



Undergraduate Dissertation coversheet & feedback form

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<i>Module code:</i> SICH6019	<i>Student ID number:</i> 2000458	<i>Educational support needs:</i> No
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Dissertation title:

The Connotation of Children's Family Education in the Book of Rites and Its Modern Implication

Supervisor: Prof. Su-Chuan Lin

Word count: 10921

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English Review of Dissertation

The task I have set for myself is to study the connotations of family education for children in the *Book of Rites* and its significance and inspiration for modern family education. I must say that I am very interested in the second year of my BA programme on the *Book of Rites*, and I hope that I can gain a deeper understanding of the *Book of Rites*, that is why I have chosen the *Book of Rites* as the subject of my graduation thesis. Since it was my first time to write such a long and time-consuming essay, I did not have a clear idea of what I will meet during the process. At that time, I was not confident in my logic, so I thought that I might have problems about logical confusion. I hoped that I could improve on this by listening to my teacher's guidance. However, that is not as serious as I imaged.

Although the logic problem I met was better than I thought, I have also encountered some challenges in the handling of materials and in argumentation during my writing process. I will cite two of them as examples.

First, I met the challenge of understanding the classical material. In order to gain a more accurate understanding, at first, I chose to read, organize and categorize the material by referring to a modern translation of the *Book of Rites*. However, when I discussed the category I finished with my supervisor, Prof. Lin told me that this was a wrong choice and that I should read the original texts. So, I re-read the original text of the *Book of Rites* and referred to various commentaries to help me understand and categorize the meaning of the original text. This time, when I read the classics seriously and carefully, I realized that each passage in the *Book of Rites* had its own background and conditions. For example, the age and marital status of the person, the scene in which the event took place, and so on. None of these are necessarily reflected in modern translations. As a result, I made a mistake in my first thinking.

The second challenge was the beginning of the paper (including the introduction and the definition of children's age), especially the definition of children's age. In this part, I read a lot of studies on the age of the child in the pre-Qin period and tried to discuss the age of the children in terms of law, school, working and so on. But Prof. Lin reminded me that these arguments are not very effective. It is because I study the *Book of Rites*, so I should make the definition based on the commentaries that mentioned children in the *Book of Rites*. Then I read the original text of the *Book of Rites* again and realized that I needed to use the original text to

explain my thinking. This would be more effective than using multifaceted arguments that looked scientific and comprehensive.

Looking back on the process of writing my essay, my deepest realization is keeping confident. When I could not find a clear and perfect answer to a question after checking many commentaries, when the writing progress did not go according to my plan in fact, and when I could not express my thoughts smoothly, the first thing I had to do was to believe in myself, to believe that I would be able to find a suitable point of entry for having a discussion, to believe that the current slow progress was only temporary, and to believe that my own thinking, even if it was not correct, would still bring inspiration to me. In this process, I had doubts about my logical thinking and comprehension because I could not understand some of the commentaries and teachers' suggestions. However, as I progressed through the essay, I came up with my own answers to these questions, which may not have been perfect, but all of them came from my own thinking. This made me realize the importance of confidence. When I doubt that I can't do it, I always become highly nervous and will miss some key information in the text or words, making it impossible for me to understand the meaning of the sentence. I think I should keep this practice, both in my life and in my studies, and I think it will help me to do my work more calmly and smoothly.

Finally, if I will write longer essays in the future, I think I can pay more attention to the following aspects. First, in terms of determining the topic, I would like to keep the scope smaller next time than I did this time. In the process of writing this essay, because the scope of discussion was larger than I had imagined before, I had to spend a great deal of part to discuss the specific contents of the five aspects of family education for children in the *Book of Rites*, which made me a bit constrained in discussing the modern implication of them, and I was not able to explain it in a very complete manner. Secondly, I think I have not done a good job in planning my paper this time. I hope that I can first set up a complete plan next time and leave at least two weeks for the tutor to read and correct it. Thirdly, I would like to pay more attention to logic next time. I would like to be more careful about the logical relationships between sentences, paragraphs, and points, so that I can make my paper more logical. Fourthly, it is the most important things for me, keeping my confidence and focus on the problem at hand. Because I was not confident in myself, almost every day when I am writing essay, I am very nervous and anxious, which makes me unable to focus on the original texts and the references I must read. Besides, the speed of completing my task for the day was slower than I thought.

This slower-than-planned situation gave me more anxiety, and I was stuck in a negative cycle. In fact, when I tried to say to myself, “I can do it. It's easy, and I'll know what's going on right away,” and then immediately focus on the texts, after the first a dozen of repetitions, I needed fewer and fewer repetitions to read the sentences, and succeeded in understanding what I wanted to figure out. I hope that next time I can do my best to keep this mindset throughout the entire writing process, and hopefully it will go even better.