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## **Am I A Foreigner in the Land of My Children? A Study of the Development of Ethnic Identity among New Immigrant Wives in Taiwan**

Cross-border marriages between Taiwan and Southeast Asia have been increased since the 1980s, and it has become popular in the 1990s because of the “Go-South Policy” of the Taiwan government. This type of marriages has been stigmatized resulting from being commoditized. In addition, the Taiwan society complains about the cultural and linguistic barriers of the self-titled Taiwan New Immigrant Females (TNIFs), and furthermore is suspicious of their children’s educational achievement. Therefore, how do the TNIFs perceive themselves? What’s their identity development? How would this affect their lived experiences in Taiwan? It is critical to recognize these issues because their identity influences the educational strategies toward their children, especially in the socialization and the preparation in interethnic interaction. The ethnic identity development model claiming five stages-- (1) conformity; (2) dissonance; (3) resistance and immersion; (4) introspection; (5) articulation and awareness, was adopted as the theoretical framework to understand the TNIFs’ ethnicity. A qualitative research approach was employed for data collection and analysis. The research results indicated that the greater Taiwan society, the community where the TNIFs live, Taiwanese families, and the opportunities of empowerment play critical roles on the ethnic identity development of the TNIFs. Those from urban areas intended to positive ethnicity by means of empowerment regarding from programs or social interaction. Those from lower-middle families are inclined to low perceptions on ethnic identity unless their Taiwanese husbands are successful and the Taiwanese families. Some TNIFs’ ethnicity could not be clearly cut with the ethnic identity development model, and some of the TNIFs’ identity is volatile with the sociocultural condition. Therefore, how to increase a sense of multiculturalism and to help the Taiwanese people appreciate the TNIFs’ contributions to Taiwan society to propel the positive identity development of the TNIFs are also discussed.

Key words: cross-border marriages, Taiwan New Immigrant females, ethnic identity