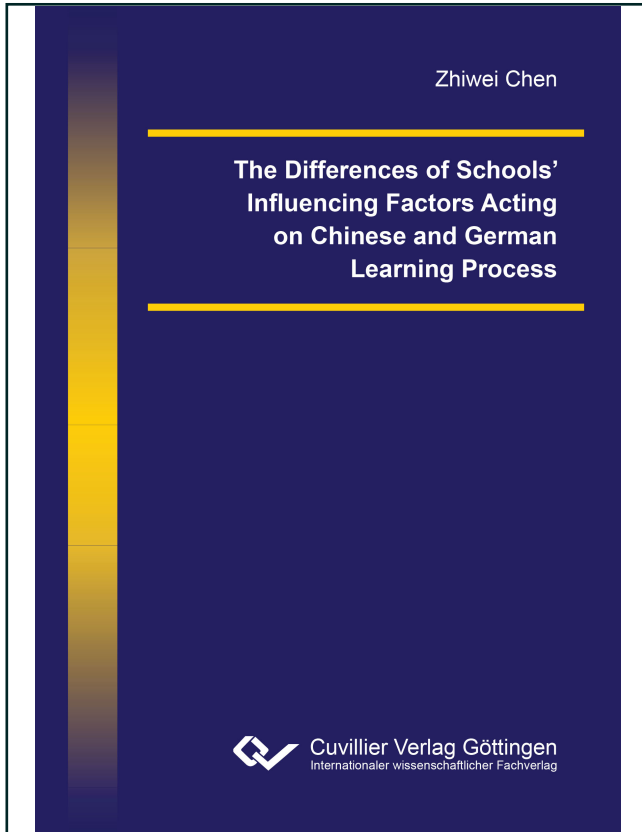




Zhiwei Chen (Autor)

## **The Differences of Schools' Influencing Factors Acting on Chinese and German Learning Process**



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Telefon: +49 (0)551 54724-0, E-Mail: [info@cuvillier.de](mailto:info@cuvillier.de), Website: <https://cuvillier.de>

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## 2. The narrative contents by Chinese interviewees and analysis

### 2.1. The interview with Mr. FC

#### The narrative contents by Mr. FC

Mr. FC, 33 years old, born in a city in the middle part of China. He is now a Ph. D. in one Normal University in south of China. This interview has been made in one evening from 18:00 in August in a restaurant in the center of the city. The main contents are as follows:

FC<sup>1</sup>: I am a doctor now, but you do not be, ah, be surprised at or, say, envy me...because I have really, really made great efforts in my, eh, say, early years. I was a shy boy when I was very young, can you believe that? But I was, then I did not dare to say, eh, in the class until I was in the grade 5 in the primary school, just from then, a head teacher, I still remember her name was Guan, she let me to be the, the Chinese class representative for her. And just from then, I dared to say and express myself in the class. Ha-ha, that was a very important, right, a very, very important change for me in my whole life, especially during the years in the schools. I dare to say, I had felt I was trusted by the, eh, the head teacher at that time. And when I, at that time got in touch, eh, with other classmates, eh, I felt, how can I express, I felt they were not so terrible and, I can say, even some of them were very friendly to me just from I became the class representative for the subject of Chinese. After the primary school, I was admitted by the junior middle school which was near my home at that time. You know, at my era, the students were allocated according to the address of the family, so I entered, eh, the middle school, without, eh, so many troubles as the students nowadays. Ha-ha, from this I dare to say that we are much luckier than the students now. At that time, my father, eh, his job was a conductor, eh, in a train, so, as he was a worker for the railway, so from my primary school till my senior middle school...ah, they were all railway school (Note: the schools are financed by the railway departments). And then, there were not important schools or normal school as the situation, now. So, we, the most of my friends, eh, did not care the schools they entered, but we just wanted to stay with the classmates of the primary schools. So, the first day, I remembered clearly, that I searched the class-

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<sup>1</sup> The speakers with name abbreviation as capital letters other than "C" in this book refer to the interviewees.

mates of my primary school, but, I, eh, could not find more than, eh, 3 at that time. So I felt very disappointed. That was really. I remembered very clearly that, eh, I thought at that time, I had to make, eh, how could I say, the new friends in the new class. But, the situation in the class, I found, was much better than the primary school. The first thing, eh, in the class was to choose the class leaders. Ha-ha, at that time, I did not know how I got such great courage, that I, really, I stood up and demanded to be a class representative of the Chinese subject, although it was not so important among all the, the class leaders. Just from then, I felt I was very important in the class. Funny? Just a little class representative? Tell you the truth, I felt I was much more important than the monitor...Then maybe, eh, after the first two semesters, the head teacher had a talk with me. That was a very, very important change for me also, I think now. She told me that, eh, she wanted me to be the league secretary (Note: as the associate monitor in the class) in the class then, ha-ha, I was so surprised then, that, maybe I said no, as I had not got prepared for that. But, the head teacher said, ok, she thought that, that I could undertake the duty. So I just undertake it...Now I think about the reason of appointing me as the league secretary maybe, eh, maybe because I had done well as a class representative and I, really, that was very important at that time, I had got very high scores and rankings in the class. So, maybe the head teacher just from the two reasons looked upon me. I, from then on, I just worked harder and learnt more than the students in the class, often, I told to myself, eh, I was the best, ha-ha. So I just had much more confidence. After the junior middle school years, I entered the, they call the important senior middle school at that time, as I had got a high score in the exam for the senior middle school then. So when I came into the class, eh, I felt still, eh, still very proud of myself. But after a little time, ah, I felt that was not true, as I found more and more students, they were much stronger than me. After all, this was, eh, then the important senior school in our city. So there must be much more excellent students from, eh, from each side of the city. I began to feel very worried, really, very worried then about the future of mine in the senior middle school. But I became the monitor in the class. I do not know why, really, maybe because I had, ha-ha, the experience of being, a league secretary in the junior middle school for years. But, you know, the students in the senior middle school had, eh, all faced great pressure at that time. Is it the same right now?...I really worked very hard in the senior middle school, but, ah, I do not know why my scores were, always, and, eh, not very good in the class, so after two semesters I was not the monitor in the class. Maybe, I could say, for my poor scores. (Sigh) So, I always wonder that why the teachers, but all of them, pay such great attention on the scores of the students? I don't know the reason. So I end

my senior school years with a, how can I say, a very low score, and that was not believed by most of my relatives. But it was true. I felt...very disappointed then, really! I did not want to go to the very normal university which admitted me as a student then because of my low scores. I, I at that time, really wanted to go back to the senior school for another year. Then, I said to myself, maybe, I said maybe, I could get much more scores in the next year's exam, because, ha-ha, I comforted myself, as I was, then, eh, the first time to have such an important examination in my life! So, I thought it was very funny, I say the thought then, so I told myself that the second one must be better, than, ah, the first one. But at that time, my father told me that, he said, I could do better in the university and needed not to repeat the mistake, ah, again, and one year was so important and valuable for a man, and the university was not very bad, after all it was located in the capital of China, Beijing. So, ah, I don't know why I gave up the idea to go back to my senior middle school years at last, but I, eh, ha-ha, I really went to the university which I did look down upon. But I, eh, I looked back the past years in the university, maybe I, eh, I should thank my father. Because I really felt that, maybe each university, eh, is the same to a student, as I have experience everything in the university, and, sometimes, I think that, if I decided to enter another university, maybe the result was the same, because I really, eh, obtain the things I should get, say, in a university, as I organized a students union, and had served as the, eh, the director in the broadcasting station in the university. And when I looked back, ha-ha, the past years in the university, I would smile from my heart. I just, eh, just did the things which I wanted to there. And some of the things had helped me to grow up much, eh, much faster in those years. I dare to say, that the university is a very great and important place for a man, eh, for the establishing of his character. So I believe that from the sophomore year, eh, I became extroverts. And I had made a lot of friends in the university, especially, eh, the dorm mates of mine. And now, ah, we four are still best friends, eh, as the days in the university. But I should say, eh, my scores, ah, the learning in the university was not very good, as I chose a major I did not like at all. I think, eh, I was a man should learn liberal arts, but at last, I did not know how the strange combination of circumstance I had after the senior middle school, I chose the technical major for the four years in the university as a dippy man...So until now I still feel, eh, very regret about this decision. Maybe I just thought, that major was very easy for me. But who knows, the major was, eh, I can not imagine that it was so hard for me! So I just bared it and, until now, I still could not believe that I could stand that period in my whole life! And what was a miracle that, ha-ha, I got scholarship each year in the university for my, eh, at that time, my good performance in my major. So I felt that, it was, was so cu-

rious about the years for me in the university. I could, ah, explain all of them as I had such a great power of patience. After university I, no, before the end of the university years, I had just joins some exams for a police and an officer in countryside. But one of them was failed and the other, I did give it up. But I did not feel any pity for them, because I did not want to work so early! And, you know, I had just applied for a position in a private company, and the company asked me to write a program with C language of computer, and this, you can see, was a professional thing about my major, so I just learnt a lot about the major things in a short time, about, eh, 2 days and I really did not know how the program worked then, but I had a great speech in front of the interviewers. So, ha-ha, to my surprise, they wanted me. But as last, I did not enter the company, because I did not satisfy about the salary they offered me....Then, many classmates laughed at me. They said that, I, eh, then, did not know to hold the precious chance...But I did not feel any regret for my decision. Really! Because then I really wanted to be a graduate student in a much more reputed university than my mother university. So, you can imagine that, I applied for the graduate entrance examination. But I really hated my major as the bachelor years very much!...So I just changed major when I applied for the exam. Eh, you know, the students who had the exam could have the right to choose the major he likes, again, eh, so I chose a literal major. But, this time, I had not such great luck and I failed the exam. I had, eh, summarized the reasons, for the, ah, the failure of the exam, I thought, that, eh, I had applied for the top university in the whole country, as it was a very good, or even an excellent university in China, so I just, I could not had the chance to get in, and that, I had to say, eh, was a failure of my plan, I had to admitted! And then, eh, I really worked very hard in the next year, and, ha-ha, the result in the next year was much better than the first year. So, ah, I was admitted by a good university in my city I was born, eh, then, I could often came back home when I studied in the university, because, ha-ha, it was very near from my home to the university. Then, I felt very comfortable in my major, because I liked to write articles for the literal arts major, so, eh, I had published several papers in my major during the three years in the university. And after the graduation from the university, I got an honor as the excellent graduate in the province. Eh, I felt that, the years, ah, for the graduate students in the university, was, eh, how could I say, very easy, and very successful. I did not know why, but I guess, that, I really, ah, really, like the major and the atmosphere in my university. The interests are the best teacher in ones life! I believe it. So, after the graduation, I did not know what I should do then, really, I did not know what I should do, a job or continuing reading as a doctor. Then I, I could not remember how, but I, maybe, had got some pieces of advices from my

professor. He told me that, eh, I should have a much higher degree, and he, just advised me to read a doctor degree in the developed city in China, as Beijing, Shanghai or Guangzhou, so, after a long time considering, I, just at last decided, that, I would take part in the exam of the doctor entrance of a Guangzhou university. So, now I just got the chance to continue my learning in Guangzhou, and I felt that, how could I say, eh, ah... that was not so good for me, because except the admire of other people, as they, eh, they, when they heard that I was a doctor, they would say, “ah, really, you are a doctor! You are so good at learning!” then, I felt there were no advantages for me to continue to read a doctor degree. As now, eh, you see, the managers in the market in China had not paid attention to the degree of the humans, but, I think, they care more about the working experience of the humans, so they, eh, they would ask the first of the graduate students as, “have you had much experience in a similar company as us?” God knows why we should be asked such questions! Because, because we just cared about the learning things in the university and who could spend such, eh, such plenty of time on working or, just accumulating working experience! So we, say, we feel that we are much stupid that we spend such plenty of time on learning, learning, and just learning. When we get out of the university, and, eh, look at the world after 3 or 4 years, we, I could not imagine, that, we could have just the same competitive power as the students who have, eh, just have began their working experience, or, say, the career as early as possible. That day, I had met a classmate of senior middle school, and I asked him, about the working situation he had. He told me that, he was now a manager of the company he was working for. Eh, he said, he usually interviewed the graduate students and even, even doctors who had just applied for the company. I could not understand that situation. After all, do you know that I am a doctor and he was just a bachelor in a not very good school in our province? So, I am afraid, that, maybe, eh, one day I would be interviewed by him. That was really a joke! But, eh, how can I do now? So I just want to graduate as early as possible and I really do not want to learn the text books and do the research, about, eh, the things which could not help me with my working in the future. Now, I really feel regret about continuing learning until now. Maybe I should just work after I graduate, and being a teacher, or just being a civil servant in my city? Who knows? But I will really not learn any further for the degree.

C<sup>2</sup>: Mr. FC, Thank you very much for your time!

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<sup>2</sup> The speaker “C” in the book refers to the interviewer and author.

## The analysis of the narrative contents of Mr. FC

(1) I have really, really made great efforts in my...early years

(1) His narration began with his very early years, and he used “really, really” to emphasize his efforts in his learning and school, which means he had great impression about that period, and his efforts should be very much for him even until nowadays. And also, he wants to convince me such a fact that he was a hard working man in his early years. From his early years he has already learnt very hard. So that was a good habit for the lifelong learning. The narration order is also from the childhood to the adult age, just as many other Chinese narrators, which is also a feature and habit of narration and even the life habit, as from the beginning to the end and according to the time sequence.

(2) I was a shy boy when I was very young...I did not dare to say,

(2) This was his personal character as “shy”, but he also mentioned the performance of such a character as he “did not dare to say”, but he did not tell me the reason for this kind of habit and performance. From this we can see that the performance of talking in front of others has been regarded as a standard to assess the character of “shy” for a man in China. He set the shy time with a period of “very young”, and the word which showed that he felt that was a long time ago, and maybe he wanted to show the difference of his performance between that period and now,

(3) head teacher, I still remember her name was Guan, she let me to be the, the Chinese class representative for her...I dared to say and express myself in the class...a very, very important change for me in my whole life...I had felt I was trusted by...the head teacher at that time.

(3) From his narration, we can find that he had very great impression about his head teacher (“remember her name was Guan”), and that was also a change for his to afford as the class representative as he prompted his character and “dare to say and express himself in the class”, so this tiny and meticulous change had changed his life and his character then, which means the role of teachers in the early years for a child or students was very important and even decisive. He used “very” twice here to emphasize the importance of such a change in his life. And the word “whole” also described his feeling of the meaning of this change to his life. The reason for his change was he felt that he “was trusted”, which meant that he got his self confidence from then. We can see that the mind of children and youth is always fragile and needed to be encouraged and helped for their development.

So the education method and the attitude from the teacher to the students who were in the growth years at school were very important and could influence the character and growth of the children very much. Therefore we should pay attention and attach great importance to the early education to the interviewees for the forming of habit of lifelong learning.

(4) I searched the classmates of my primary school...not found more than 3 at that time. So I felt very disappointed... the situation in the class, I found, was much better than the primary school.

(4) The first thing when he entered the new school was not to look for the learning information, or adapting himself to the new environment, but to “search his classmates of his primary school”, so he attached much importance to his friendship. This can be also reflected by his “disappointment about not more than 3” friends being found at that time. He used “very” to express his feeling under that circumstance. As to the material situation and circumstance, he felt “much better than the primary school”, but he did not make it clear which aspects were much better and the other feeling or emotion he had about his new school, so this was just a general and overall feeling.

The number of friends around him could influence and affect his mood and interest in learning. Companied with the growth in the school, he has found more interests in the much higher level schools.

(5) The head teacher said, ok, she thought that, that I could undertake the duty...I was so surprised then... I had done well as a class representative and I, really, that was very important at that time, I had got very high scores and rankings in the class...the head teacher just from the two reasons looked upon me

(5) The encouragement from the teacher could be much influential and important to a student at that period. This was a win-win result. As he could finish his learning tasks at the same time to do his task as a class representative. So he has just learnt how to balance and deal with the different tasks and the coordinate the problems which appeared during his working and learning in his class. That was a very good experience for his childhood.

He believed that he had got help from the working as a class representative. From his experience we could see that his performance has been greatly influenced by the experience of students' activities at schools. The environment around him was not good for his learning experience, as the learning pressure was so much, and no one could be free of the feeling to get nervous.



(6) I told to myself, eh, I was the best...much more confidence... I entered the...important senior middle school at that time, as I had got a high score in the exam for the senior middle school then.

(6) He paid much time on describing his confidence during his school years, which is contrastive to his experience in his early years, when he assessed himself as “very shy”. The words “best, more confidence” have both shown that he felt extreme confident in this period. And then, he continued his narration very next with the description of his good score and performance in his learning, which was unique with the other narrator, and showed that there was a motivation factor as confidence to support him with better learning performance in his school. The source of such a kind of confidence came from his undertaking the jobs in the class.

His self-confidence has grown with his excellent performance in the class. So the result of his learning in the junior school was very good and that reflected his junior school life was successful and comfortable as he was very used to it.

(7) I became the monitor in the class...I do not know why... the students in the senior middle school had, eh, all faced great pressure at that time.

(7) This was also the help from the working as a class representative. From his experience we could see that his performance has been greatly influenced by the experience of students' activities at schools.

The environment around him was not good for his learning experience, as the learning pressure was so much, and no one could be free of the feeling to get nervous.

(8) I always wonder that why the teachers...pay such great attention on the scores of the students? I end my senior school years with a, how can I say, a very low score, and that was not believed by most of my relatives...very disappointed

(8) The phrase “how can I say” showed that he felt that was a little difficult to express his feeling and the situation when his scores were published. Here he talked about the reflection and feeling of “most of his relatives”, which meant that he regarded the thoughts and evaluation from his relatives much more. And there was a little pause to say the feeling as “disappointed” which showed that he had strong feeling and emotion when he felt the thought and reflection from his relatives on his scores. Therefore, this was just the influences from his family and many Chinese students always had worry to report their notes to their relatives, who would care about the notes when they get together, and the children' notes was always a topic in the family chat.

This question from him to the teacher means that he could not understand the purpose of learning and getting higher scores. He has doubled the reason of learning. The blow to his was the striking result to his learning experience and behavior. Also we should pay attention to his saying about the relatives, who he attached much importance to about his performance on learning, so that is to say that his learning purpose also had to consider the opinion of the others.

(9) At that time, my father told me that, he said, I could do better in the university and needed not to repeat the mistake, ah, again, and one year was so important and valuable for a man, and the university was not very bad, after all it was located in the capital of China, Beijing.

(9) The family factor at the most important occasions had its influence on him. But the reason for choosing the university still considered the objective factors, as its location. But he could accept the suggestion from his father and that meant he would like to get advice from his family and others on his learning.

(10) I should thank my father. Because I really felt that, maybe each university...is the same to a student, as I have experience everything in the university, and...if I decided to enter another university, maybe the result was the same, because I really...obtain the things I should get...in a university,

(10) After the university years, he finally understood the essential content of the higher education. And with his understanding, that the university education just meant a necessary period and experience that a man should have, no matter which university it was. That was to say that he has got much experience of the university life during the four years, but maybe he did not get much professional knowledge in it, at least he did not pay much attention to the knowledge aspect which was taught in the university.

(11) When I looked back...the past years in the university, I would smile from my heart...did the things which I wanted to there...some of the things had helped me to grow up...much faster in those years...the university is a very great and important place for a man's...establishing of his character...from the sophomore year...I became extroverts

(11) Here he summarized his experiences and emotions of his school years, and felt satisfied with those days ("smile from my heart"), and the reason for this feeling was "did the things he wanted to do". Therefore, he had his own wish and dream during his school years and when he could finish and realize them, he would be satisfied. This is also a kind of motivation of his action and learning in school as undertaking

the favorite jobs and work. He used a word as “extrovert” to describe him for his living during the university years, and this was a contrast to his narration of his character at the beginning. Therefore, we can find that he has changed his character and habit during the outer chances and inner factors.

All the interviewees considered the university years as a necessary period in their growth process and this experience has help them to grow up and face the society the first time. So the function of the university should be seen as a primary society which could teach the students to learn the original things and matters which they should learn when they enter the society.

(12) I had made a lot of friends in the university, especially...the dorm mates of mine

(12) During the four years in the university, friends should be seen as a treasure to students, and the influence from the dorm mates and friends on the learning behavior of the interviewee was very large during these years, because many of the students would like to follow the crowd.

(13) I got scholarship each year in the university for...my good performance in my major...as I had such a great power of patience.

(13) For his scores he did not mention the exact notes or marks, but just the scholarship, and he also stressed the time as “each year”, which meant he had surely performed well in his university. He attributed his success to his character as “patience” which was regarded as an important factor which helped him with his daily learning. Therefore, in his view point, he believed that his success was attributed much to the inner factors as his characters.

He really had such good patience and that also means that the evaluation system of the students’ learning was not comprehensive.

(14) I did not want to work so early... The company asked me to write a program with C language...so I just learnt a lot about the major things in a short time

(14) That was the reason for more and more students nowadays to go on learning as masters and doctors, as they want to delay the time of entering the society.

This short learning experience could confirm that the professional knowledge of him was very poor, and he did not learn much during his university years.

(15) I...did not know to hold the precious chance...But I did not feel any regret for my decision...I really wanted to be a graduate student in a much more reputed university than my mother university.

(15) The reason for his learning and studying as a master in another school was partly because of his wish to enter a better school, but not for the knowledge learning for a higher degree. So the learning purpose here was much absurd, but that was a phenomenon in the crowd of students who wanted to be masters. And the ultimate aim was to have a better chance to enter a well-known or a respective company with the help of the degree from a well-known university.

(16) I really hated my major as the bachelor years very much!...So I just changed major when I applied for the exam.

(16) The chance to change a major at the period of the bachelor years was very little because of the strict regulation and limited place, and most students who had chose a wrong major would change it in the next phase of learning.

(17) The interests are the best teacher in ones life! I believe it. I did not know what I should do; a job or continuing reading as a doctor...got some pieces of advices from my professor...advised me to read a doctor degree in the developed city in China

(17) It is his impression and thinking about the relation between learning and interests.

He always confused on the decision making on his learning process, and usually had to get help from the outer, as the relatives, the family or the teachers. That means that he had a low ability on decision making and he had no clear aim on learning.

(18) I got the chance to continue my (doctor) learning in Guangzhou...They would say, "ah, really, you are a doctor! You are so good at learning!" I felt there were no advantages for me to continue to read a doctor degree.

(18) That was a new learning experience for him. The higher degree of learning does not mean that the society would accept it as a normal thing. So he felt confused at the comments from the society. That means he did not really work hard on his learning for a doctor, but cared too much about the factors and comments from the society.

(19) The managers in the market in China had not paid attention to the degree of the humans, but...they care more about the working experience of the humans... We just cared about the learning things in the university and who could spend such, eh, such plenty of time on working or, just accumulating working experience!

(19) It is the reality in the labor market in China, so more and more students do not want to knowledge from the schools, but to practice and accumulate working experience from working as early as possible.

He felt regret on learning for so many years in the university. But he did not realize that the original motivation of his learning as a doctor.

(20) I really feel regret about continuing learning until now.... Maybe I should just work after I graduate, and being a teacher, or just being a civil servant in my city? Who knows? But I will really not learn any further for the degree.

(20) He used “really” to express his regret about continuing learning as he had lost the chance of working in the society “as soon as possible”. Until now he did not remember anything about his happiness or satisfaction of learning in the beginning of his university years. We can say that the pressure of working and money earning have compelled him to be a very pragmatic man with only one aim as to be a social man with higher paid work. He raised such two rhetorical questions to express his confused feeling and showed that he was also at a loss about his future in the society. Therefore, finally, he has been also influenced most by the social working pressures and the outer factors.

He would not to learn for any further, because he just wants to earn more money as early as possible. That is the reason many students could not put their heart at studies and stay at schools. The whole society and the schools and universities are much impetuous nowadays in China.

### **Summary:**

From the beginning of the narration until the end, the narrator just focuses his narration content on his learning experiences and process, which relates quite closely with his teachers' attitude and the relationship with his classmates and roommates. The description of the appointment by his teachers on his duties and posts in the class has been narrated with lots of words, which shows the process of the establishing of his self confidence and his growth in his schools with such activities. His character belongs to the encouraging type, as when he could be encouraged or praised by his teachers, and then he would feel quite satisfied and full of courage with his matters. In this narration, we can see the encouragement has changed his personality from “quite shy” to outgoing with the performance of dealing with the class matters and fluent and successful communication with his classmates.

During his learning process, the influences from his peers, classmates and roommates had been always playing an important role to him, as he attached great importance to the relationship and friendship with his peers, even though he is growing older and older. As to his learning scores or results, he did not mention much; however, as to the relationships with his friends he always showed his care and worry. At last, he talks about the reason and motivation of his learning, which seems to be an escape from the reality and the fierce competitions in the society, as well as the reluctance to leave the living environment in schools and universities. As to his learning major and content, he does not show any interest, but just the willingness to graduate as soon as possible, and he even performs as if regretting of learning for so many years without affording a career. All of his narration and attitude on learning shows that his learning and life have quite close relation with the school and university environment, which has influenced his thoughts on his learning and even his personalities.

## **2.2. The interview with Mr. CH**

### **The narrative contents by Mr. CH**

Mr. CH, 28 years old, born in a provincial capital city in the middle of China. He is now a teacher in a primary school in this city. This interview has been made in one morning from 18:35 in August in his room. The main contents are as follows:

CH: There is nothing special to say about the childhood and the primary, the junior and senior school years, because they are just the same as the others of my age. But in the university, I think I have learnt a lot there. During the four years, I have always played with my friends and that was unimaginable in my school years, and I was not allowed to go out to play with my friends for more than 2 hours then, but, it is a heaven for me to enter the university. I learnt how to communicate with others and what could I say at the right occasion and what could not. I think this changed my character a lot! At first, before the years of university, I was a very shy one, and sometimes did not talk with others, but in the university, I had a lot of chances to give speeches in front of others, as I joined in some students' unions and at last I became the master of these unions before I graduated. As for the knowledge I have learnt in the university, how can I say, I did learn some useful knowledge, but the most of knowledge I have learnt was not useful to me and for the rest of my life, I think. So, most of us just spent a lot of time making friends or falling in love with others. It was surprised to hear that if a boy or a girl in our school was still single after 3 years in the university, so that was fashion to learn in the small "society", but not to learn only.

My major was math education, and I knew that after university I would be a math teacher maybe in a primary school or a junior middle school, so I just did not worry about the future and the job for me. And most of my classmates all had the same thoughts as me. So we just played day after day. And during the whole life in the university, we had examinations at the end of each semester, but those were really not serious problems for us, just a small case, because in the class the teachers who taught us had already told us which questions would be appeared on the papers. So we did not care about the exams at all. But the most important thing for us was the College English Test 4 and the exam for the certification of being a teacher. So before the two exams, there were quite a lot of students who read books from morning to night, and some of them just read and recited the whole night to remember some questions and answers quickly. And there were some students just bought the answers on the internet before the exams beginning. But I was very lucky, because I passed the exams both at the first time and did not have them for a second time. Some ones with not so much good luck had the exams more than 5 times, and until the graduation they had not got the certification, then they would not awarded the degree or the certification for being a teacher. They both would affect the job searching. During the university years, I had met a very good teacher, who affected me a lot at that time. She told me to do everything I wanted as I was young and not to wait for the time to past, or I would regret for the wasting of time. I found that was quite true for me. So I just tried to do something I dared not to try before, for example, to begin to love and to stay out a whole night with my girlfriend. I found that was quite cool when I tried the different life style from the original normal life. From then, I told to myself, I would be myself afterwards and I would not surrender to the normal life. After the university years, I became a math teacher fluently, but I was disappointed that I was arranged to be a math teacher in a primary school in the countryside, although it was not quite far from my home. I wished to be arranged to a school in the city, even also a primary school. But there was no hope for me then. So I just learnt how to bear the normal days I would lead. At the beginning, I was very curious and interested in the job as a teacher. But after a month or two, I found it was so boring, as I had to teacher the same content each day, and some of my students could not understand the simple things in the class. So sometimes I was very angry with them, but I knew as a teacher, I could not scold them or hit them. So I just had to bear the feeling. Just from this experience I had learnt how to be patient and to be a qualified teacher before the pupils. And whenever I thought back about the experience, I would thank it for it had given me a lot. 3 years ago, I was quite lucky because the policy for the teacher was changed and the teachers who had the

situation as me could be admitted to a primary school in the city. Then I decided to enter a school in the city without any hesitate. After entering the school which I am working in, I really found there were many differences between the countryside primary schools and the city schools. At least the children in my class could understand most of my teaching and saying, because after school they had already learnt the knowledge in the private school in the society, which enrolled the students who wanted to have better scores and the parents of the students, could afford the fees for their children in the private schools. Just from then, I felt a little easier in the class. Until now I am a teacher, but I do not want to do this job in my whole life, and I want to travel around the world with my wife, so I just save more and more money for this dream, and I have an appointment with my wife that when we earn enough money to go abroad, and then we immediately resign our jobs and then we spent one or two years traveling the world....

C: I am very glad to hear that your major is also education. So can you tell me what the effect of this major to your learning experience?

CH: I do not think the major of education has changed me a lot, as this major had not taught me much, and I just learnt much from the experience during my work.

C: Ok, and what is the most important factor you think on your learning way?

CH: The most important factor? What do you mean?

C: I mean, ah, for example, the teachers, the schools or the parents...

CH: Ok, I think, the teachers in the university had influenced me a lot! Because I do not think the teachers in the primary school and the junior and senior school had taught me much, as they just taught me knowledge, but the teachers and professors in the university had told me something about how to be a man and what I should do in the society nowadays, that is to say, they had just made me clear about my future and the way I should go. So that is more important for me to learn some special knowledge, I think.

C: Ok, then what is your opinion about the lifelong learning?

CH: Lifelong learning? I have learned about it in my class, but I can not remember the content of that class. After all it had passed 8 years.

C: And can you remember a little? Or can you tell me your thinking about this notion?

CH: Ah, I can only remember this was put forward by a foreigner of the United Nations, and a lot of countries have made great effort and papers about it. Maybe the