

COMPLIMENTS AND POLITENESS AMONG THE CHINESE IN MALAYSIA
AN ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY

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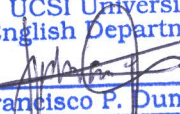
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ABSTRACT

This paper explores the concept of politeness and compliments among the Malaysian Chinese. It presents the perspectives of the Malaysian Chinese against the conceptions formed regarding the universality of politeness. It is also compared to the principles of politeness advocated by a Chinese professor from China. It gives a glimpse of the effects of multiculturalism and multilingualism upon the Malaysian Chinese and their influence upon the concepts of politeness and compliments. The qualitative method employed through a semi-structured interview explores these concerns from the ethnographic point of view. The findings reveal different dimensions to the concept of politeness and compliments among the Malaysian Chinese which are interestingly, though still strongly inclined to the Chinese concepts, are gradually influenced by the effects of globalisation.