Alien Comforts: The Languages and Foodways of Chinese Americans and Hawaiian Locals in U.S. Popular Culture

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Abstract
My project deals with how the grotesque and simplifying distortion of Chinese American and Hawaiian Local languages and foodways has been used to promote facile multiculturalist encounters and the ways in which contemporary writers from those ethnic groups have attempted to articulate other ethnic formulations free from what I call minstrel gestures. These writers instead valorize innovation and transformation over an adherence to past traditions already pillaged and stereotyped by hegemonic interests. This strategy—which I dub the creole relational mode—has worked to varying degrees of success in creating the possibilities for oppositional cultural formations. While these oppositional cultural formations are often liberating, they sometimes can obscure persistent interethnic tensions in U.S. culture. The project’s contribution to the existing scholarship lies in its central claim that language and food are invested with so much meaning in U.S. interethnic discourse because these two forms of difference are easily appropriated and internalized by individuals across otherwise rigidly constructed ethnic boundaries.

Recommended Citation
The first difference is that Chinese-Americans are fluent in English rather than their parent’s language. I am different from most ABCs because I can use my native tongue Cantonese conversationally whereas a great number of ABCs have trouble carrying on a conversation in Chinese. Chinese-Americans to a large part embody these hallmark Confucian values that are a bedrock of Chinese culture. Just look at the educational attainment rate of Chinese-Americans, half of Chinese people in America have a Bachelor’s Degree or higher. I can follow Chinese and American pop culture. I am able to be friends with Chinese people and American people. I am able to serve as a bridge to help Chinese people and American people to better understand each other. Guide to US and American culture, society, language, etiquette, customs, manners and protocol. Remember this is only a very basic level introduction to American culture and the people; it can not account for the diversity within US society and is not meant in any way to stereotype all American people you may meet! Facts and statistics. Location: North America, bordering both the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Pacific Ocean, between Canada and Mexico. Art is very popular in the US with galleries to be found nationwide. Jackson Pollack and Andy Warhol are two of the country’s globally recognised artists. Social customs & protocol. Anti-Chinese American publication Beginning in the mid-1800s and continuing to the early-1900s, large numbers of Chinese, mostly from the Guangdong Province around Canton, emigrated to the United States, Canada, South Africa and Australia. They were lured to these far away places by stories of gold and opportunities and were prodded out of China by war, famine, chaos and poverty. Scholars attribute the mass exodus to a population explosion in the coastal cities of Fujian and prosperity and contacts generated by foreign trade. Many of the rich Chinese that now control the economies in Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, and other places in Asia are descendants of illiterate, landless peasants. The rich landowners and educated Mandarins stayed in China.