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Comparison Study of Terms of Genealogy, Whakapapa, and Family Chronicles of New Zealand and Taiwan

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Abstract:

There is a close racial relationship between Taiwan's aborigines and New Zealand's Māori people. During process of immigration from Taiwan to New Zealand, revealing the two races connected. Through evidence of the words "Genealogy", "Whakapapa" "Family Chronicles" which have similarity but also differences. The language differences existed but in what extent the differences are. The major objective of this study is to compare the differences among these concepts of whakapapa, genealogy and family chronicles to explore the meanings beyond these three words. Authors retrieved Māori and related literature to find out the differences. The difficulties came from that aborigines did not have archives or written records of the history. However, there are not sufficient information available. With limited information, authors extract valuable concept worth further exploration. Authors suggest that public libraries of these two area should systematically collect related information. The other suggestion is to produce oral history of local aborigines in order to maintain the language heritage and cultural development.

Keywords: Genealogy; Whakapapa; Family Chronicles, New Zealand Maori, Taiwan's aborigines

Motivations

The Māori acknowledge that their ancestors departed from Taiwan. For them, Taiwan is the origin of their tribe (Cheng-hsiang & Elizabeth, 2018/08/28). The result of genetic research connects the indigenous peoples of Taiwan and the Māori of New Zealand. So, Taiwan is of great historical and cultural significance to the Māori. The Māori people has been sharing traditional performance such as the Kapa Haka (war dance) with Taiwan's indigenous people and engaging in language, cultural and ritual exchanges (Cheng-hsiang & Elizabeth, 2018/08/28; Mitochondrial DNA provides a link between Polynesians and indigenous Taiwanese, 2005).

According to legend Māori landed on the shores of New Zealand around 700 years ago from a mythical place called Hawaiiiki. Researchers say Austronesian-speaking people left Taiwan about 5000 years ago. And, they moves through Philippines, Indonesia and other Melanesian islands like Papua New Guinea (Figure 1). As they went, there was intermarriage and they reached remote parts of Polynesia some 2500 years ago. Their last push was to New Zealand (Hawaiiiki is Taiwan, 2010; Taiwan, twinned with Hawaii, 2005; Genetic link brings indigenous Taiwanese and Māori together).

Victoria University biologist Dr. Geoff Chambers discovered Māori had just one gene marker for coping with drinking alcohol. When he looked at the same gene markers in tribes who have lived in Taiwan for 6000 years, he found a match. He says “they only had one of those markers like the New Zealand Māori. Research into DAN sequencing is being done by Jean Trejaut. He's been able to accurately pinpoint the southern Taiwanese tribal links with Māori, in particular the Amis people from east coast of Taiwan, the closest genetic match to Māori located beside Bunan territory (Hawaiiiki is Taiwan, 2010; Genetic link brings indigenous Taiwanese and Māori together,?). Researchers found about 60 percent of Māori DNA is in common with Taiwanese aboriginal DNA (The tribes of Taiwan share DNA with Māori, 2010; Mitochondrial DNA provides a link between Polynesians and indigenous Taiwanese, 2005).

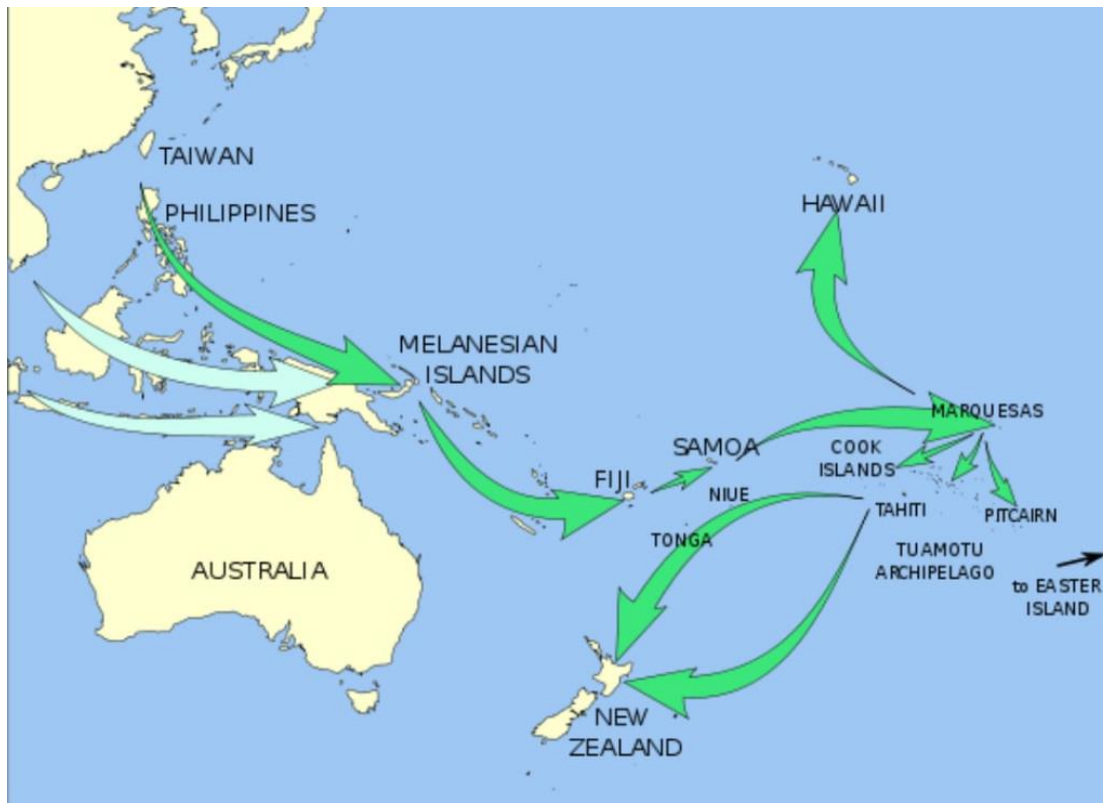


Fig. 1 The spread map of ancient Māori migration routes
 Jan. 16, 2019 access from **Hawaiki Project FB**
 (ttps://www.facebook.com/HawaikiNuiLtd)

The current Austronesian population with 1200 language, spreads from New Zealand to Easter Island the easternmost migration point; and Madagascar, the westernmost point. In Taiwan, more than 30 Austronesian languages have been preserved. The north-south connections between Taiwan and New Zealand are very obvious (Cheng-hsiang & Elizabeth, 2018/08/28). The in-depth knowledge of whakapapa and ancestral links that also provide a strong basis for research of genetic/inherited diseases in Māori (Hudson, Ahuriri-Driscoll, Lea, & Lea, 2007, p.44).

The Māori knowledge is organized through whakapapa. Traditionally, whakapapa is a symbol of identity. What it means? What are the characteristics and functions of whakapapa?

Definitions of whakapapa

The word 'whakapapa' is both complex and interesting. In early day, Polynesians possess oral traditions that reveal understanding of the world and of their place in. These typically take the form of an elaborate cosmogony beginning with the origin of the universe and the primal parents, then continuing to trace the descent of living and nonliving, material and immaterial phenomena, including human (Roberts, et al., 2004, p.1). Among New Zealand Māori, such knowledge is encoded and recorded in a mental construct called whakapapa (Williams, 1975, p.259). Whakapapa records human descent lines and relationships, whakapapa functions as a genealogical table or family pedigree in which the lineages connect each papa or layer (Roberts, et al., 2004, p.1).

Whakapapa is derived from the word 'papa', a word for ground or solid foundation, and 'whaka' refers to the transitional process of 'becoming'. Therefore, can be thought as 'creating

a foundation'. This foundation sets the context for a specific purpose, or an identity. It is whakapapa that describes the context and relationships between people (Hudson, Ahuriri-Driscoll, Lea, & Lea, 2007, p.44). These linkages illuminated one's sense of place and belonging. Individual or personal identity was subordinate to the dominant social identity based upon a communal way of life (Borell, 2005).

Whakapapa is the foundation of traditional Māori social structure and it perpetuates a value base that locates people through their relationships to the physical and spiritual worlds (Hudson, Ahuriri-Driscoll, Lea, & Lea, 2007, p.43). Māori use of whakapapa and narrative creates 'metaphysical gestalt' or whole, integrated pattern, for the oral communication of knowledge (Hohepa, 1996).

Whakapapa refers to ancestry, genealogy or family tree. It describes the layers of generations built one upon another. In the Māori world, whakapapa defines not only the relationship between people but also all other things which includes trees, birds, mountains, rivers and even events can be said to have and perhaps even share whakapapa (Hudson, Ahuriri-Driscoll, Lea, & Lea, 2007, p.43-44).

The linking of organisms and elements and incorporation of ecological and morphological relationships distinguishes whakapapa from a typical scientific taxonomy. It also creates a framework for managing information about the entire environment and the place of people within it (Hudson, Ahuriri-Driscoll, Lea, & Lea, 2007, p.44).

The major characteristics and functions of whakapapa which inform contemporary debates about genetically modified organisms provide a cognitive template in an oral society. To this template are added layers of information and meaning in the form of plant and animal names, biology, and ecosystem relationship with ani-plant as well as inanimate things. Layers of meaning are provided by accompanying narratives which not only provide explanations for why things came to be the way they are, but also moral guidelines for correct conduct (Roberts, et al., 2004, p.16).

Definitions of genealogy

We look for three online dictionaries to find the definitions of genealogy, and tried to explore the difference between genealogy and whakapapa.

Based on the Merriam-Webster online dictionary, there are 3 definitions of genealogy as following (access from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/genealogy#h1>):

1. An account of the descent of a person, family, or group from an ancestor or from older forms.
2. Regular descent of a person, family, or group of organisms from a progenitor or older form : PEDIGREE
3. The study of family ancestral lines
4. An account of the origin and historical development of something

Besides, the definitions of genealogy in the Oxford Living Dictionaries is as following (access form <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/genealogy>):

A line of descent traced continuously from an ancestor.' Or, ' A plant's or animal's line of evolutionary development from earlier forms.'

Compared with the definitions of genealogy in Merriam-Webster online dictionary, In addition to the relationship between people with family or society (tribe), genealogy **also refers to ‘a plant's or animal's line of evolutionary development from earlier forms’** in this dictionary. This definition is similar to the no.4 definition (an account of the origin and historical development of something) in the Oxford Living Dictionaries.

In Collins dictionary, Genealogy is the study of the [history](#) of families, [especially](#) through studying [historical documents](#) to [discover](#) the relationships between particular people and their families. A genealogy is the history of a family over several [generations](#), for [example describing](#) who each person [married](#) and who their children were (access from <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/genealogy>).

But, we also found there was a item ‘genealogy in British’, which explains genealogy means,

1. The [direct descent](#) of an [individual](#) or group from an [ancestor](#)
2. The study of the evolutionary [development](#) of animals and plants from [earlier](#) forms
3. A [chart showing](#) the [relationships](#) and descent of an individual, group, [genes](#), etc.

(access form <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/genealogy>)

Definitions of Family Chronicles

In early stage in China, family history, decedent chart Family Chronicles is called Genealogy. History could be traced to Shia Dynasty Royal Family Genealogy (access from <http://terms.naer.edu.tw/detail/1679572/?index=5>). Content if family genealogy include name, related incidents, family chronicles, changes of residence and estate property, as well the family precept. Family Genealogy has strong impact of a family’s self-recognition and family cohesiveness. Family Genealogy reveals origin of the family, the history and records stands well on educating their descendants.

(access from <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E5%AE%B6%E8%B0%B1>) ◦

Comparison of Genealogy, whakapapa, Family History

Genealogy, whakapapa, and Family History all indicate origins of individual or group (organization). It shows relations among individuals, groups and organizations. The functions of Genealogy, whakapapa, and Family History state recognition of individuals, organization, and connections. These three are also work as promotion tool for cohesiveness of family and organization. The comparison of the three, genealogy, whakapapa, and family history found out there is indication of evolving development on animal and plantations. In China, family genealogy focus on people, but whakapapa has broader scope than Chinese genealogy. Whakapapa include more in-depth and width definition connect with nature (mountain, river, land), even include cultural activities or event and their relations.

Collection of Māori knowledge in Taiwan’s Public libraries

The quote that there is relation between Taiwan’ aborigines and New Zealand Maoris. Thus, authors retrieve two representative database of the two countries NBINet and YRead Journal (database). NBINet is a union catalogue of collections of cooperative libraries which include national library, university libraries, public libraries and special libraries. This catalog was established by the bibliographic information center of The National Library in 1991. HYRead Journal received full-text of Taiwan’s periodicals since 1954 to date. Topics include Natural Science, Humanity, Apply Science, Social Science, Bio-Medicines six major fields. The outcome of retrievals as below:

The search of NBINet about Maori got 531 entries, this outcome indicated that Taiwan’s libraries collected limited number of books and multi-media materials.



The retrievals of “Maori” through HYRead Journal came up with 158 entries which contains information about Maoris, aborigines of New Zealand and Taiwan issues, but only 3 entries about Maoris.

Studies of Maoris by Taiwan scholars were published and included in international index but numbers are few.

This article came from some curiosity of quotes that Ami tribe is ancestor of New Zealand’s Maori tribe. The difference of whakapapa and genealogy was revealed that Maris’ whakapapa had written records, but Taiwan’s aborigines do not have written form. Due to They do not have written history records, could only carry on history by oral story telling or singing. This is the major problems of connection of generations. This is also problems of losing genealogy or family history. Authors suggest that public libraries of Taiwan ought to work hard even to promote a move to to preserve history of aborigines, also systematically record and archive aborigines genealogy materials and preserve culture heritage of aborigines. Public libraries also need to collect and store Maris’ records in order to provide scholars or publics to understand Maori’s people and history.

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