

Master's Thesis Abstract

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Title

**Views on Love and Marriage among Muslim Women of Different Generations in China
-A Case Study of the Hui People in Yunnan Province**

Women's views on love and marriage vary significantly from one individual to another, but they are also influenced by various factors such as national policies, economic conditions, and educational levels. In China, the Hui, as one of the minority races who believe in Islam, adhere to Islamic doctrine and are also greatly influenced by the laws and customs of Chinese society. Therefore, Hui women have constructed a conception of love and marriage that differs from that of Muslim women from the rest of the world and that of traditional Chinese women. This thesis attempts to clarify the differences and changes in Hui women's views on love and marriage, especially of those Hui women born in different periods before and after the "Reform and Opening-up" period. We then examine the impacts of changes in the traditional living environment of Hui on the concept of "Hui Han Marriage." We analyze the differences between Hui women in different generations in Yunnan in three aspects: the criteria for choosing a spouse, the causes of love and marriage, and the causes of changes in the concept of "Hui Han Marriage."

In Chapter 1, we introduced the basic situation and the history of the Hui in China. Muslims had entered China since the Tang Period and formed an ethnic group called Hui during the Yuan and Ming Dynasties. In the Qing Period, the social status of the Hui became lower, which led to the broke out of riots later at the end of the Qing Dynasty. After the establishment of the People's Republic of China, minorities such as Hui got their autonomous regions. The practice of intermarriage in China has been a matter of concern for many years. Regarding marriage practices, the series of procedures and rituals related to traditional Chinese Hui marriages can be summarized as the following steps: marriage proposal, engagement, wedding, reception, and the bride's return to her hometown.

In Chapter 2, we compared and analyzed the criteria for choosing a spouse and the reasons for falling in love and getting married for Hui women of two generations in Yunnan Province based on interviews conducted in 2022. The analysis revealed the following tendencies: compared to Hui women in their 40s and 50s, Hui women in their 20s and 30s placed greater importance on the partner's personality and first impressions of the partner when choosing a spouse; the introduction of a romantic or marriage partner was made by an acquaintance of the same generation, not a family member; the duration of the romantic process was longer, and; the younger generation of Hui women's reasons for deciding on love and marriage were more in line with their own will.

In Chapter 3, we first introduced interfaith marriages in the Islamic world and identified the historical background of intra-family marriage and "Hui Han Marriage" among the Hui. Then, we compared and investigated the view on the "Hui Han Marriage" of Hui women. As a result, we found a significant difference in the attitude of Hui women when they look for a partner for love or marriage. Hui women in their 20s and 30s are hoping to find a partner who tolerates and respects their religious customs, while those in their 40s and 50s were looking for someone who believed in the same religion.

In Chapter 4, we analyzed the causes of the changes in the views of love and marriage held by Yunnan Hui women in different periods based on the analysis in Chapters 2 and 3. Then, we discussed the specific causes mainly from the six factors: the policy, the economic factors, the media development, the educational background, the family background, and the surrounding attitudes. And we argue that changes in views on love and marriage occurred due to the interrelationship of these factors.