



Undergraduate assignment feedback form

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English Oral Presentation

Zihan Xu

Good afternoon, respected Provost, good morning, Miss. Deng, and Mr. Zhang.

The topic of my presentation today is 'Do not worry about the appearance of your clothing and hat, it is enough if they are clean and neat.' from *Changli Juyao*.

This is the content of my presentation, which is divided into three parts: Introduction, Explanation to the text, Feelings and Reflection.

The first is the introduction.

This is Mr Xu Xingmin's commentary: 'Let's talk about how do we behave in public. Whether we are to participate in the society we live or not , it is unavoidable for us to appear in public. There are things you should pay attention to when you in public, including etiquette and traffic safety. There are fifteen principles in total.

Why did the author : Mr Li Bingnan wrote this sentence first in this chapter ? in many cases, one's dressing could show one's attitude towards things, his mental condition, and even his character. Those people who wear neatly and clean clothes every time, with every button buttoned, may be thought by others when they see it, they must be very strict on their work, right? And after studying the course, I understand that the seemingly simple wearing of clothes actually contains a lot of deep life principles, which are worth thinking .'

The following is the explanation to text.

'Don't worry about the appearance of your clothing and hat, it is enough if they are clean and neat.' Nowadays, we don't wear hats every day. Mr Xu Xingmin mentioned that clothing is a noun, and people in ancient times must wear a hat when they go out. When a guest comes to our house, we must put the hat on to show our respect. Ancient People who learned etiquette are like this, and they

would Prepare a set of decent clothe at home for going out. Normally, when a visitor visits us, of course, he wears formal clothe to respect the host, and the host also dresses neatly and formally, and respect the guest.

Of course, you do not have to dress in a kind of gorgeous or luxurious way which some noblemen did in the ancient time. Everyone's financial situation is different. But in any case, please do wear them neatly and cleanly. and change and wash them frequently.

I had once read a news: Some Japanese young people would stay at their room without any activity outside his room for months or even years, and they are called Otaku. Reporters found the room in a muddle when they enter the room: The dirty clothes are scattered everywhere from the top of table to bottom of the bed. The instant noodles and turbid oil spilled from takeout boxes are mixed with those dirty clothes. That is very a bad way of living, and this kind of cases also happened in China.

The most important thing about clothing is neatness. Even if it is worn out, you can still wear it after patching it up and washing it up.

Venerable Master Hong Yi also worn a Haiqing robe patched up with more than one hundred patches on it, which shows that how Venerable master Hong Yi cherished things! Of course you don not need to do in that way if we can't do it. We can dress neatly and cleanly, then you won't be criticized for being rude when you go out.

It also makes me remembered the story from *Lunyu* : A student called Lin Fang once asked Confucius about the etiquette, and Confucius sighed and told him that this is a big question

*When it comes to ritual,
it is better to be spare than extravagant.
When it comes to mourning,
it is better to be excessively sorrowful than fastidious.¹*

¹ Edward Slingerland, Confucius Analects, (Hackett Publishing Company), Page 18

from what Confucius said here, we could know the most important thing of etiquette is not how luxurious the ceremony is, or how gorgeous you wear, but the inner sincerity and the respectfulness .

What are the uses of clothes? Keeping warm and covering the body, these are the most basic functions of clothes. But clothes also have a very important use, which is to show our attitudes.

Everyone has a lot of clothes in his daily life, formal, casual, sportswear, uniforms, they all have different uses in different occasions. For example, in an interview, wearing a suit could tell the interviewers that you have taken this interview meticulously and prepared for it. When you want to do exercise or sports, you should wear sportswear to tell your opponents or friends that you are ready.

Therefore, dress, more importantly, represents our different roles on different occasions. Through the way we dress, it can reflect our current spiritual outlook.

Ms Lee also said that you should dress according to your roles. At the same time, it depends on the individual's financial situation. If you want to compare with others even you do not have such financial condition, it means that you are not on your right position since you forgot the role you are playing, and you have been demanding for things you do not actually deserve. The more important thing about dressing is respecting others.

For example, when we go to exercise, we look bright and vigorous in sportswear, and we can stretch our hands and feet without any inconvenience which is a respect for your opponent. But if you wear a business suit and leather shoes, how can you do those energetic movements with them? You would feel too troublesome to exercise, and quickly finish it then go home. It is same for those who walk into the classroom in slippers or clattering on the street in pajamas.

Ms Lee mentioned that the design and patterns of ancient Chinese clothes have metaphorical relevance and principles. In ancient times, it was very strict about what occasions and what clothes one wore in one's own capacity. Especially in the imperial court, when you see the prime minister, the dukes, princes, and all kinds of

officials and generals, you could easily know their identity by seeing their clothes. For example, the uniform of the officials in the Ming Dynasty.

This is the pattern of the first grade of generals, and the animal on the picture is called Qilin which is a Chinese mythical creature represents benevolence and auspicious. The ancient Chinese people believed that power and military are used to stop warfare and violence, the ultimate aim of power is to reach the peace, and there is nothing about how many people you could kill.

the patterns of first grade of officials are cranes. *Shijing* said: ‘ The crane screams in the marsh, and its sound was heard by the sky.’ , means these officials should let the emperors know what is the need of society and civilians, just like cranes scream towards the sky.

Maybe now there is no way to fully implement the ancient etiquette, because the times have changed, and many ceremonies and rules have gradually been lost. But Ms Lee said that what we learn is the spirit of the ancient people, just like the Confucian remembrance ceremony, the ancestral remembrance ceremony and opening ceremony before every new session, these external procedures are necessary, but in the end it depends on our respect and remembrance and whether we can express our understanding of the ancient sages and kings.

The last section is my the thoughts and reflections.

I choose this sentence from *Changli juyao* to share is because I am often failed to do it, and I would like to take my story as an example. When I was a child, I was like a little monkey, rolling in the ground and climbing everywhere all day long, and I was always blamed by my mother for getting too much mud or dust on my body and clothes.

I know that I need to be tidy and clean after growing up, but I am still very lazy. Like, I would wear my pajamas and slippers for convenience when I am taking the garbage out . I always fold my clothes in a very perfunctory way, of course, I discover them all crumpled when I take them out the next morning. These trifling details could actually tell others my mental condition and character.

Ms Lee talked about that buying clothes should depends on one's financial

condition, and the most important thing about clothes is not how gorgeous it looks like nor how many money you have paid for it. Before going to study in Loudi, I gradually have a kind of strong desire to compare the clothes, shoes and watches with others to see whose are more expensive. I remember once when my father bought an electronic watch for me. But later I saw that my cousin had a watch over thousands YUAN, I actually ran back to show my angry with my father: 'Why do not you buy a expensive watch for me?' that made my father who's very serious and strict laughed out for furious and disappointment.

Fortunately, my father and mother are wise parents, and they have strict control over my childhood and adolescence. There is no chance for these bad habits to grow. Now some children in elementary school have watches for more than ten thousands RMB in their hands and shoes for thousands RMB on their feet. I think privately that this was not an appearance children should have as they are still playing the role of son or daughter.

It is also said in the *Dizi Gui* : 'Clothing should be clean, not expensive. They should according to your position and your family.'

I think that a social ethos may be affected by many reasons, but what constitutes these ethos is also what everyone said and behaved , ate and slept. And this is very important. For example, in the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period two thousand years ago, the Zhou Dynasty collapsed. The princes and dukes arrogantly violated the ritual system, and inaugurated as kings one by one and sought for hegemony, and the following nobles and civilians all followed suit.

Confucius said in the *XIAOJING*: **'If an article of dress is not sanctioned by the customs of the former kings, the ministers and high officials would not presume to wear it.'** ²Just don't wear what you shouldn't wear.

At that time, it became something like: If this was the clothe I shouldn't wear before. hey, I will try to wear it today; if I haven't done something before, hey, I will do it today.

2 Henry Rosemont . JR and Roger T Ames :The Chinese Classic of Family Reverence (University of Hawai 'i Press, 2009) , p .107.

As a result, the chaos and wars lasted for more than five hundred years! The various reasons for this are worth pondering. In today's society where freedom and individuality are pursued, innovations and inventions in various fields developing in dramatic speed, but all kinds of chaos and crimes are also emerging in endlessly.

From hundred of years ago, the dressing is simplified for easy to move, to the current extreme demanding for beauty. People do not care what patterns on their clothes even the words like death or patterns of a skull and crossbones. The impact and consequences of these widespread ethos should also be considered.

This is my bibliography.

Thank you for listening, any feedback and suggestion would be appreciated.

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