**Chinese Modern Wedding Custom---- The Wedding Banquet**

1. the wedding banquet is the most important part in Chinese Modern wedding custom

* a good wedding feast means the new couples and their families have “face”

1. the wedding color is red because red is considered to be lucky and to scare away evil spirits

* It connects with a legend about the origin of "year"

1. Procedure of the wedding banquet

* first part is Chinese wedding tea ceremony

→newlyweds bow three times, to the heaven and earth, to their parents, then to each other

→the bride presents tea to the parents which means respects them

* second part is the banquet

→the couple toasts the guests and the guests do the same

* third part is guests leaving

→the couple and their parents stand in line at the door to thank the guests and wish them well as they leave

D. Newlyweds’ dressing

* the groom wears formal western clothing
* the bride changes three wedding dresses

→first dressing is a western style white wedding gown with veil

→second wedding dress is a traditional Chinese bridal dress

※one-piece frock name Qi Pao and two-piece dress named Qun Gua. Most of this kind of dressing is decorated with golden phoenix and dragon which signify noble and good luck.

→third is the bride’s going away dress, a cocktail dress.

Transition sentence:

<http://www.chinese-poems.com/wedcus.html>

<http://www.chinavoc.com/festivals/spring/springf01.htm#story>

<http://www.chcp.org/wed2.html>

<http://chinese.weddings.com/articles/chinese-wedding-attire-ideas.aspx>

In my part, I will show Chinese Modern wedding banquet. I will talk about its importance, the domain color, its procedure and the newlyweds’ dressing in this banquet. Firstly, it is the most important part in Chinese modern wedding custom. In Chinese’s opinion, if you haven’t held your wedding banquet, they don’t think you are married. As claimed by the website “chinese-poems.com”, to parents, the wedding feast is a chance for them to return their relative's kindness and the ceremony to witness the union of their children. If the wedding feast turns out to be good, then it's a great thing because they will have 'face'. “Face” pronounces “lian.” It is an interesting Chinese word, and has two different meaning. One is face and another is “respected by others”. In the Chinese culture, it's most important to have 'face'.

Secondly, the wedding color, including the dominate color of wedding feast, is red. It is quite deferent from other countries. For Chinese, red are considered to be lucky and to scare away evil spirits. I find the hearsay in ChinaVoc.com which tells the reason why Chinese like this color. It is a legend about the origin of “year”. “Year” is another Chinese word, pronouncing “nian.” A very long time ago, a great beast called “Nian” destroyed everything in a village, killing the villagers and their livestock. Soon the beast had eaten all of the livestock, and returned to the village looking for more food. A brave man decided to kill it. He was wearing red clothing, and as soon as the beast saw him it immediately shied away. The man realized that the beast was afraid of red color, and he shouted to his friends to find as many red goods as they could and together they were able to scare the beast away. Since then, at New Year people have worn red and hung up red decorations to bring luck and keep evil away. Thus, on the day of wedding feast that newlyweds think it is the most important day in their lives, most things in the scene must use or be decorated with red color, such as the flowers, banners, papercut of Double Happiness, the bride’s traditional clothing and so on.

Thirdly, it’s the procedure of the wedding feast which is divided three parts. The first part is Chinese wedding tea ceremony. It is an official traditional ritual that equals to the wedding vow in western wedding. The newlyweds bow three times, to the heaven and earth, to their parents, then to each other. The bride then presents tea to the parents. Those who receive the tea usually give the bride gifts such as jewelry or money in red envelope. The website of Chinese Historical and Cultural Project states, tea is a national drink. In Chinese culture, serving somebody tea means to respect him or her. Then the wedding proceeds to the banquet part. In this part, the couple will go from table to table, toasting the guests and thanking them. In return, the guests will also toast the bride and the groom. After banquet, it’s time for the guests to leave, the couple and their parents will stand in line at the door to thank the guests and wish them well as they leave. This is contrary to the receiving line in Western culture.

Finally, it turns to the newlyweds’ dressing. Due to western custom’s effect, nowadays, the groom often wears formal western clothing. But the bride will change three wedding dresses in the different part of the feast. The first one is a western style white wedding gown with veil. This is worn during the first wedding tea ceremony. The second wedding dress, a traditional Chinese bridal dress is worn throughout the banquet. The third is the bride’s going away dress, a cocktail dress. She changes into this just before leaving the banquet. Most special dress of three ones is the traditional Chinese wedding dress. Of course, as I told everyone, the color is red. The style is deferent. As China has a history of five thousand years, there are a lot of dynasties. Every dynasty has its own bride wedding dress style. As stated by the website " chinese.weddings.com ", in modern day, brides often choose the style of Qing Dynasty which is the most recently dynasty, one-piece frock name Qi Pao and two-piece dress named Qun Gua. Most of this kind of dressing is decorated with golden phoenix and dragon. They all signify noble and good luck.

In summary, Chinese modern wedding mix traditional parts and western custom but it still has unique characters. Next it turns to Adam. He will introduce American wedding custom.