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# A Study on the Consciousness for Korean-Chinese Adaptation in Korea\*

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## Abstract

**Purpose** - This study aims to determine whether history education for Korean-Chinese living in Korea affects their understanding for Korean society. It also aims to determine Korean-Chinese compatriots to recognize the necessity for History education.

**Research design, data, and methodology** - In this study, two parts were examined, which were the analysis on the influence of history education and the Korean-Chinese compatriots' adaptation to Korean society. In the case of data survey, Korean-Chinese compatriots were selected who are living in Korea. The survey was conducted using the samples of 200 questionnaires in total.

**Results** - The results of the analysis shows that their residence adaptation in Korea has a positive impact on future nationality. Moreover, the residence adaptation in Korea has positive implications for their future nationality and their longer residence duration in Korea has an effect on their hope for living in Korea.

**Conclusions** - The study showed the historical consciousness and related demographic characteristics of Korean compatriots living in Korea. It also showed that the longer their education duration for Korean history in China, the more difficult their adaptation would be. Therefore, the long term effects of adaptation depended on the emphasis of Korean history.

**Keywords:** Korean-Chinese, History Education, Domestic Adaptation, Residence Place.

**JEL Classifications:** D60, M14, P46, Z13.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Background

The number of foreigners who have been staying in Korea exceeded 1.2 million people as of 2013, and a variety of discussions over the social position of migrants have been widely made with the increased policy interest in the influx of foreigners. There can be high expectations that the entry into a multicultural society will expand the diversity and creativity of the members of the society and can be utilized as an alternative to the phenomenon of population decline; however, a careful strategic choice by the government is required because the burden of public spending and social anxiety simultaneously arises due to the

conflicts between different norms(Kim, 2014a).

The results of the studies on the multicultural society has presented a critical discourse on multiculturalism while mainly dealing with the existence of immigrant groups, the problems they are facing, the nature of specific immigrants, and the interest in minorities or their relationships with the Korean society. The basic examination of the structural environment of the Korean society is insufficient.

As the Korean society rapidly moves towards a multicultural society, the need for multicultural social integration of Koreans and new members of society (children of multicultural families, immigrated children, and foreign children) is increasing. There is an urgent need for multicultural education than ever for recognizing differences and diverseness among the community members and for avoiding discrimination and exclusion. The formation of learners' identity, understanding and respect for social diversity, realization of the society of equality and justice, development of good citizenship, and alternatives to multicultural cross-curricular education for the creation of new culture should also be urgently prepared.

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## 1.2. Purpose of Research

This study aims to determine whether the history education for Korean-Chinese living in Korea affects their understanding about Korean society. It also aims to determine the necessity of the history education for Korean-Chinese compatriots living in Korea.

## 1.3. Significance of Research

History is the foundation of a country's culture. By learning its history and acquiring the knowledge of its history, we can get close to the essence of culture more easily, realizing that we ourselves are in the process of history beyond just the level of knowledge. and is in the process of history itself. Through the study of history, it is possible to understand the cultural diversity that has been inherent in history for hundreds of years. This will be a basis for mutual understanding and communication in today's multicultural society in Korea. In addition, the values which are pursued in common in the relationship between multicultural education and history education should be sought prior to the selection of the concrete contents of multicultural education(Park, Kim, & Lee, 2011). For example, included are diversity, anti-racism, equality, peace, respect for other cultures, globalization, communication and coexistence. Therefore, efforts are needed to reconstruct multicultural history education by selecting the contents that contain such values among the numerous historical facts. For this purpose, it is necessary to take an overall review for the contents of existing history textbooks. That's because existing Korean history education includes some ethnic and cultural exclusiveness to inspire pride and patriotism as a Korean. Therefore, it is necessary to seek an alternative by examining whether the terms that are biased toward specific perspectives are used or there are negative expressions about other people in Korean history books(Kim, 2014b).

Multicultural education should not be part of the lesson that is performed only in a classroom but the one that is seen, heard, felt, and experienced firsthand. The education scene is not necessarily realized only within the fence called a school. Any place where the values pursued in a multicultural society such as the respect for cultural diversity, understanding of differences and diverseness, and sublation of discrimination and exclusion are realized can also be a scene of multicultural history education. Furthermore, multicultural history education should target not only the students from multicultural families but also general Korean students. This will help students establish a spiritual foundation to proudly live as a 'Korean' in our society through establishing self-identity and cultivating cultural diversity.

## 2. Theoretical Background

### 2.1. Increase of Foreigners Staying in Korea

As of 2013, the number of the foreigners staying in Korea was 1,219,192, which is an increase of approximately 10% as compared to that in 2012 (98,593 foreigners). The main reasons for the increase of foreigners staying in Korea are the expansion of F-4 qualification for Korean-Chinese compatriots and the expansion of F-5 qualification for the Korean compatriots with the foreign nationality who are qualified for acquiring Korean nationality(Kim, 2016).

If a foreigner leaves his or her home country to reside in another country for a certain time of period or longer, it is generally referred to as residence, a long-term stay or an immigration(Kim, 2015).

The stays of foreigners in Korea can be divided into short-term stays (if the duration of stay is 90 days or less), long-term stays (if the duration of stay is 90 days or more), and permanent residence (if there is no restriction on the duration of stay). In the case of long-term stays or permanent residence, foreigner registration or the report of the place of residence should be made within 90 days from entering Korea(Kim, 2014b).

### 2.2. Historical Appearance Background of Korean-Chinese

It was around in the 17th century when Korean people moved their home from the Korean Peninsula to China, where hundreds of thousands of Koreans were forcibly relocated from the western part of Joseon to the area of Liaodong starting from the first Manchu invasion of Korea in 1627 and the second Manchu invasion of Korea in 1636. In the 1860s, Korean farmers emigrated to the area of Manchuria due to the natural disasters that lasted for many years to cultivate the land and do farming for the purpose of earning livings(Kim, 2016). With the abolition of the regulation that put the immigrants to death in 1885, more Koreans emigrated to Manchuria. At this time, the number of Koreans in the areas called the Northeast Three Provinces of China in Manchuria reached 220,000(Lee, Lim, & Pathak, 2011).

The period when the largest number of Koreans moved was between 1910 and 1931. When the Empire of Japan established the puppet state of Manchukuo in 1932 under the banner of the harmony of the five races, the number of Koreans migrating to Manchuria drastically increased due to the immigration policy of the Empire of Japan. During this period, Koreans who had various kinds of jobs moved to all areas of Manchuria as well as Gando, and it is said that the population of Koreans living in Manchukuo reached 3 million. With the collapse of Manchukuo and the independence of Korea in 1945, many Koreans came back

to Korea. But, about 1 million Koreans still remained in China, later becoming the origin of the ethnic Koreans living in China(Cox, Mueller, & Moss, 2002).

### 2.3. Necessity of Historical Education to Understand Korean Society

The process where Korean-China immigrate to Korea to settle down in Korea is closely linked to the historical background of Korea and China. Korean-China are a comprehensive result appearing as a result of the interlink of the historical background of Korea and the historical and political situation of China.

They were formed through the historical process of 200 years, and it can be seen that their identity is connected to both Korea and China. There has been a flow of Korean-Chinese compatriots into the Korean society in earnest since the end of the 1980s. This caused the debate over the inflow of foreign workers to Korea, and the Korean government announced its policy of "importing foreign trainees" in November 1993, which were the Korea's most basic foreign labor utilization policy until 2004(Kim & Kim, 2012).

In making the policy, Korea was concerned about the settlement of Korean-Chinese compatriots. Nevertheless, the viewpoint of foreigners in the Korean society has changed, and the age of full-scale multiculturalism has come due to the increase of marriage immigrants by international marriage(Lee & Lee, 2014).

### 2.4. Identity Based on Homogeneous Historical Consciousness

One of the problems of multicultural families is the loss of identity of foreign migrant women. As previously mentioned, it can be seen that the majority of foreign migrant women complain about communication. Such a communication problem has a great influence on the loss of identity of foreign migrant women.

Foreign migrant women are not able to make contact with Korean people fully due to the communication problem because of their life patterns in Korea(Lee, 2008).

This leads to a decline in self-confidence and an increase in fear, and thus making the foreign migrant women increasingly take a passive attitude toward life in Korea after all(Kim, 2014b).

As a result, foreign migrant women become increasingly isolated and eventually lose their identities. The prejudice of the Korean society makes foreign migrant women and their children live a hard life. Since the Dan-gun era, Korea has been a nation that insists on and emphasizes the pure bloodline with a single ethnic race and a single language(Yoon, 2012).

Due to the social prejudice that stubbornly insists on a single-race nation and the misunderstanding of other cultures, Korean society is relatively favorable to the people of the developed countries, while being critical of and being indifferent to the women from the countries that are economically poorer than Korea. This makes even husbands and family members reluctant to foreign expose foreign migrant women(Yoon, 2004).

### 2.5. Concept of Korean-Chinese

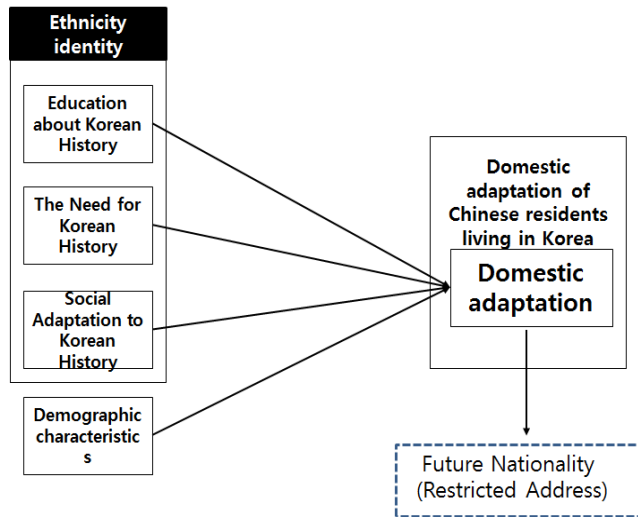
After middle of the 19th century, Korean migrated to China because of economic and political reasons: By taking opportunity of China-Korea diplomatic relations in 1992, they did return – migration to Korea. Immigrants who came to Korea to be employed temporarily because of gap of development of the Korean government's policy and inter-country development to supply labor force in shortage, and to get married and to study in Korea and to visit relatives in Korea(Veciana, Aponte, & Urbano, 2005).

Koreans living in China could come to Korea at change of social structure in China. In 1978, China opened door under Teng Xiao Ping system to start exchange with Korea little by little: Since the 1970s, the Korean economy rapidly grew up to be short of labor force throughout the society in the 1980s, and the Korean government actively accepted opening door to China to get world market in accordance with internationalization(Kim, Hwang, & Song, 2014). Both China and Korea allowed 60 years old or higher elderly Korean Chinese to visit home town at opening of doors of both countries: Migrants labor workers thought of overcoming of poverty at rural areas owing to visit to Korea so that more people wanted to migrate to Korea to be employed in Korea. Korean Chinese occupied large ratio of foreigners migrating to Korea to be a part of the ones who migrated to Korea to find out new opportunity of life(Cho, Hwang, & Lee, 2011).

## 3. Methodologies

As a study method, the influence analysis of the history education and the Korean-Chinese compatriots' adaptation to Korean society, who account for the largest portion of the multicultural families in Korean society will be examined. As data survey methods, those who are interested in participation in history education were selected from Korean-Chinese compatriots living in Korea, and a survey was conducted using the samples of 200 questionnaires in total.

### 3.1. Research Model



<Figure 1> Research model

### 3.2. Contents and Hypotheses

The research hypothesis of the research problem is shown in the following <Table 1>.

<Table 1> Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1	The understanding (education) of Korean history will have a positive impact on Korean-Chinese compatriots' adaptation to Korean society.
Hypothesis 2	The demographic characteristics of Korean-Chinese compatriots a positive impact on their adaptation to Korean society
Hypothesis 3	The adaptation to Korean society will have a positive impact on future nationality and residence areas.

### 3.3. Variables

The operational definitions of the variables selected in this study were made as follows according to the purpose of this study based do the variables used in the previous studies (Kim & Hong, 2008).

The questionnaire survey was conducted on 5~7 items for each of the level of Korean history education, the level of necessity of Korean history, and the level of perception of Korean history (measurement item: a 5-point scale). The dependent variables for the Korea-Chinese compatriots' adaptation to Korean society will be analyzed by the duration of stay in Korea or the impact of departure <Table 2>.

<Table 2> Variable measurement

Variable	Content	Remarks
Level of Korean history education	- The level of Korean history education (China) - The level of Korean history education (Korea) - The level of additional Korean history education	5-point scale
Demographic characteristics	- Gender, age, educational background, marital status, current nationality, adaptation to Korean society	5-point scale
Adaptation to Korean society	- Period of residence in Korea, residence	5-point scale

### 3.4. Methodologies

SPSS 19 was used for statistical processing in this research. First, frequency analysis was performed to investigate common characteristics from sample data. Second, factor analysis was conducted to classify items and test tool by areas: Cronbach's  $\alpha$  coefficient was used. Third, not only multi-regression but also hierarchical moderated regression analysis was done to test hypotheses (Lee, Park, & Sun, 2015).

## 4. Findings

### 4.1. Frequency Analysis

A frequency analysis was conducted to analyze the demographic characteristics of the survey samples. According to the demographic characteristics of the survey respondents, the number of the female respondents were 116 (56.4%), while that of the male respondents were 90 (43.7%), showing a difference in proportion between female and male respondents. There were 26 more female respondents (12.7%). In terms of age, the number of the respondents in their 20s was 90, accounting for 43.7% of the total, and the number of the respondents in their 30s was 72, accounting for 35.0%. The number of the respondents in their 40s was 42, accounting for 20.4% while that of the respondents in their 50s was 2, accounting for 1.0%. In terms of the educational background, the number of the graduates of university or higher was 94, accounting for 45.6% of the total, while that of the graduates of high school or lower was 40, accounting for 19.4%. More than 71.22% (148 people) of the total respondents were graduates of university or higher. In terms of marital status, the number of married persons was 96 (46.6%), while that of the unmarried persons including divorced persons was 110 (53.4%).

In terms of the duration of the respondents' stay in Korea, the number of the respondents who stayed less than one year was 42 (20.4%), while that of respondents who stayed between one and 5 years was 106 (51.5%). Thirty persons (14.6%) stayed between 5 and 10 years and 12 people (5.8%) stayed between 10 and 15 years, while 16 people (7.8%) stayed for ore than 15 years. In terms of current nationality, 56 people (27.2%) were Korean nationals, while the rest were Chinese nationals. In terms of their future nationality, 84 people (40.8%) wanted to live in China by acquiring Chinese nationality. The rest wanted to have Korean nationality.

#### 4.2. Regression Analysis

##### 4.2.1. Analysis of the impact of Korean history (education) on the adaptation to Korean society

This analysis was conducted for <Hypothesis 1> to verify whether the understanding (education) of Korean history has a positive impact on the Korean-Chinese compatriots' adaptation to Korean society. A multiple regression analysis was used for verification <Table 3>.

The results of the analysis of the variables influencing the adaptation to Korean society revealed that the longer the

education duration of Korean history in China was, the more difficult the adaptation would be and that the greater the necessity for Korean history education in Korea was, the longer the duration of adaptation would be.

##### 4.2.2. Analysis of the impact of demographic characteristics of Korean-Chinese compatriots on their adaptation to Korean society

This analysis was conducted for <Hypothesis 2> to verify whether the demographic characteristics of Korean-Chinese compatriots have a positive impact on their adaptation to Korean society. A multiple regression analysis was used for verification <Table 4>.

The results from the analysis on the demographic characteristics of Korean-Chinese compatriots for the variables influencing the adaptation to Korean society revealed that the older they are, the higher the adaptation to Korean society becomes and that unmarried persons showed the higher adaptation to Korean society than married persons. Double-income couples were found to have difficulty in adapting themselves to their residence areas or Korean society according to job selection or job location. In addition, adaptation was higher according to their current nationality and future residence areas.

<Table 3> Korean history (education) on the adaptation to Korean society

Model		Non-standardization factor		Standardization factor	t	Probability of significance	Collinearity	
		B	Standard error	beta			Tolerance	VIF
1	(A Constant)	1.150	.367		3.129	.002		
	Period of Korean History Education in China	-.175	.063	-.204	-2.793	.006	.677	1.477
	Korean history education in Korea	.141	.048	.188	2.952	.004	.894	1.118
	Necessity of Korean History Education in Korea	.312	.074	.321	4.192	.000	.618	1.619

a. Dependent variable: duration of residence in Korea (duration for adaptation to Korean society)

<Table 4> Demographic characteristics of Korean-Chinese

Model		Non-standardization factor		Standardization factor	t	Probability of Significance	Collinearity	
		B	Standard error	beta			Tolerance	VIF
1	(A Constant)	.135	.443		.304	.761		
	Gender	.150	.098	.114	1.537	.126	.502	1.994
	Age	.567	.064	.646	8.924	.000	.526	1.901
	Education	-.046	.053	-.051	-.874	.383	.824	1.214
	Marital Status	-.142	.067	-.126	-2.117	.035	.773	1.293
	Nationality	.195	.063	.197	3.081	.002	.671	1.490
	Hopeful residence	.251	.080	.194	3.127	.002	.712	1.405

a. Dependent variable: duration of residence in Korea (duration for adaptation to Korean society)

**<Table 5>** Korean society on future nationality and residence areas

Model	Non-standardization factor		Standardization factor	t	Probability of significance	Collinearity	
	B	Standard error	beta			Tolerance	VIF
1	(A Constant)	1.250	.128		9.768	.000	
	Duration of stay in Korea	.289	.050	.372	5.732	.000	1.000 1.000

a. Dependent variable: desired place of residence (selection of future nationality)

#### 4.2.3. Analysis of the impact of the adaptation to Korean society on future nationality and residence areas

This analysis has been conducted for <Hypothesis 3> to verify whether the Korean-Chinese compatriots' adaptation to Korean society has a positive impact on future nationality and residence areas. A multiple regression analysis was used for verification <Table 5>.

The results of this analysis shows the residence adaptation in Korea has a positive impact on future nationality and longer residence duration in Korea affect the hope for their living in Korea.

## 5. Conclusions

In this study, we have studied the historical consciousness and related demographic characteristics of Korean compatriots living in Korea.

First, the results of the analysis of the variables influencing the adaptation to Korean society revealed that the longer the education duration of Korean history in China

was, the more difficult the adaptation would be and that the greater the necessity for Korean history education in Korea was, the longer the duration of adaptation would be.

Second, the results of the analysis of the demographic characteristics of Korean-Chinese compatriots for the variables influencing the adaptation to Korean society revealed that the older they are, the higher the adaptation to Korean society becomes and that unmarried persons showed the higher adaptation to Korean society than married persons. Double-income couples were found to have difficulty in adapting themselves to their residence areas or Korean society according to job selection or job location. In addition, adaptation was higher according to their current nationality and future residence areas.

Third, the results of this analysis of whether the residence adaptation in Korea has a positive impact on future nationality and residence areas revealed that the longer the residence duration in Korea, the greater the hope for living in Korea.

This will help students establish a spiritual foundation to proudly live as a 'Korean' in our society through establishing self-identity and cultivating cultural diversity.

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