“DRAGON, KUNG FU AND JACKIE CHAN...”: STEREOTYPES ABOUT CHINA HELD BY MALAYSIAN STUDENTS

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Summary/Abstract: This study explored stereotypes about China held by young Malaysians. It focused on the learners of the Mandarin language in a big public university. The study not only examined the content but also assessed the favourability and salience of the language learners' stereotypes, which had not been done in the previous studies. The stereotypes about China provided by the participants were diverse; they referred to culture, politics, language, history, climate, landscape, economics, religion...
and the Chinese people. Overall, the stereotypes were favourable. Especially the stereotypes referring to Chinese traditional and popular culture and cultural symbols were among the most frequent and most salient images of China. An interesting finding was that transnational popular culture played an important role in the formation of the stereotypical images about China. The study concludes by highlighting some pedagogical implications based on these findings.

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The Chinese term kung fu describes any individual accomplishment or refined skill that is achieved after hard work. In that sense, the history of kung fu is embedded in the culture of China. The History of Kung Fu. The start of martial arts in China came about for the same reasons it did in every other culture: In order to aid in hunting endeavors and to protect against enemies. Along with this, evidence of martial techniques, including those tied to weapons and soldiers go back thousands of years in the history of the area. It appears that China's Yellow Emperor Huangdi, who took the throne in 2698 B.C., began to formalize the arts, however. It would also seem important to add that the Chinese martial arts have long held philosophical and spiritual significance within the culture. Abstract. This study explored stereotypes about China held by young Malaysians. It focused on the learners of the Mandarin language in a big public university. The study not only examined the content but also assessed the favourability and salience of the language learners' stereotypes, which had not been done in the previous studies. The stereotypes about China provided by the participants were diverse; they referred to culture, politics, language, history, climate, landscape, economics, religion and the Chinese people. Overall, the stereotypes were favourable. Especially the stereotypes refer Datuk Chan Kong-sang SBS MBE PMW (Chinese: 陳港生; born 7 April 1954), known professionally as Jackie Chan, is a Hong Kong martial artist, actor, film director, producer, stuntman, and singer. He is known for his acrobatic fighting style, comic timing, use of improvised weapons, and innovative stunts, which he typically performs himself, in the cinematic world. He has trained in wushu or kungfu and hapkido, and has been acting since the 1960s, appearing in over 150 films.