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Death Metaphors — Another Dimension of Death

死亡影像 — 從另一維度看死亡

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Study on death image or metaphor is not new in thanatological literature. It is proposed that death metaphors may relay death concepts that are difficult to convey by spoken languages and that can better reveal unconscious attitudes and anxiety towards death (McLennan & Stewart, 1997; Ross & Pollio, 1991). There is death of systematic information on death metaphors of Chinese people. In addition, our previous studies (Ho, 2001a, 2001b; Tsui, Chan, Chow, & Ho, 2001) have shown that there exists an interdependent-relational dimension of death among Chinese. As a continuation of our investigation on the interdependent-relational dimensional of death and to provide systematic data on death metaphors among Hong Kong Chinese, we had asked 60 university undergraduate students to complete an expanded version of the Death Fantasy Scale (McLennan & Stewart, 1997), the Singelis's Independent and Interdependent Self-Construal Scale (Singelis, 1994), the Hwang's Death Attitude Research Scale (Hwang, 1995) and the Templer's Death Anxiety Scale (Templer, 1970). Subjects were also asked to draw to a picture of their own personal death to us. Our aims are (1) to develop a death metaphor scale consisting of both independent and interdependent death metaphor items and (2) to explore the relationships between the independent and interdependent death metaphors scores with death attitude and death anxiety. In this presentation, we will present the preliminary findings of this study. We shall also show some drawings on personal death from our participants for discussion.

References

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