

HUMA 1000: Cultures and Values: **Cover sheet for final essay**

Full name	
Student ID	
Writing workshop section number	
Writing workshop instructor	
Title of essay (please copy and paste from the document on Canvas)	

Declaration: The attached essay represents my own work. I have read and understood the University's policies on academic honesty and I confirm that the attached work conforms to these policies.

Please type your name:

Response to feedback: note here the comments from your instructor you have responded to (you can copy these from your feedback sheet).

<p>In this essay, I responded to the comment that concerns the lack of explanation of the history event or social movement that makes the preservation of local culture successful, and an additional main paragraph and the counter argument has been added back to the essay.</p>
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Final Essay

Many people have English as our first choice of language for foreigners. In fact, the expansion of English and its corresponding culturing can be traced back hundreds of years ago. By the mid 19 century, British colonies arises all over the world. This brings English, which is now already an international language, into various parts of the world and bring its culture along with it. Though the ever growing popularity of English facilitates worldwide communication among races and cultural groups, some say the worldwide language will eventually replace, or even annihilate local languages. This essay will argue that the widespread of English language actually catalyse local studies, as well as the spread of local languages. The essay will look at the history of English globalisation Hong Kong, and the way of locals preserving their local language and culture as examples.

One of the argument that emphasise the widespread of English language actually stimulate local study, is that the History of English expansion was intrusive. Though, in order to maintain the stability of the society, numerous effort has to be done to adapt local culture into the governing body by adopting adequate language policies. By the time Hong Kong became a colony, English is the official language of governing, while Cantonese is the first language for the majority of Hong Kong people. Throughout the colonised period, Chinese elites of Hong Kong fought for the introduction of local Hong Kong people into the governing body, and eventually turn Chinese as one of the official language. Chinese language was regarded as the co-official language in 1967, and later shares equal status with English in Hong Kong. To this day, the hybrid use of Cantonese and English is still a proud identity of Hong Kong people. From this, one can see that from the political perspective, even when the colonial governing body is English-based with English language and culture floods into the colony, local culture can still be preserved from the effort of integrating local and English culture for stable society.

Another famous example of Hong Kong culture preservation is the Chinese University of Hong Kong(CUHK)[1]. Established in 1963 and aimed at preserving Chinese culture, it specified the use of Chinese language as the main language of tuition. It is important to notice that the language of tuition is especially important in Confucius society, since people in Confucius society believes that the language used for learning different knowledge defines one's cultural identity. By the time of CUHK's establishment, the University of Hong Kong is the only institution that provides university education. Unfortunately, the sole language of instruction in the university is English, and there is no way for the students to choose their language of tuition. To promote university education in Hong Kong people's mother language of Chinese, CUHK was established in the hope of preserving local language in higher education[1]. Many professional subjects, including science and Engineering, always uses English as medium of instruction, locals of Hong Kong promote the use of Chinese in higher education as an effort to preserve local language as well as culture. Surely the widespread of English language will affect local languages uses, it also create the hybrid language environment since locals are serious on the language of tuition that defines one's cultural identity, and the active preservation of Cantonese as the language of tuition made Cantonese stood up as a language in high education and different professional field.

In addition, the general acceptance of the identify as Chinese also help the preservation of Chinese language in Hong Kong. Throughout the history of Hong Kong being a colony of Britain, there are several dramatic changes undergoing in mainland China that affect the cultural status in Hong Kong. For example, the international status of China has been ever increasing since the

1970s, and this makes many Hong Kong people, whose origin is in mainland China, proud of being a Chinese and proud of speaking Cantonese. Moreover, the ever changing of the society's composition also affects the cultural identity of Hong Kong people. By the time of 1970s, many people fled from the Cultural Revolution in mainland China and come to Hong Kong as a settling place. They inherently regard themselves as Chinese, and clearly did not share the established history of Hong Kong as having a hybrid culture composed from Chinese and English culture. This deeply changed the formation of the society, and ultimately changed the way people

Nevertheless, the widespread of English language and culture as in the case of Hong Kong certainly brought several deep impact on the original Hong Kong society. For example, after the gradual takeover of Hong Kong by Britain after the first and second Sino-Anglo war, the British officials were the governing body of Hong Kong. After the takeover, the governing official did the best to change the Hong Kong's environment, especially after the great outbreak of plague. This makes Hong Kong people satisfies at the governing body and start to adapt the English culture bring along with it. However, it is important to notice that the governing body from Britain is characterised as a laissez-faire governing, and made the minimal intervention of the original culture that presented in Hong Kong society[2], as stated before. The active adaption of the english culture brought along by the governing body from Britain is from the Hong Kong people but not by the governing officials. Therefore, it is not convincing to conclude that the expansion of English culture certainly brings the deformation of local culture.

In conclusion, the widespread of English certainly brought various impact on the society, as it change the way people speak, and its cultures enters the local community and displace local cultures. However, locals or even colonial officials helped to preserve local language and its associating culture for political stability, and the very mindset aimed at preserving local language and culture in terms of language of tuition in universities, the ever-changing environment of mainland China, which is geographically close to Hong Kong and had deep impact on Hong Kong's cultural development, all played a key role in the shaping of today's Hong Kong culture.

References:

[1] Li, D. C. S. (2013). Linguistic hegemony or linguistic capital? Internationalization and English-medium instruction at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. In Doiz, A., Lasagabaster, D., & Sierra, J. M. (eds.), *English-Medium Instruction at Universities: Global Challenges*. Multilingual Matters. Chapter 4.

[2] Tsui, A. B. M. & Tollefson, J. W. (2007). *Language policy, culture, and identity in Asian contexts* (ed.). Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.