

Vr293SU20 Chinese American Literature

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Chinese

American

Literature

I think Chinese American literature refers to literature work completed by individuals who are of Chinese descent but retains American nationality. — Jiayu Yi

one's ethnicity --Peng Haotian

Aowei; their background

With Chinese origin/ancestry
- Yangdong

Speak Chinese. --Wu Yifan

Shares a common ancestor.

Particularly, the Han ancestry
Yiyang XU

with chinese ancestry and
being self-aware about this
-junhua

Chujie: born in/live in/
immirageted to America

American Citizenship

one's national group --Peng Haotian

More used to American lifestyle
and thinking patterns

Chujie: Affected by both
Chinese and American Cultrue

Ziyang: Living in America
at present

Seco!

Words that record a
particular time in a particular
place (Jingnan Zheng)

has close relationship with Chinese
Zitong: The representation of one's
perspective upon and
comprehensive understanding of a
specific situation or event

Written Works --Sun Yi

books or novels describing how
original Chinese (or their
descendants) live, grow up, or
work in America, representing
how their ethnicity and America
context blend together. yifan

Identity

- A form of classification – positions a person in distinct likeness and/or difference from others
- Therefore, it is a mental construct; race, ethnicity, nationality, are all constructions
- Changes over time; contextual
- Not natural or innate, but may be strongly shaped by precedents
- Is, to a degree, chosen and/or created

Identity

- Nationality / Location
- Gender
- Race / Ethnicity
- Religion
- Class
- Age / Generation
- Profession / Education
- Ability / Disability
- Sexuality
- Etc.

Identity

- Pride
- Vulnerability
- Social belonging
- Personality
- Life opportunities

Identity and Language

- Example: “Westerner”
- Spot the “Westerner” amongst these photos:



http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e9/Jeremy_Lin_2012_Shankbone.JPG, <http://www.tasmania-attractions.com/images/Truganini-photo.jpg>, <https://i.insider.com/5a6b5a887101ad6c43672549?width=1100&format=jpeg&auto=webp>, http://www4.pictures.zimbio.com/gi/Garry+Kasparov+Garry+Kasparov+Announce+Kasparov+3A2cFzjMv_al.jpg, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ban_Ki-moon#mediaviewer/File:Ban_Ki-Moon_November_2014.jpg

Identity and Language

- Words are **indeterminate**
- When we use a word, its **denotations** (dictionary / official / conventional definitions) also vary
- Sometimes, when we use a term, we may think others have the same definition of that term, when we really may not
- Clarify our meaning (and possibly prevent offending others) by carefully defining words with strong connotations!

Identity and Language

- Words are **indeterminate**
- When we use a word, its **connotations** affect our mood and interpretation of a message
- **Connotation**: attitudes, values, ideas, experiences, or history associated with a word
- Understanding our own and others' connotations of a word can help communicate meaning more clearly

Identity

- Therefore, to properly define or explore an identity, we must examine it in **context**
- Identity becomes **more** apparent, when it is placed in contrast with an **Other** (Fanon)

Types of Identity: Nationality

- “The legal bond between a person and a state” (International Law).
- Entails rights and responsibilities in this bond.
- Often used interchangeably with “citizenship.”