities of the host environment. Expatriates who have similar prior experiences or who are from similar cultural backgrounds may find the host environment more adaptable, familiar and pleasant. However, those who may not have prior overseas experiences or who are from a very different cultural background may find the host environment in conflict with their expectations. At this stage, the expatriate's experiences and those of the family, especially that of the spouse can influence the expatriate's adjustment to the host environment. In adjusting to the host environment positive experiences of the expatriate may lead to contentment while negative experiences may lead to frustration.

When the expatriate has positive experiences, such as job satisfaction, good relationship with work colleagues, these may be positive factors contributing to adjustment in the new host environment. However, if the spouse has negative experiences, such as communication problems due to language differences, coping difficulties in the local culture, and difficulties in gaining appropriate employment, these negative factors may influence the expatriate's adjustment to the new environment.

Stage IV: Adjustments

The expatriates overall experiences will determine the degree of frustration or contentment the expatriate will feel in the new environment. The individual in this situation may either repeat the culture shock adjustment process a number of times before either quitting the country, or seek to socialize with expatriates from similar culture, or

adjust to the local culture and environment.

Faced with a high degree of frustration, the expatriate may decide to leave the host country permanently with the family. When they prepare to leave, they are less likely to be interested in relationships in the host environment, they will be less adaptive, less cooperative and less participative in the host environment. If the expatriates and their families feel contented in the host environment, they may become productive in the host environment. For expatriates who can cope well in the local culture and have a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment in the host environment, they may become more adaptive, more cooperative and more participative in the host countries. The expatriates may react differently when confronted with an increase in frustration. They may become less adaptive, less cooperative, and less participative or even repatriates. On the other hand, when faced with an increase in contentment or satisfaction, the expatriate may become more adaptive, more cooperative, and more participative, and may prefer to stay longer in the host country (Selvarajah, 1998).

2.10 Family support

In addition to the analysis of cross-culture adjustment made by an expatriate, the analysis of the expatriate's family factors should not be ignored. Since most expatriates are married, another potential source of uncertainty may stem from the spouse and the family. As Thompson (1986) indicated, the spouse of an expatriate can play a key role in the success or failure of the expatriate. Failure of family members in adjusting to changes in the new country is one of the most important factors that influence expatriate adjustment and performance (Black & Stephens, 1989; Black & Gregersen, 1991; Tung, 1981). Adjustment problems related to the new school environment for children, and employment problems for spouses may become major sources of stress for the expatriate. Those managers whose family members have adjustment difficulties are most likely to feel responsible for their unhappiness, and this will elevate stress. On the other hand, well-adjusted families provide social support that acts as a buffer against stress, and facilitates general adjustment. If a spouse or a family member is experiencing difficulty in making cross-cultural adjustment, then expatriate performance and commitment may

be adversely influenced as a result of high level of stress and discontent (Naumann, 1992). Unfortunately, there is no further research on the role of old parents involved in the process of expatriate family adjustment, especially in an Asian immigrant family.

“Expatriates, are included in the generic category of ‘sojourners’” (Aycan and Kanungo, 1997). The expatriation process is sometimes explained in terms of stage theories of sojourner adjustment. Kim (1988) states that since immigrants go through a similar process of cross culture adjustment as expatriates, the expatriate acculturation process model is applied in the current study of immigrant acculturation. This study will view the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants in common largely with ‘sojourners’ and ‘expatriates’ in making adjustments. However, there are some features unique to this group.

Based on literature review as discussed above, the research question and research objectives are listed as follows:

2.11 Research questions

- What are the cross-cultural adjustment experiences of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants who settled in Auckland in the past five years?

2.12 Research objectives

- To study the activities which elderly dependent Chinese immigrants engage in to cope with the local culture.
- To examine the factors those influence the living conditions of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants in New Zealand.
- To identify the change of relationships between elderly dependent immigrant Chinese and family members with regard to the traditional family system.

2.13 Hypothesis

Based on the literature and the research objective, the following hypotheses are proposed:

- H1** The age of the elderly dependent Chinese immigrant influences their adaptability in New Zealand

- H2** The length of stay in New Zealand influences the adaptability of the elderly dependent Chinese immigrant in New Zealand

- H3** The need to stay permanently in New Zealand influences the adaptability of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants in New Zealand

Chapter III RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 General Design

The research strategy is to conduct a cross-sectional survey using a self-administered survey instrument distributed at random to the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants who settled in Auckland. This study employed both quantitative and qualitative methods to collect data. The main part of the study involved group-administered questionnaire surveys, while in-depth interviews were conducted by the researcher.

3.2 Participants

208 questionnaires were distributed to five groups of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants in Auckland region. After appropriate follow-up, a total of 119 questionnaires were returned, yielding a response rate of 57.2 per cent, of which 105 were useful. 103 of 105 respondents came from mainland China, one from Taiwan, and one from Malaysia. There were 53 males and 52 females among the respondents. The age of the respondents was over 50 years old. 23 respondents (21.9%) were between 50 to 59 years of age, 70 (66.7%) were in the 60 to 69 age group and the balance (12, 11.4%) were over 70 years old.

The study made up of five participating groups of elderly Chinese settlers associated with 4 social groups are: 1) 1 English class, 2) 2 exercise groups, 3) 1 dancing class, 4) and 1 chess playing group. These social groups were located in Western, Eastern, and Central suburbs of the Auckland region. Each group consisted of 40 to 50 people who participate in activities once or twice per week.

3.3 Ethical Issues

As the objective of the study was to examine the adjustment experience of the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants, it may be sensitive in nature within a family context. This issue was discussed with the research supervisor and steps were taken to avoid adverse ethical implications. Based on the supervisor's undertaking, the questionnaire was not subject to review by Human Ethics Committee of Massey University.

To maintain confidentiality of the responses, the names and addresses of the respondents were not required on the questionnaire. The questionnaire contained sensitive questions on family situation, but the respondents were free not to answer any question that made them uncomfortable. A covering letter, accompanying the questionnaire, identified the researcher as a Massey University student.

3.4 Measures

A 4-page group-administered questionnaire was employed in the main part of the study (refer to Appendix A). The questionnaire consisted of various rating scales, and at the end, one open-ended question, most of which were duplicated from the published research of Dr. Selvarajah's studies on immigrant acculturation process, while others were developed by the researcher specifically for this study.

The English version of questionnaire (refer to Appendix A) was developed first. Considering the low ability of understanding English by the older Chinese immigrants, the questionnaire was translated into Chinese mandarin (refer to Appendix B). In order to maintain the correct interpretation between the English and Chinese version, the back translation technique was employed.

The Chinese version of the questionnaire was then pilot tested on 4 elderly dependent Chinese settlers who were not included in the main study. Members of the pilot group were selected to represent the target sample in terms of country of origin, age, and gender. Each section of the questionnaire was then revised in light of the results and feedback from the pilot study. Most of the questions were standardized to 5-point scales for ease of answering. In order to ensure that the questionnaire was appropriate for the sample of ethnic groups, some minor revisions in wording were made to enhance comprehension. The final questionnaire consisted of the following sections to capture information: background of individuals and family, regular activities, adjustment, stress/frustration, adaptation/participation, and factors that influence their living conditions.

A covering letter accompanied the questionnaire explaining its purpose and origin. An addressed reply paid envelope was also provided to facilitate response.

Background Information

The first section of the questionnaire contained five questions designed to obtain background information on age (Q1), gender (Q2), country of origin (Q3), length of stay in New Zealand (Q4), with whom participants were living (Q5), and number of family members (Q8), employment (Q10, 11). Q12 asked about under which category the respondents gain permanent residence in New Zealand. Each variable provided alternatives for respondents to circle for easy answering.

Regular activities

Q9 covered the kinds of activities the respondents did regularly. Seven alternatives were provided such as to take care of their grandchildren, do exercise, go shopping, learn English, Dancing, play mahjong, and the other ones which need to be specified. Each given alternative coded 1 if the answer was “Yes”, and 2 for “No” answer.

Adjustment

The immigrant’s perceptions to individual and family adjustment in the New Zealand environment were measured by 9 questions. Q13 asked whether the respondents thought that immigration to New Zealand was helpful to their family or not. Q14 asked if the respondents were happy in their home country. Q15, Q17 asked the degree of excitement as experienced by the respondents after arrival (within two months), and now respectively. Q16 sought the reasons if the view changed by given five options. Q18 to Q20 covered the degree of happiness experienced by spouse and the whole family in New Zealand now. Q29 asked whether they were planning to stay in New Zealand permanently.

Stress/Frustration

Stress or frustration was measured by asking the respondents whether they feel useful and needed (Q21), the degree they feel stress in New Zealand (Q22), and whether they have something to look forward to in the future (Q23). Each item consisted of a statement to which subjects could respond on a 5-point Likert scales, indicating the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the statement (1 = not at all, to 5 = very needed/always stressed/definitely yes, respectively).

Adaptation/participation

The variables in this section were developed by the researcher to measure the willingness of contact with the local people. It contained five items which focused on the degree with which they participated in activities organized by Chinese ethnic group on a regular basis (Q24), degree of association with New Zealanders (Q25), the degree to which they made effort to learn English (Q26), to understand local culture (Q27), and the degree the family coped in the New Zealand culture (Q28). Each item consisted of a statement to which participants could respond on the five numbered alternatives, 1 to 5, where lower number represent low levels or minimum amounts and high numbers represent high or maximum amounts, that is, 1 = not at all/very unhappy to 5 = always/most happy/definitely yes.

Factors that influence the living conditions of subjects

Q31 had a total of 16 questions. The respondents were asked about what factors that influence their living conditions in New Zealand currently on such matters as food, accommodation, children's education, local culture, religion, local people, language, climate, medical care, transportation, relationships with other family members, opportunity of work, cost of living, government bureaucracy. The last question in questionnaire (Q32) is an open-ended question, which inviting the participants to indicate five factors that cause them the greatest problem in New Zealand from the list contained in Q31.

3.5 Procedure

Before data collection commenced, approval to undertake the study was granted by the

supervisor. In order to obtain a sample that adequately represented the target population, five groups of elderly dependent Chinese settlers who took part in regular social activities located in the Western, Central, and Eastern Auckland suburbs, were invited to participate in the study.

To get the participation of the groups, the group organiser was contacted. When interest was expressed, a formal letter was sent with sample copy of the questionnaire and information sheet for participants (refer to Appendix A). All five of the groups approached agreed to participate, and were satisfied with the contents of the questionnaire and information sheets. The researcher then met with the group organiser at each community center to discuss the procedures for administering the questionnaires. The researcher explained the purpose and origin of the research and the rights of the respondents of participating the research.

Data collection took place over a six-week period from July to 25 August 1999. In spite of efforts toward standardization, practical considerations resulted in some differences in the way the questionnaires were administered in each group.

3.6 Data analysis

119 questionnaires were collected, 14 (11.8%) of which were excluded from analysis. Nine of these were incomplete, with more than half the sections left out. Three participants were below 50 years old, thus outside the targeted age group. The rest two were excluded because the responses in the main sections did not appear valid, as they yielded minimum scores across all these scales suggesting that the respondents were misunderstanding of the contents of the questions asked. All statistical analyses were conducted using the Minitab (Version 12.1).

The first step in the questionnaire analysis involved descriptive study. By this method, data of means, variances, standard deviations, number of responses, percent in each response scales were obtained before investigating the research questions.

In questionnaire design, nominal variables are often called categorical or qualitative variables. These names indicate the essentially non-numerical nature of these variables, such as YES/NO variables, Marital Status, Mode of Transport, Nationality. However, nominal variables are often coded using numbers. In this study, variables in the background and regular activity sections are nominal variables. Ordinal variables are variables that have categories which can be ranked in some meaningful fashion, such as measures of agreement, importance, and the degree of happiness experienced by elderly Chinese immigrants in New Zealand. In this study, all the variables with 5-point Likert scales in the adjustment, adaptation, and contentment section are ordinal variables. Interval variables measure magnitudes exactly. They are often called measurement variables. For example, Annual Revenue, Number of employees, and an index obtained by adding responses for several (> 5) Likert items. In this study, 2 meaningful indices (ADAPTATION and INF FACTOR) were developed as internal variables.

Kruskal-Wallis test was then conducted secondly to measure the difference between responses of factor groups. In this study, this method was used to explore the different relationships by rating the responses of each ordinal variable for some selected nominal variables, such as age, sex, length of stay in New Zealand, with whom the respondent live with.

In order to fulfill the research objectives, one-way analyses of variance (ANOVA) was conducted to explore the relationships between interval variables and nominal or ordinal variables. 2 “meaningful indices” (ADAPTATION and INF FACTOR) were composed by the sum of chosen ordinal variables respectively. ANOVA was employed by using these meaningful indexes as response variables, while nominal and ordinal variables as the factor variables. Missing values were dealt with using the pairwise deletion sub-command for one-way ANOVA. After each ANOVA, residual analysis was employed to make sure that the assumptions were valid. The details of composing these 2 indices are as follows:

ADAPTATION: Q.24 + Q.25 + Q.26 + Q. 27 + Q. 28

INF FACTOR: Language (Q.31-7) + Medical Care (Q.31- 10)
+ Transportation (Q.31-11) + Cost of living (Q31- 15)
+ Relationship with other family members (Q31- 13)

Finally, in this research, factor analysis was used on ordinal variables from question 13 to 15 and 17 to 28 to summarize these variables to four variables. After loadings for each important variable, the proposed names were given to each factor for further study of the relationships between these factors and nominal variables correspondingly.

3.7 Interviews

While the group-administered questionnaire survey provided quantitative data for statistical analysis, and offered the advantages of higher response rates, and less social desirability bias, the interviews allowed for more in-depth exploration of the research questions. Thus interviews were conducted with the respondent who wrote his/her name and telephone number on the questionnaire under the request of the researcher in asking them to participate in interviews if they were interested in.

The researcher telephoned each of the participants who had given their names and telephone number in the questionnaire indicating that they would like to be interviewed. Each of the participants was first telephoned and asked when it was convenient to be interviewed, then interview was arranged accordingly. The researcher interviewed five participants, 2 by face-to-face interview, and 3 by telephone interview. This was conducted over a two-week period in September 1999. The interviews comprised of 3 females and 2 males, and all were from Mainland China. Each interview lasted between 10 to 15 minutes.

The interview schedule was developed only focusing on the issue of the relationships between the respondents and other family members. The schedule mainly consisted of 3 open-ended questions:

1. Do you think that the relationships with other family members influence your living conditions in New Zealand?

2. If yes, what are the reasons?
3. Please comment freely on this issue.

However, the study revealed that participants felt more at ease with being interviewed over the telephone. Furthermore, the telephone interviews were less demanding on the participants' time and commitment. Research shows that when compared with face-to-face interviews, the telephone interview method offers the advantages of being more anonymous and less threatening (Frankfort-Nachmais & Nachmais, 1996). The telephone interview method is likely to minimise potential biases due to social desirability and interviewer effects, as well as being more convenient for respondents, thus yielding higher response rates

Chapter IV Findings of Research

In this chapter, the findings of the questionnaire survey are described in two parts. The first part covers the descriptive statistics result and the second part covers the analytical statistic result.

Part I Descriptive Statistics Result

4.1 Background

1. Age groups of respondents

The age of the 105 respondents was all over 50 years old. 23 respondents (21.9%) were in age between 50 to 59 years old, 70 (66.7%) were in the 60 to 69 age group and the balance (12, 11.4%) were over 70 years old. Figure 1 shows the distribution of respondents by age groups.

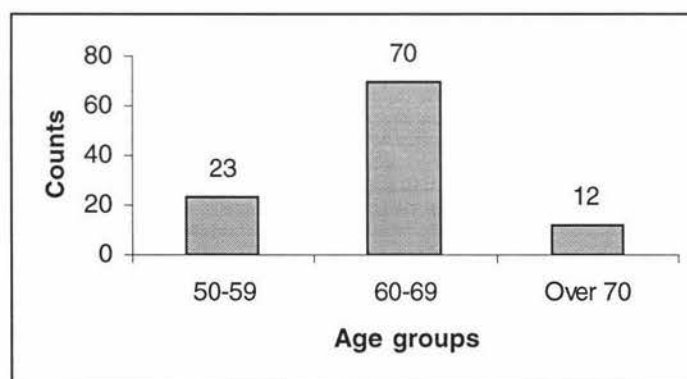


Figure1 Distribution of respondents by age groups

2. Sex and Origin:

There were 53 males and 52 females among the respondents. 103 of 105 respondents came from mainland China, one from Taiwan, and one from Malaysia. So, the main responses came from elderly dependent Chinese immigrants who moved from Mainland China.

3. Groups of respondents by Length of stay in New Zealand

5 respondents (4.8%) have been in New Zealand for less than 6 months. 18 (17.1%)

respondents have been in New Zealand between 6 and 12 months. 37 (35.2%) respondents have lived in New Zealand between 1 and 2 years, while the remaining 45 respondents (42.9%) have lived in New Zealand for more than two years. Figure 2 shows the distribution.

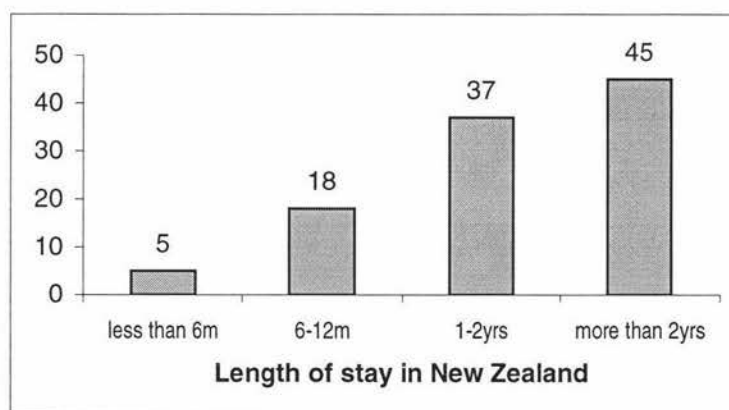


Figure 2 Distribution of respondents by length of stay in New Zealand

4. Providers

89 (84.8%) respondents answered that they were living with their children in Auckland. 13 (12.4%) responded that they live away from their children. 3 respondents did not answer this question. Figure 3 shows the distribution of the respondents' providers.

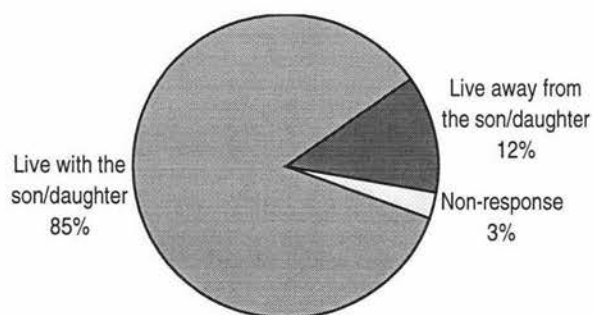


Figure 3 Distribution of respondents (N = 102) by with whom they lived

5. Number of family members

The distribution of numbers of respondent's family members is shown in Figure 4. 10 (9.5%) respondents' family members are less than 3, 14 (13.3%) respondents have 3 family members, 24 (22.9%) respondents have 4 family members, 36 (34.3%) respondents have 5 members, and 21 respondents have more than 5 members in their families.

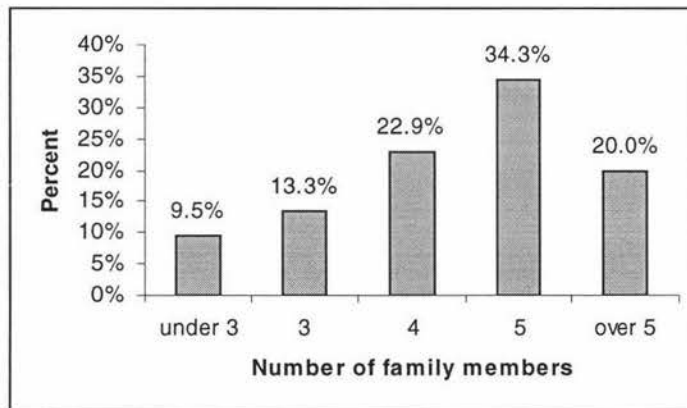


Figure 4 Number of respondent's (N = 105) family members

6. Job conditions:

In answering question 10, 100 respondents had no job, 5 respondents didn't answer this question. 28 respondents' answered "yes" to seeking employment, 70 answered "no", while the balance didn't answer this question.

7. Family Reunion

97 respondents (92.4%) gained permanent residence under Family Reunion Category. 5 had visiting visa and 2 mentioned the General Category. One missed value.

8. Regular activities

Seven alternatives were listed for the respondents to circle. Each was coded by using "1" for "YES" and "2" for "NO" answer. Figure 5 shows the distribution. The two significant bars show that 71.4 per cent and 82.9 per cent of respondents said that exercise and learning English are their regular activities respectively.

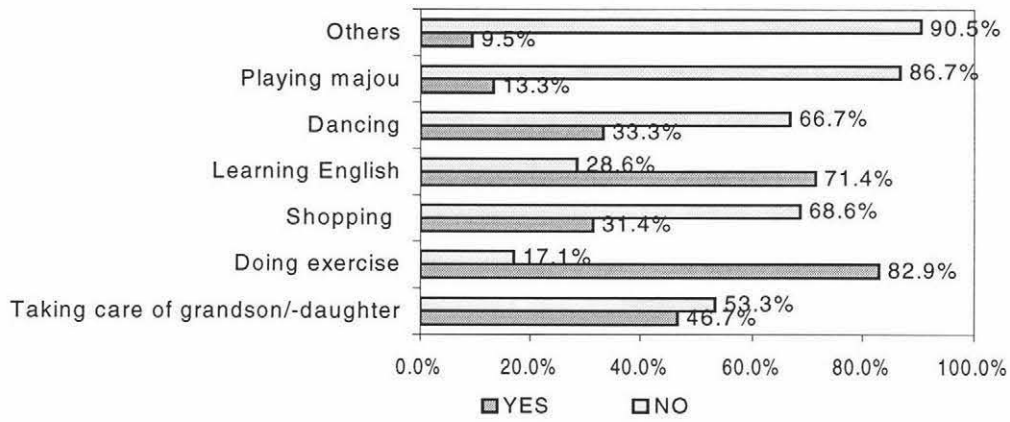


Figure 5 Regular activities (N = 105)

4.2 Adjustment

The degree of helpfulness to the respondent’s family of immigration to New Zealand perceived by respondents (N = 103) is shown in figure 6. 57.3 per cent of respondents answered that immigration to New Zealand was “helpful” to their family, while 14.6 percent of respondents answered “little or least helpful” and 29.1 per cent of respondents were neutral.

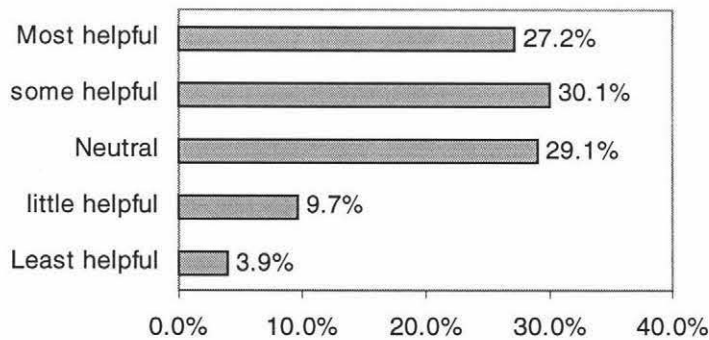


Figure 6 Helpfulness

The distribution of rating of “happiness” answered by respondents (N = 103) on their experience in their home country is shown in Figure 7. 66.1 per cent of respondents were happy, while 7.8 per cent were not happy and 26.2 per cent of respondents were neutral.

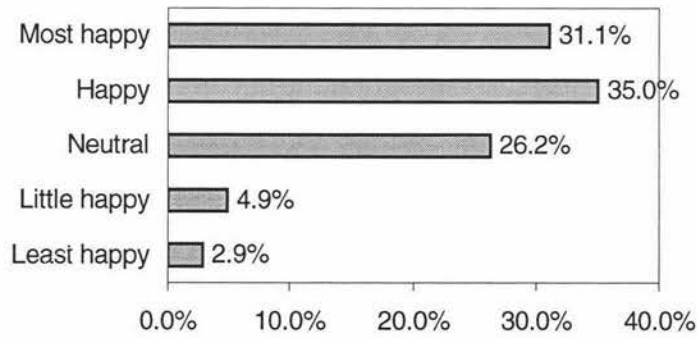


Figure 7 Happiness of respondents in their home country

Figure 8 shows the degree of respondents’ excitement within the period of two months of their arriving in New Zealand (N = 102). 37.3 per cent of respondents were excited somewhat in this period, while 26.5 per cent were not excited and 36.3 per cent were neutral

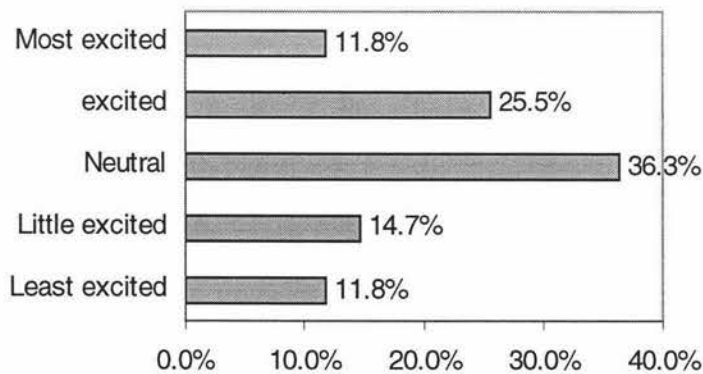


Figure 8 Excitement within 2 months of arrival in New Zealand

The degree of happiness the respondents experienced in New Zealand now is shown in Figure 9 (N = 105). 42.9 per cent of respondents experienced happy, while 10.5 per cent felt unhappy and 46.7 per cent were neutral.

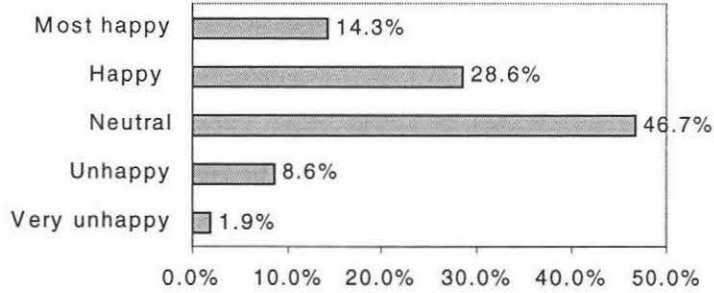


Figure 9 Happiness experienced now by respondents

The degree of spouse's experience of happiness now in New Zealand is shown in Figure 10. 43.2 per cent of respondents' spouse experienced happy, while 17.1 per cent of the spouse were not happy and 39.8 per cent were neutral.

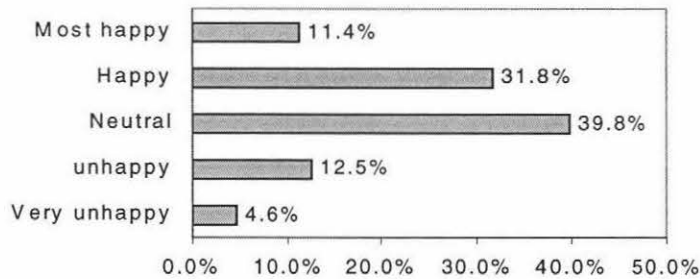


Figure 10 Spouse's happiness experienced now

Degree of excitement of immigration to New Zealand by respondent's family members is shown in Figure 11 (N = 101). 44.6 per cent of respondents' family members were excited about their immigration to New Zealand, while 17.8 per cent of respondents' family members were not excited and 37.6 per cent were neutral.

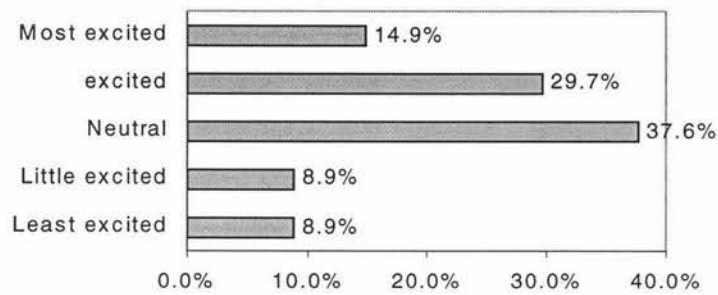


Figure 11 Excitement of other family members

The degree of happiness experienced by the whole family of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants now in New Zealand is shown in Figure 12 (N = 101). 51.5 per cent of respondents' family were happy, while 11.9 per cent were unhappy and 36.6 per cent were neutral.

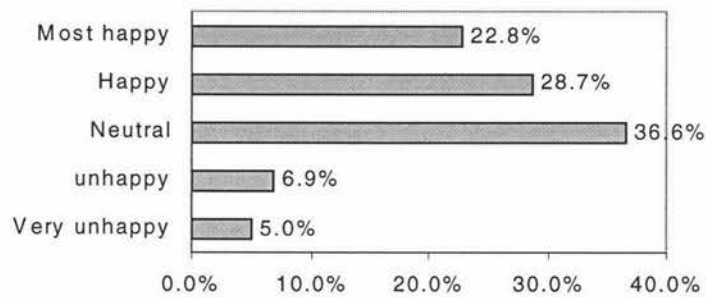


Figure 12 Happiness experienced by whole family now

4.3 Stress

Question 21, 22, 23 were designed to measure the degree of stress experienced by elderly dependent Chinese immigrants in New Zealand. Figure 13 (N = 104) shows that 51.9 per cent of respondents felt they were useful, while 22.2 per cent of respondents felt that they were not useful and 26 per cent were neutral.

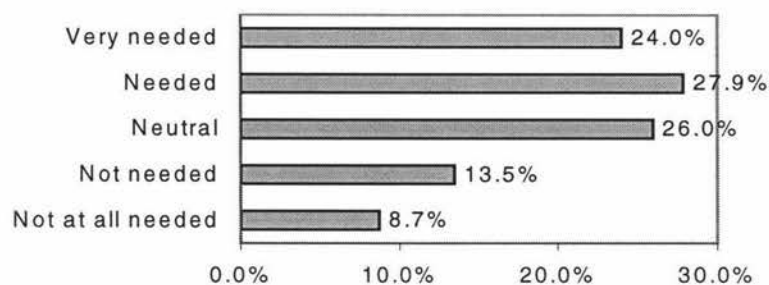


Figure 13 Feeling of respondents' "usefulness"

The degree of stress experienced by respondents is shown in Figure 14 (N = 102). 16.6 per cent of respondents felt stress, while 58.9 per cent of respondents felt that they were not stressed and 24.5 per cent were neutral.

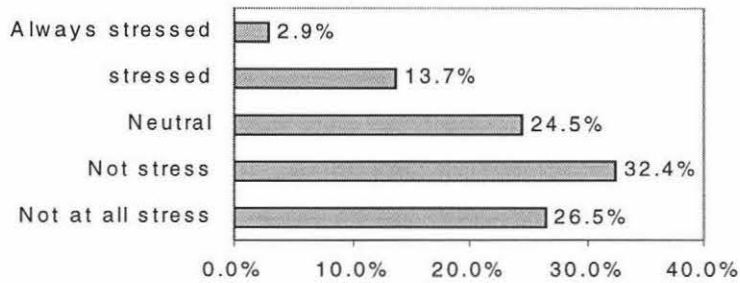


Figure 14 Stress experienced by respondents

Figure 15 (N = 103) shows the distribution of the answer by the respondents regarding whether they have a lot of things to look forward to in the future.

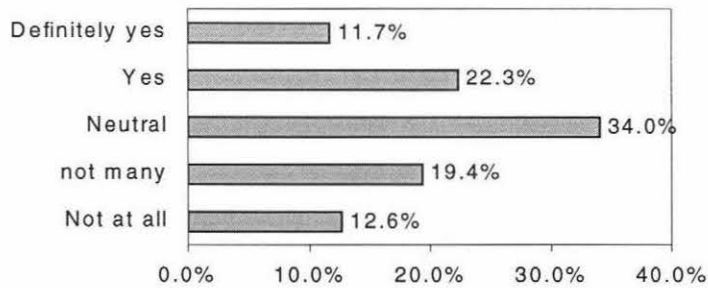


Figure 15 Respondents who have things to look forward to in the future

4.4 Adaptation/participation

Q. 24 to Q. 28 was developed to measure the adaptation experience of elder dependent Chinese immigrants. Q 24 asked the degree that the respondents involved in the organisation or groups of Chinese ethnic on a regular basis. Figure 16 (N = 103) shows that 60.2 per cent of respondents are involved in the activities organised by the Chinese ethnic groups. 18.4 per cent of respondents were not involved and 21.4 per cent were neutral.

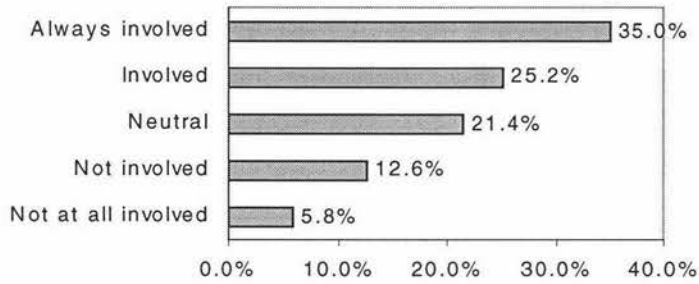


Figure 16 Involvement in activities organised by Chinese ethnic groups

The degree of association with New Zealanders of respondents is shown in Figure 17 (N = 101). Only 19.8 per cent of respondents answered that they had some kind of association with the locals, while 53.5 per cent of respondents did not associate with locals and 26.7 per cent were neutral.

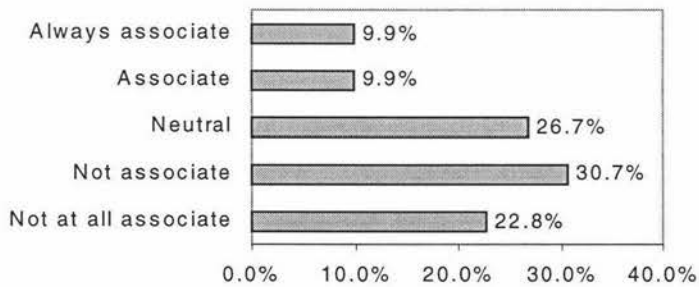


Figure 17 Rating of degree of associating with New Zealanders

When asked by the researcher about the effort of learning English, 39.4 per cent of respondents answered that they made some effort in learning English, while 26.5 per cent of respondents were with little effort or no effort at all in learning English, and 34.3 per cent were neutral. Figure 18 (N = 102) shows the result.

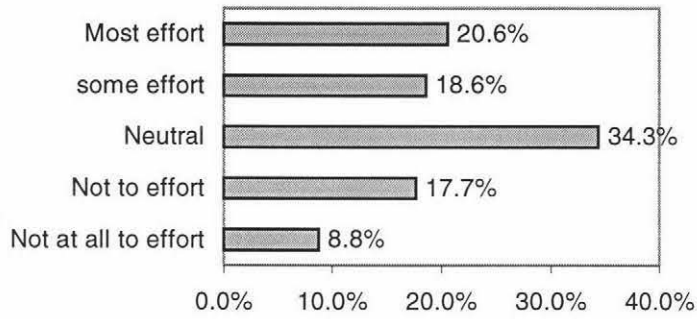


Figure 18 Effort to learn English

Figure 19 (N = 102) shows the degree of respondents' trying to understand local culture. 26.5 per cent of respondents answered that they tried to understand local culture, while 41.2 per cent of respondents did not try and 32.4 per cent were neutral.

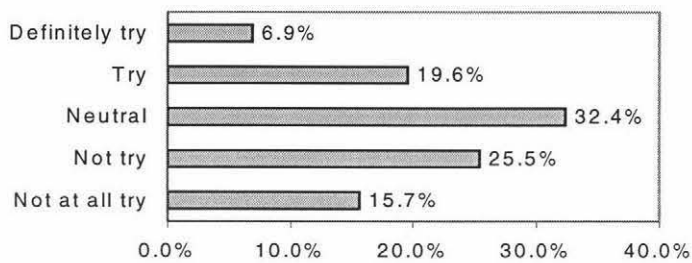


Figure 19 Trying to understand local culture

Figure 20 (N = 103) shows the degree of the family coping in the New Zealand Culture. 35.9 per cent of respondents' family were coping, while 21.4 per cent of respondents' family were not coping and 42.7 per cent were neutral.

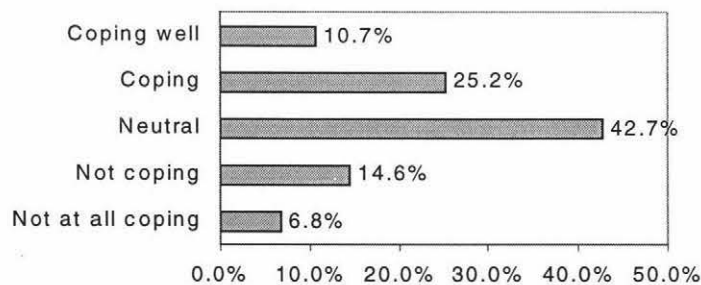


Figure 20 Family coping in the local culture

4.5 Permanent stay or leave

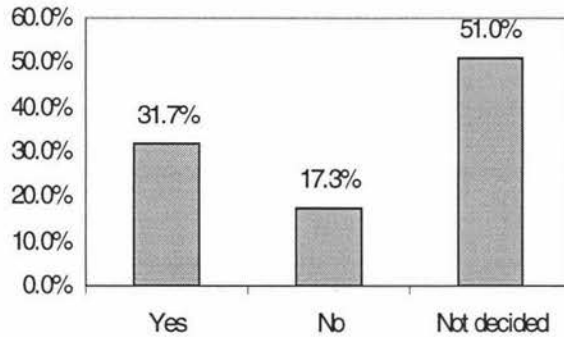


Figure 21 Permanent stay in New Zealand

Q. 29 was developed to ask the plan of the respondents about if they want to stay in New Zealand permanently. The result is shown in figure 21 (N = 104). 31.7 per cent of respondents decided “YES” to stay, 17.3 per cent answered “NO”, while 51 per cent had not make decision.

Q. 30 was asked if answered “NO” in Q. 29, where the respondents plan to go. Figure 22 (N = 45) shows that 92 per cent of the respondents preferred to go back their home country, while only 8 per cent (4 respondents) stated other places to go, 2 of 4 indicated Australia and the other would like to go to USA.

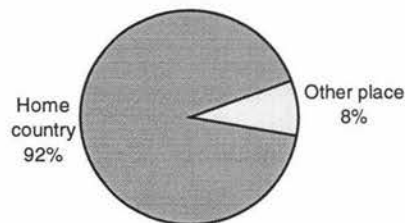


Figure 22 Expatriation outcomes

4.6 Factors influence the living conditions of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants

The number of respondents, mean, and standard deviation of sixteen factors that influence the living conditions of elderly dependent Chinese settlers are shown in Table 2. The level of influence of these factors is presented by the 1 to 5 Likert scale: 1 means the lowest influence, while 5 indicate the highest influence level. Five factors with the highest means are language (mean 4.4951), medical care system (mean = 3.867), transportation (mean = 3.762), cost of living (3.117), and relationships with other family members (mean = 3.106). The first five factors highlighted in Table 2 have the highest level of influence on the living conditions of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants. Means of these five factors are all above 3. The sum of responses of these five factors composed the index of INF FACTOR as an interval variables for further study.

Factors	Variables	N	Means	St Dev
Laugauge (Understanding)	Q31-LAN	103	4.4951	0.9484
Medical care system	Q31-MCA	98	3.867	1.19
Transportation	Q31-TRN	101	3.762	1.343
Cost of living	Q31-CoL	94	3.117	1.277
Relationship with other family members	Q31-RwF	94	3.106	1.274
Opportunity of work	Q31-OoW	90	2.933	1.49
Accommodation	Q31-ACC	96	2.833	1.434
Food	Q31-FO	98	2.541	1.159
Local culture	Q31-CUL	90	2.522	1.134
Relationship with locals	Q31-RwL	92	2.522	1.288
Children's education	Q31-EDU	86	2.465	1.014
Goods and equipment	Q31-G&E	86	2.314	1.21
The NZ people	Q31-PPE	88	2.273	1.08
Government Bureacracy	Q31-GB	89	2.135	1.002
Climate	Q31-CLI	89	2.124	1.397
Religion	Q31-REL	88	2.034	1.129

Table 2 Statistics results of factors that influencing respondents' living conditions

Part II Analytical Statistics Results

4.7 Kruskal-Wallis tests

Kruskal-Wallis test was conducted to measure the difference between responses of factor groups. In this study, this method was used to explore the different relationships by

rating the responses of each ordinal variable for some selected nominal variables, such as age, sex, length of stay in New Zealand, and the providers (the people the respondent lived with).

1. Ordinal variables by age groups

Significant results of the relationships between “helpfulness of immigration”, “feel of stress”, and age groups were found by descriptive study and Kruskal-Wallis tests. Since the P-values were less than 0.05, the “younger group” of elderly dependent Chinese immigrant thought that immigration to New Zealand was helpful to their family, but the result showed that they were suffering more stress. The results are shown on Table 3 and Figure 23, 24.

Boxplot of "helpfulness of immigration" by age groups

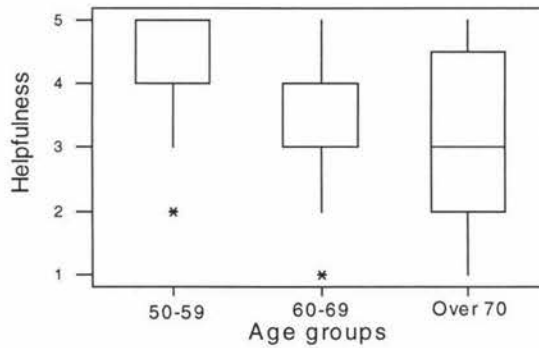


Figure 23 Helpfulness of immigration by age groups

Boxplot of "stress" by age groups

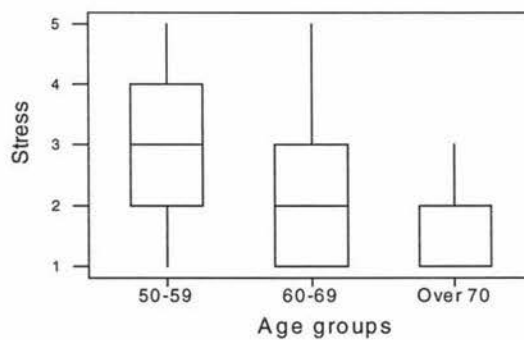


Figure 24 Feel of stress by age groups

Ordinal variables	Means for each age group			P-values
	50-59	60-69	Over 70	
Helpfulness of immigration (Q.13, N = 103)	4.217	3.603	3.000	0.005
Feel of stress (Q.22, N = 102)	3.000	2.250	1.667	0.002

Table 3 Significant results of “helpfulness of immigration” and “feel of stress” by age groups

2. Ordinal variables by length of stay in New Zealand

Two significant relationships were found in the study of the different responses of each ordinal variable by length of stay in New Zealand respectively. Respondents who have lived in New Zealand between 1 and 2 years perceived that they took greater effort to learn English (Mean = 3.889) and placed great effort in trying to understand local culture (Mean = 3.054). People who have lived for a period of 6 to 12 months perceived below average on effort to learn English (Mean = 2.412) and trying to understand local culture (Mean = 2.059). Result are shown in Table 4, Figure 25, 26.

Ordinal variables	Means for different stay period				P-values
	< 6m	6-12m	1-2yrs	> 2yrs	
Effort to learn English (Q.26)	2.800	2.412	3.889	3.091	0.000
To understand local culture (Q.27)	3.000	2.059	3.054	2.767	0.028

Table 4 Significant results of effort to learn English and to understand local culture by length of stay in New Zealand

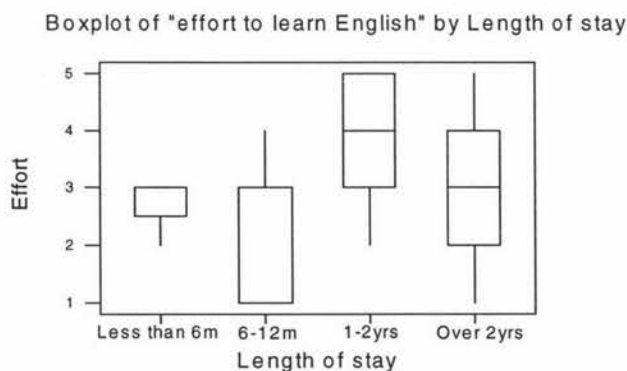


Figure 25 Effort to learn English by length of stay in New Zealand

Boxplot of trying to understand local culture by length of stay

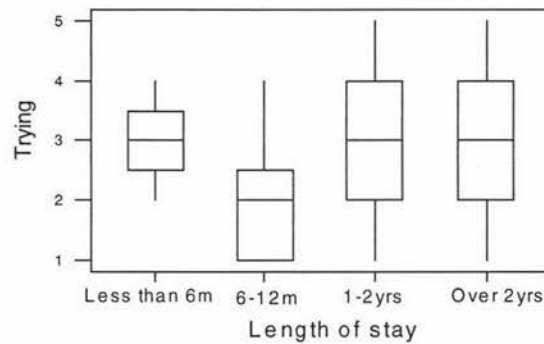


Figure 26 Trying to understand local culture by length of stay

4.8 Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

In this section, 2 “meaningful indices” (ADAPTATION and INF FACTOR) were composed by the sum of selected ordinal variables. Interval variables are often called measurement variables. For example, Annual Revenue, Number of employees, and an index obtained by adding responses for several (> 5) Likert items. In this study, 2 meaningful indices (ADAPTATION and INF FACTOR) were developed by this way as interval variables. Then ANOVA was conducted to explore the relationships between these indices and nominal or ordinal variables by using these meaningful indexes as independent variables, while nominal or ordinal variables as the dependent variables.

1. ADAPTATION

The indices ‘ADAPTATION’ was composed of ordinal variables: Q24 (involving of Chinese ethnic groups), Q25 (associating with New Zealanders), Q26 (effort to learn English), Q27 (try to understand local culture), Q28 (family coping in the local culture). In the exercise, the researcher try to find the significant difference between ADAPTATION and each of the nominal variables. Residual analysis (see Figure 28) show that there were no significant distribution problems that harm the assumptions of this ANOVA test.

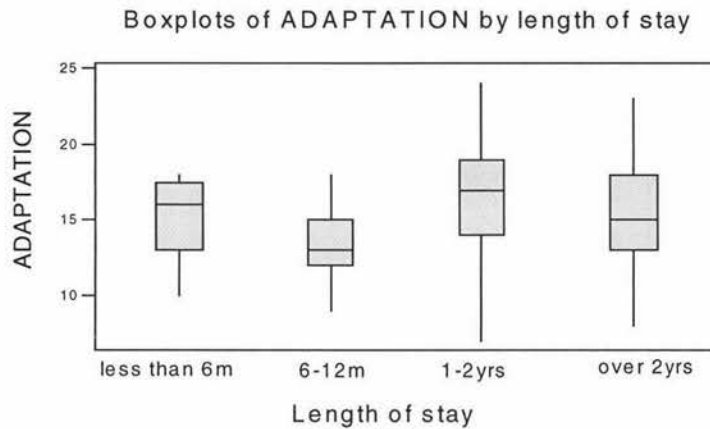


Figure 27 “ADAPTATION” by length of stay

Significant result (P-values = 0.013) was found (see Figure 27) among respondents who lived in New Zealand in different periods. People who have lived in New Zealand in the period of 6 to 12 months represent the lowest level in adaptation.

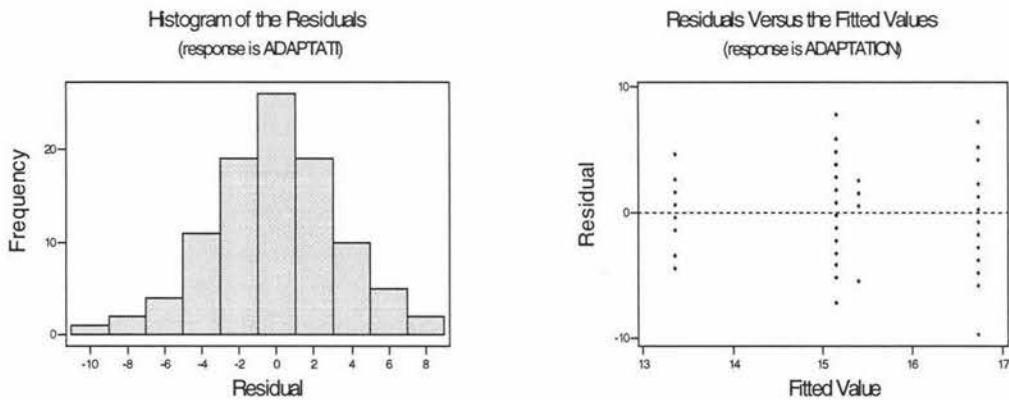


Figure 28 Residual analysis

2. INF FACTOR

The first five factors with higher means that influence the living conditions of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants were Language, Medical care, Transportation, Cost of living Relationship with other family members (see Table 1). The sum of them was described as INF FACTOR, an internal variable. ANOVA test was employed to find the

relationships between INF FACTOR and each nominal variable, such as Age groups, Sex, Length of stay in New Zealand, With whom the respondents lived, Number of family members, Plan to stay or leave New Zealand.

Two significant results of relationships based on ANOVA tests between the INF FACTOR and length of stay in New Zealand, INF FACTOR and with whom the respondent lived are shown in Table 5, Figure 29 and Figure 30. In relation with the length of stay in New Zealand, the longer the stay period of respondents in New Zealand, the less the influence by the INF FACTOR (P-value = 0.031). Regarding the question of with whom the respondent lived, people who lived with their son/daughter were much more influenced by INF FACTOR than people who lived with friend or themselves (P-value = 0.029). Residual analyses were conducted to test the assumptions of these two ANOVA results. The residual analysis did not shown any significance that means that the results of the ANOVA tests are valid.

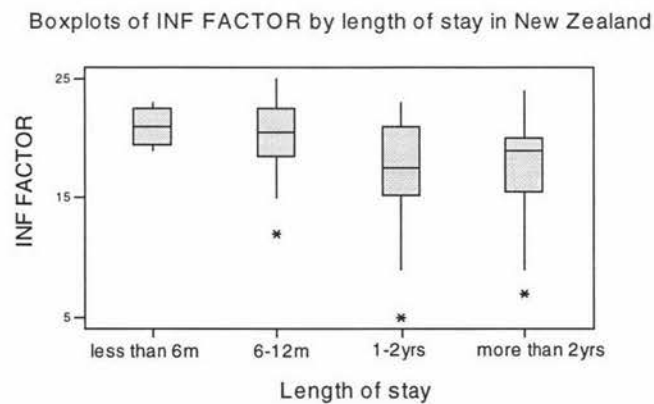


Figure 29 Responses of INF FACTOR by length of stay in New Zealand

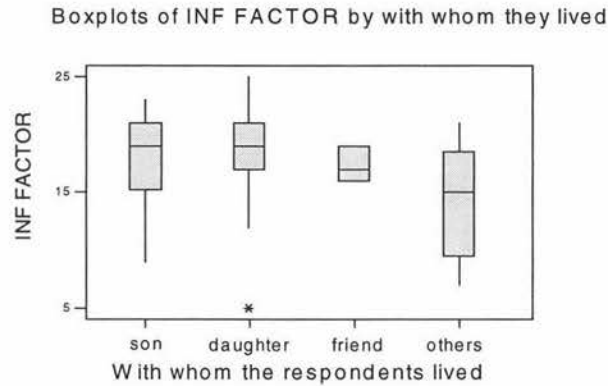


Figure 30 Responses of INF FACTOR by with whom the respondents lived

Table 5 Significant relationships between INF FACTOR and Length of stay in New Zealand, and With whom the respondents lived with respectively

Nominal Variables		Means	P-values	N
Length of stay in New Zealand (Q4, N = 89)	Less than 6m	21.000	0.031	4
	6 – 12 m	19.929		14
	1 – 2yrs	17.38		30
	More than 2yrs	17.73		41
With whom the respondents lived with (Q5, N = 86)	Son	18.094	0.029	32
	Daughter	18.651		43
	Friends	17.333		3
	Others	14.25		8

Finally, in answering Question 29, 33 (31.7%) respondents answered “Yes” to stay in New Zealand, 18 (17.3%) respondents answered “No” to leave, and 53 respondents (51%) had not made decision. Significant results were found based on ANOVA test by using this item as a factor variable in to find the relationships with ADAPTATION. The results are shown in Table 6, Figure 31. People with less adaptation choose leave not stay in New Zealand.

Interval variables	Answer	Means	P-values	N
ADAPTATION (Q. 24 + 25 +26 + 27 + 28, N = 89)	Yes	16.719	0.032	32
	No	14.333		18
	Not decided	14.939		49

Table 6 Results of ADAPTATION by plan of stay in New Zealand

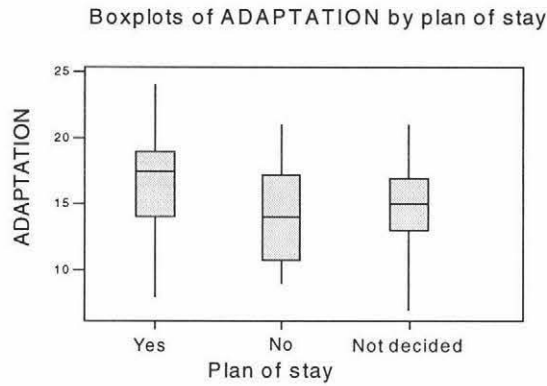


Figure 31 ADAPTATION by plan of stay in New Zealand

ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis tests were employed to explore the relationships between the INF FACTOR and ordinal variables. Two significant relationships were found between INF FACTOR and trying to understand English (Q.27), and family coping in the local culture (Q. 28) respectively. The results show that the more the respondents try to understand English, the less the influence by INF FACTOR. The better the family were coping in the local culture, the less the influence were by INF FACTOR. Unfortunately, only 6 families claimed that they were coping very well (see Table 7, Figure 32, 33).

Table 7 Results of relationships between INF FACTOR and trying to understand local culture, family coping in the local culture.

Ordinal variables	Scales	Means	P-values	N
Try to understand local culture (Q. 27, N = 87, 1 = not at all try, 5 = definitely yes try)	1	19.615	0.002	13
	2	18.368		19
	3	18.724		29
	4	18.550		20
	5	9.667		6
Family coping in the local culture (Q. 28, N = 89, 1 = not at all coping, 5 = coping very well)	1	16.667	0.006	6
	2	19.6		10
	3	18.211		38
	4	19.2		25
	5	14.3		10

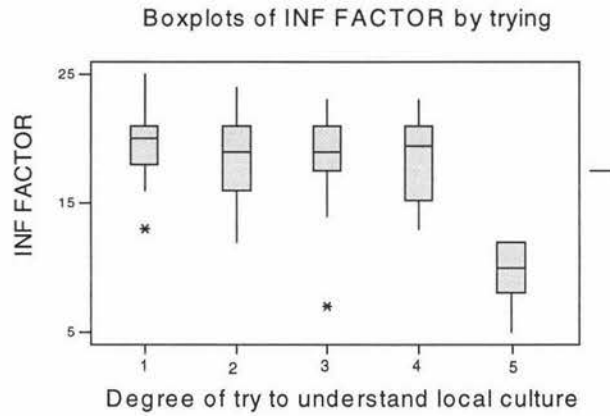


Figure 32 Relationships of INF FACTOR with Trying to understand local culture (1 = Not at all try, 5 = definitely yes try)

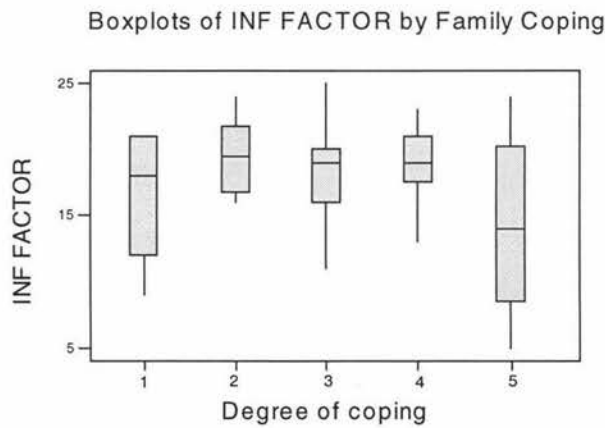


Figure 33 Relationships between INF FACTOR and Family coping in the local culture (1 = Not at all coping, 5 = Coping very well)

4.9 Factor analysis

Factor analysis is a generic name given to a class of multivariate statistical methods whose primary purpose is data reduction and summarization. By using factor analysis, the researcher can identify the separate dimensions being measured by the survey and determine a factor loading for each variable (test item) on each factor. In this research, factor analysis has been used on ordinal variables from question 13 to 15 and 17 to 28 to summarize these variables to four variables (see Table 8 and Figure 34).

Scree Plot of Q13-Q15, Q17-Q28

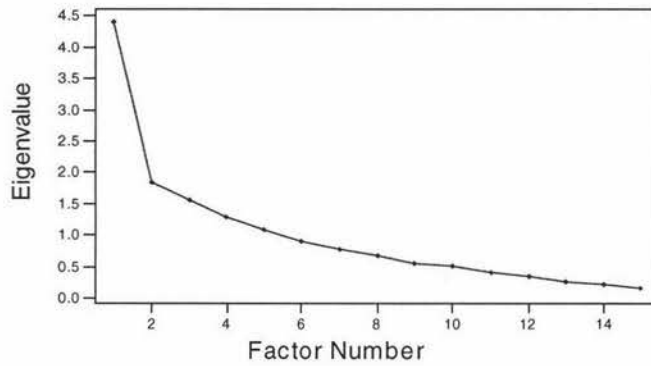


Figure 34 Scree plot of adjustment variables

Table 8 Principle components analysis

Factor	Eigenvalue (> 1)	Cumulative	Variance
Factor 1	4.4024	29.3%	20.4%
Factor 2	1.8353	41.6%	14.7%
Factor 3	1.5588	52%	13.3%
Factor 4	1.2886	60.6% (> 60%)	10.8%

Table 9 shows the Varimax rotated loadings for the four factors. Loadings measure the importance of each variable for each factor. Only the loadings that absolute value is bigger than 0.5 and the communality is also bigger than 0.5 are considered when trying to give the factors meaningful names.

Table 9 The Factor loadings (absolute value > 0.5) and Communality (> 0.5) (F = Factor)

	Ordinal variables	F 1	F 2	F 3	F 4	Communality
Q13	Helpfulness of immigration					
Q14	Happiness in home country					
Q15	Excitation within 2 months					
Q17	Experience now		0.775			0.789
Q18	Spouse experience now		0.776			0.712
Q19	Family member experience	0.699				0.659
Q20	Happiness of family	0.800				0.733
Q21	Useful and needed	0.563		0.504		0.595
Q22	Stress				-0.783	0.684
Q23	Things to look forward to	0.760				0.721
Q24	Involving in ethnic groups		0.662			0.615
Q25	Associating with NZ people					
Q26	Effort to learn English			0.826		0.684
Q27	To understand local culture			0.865		0.775
Q28	Family coping	0.670				0.524

The proposed names of each of the four factors are as follows:

Factor 1: Family

This factor measures the importance of family values which are represented by the family member’s experience in New Zealand, happiness of the whole family, family coping in the local culture, feelings of usefulness and needed by the family, and then looking forward to the future with hope.

Factor 2: Experience

This factor measures the importance of respondents’ individual experience, spouse’s experience in New Zealand, and the involvement in the activities organized by the Chinese ethnic groups.

Factor 3: Effort

This factor represent the respondents who feel they are useful and needed, effort to learn English and try their best to understand local culture.

Factor 4: Contentment

For this factor, the low value of negative loading on variable of Stress means that the respondents are contented in the new environment. However, only one variable loaded value in this group and therefore means that this factor is not meaningful.

After naming these factors, ANOVA and Kruskal-Wallis tests were conducted to study the relationships between each Factor and each nominal variable respectively. Significant results were found as follows (see Table 10).

Table 10 Significant relationships between Factors and Age groups, Length of stay in New Zealand, Plan to stay or leave New Zealand

Nominal variable	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
Age groups		Yes		Yes
Length of stay in New Zealand			Yes	
Plan to stay or leave	Yes	Yes		

1) Factor 2 (Experience) and Factor 4 (Contentment), by Age groups respectively
 Figure 36 and Table 11 show that the younger the respondents, the more the involvement they are in activities organised by ethnic groups. 50 –59 age group of respondents who have the highest mean get involved more in activities organized by the Chinese ethnic groups, and their spouse are also happy in New Zealand. Figure 35 shows that significantly, the elder the respondents, the higher level of contentment in New Zealand.

Table 11 Significant relationships between factor scores and age groups

Age groups	Factor 2	Factor 4
50 – 59 years old	0.2736	- 0.6147
60 – 69 years old	0.0257	0.0753
Over 70 years old	- 1.2626	1.3993
P-values of ANOVA	0.008	0.000
P-values of Kruskal-Wallis Test	0.027	0.000

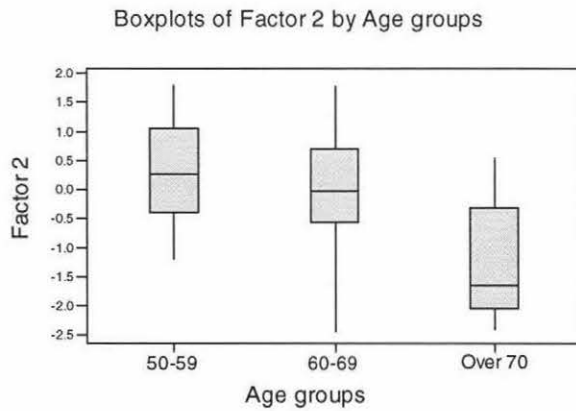


Figure 35 Relationship between Factor 2 (Experience) and Age groups

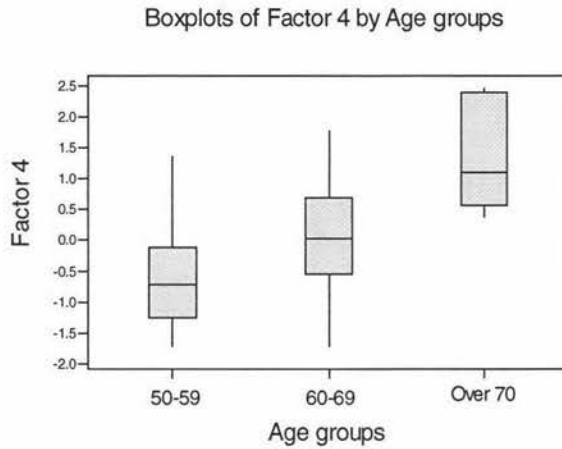


Figure 36 Relationship between Factor 4 (Contentment) and Age groups

2) Factor 3 (Effort) by length of stay in New Zealand

Table 12 and Figure 37 show that the respondents who have lived between 1 and 2 years in New Zealand felt that they were more useful and needed, and put more of their effort in learning English and understanding local culture than the other local categories.

Table 12 Significant relationships between Factor 3 and Length of stay in New Zealand

Length of stay	Means of Factor 3
Under 6 months	- 0.3855
6 – 12 months	- 0.7796
1- 2 years	0.3928
More than 2 years	- 0.0375
P-value of ANOVA	0.008
P-value of Kruskal-Wallis	0.007

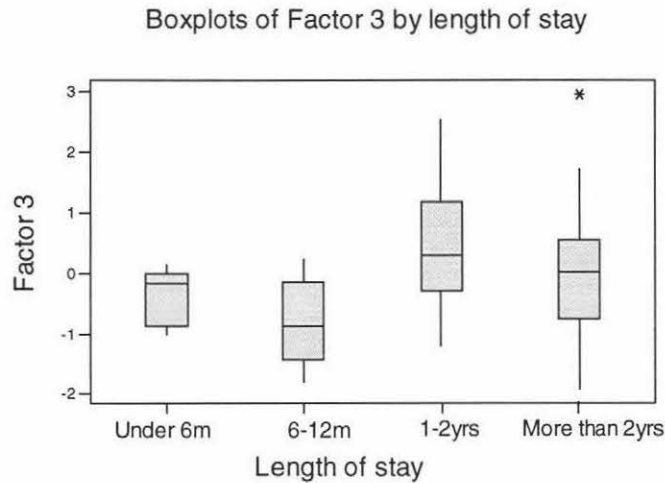


Figure 37 Relationship between Factor 3 and Length of stay in New Zealand

3) Factor 1 (Family) and Factor 2 (Experience) by stay or leave New Zealand

Significantly, people who answered “Yes” when asked if they plan to stay in New Zealand, had the highest loading values in both Factor 1 (Family) and Factor 2 (Experience) (see Table13, Figure 38 and 39). That means the respondents who said ‘Yes’ have high level family values with high feelings of usefulness and needed, their spouse are happy, the involvement in the ethnic group activities are high, and have a lot of things to look forward to in the future. On the contrary, the respondents who said ‘No’ show low level family values with less feelings of usefulness and needed, while the respondents who answered “not decided” stand in the middle.

Table 13 Significant relationships between Factor 1, Factor 2 and the respondents’ plan of stay in New Zealand.

If plan to stay in New Zealand	Factor 1	Factor 2
Yes	0.3138	0.3361
No	- 0.7781	- 0.0393
Not decided	- 0.0288	- 0.2312
P-values of ANOVA	0.010	0.070
P-values of Kruskal-Wallis Test	0.030	0.050

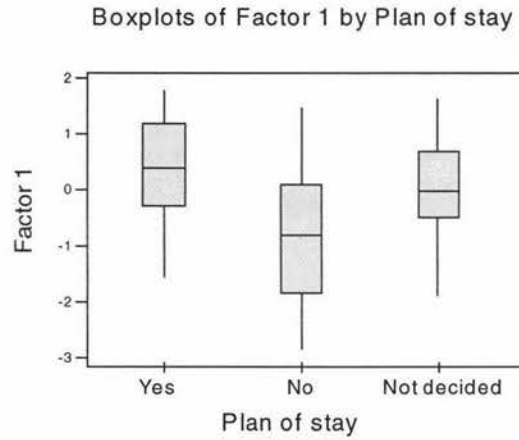


Figure 38 Relationship between Factor 1 and Plan of stay

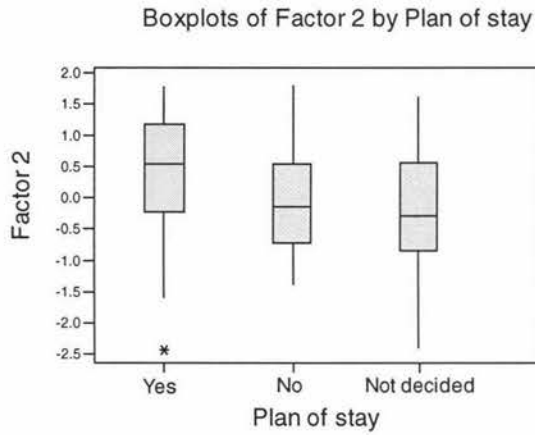


Figure 39 Relationship between Factor 2 and Plan of stay in New Zealand

Part III Limitations

Several methodological limitations of the present study warrant consideration. Firstly, the size of the sample is smaller than expected due to the limitation of time and budget. This study was designed to investigate the adaptation experience of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants. The size of sample should be bigger to cover larger geographic regions in New Zealand, and more Chinese groups who came from different regions, such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and Malaysia, to increase the reliability and accuracy of the

research. Secondly, the latest data of immigrant in New Zealand can not be obtained. Thirdly, the nature of the relationships between elderly dependent Chinese immigrants and the indigenous Maoris, as well as other ethnic minority elderly groups such as Pacific Islanders, Koreans and Indians, need to be investigated in future studies. Although the present work focused only on elderly dependent Chinese immigrants, the generalizability of the findings could be evaluated in future work among other immigrant and ethnic minority groups, as well as other age groups.

Fourthly, since most of the elderly dependent Chinese are from conservative traditional backgrounds where information generally has been restricted, especially for the people who came from mainland China, some of them were not willing to cooperate with the researcher. Some of the elderly dependent Chinese were either embarrassed, unsure of the research implications or feared answering the questionnaire for fear it may lead to unnecessary trouble as a consequence. So, the improvements of the techniques to be a qualified facilitator of this kind of research are required by the researcher on studying the topic of elderly immigrants.

Fifthly, several areas were not involved in the study of the adaptation process of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants such as the amount of information and knowledge of New Zealand and its systems prior to arriving in New Zealand, the utilisation of their expertise in New Zealand, the overseas experiences.

Black, Mendenhall and Oddou (1991) suggest that the pre-departure training was important to the expatriates in adjusting to the host environment. The main purpose of training is to provide expatriates with information about the host country, so as to improve their adaptability chances. The possibility of reducing the culture shock and increasing the chances of adapting to the new environment is reflected in the value placed on information.

Thompson (1989) suggested that the environment from which the immigrants came

impacted on their adaptation to the new environment. His assertion appears to be supported by this study. The results of this study demonstrate that the immigrants' initial experience is significantly related to their place of origin. When the Chinese from China move to a new country, they experience the differences in language and values which lead to feelings of loss, rejection and frustration (Furnham and Bochner 1986). They face intense culture shock.

Immigrants with previous overseas experience have better initial experiences in a new environment. Black, Mendenhall and Oddou (1991) emphasized the importance of previous overseas experience in the cross-cultural adjustment. Previous overseas experience is therefore an important factor influencing adaptation.

Finally, for both the younger and older immigrants, the adaptation process involves a long period. The length of the period varies according to the immigrants' experience and personality, including factors such as attitude to life, religious beliefs, similarity of culture and past experience (Selvarajah, 1996). So, future studies using a longitudinal approach may allow for a closer and in-depth investigation into the adaptation process than the cross-sectional study.

Chapter V Discussions of the Results

The purpose of this study was to identify the adaptation experience of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants in New Zealand. Two major areas that influence their adaptation experiences are focused in this discussion section:

(1) Factors that influence the living conditions of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants:

- Language,
- Medical care system,
- Transportation,
- Cost of living,
- Relationships with other family members

(2) Other factors that influence their adaptation experiences in New Zealand:

- Age,
- Length of stay in New Zealand,
- Family experience
- Plan of stay or leave

5.1 Factors that influence the living conditions of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants

In this study, language difficulty was selected by the respondents as the first dominant factor that influence the living conditions in a new environment in New Zealand. The ability to speak English seems to be the most critical measure of successful integration, or rather, assimilation. Language is the tool of communications, especially for the new immigrants in a host country. However, the elderly Chinese immigrants have much more difficult in learning foreign language such as English, compared with younger immigrants. The main possible explanations are, firstly, older people have greater difficulty in learning than the younger, and secondly, the older Chinese have stronger affinity to maintaining Chinese language than the younger Chinese. Medical care system was selected as second critical factor that influences their living condition, especially

when they get older. Transportation and cost of living played important roles in their selection of life style. These factors which composed the basic needs of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants limited their freedom of choice in where they lived. Living with their children is seen as of mutual help where the children provide security while the elderly provide physical help.

Relationships with other family members was listed as the fifth important factor that influence their living conditions. 85 per cent of respondents live with their children, while 12 per cent of respondents live away from their children. The first explanation of this fact is, the main role the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants played in the Chinese immigrant family is the role of taking care of their grandchildren and doing regular household work, such as cooking, cleaning, washing clothes, planting vegetables, while their children go out for study or work. Davis-Friedmann (1991) states that younger family members regard the role of the elderly in household work and childcare as being important for the maintenance of the family's lifestyle in traditional Chinese family. Most of the Chinese immigrant families in New Zealand continue this traditional parent-child reciprocal relationship which is the backbone of Chinese culture.

The second explanation is that there are several factors that limit the elderly dependent Chinese the freedom to live away from their children. These factors include language barriers, loneliness, fear of crime, needs of physical helps, difficulty in transportation, and less cost of living. Generally speaking, the respondents have a realistic outlook about whether it is possible to live with "children" when they cannot live on their own or when they do not wish to live alone.

Comments of two interview participants who lived on their own gave some insight to why some of the elderly dependent Chinese prefer to be on their own. Their comments were as follows:

"Of course, it is good if my children can take care of me. However, it is very difficult to achieve this in New Zealand because they have their own lives to live,

and take high pressure to earn a living. In reality, I can't expect them to look after me.”

“No matter how good one's relationship with my daughter when she was in China, it won't be the same after she arrived in New Zealand. It will spoil the relationship if I live long period of time with their family.”

These insights may provide an understanding of the different live style of their children in New Zealand compared to that in their home nation. The above comments might appear to contradict the concept of filial piety among some of the new Chinese immigrant families, even though there were only two comments obtained from this study. This might challenge the commonly held view that Chinese families take care of their own and their elderly members live comfortably in a multigenerational household, all their needs being met by their family members. Contrary to popular belief, that the elderly Chinese immigrants perceive dependency on their children some way prefer to be independent. Two possible reasons are: 1) Not to be a burden on their adult children. 3) Not to spoil the relationships with their children's family.

Indeed, none of the respondents mentioned “filial piety” and veneration of the aged as reasons to rely on their adult children in old age. One of the possible reasons for this is also the unwillingness to be a burden on their younger family members in a foreign environment such as New Zealand. This challenges the filial piety as the foundation of parent-child relationships within the Chinese communities in the new culture environment. The prolonged influence of the relationships between the elderly dependent Chinese immigrant and their family members on their adaptation process in New Zealand society needs further study.

5.2 Cross-cultural adaptation process

Cross-cultural adaptation plays an important role in immigrant adjustment (Selvarajah, 1996). The results of this study suggest that the adjustment process experienced by the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants in the New Zealand environment is based on a

number of factors. The immigrant acculturation process is particularly influenced by several variables such as age, length of stay in New Zealand, the backgrounds of the immigrants, their experiences prior to and on arrival in New Zealand, the experiences of the family members, and the ability to cope in the new environment.

5.2.1 By age groups

Results of this study showed that the “younger group” of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants thought that immigration to New Zealand was helpful to their family (P-value = 0.005), and the result showed that they were suffering more stress (P-value = 0.002). The explanation for this is that the “younger” immigrants come to New Zealand with lot of hopes, such as living in better conditions, better education for their children, more job opportunities even for the older immigrant themselves, and good medical care system, etc. However, this may not be true in reality. This disappointment can be stressful. Study also showed that the 50 – 59 age group among the Chinese immigrants involved in more activities organized by the Chinese ethnic groups. It means that they are seeking the comforts of their own culture to socialize mainly and sometimes exclusively with immigrants from similar cultures (Selvarajah, 1996).

5.2.2 By length of stay in New Zealand

Respondents who have lived in New Zealand between 1 and 2 years perceive greater need to learn English (P-value = 0.000) and greater need to understand local culture (P-value = 0.028). People who have lived for a period of 6 to 12 months perceive less need to learn English and to understand local culture. In relation with the length of stay in New Zealand, the longer the period of stay in New Zealand, the less the influence by the factors such as language difficulty, transportation, medical care, cost of living, and relationships with other family members (P-value = 0.031).

The results are supported by both Oberg’s and Selvarajah’s adjustment model. Oberg (1960) indicates that people in Honeymoon stage are characterized by fascination and enthusiasm, friendly but superficially relations with the locals. This can be used to explain the reasons of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants who stayed in New

Zealand less than 6 months preferring to understand local culture better. After 6 months' experiencing of honeymoon, the "Crisis" (Stage 2) created by culture shock creates difference in culture perception in language and values, which may lead to feelings of loss and rejection, ... (Oberg, 1960). In this study, this was supported by less effort in learning English and trying to understand local culture for the respondents who have lived in New Zealand between 6 and 12 months. After experiencing the "Honey moon" and "Crisis" stages, they went through "Recovery" (Stage 3) and "Adjustment" (Stage 4) of Oberg's model. At this stage, they became realistic to face the new environment by putting their real effort to understand local culture and to learn English.

Using EAP model (Selvarajah, 1996) to analysis the above results, elderly dependent Chinese immigrants who have lived in New Zealand between 1 to 2 years move on to Stage IV (Adjustment). At this stage, the influence of factors such as language difficulty, transportation, medical care, cost of living, and relationships with other family members became less. At this stage, the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants "persevere in seeking to understand and cope with the new culture" (Selvarajah, 1996).

5.2.3 By family experience

The factors that influencing the living condition of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants are language, medical care, transportation, cost of living, and relationships with other family members. The results of this study showed that the more the respondents try to understand the local culture, the less the influence by these factors ($P\text{-value} = 0.002$). The better the family was coping in the local culture, the less significantly the influence of these factors on the living conditions of the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants ($P\text{-value} = 0.006$). In Stage .III (Gestation) of EAP Model, Selvarajah indicates that the experiences of the family can influence the expatriate's adjustment to the host environment, thus the positive experiences may lead to the wanting to study the English language. Also Thompson (1986) indicated that the family of an expatriate could play a key role in the success or failure of the expatriate. The total positive acculturation of the expatriate is then an aggregate process that involves the total experience of the expatriate and his family (Selvarajah 1996). The overall positive and negative experiences of the

immigrants and their families may affect how the elderly dependent Chinese immigrant adjusts and reacts to the foreign environment.

5.2.4 By "Yes" or "No" to stay in New Zealand

Immigrants will make relevant adjustments in the host environment based on their overall experiences. Oberg (1960) stated that the adjustment process should deal with cross-cultural competence. Expatriates may resolve the adjustment problems gradually by starting to learn the language and culture of the host country. They may accept the cultural differences and may even appreciate them. The results of this study revealed that those immigrants with high degree of frustration might decide to leave New Zealand. The frustrated immigrants may be less adaptive, less cooperative and less participative in the New Zealand environments. Immigrants and their families with high degree of contentment may decide to stay in New Zealand and become more adaptive, more cooperative and more participative. Immigrants, who vacillate between the extremes of contentment and frustration, may make adjustments by trying to understand and cope in the foreign environment.

In this study, the factor analysis showed that respondents who answered "Yes" when asked if they plan to stay in New Zealand, responded positively (P-value = 0.01) to (1) strong feelings of usefulness and needed by the family, (2) their spouse were happy, (3) the involvement in the activities organised by ethnic group was high, and (4) had lot of things to look forward to in the future. On the other hand, people who responded that they wish to leave New Zealand permanently had lower level of adjustment, adaptation, participation, and their spouse were not happy (P-value = 0.03).

The results of this study demonstrate the interrelationships between the level of adaptation, cooperativeness, participation and the mood of frustration or contentment. When older immigrants are faced with differences in culture and host environments and if they are willing to cope, try to understand the local culture, and socialize frequently with the people from the local culture, they may achieve higher levels of adaptation, cooperativeness and participation resulting in a higher degree of contentment. On the

other hand, if they are unwilling to cope, try to understand the local culture, interact with the local people, it is then highly likely that they will experience low levels of adaptation, cooperativeness and participation. The lower levels of adaptation, cooperativeness and participation will then result in a high degree of frustration and even quitting the country.

Based on these findings, all the three hypotheses were proved in some way and the research objectives were fulfilled by (1) identifying the five main factors that influence the living conditions of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants, (2) discussing the change of relationships between elderly dependent Chinese immigrant and other family members, (3) exploring the other aspects such as age, length of stay in New Zealand, the experiences of spouse and family, and the ability to cope in the new environment to explain the adaptation process of the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants in New Zealand. The results generally support the application of the four-stage adjustment model of Oberg (1960) in the study of expatriates and Expatriate Acculturation Process (EAP) Model of Selvarajah (1998) in the study of immigrants.

The results of this study suggest that the adjustment process experienced by the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants in the New Zealand environment is based on a number of factors. The acculturation process of elderly dependent Chinese immigrant is particularly influenced by several variables such as age, length of stay in New Zealand, the experiences of spouse and family, the relationships with other family members and the ability to cope in the new environment.

The key findings of this study are: (1) The five main factors that influence the living condition in New Zealand of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants are language difficulty, medical care, transportation, cost of living, and relationships with other family members (refer to Table 2). (2) The 50 – 59 age group among the respondents thinks that immigration to New Zealand was helpful to their family (Kruskal-Wallis test, P-value = 0.005). However, the same age group responded that they are suffering more stress in the New Zealand environment (Kruskal-Wallis test, P-value = 0.002). (3) Respondents who have lived in New Zealand between 1 and 2 years support that learning English is important (Kruskal-Wallis test, P-value = 0.000) and equally understanding the local culture is important (Kruskal-Wallis test, P-value = 0.028). (4) The study also showed that when the immigrant family coped well in the local culture, the influence of the five factors (language difficulty, medical care, transportation, cost of living, and relationships with other family members) significantly impact less on the living conditions of the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants in New Zealand (ANOVA, P-value = 0.006). (5) Based on factor analysis, elderly Chinese immigrants who were less adaptive, less cooperative and less participative in the New Zealand environments responded that they may decide to leave New Zealand (Kruskal-Wallis, P-value = 0.01). As a corollary than, the immigrants and their families with high degree of contentment may decide to stay in New Zealand and become more adaptive, more cooperative and more participative.

Based on the key findings, all the three hypotheses were proved in some way and the research objectives were fulfilled. The factors that influence the living conditions of

elderly dependent Chinese immigrants were identified. The change of relationships between elderly dependent Chinese immigrant and other family members were discussed. Other variables such as age, length of stay in New Zealand, the experiences of spouse and family, and the ability to cope in the new environment were also explored to explain the adaptation process of the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants in New Zealand. The results generally support the application of the four-stage adjustment model of Oberg (1960) in the study of expatriates and Expatriate Acculturation Process (EAP) Model of Selvarajah (1998) in the study of immigrants.

Each of the foregoing discussion has briefly described different aspects in understanding the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants. Various approaches such as the assimilation and modernization theories, the disengagement and activity theories do not seem to offer an adequate framework for interpreting and understanding the elderly dependent Chinese experience in New Zealand. The purpose of this approach is to present a highlighting of cultural variables on the adjustment experiences of the elderly dependent Chinese settlers in New Zealand. This thesis takes cross-cultural acculturation approach which focuses on the adaptation experience of the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants, and analyzes the influences of the changing of the relationships between the family members compared with the traditional Chinese family system on the process of adjustment of elderly dependent Chinese immigrants in a new cultural environment.

The study of ethnic minorities in regard to aging experience is lacking in New Zealand. This study may provide useful information to the health care professionals, social work practitioners, policy makers, and researchers and academics in the study of the aged within ethnic minorities in New Zealand. The experience of the Chinese elderly immigrants in New Zealand offers an opportunity for researchers to study the historical and contemporary facts underlying the aging process of immigrant in New Zealand. Although the present work focused only on elderly dependent Chinese immigrants, the research findings could be evaluated in future work among other immigrant and ethnic minority groups, as well as other age groups.

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Appendix A Questionnaire

Immigrant Acculturation Research

————— *Study of Elderly dependent Chinese Settlers in Auckland*

Dear Respondent,

My name is Wang Zheng. I am a postgraduate student at Massey University, enrolled for a Master of Business Study Degree. The enclosed survey is part my degree programme and examines the adaptation process of elderly dependent Chinese settlers residing in the Auckland region. This research will study how the elderly dependent Chinese immigrants adjust to a new environment such as New Zealand.

The process of this research is under the supervision of Professor Christopher Selvarajah of Massey University. He started his research focusing on immigrant acculturation experience from the early 1990's. His research has been widely published in international academic journals, books and local newspapers. I am moved and inspired by his enthusiasm and his personal academic interest in the immigrants from Asia, as well an interest I share greatly.

The returned questionnaire will be treated in strict confidence and no individual data will be divulged to a third person. To maintain anonymity, you are not required to write your name on the document. At a later stage, I would also like to interview or survey some of you by telephone. If you are interested in an interview, please telephone Wang Zhang on 8386788. The interview and telephone survey will be conducted in Mandarin.

The success of this survey depends on your cooperation. So, please answer the questions candidly and to your best ability. I would be most grateful for your help in completing the survey. If there are any parts to the survey you do not wish to answer, please leave them blank. I shall make arrangement for the collection of this questionnaire.

Thank you again for your time and help in making this study possible.

Your faithfully,

Wang Zheng
Tel.: (09) 8386788

Professor C.T. Selvarajah
Tel.: (09) 443 9700 Ext 9578
Department of Management
Massey University, Albany
Private Bag 102 904
North Shore MSC
Auckland

Research Questionnaire

Instructions

In each question, please circle the appropriate number.

- Q. 1 What is your age?
(1) Under 50 (2) 50 - 59 (3) 60 - 69 (4) Over 70
- Q. 2 What is your sex?
(1) Male (2) Female
- Q. 3 Where are you originally from?
(1) China (2) Hong Kong (3) Taiwan (4) Malaysia/Singapore
(5) Other (Please specify):
- Q. 4 How long have you been in New Zealand?
(1) Under 6 months (2) 6 months - 2 year (3) 1 year - 2 years (4) over 2 years
- Q. 5 Who are you living with in Auckland?
(1) Son (2) Daughter (3) Friends (4) Other (Please specify):.....
- Q. 6 Do your spouse live with you in New Zealand?
(1) Yes (2) No
- Q. 7 If No in Q.6 please state reason _____
- Q. 8 How many members are there in your family in Auckland?
(1) Under 3 (2) 3 (3) 4 (4) 5 (5) more than 5
- Q. 9 What kinds of activities do you do regularly? (Circle as many as you want)
(1) Take care of your grandchildren (2) Do exercises (3) Go shopping
(4) Learn English (5)Dancing (6) Play mahjong
(7) Others(Please Specify):.....
- Q. 10 Are you employed in NZ?
(1) Yes (2) No (3) Others (Please specify):.....
- Q. 11 If you are not employed in NZ, are you seeking employment?
(1) Yes (2) No (3) Others (Please specify):.....
- Q. 12 Under which category did you gain permanent residence in New Zealand?
(1) General (2) Business Investment (3) Family Reunification
(4) Other (Please specify):

In the questions below, please circle the most appropriate number. 1 stands for low response or low feeling and 5 stands for high response or high feeling. Your answer may be anywhere in between.

- Q. 13 Do you think that your immigration to New Zealand was helpful to your family?
Least helpful 1 2 3 4 5 Most helpful
- Q. 14 Were you happy living in your home country?
Least happy 1 2 3 4 5 Most happy
- Q. 15 Soon after arrival (within 2 months) were you still excited about the prospects of experiencing a new life style?
Least excited 1 2 3 4 5 Most excited
- Q. 16 If no to question 13, what changed your view?
(1) The job opportunities of your son or daughter (2) Language difficulty
(3) Personal experience (4) The family adjustment
(5) Other (Please specify):
- Q. 17 How do you feel now about your experience in New Zealand?
Very Unhappy 1 2 3 4 5 Most Happy
- Q. 18 How does your spouse feel about his/her experience in New Zealand now?
Very Unhappy 1 2 3 4 5 Most Happy
- Q. 19 Were your family members excited about their immigration to NZ?
Least excited 1 2 3 4 5 Most excited
- Q. 20 Are your family generally happy now?
Very Unhappy 1 2 3 4 5 Most Happy
- Q. 21 Do you feel that you are useful and needed?
Not at all needed 1 2 3 4 5 Very needed
- Q. 22 Do you feel stress sometimes?
Not at all stressed 1 2 3 4 5 Always stressed
- Q. 23 Do you think that you have lot of things to look forward to in the future?
Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 Definitely Yes
- Q. 24 Are you involved in organizations or social groups that include mostly people from Chinese ethnic group on a regular basis?
Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 Always
- Q. 25 Do you associate with New Zealanders?
Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 Always

- Q. 26 Do you made any effort to learn English here?
 Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 Definitely Yes
- Q. 27 Do you try to understand local culture?
 Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 Definitely Yes
- Q. 28 Is your family coping well in the local culture?
 Not at all coping 1 2 3 4 5 Coping very well
- Q. 29 Are you planning to stay in NZ permanently?
 (1) Yes (2) No (3) Not decided

Q. 30 If no to question 26, where do you plan to go?
 (1) Your home country (2) Other (Please specify):.....

Q. 31 Answer the following questions (by circling a number) on how you feel now on the following factors, which influence your living in New Zealand?

	Low				High
1) Food	1	2	3	4	5
2) Accommodation	1	2	3	4	5
3) Children's education	1	2	3	4	5
4) Local culture	1	2	3	4	5
5) Religion	1	2	3	4	5
6) The NZ people	1	2	3	4	5
7) Language (Understanding)	1	2	3	4	5
8) Goods and equipment	1	2	3	4	5
9) Climate	1	2	3	4	5
10) Medical care	1	2	3	4	5
11) Transportation	1	2	3	4	5
12) Relationships with Locals	1	2	3	4	5
13) Relationships with other family members	1	2	3	4	5
14) Opportunities of work	1	2	3	4	5
15) Cost of living	1	2	3	4	5
16) Government Bureaucracy	1	2	3	4	5

Q. 32 From above factor list, please select five factors that cause you the greatest problem in New Zealand now. List them in the order of severity by writing 1 for the most severe and followed by 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Thanks again for your participation.

Appendix B 对在奥克兰居住的中国老年居民调查

1999年8月8日

尊敬的女士 / 先生:

我叫王正。我是 MASSEY 大学商业硕士研究生。此项调查将用于研究居住在奥克兰的中国老年居民对新西兰新环境的适应以及他们的生活情况。

此项调查将在 MASSEY 大学 Selvarajah 教授的指导下进行。Selvarajah 教授从九十年代初便开始对新西兰亚洲新移民文化适应的研究。他的研究结果在国际学术杂志，书籍和本地报刊上多次发表。正是因为他的研究热情和学术精神，以及我们共同的兴趣，我才决定选择这个题目。

您的调查表是不需署名的，内容是保密的。在调查进行的后期，如果您同意，我将对您进行面对面的或者通过电话进行采访。如有任何问题，请致电：8386788 王正。

您的合作是调研成功的保证。我对您的协助深表感谢。如果表中有问题您不便回答，请空出此问题。我将安排收集调查表。

对您能抽出宝贵时间填写调查表再次表示感谢。

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调查表

第一部分:

填写方法：请在适合的答案上画圈。

- 1 您的年龄：
(1) 50 以下 (2) 50 到 59 (3) 60 到 69
(4) 70 以上
- 2 您的性别：
(1) 男 (2) 女
- 3 您从哪里来？
(1) 中国大陆 (2) 香港 (3) 台湾
(4) 马来西亚 / 新加坡 (5) 其它地方 (请说明):
- 4 您在新西兰居住了多久？
(1) 少于 6 个月 (2) 6 个月到 1 年 (3) 1 年到 2 年
(4) 2 年以上
- 5 您在新西兰和谁一同居住？
(1) 儿子 (2) 女儿 (3) 朋友 (4) 其他人 (请说明):
- 6 您的配偶与您一同居住在这里吗？
(1) 是 (2) 不是
- 7 如在 6 中回答不是，请说明原因：
- 8 在奥克兰，您的家庭成员有几人？
(1) 3 人以下 (2) 3 人 (3) 4 人 (4) 5 人 (5) 5 人以上
- 9 您日常的主要活动有哪些？ (可多项选择)
(1) 照看孙子 / 孙女 (2) 锻炼身体 (3) 逛商场
(4) 学英文 (5) 跳舞 (6) 打麻将 (7) 其它 (请说明):
- 10 您在新西兰有工作吗？
(1) 有 (2) 无 (3) 其它 (请说明):
- 11 如果没有工作，您是否准备找？
(1) 是 (2) 否 (3) 其它 (请说明):
- 12 您是通过什么途径在此居住的？
(1) 探亲访友 (2) 普通移民类 (3) 商业投资类移民
(4) 家庭团聚类移民 (5) 其它 (请说明):

第二部分：

填写方法：数字1到5代表程度上从弱到强。您可选择其中最适合您感觉的数字。

- 13 您觉得移民新西兰对您的家庭是否有帮助？
没有帮助 1 2 3 4 5 很有帮助
- 14 您在原居地生活得愉快吗？
不愉快 1 2 3 4 5 非常愉快
- 15 在您到达2个月内，您对新生活的开始感到兴奋吗？
不兴奋 1 2 3 4 5 非常兴奋
- 16 如回答不，是何原因呢？
(1) 儿女工作机会少 (2) 语言障碍 (3) 个人经历
(4) 家庭成员适应程度 (5) 其它(请说明)：
- 17 您现在对生活在这里的感觉如何呢？
很不愉快 1 2 3 4 5 非常愉快
- 18 您的配偶现在在新西兰感觉怎样？
很不愉快 1 2 3 4 5 非常愉快
- 19 您的家庭对移民新西兰还感到兴奋吗？
不兴奋 1 2 3 4 5 非常兴奋
- 20 您的整个家庭气氛如何？
很不愉快 1 2 3 4 5 非常愉快
- 21 您觉得自己有用吗？
很没用 1 2 3 4 5 非常有用
- 22 您感觉紧张和压力吗？
一点也不 1 2 3 4 5 很有压力
- 23 您对未来报有很大很多期望吗？
一点没有 1 2 3 4 5 的确如此
- 24 您定期参加由中国乡亲参与为主的团体及社团活动吗？
一点没有 1 2 3 4 5 经常参加
- 25 您结交新西兰朋友吗？
一点没有 1 2 3 4 5 经常交往

- 26 您在努力学习英文吗？
一点没有 1 2 3 4 5 非常努力
- 27 您在尝试了解本地文化吗？
一点没有 1 2 3 4 5 非常努力
- 28 您的家庭适应本地文化吗？
很不适应 1 2 3 4 5 非常适应
- 29 您准备长期一直住在此地吗？
(1) 是 (2) 否 (3) 还没决定
- 30 如果回答否，您计划去哪里？
(1) 您的家乡 (2) 其它地方(请说明)：
- 31 请回答下列各项对您在奥克兰生活的影响程度：
影响低 影响高
- | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1) 食物 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2) 居住 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3) 儿童教育 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4) 本地文化 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5) 宗教 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6) 本地居民 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7) 语言障碍 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8) 产品及设施 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9) 气候 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10) 医疗 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 11) 交通 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 12) 与本地居民关系 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 13) 与其他家庭成员关系 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 14) 工作机会 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 15) 生活费用 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 16) 政府机构 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
- 32 请您在上述各项中，选出5个您认为给您带来最大困难的项，并按严重程度依次排列：

再次感谢您的合作！

Appendix C: Expatriate Acculturation Process (EAP) Model

