

ABSTRACT

Through fieldwork in Taitung, Hualien and Pingtung especially in Pinghe village, the researcher gained first-hand data for this thesis. This thesis introduces the ethnography, environment, material culture, spiritual civilization and social structure of the Paiwan. This research is not limited to the technical aspects of Paiwan nose flute art, and their players, but also discusses the making of nose flutes and the people who are able to play them. Additionally, the paper discusses the myths and origins of nose flutes and the formation of nose flute culture. The research focuses on the social function of nose flutes through analysis of the flutes and the symbols they represent. To the Paiwan, nose flutes represent the sound of hundred-pace snakes, the wooing of girls, sorrow and memories, the gathering together of friends and performing of wedding rites. Finally, the research examines the continuity and promotion of nose flute culture, including periods of decline and of changing factors in the culture.

Key words: Paiwan, Paiwanese, Nose Flute, Hundred-Pace Snake, Myth,

Material Culture, Spiritual Civilization, Primitive Art