Development and Social Reality of Homosexuality in China and the U.S.

by

Bai Haohong (Humphry Brande)

April 10, 2015

Sophomore
Department of English
College of Foreign Languages
Xi’an International University

Tel: +8613259491297

E-mail: 1576693455@qq.com
Development and Social Reality of Homosexuality in China and the U.S.

【Abstract】:
Nowadays, with the increasingly number of homosexuals, most of people is unfamiliar with homosexuality, especially the teenagers around the world. At the beginning of this paper, the author gives a brief introduction of homosexual in China and the United States. According to the simple data reflects why the homosexual community can’t be ignored. The paper is divided into several parts describing the development and social reality in China. The paper consists of three parts, for the first part, mainly introduces the background of the homosexual in China in different dynasties and excavates homosexual behaviors and phenomena from several ancient literary works. For the second part, the paper mainly talk about the number of gay and homosexual incidence, the phenomena of homosexual in China, legislating for the homosexual community. The author adopts a movie to reflect gay relation among of modern college students. The last part, comes to conclusion. It concluded we should do is providing them with equal rights and environment as normal persons.

【Keywords】:
Homosexuality, Attitude, Social Phenomenon,

【Introduction】:
Homosexuality has become a hot topic in our society in recent years. There are around 2% to 5% people were LGBTQ (L: lesbians, G: gay, B:bisexuals, T:transgender, Q:questioning) by the middle of 2009.
According to Kinsey statistics on the number of homosexual in the United States and Whytham’s proportion of various cultures in the homosexual community and are very close to the authoritative statement. *(The Kinsey Report, Alfred ’C Kinsey June, 2013)* Homosexuals in our society, are accounted three percent to four percent of the adult population. Professor Li Yinhe, a famous sexology said, according to Alfred Charles Kinsey’s statistics on the number of American gay and Whytham authoritative statement on the various social and various cultures are very close to the proportion of homosexuals and stable. This can be speculated that homosexuals in our society, but also when accounting for 2% to 5% of the adult population. Phenomenon of homosexuality has always been existed in the history of development of human society. Homosexuality is a normal way of life, rather than backslide. These people are minorities in social groups. For a long time, due to the influence of cultural traditions, social customs and other factors. They have been discriminated against from all sides and under great pressure. Nowadays, no matter where in the United States or in China or any other countries, the homosexuality community can’t be ignored any more. So the World Health Organization and every country’s government have paid more attention to this “special community”. Since the legal status of homosexuals in western countries has been greatly improved, protected the rights for homosexuality through making laws in many western countries.

In ancient time, there were a lot of novels describing the phenomena of homosexuality in different dynasty, the authors usually used “Long Yang” “Yu Tao” (a kind of explanation for homosexuality in ancient China.) and any other words to allude to the
phenomena of homosexuality.

According to these statements above, no matter in ancient time or modern society, in China or the other western countries, homosexuality has been very a commonplace. Actually I think it is a normal social phenomenon in our modern life. What we should do is providing them with equal rights and environment as normal persons.

1. Historical Background of Homosexuality in China and the U.S.

1.1: According to the ancient novels Dream of Red Mansions, Golden Lotus and Lizzie, homosexual phenomena are often found in literary works. New Chants of Yutai collected the homosexuality poems concerning their homosexual feelings. The expressions of emotion are though simpler than heterosexual loves, unique in their own ways. Included in the literary anthologies, such poems suggest the tolerance and understanding of homosexual loves in the ancient Chinese literary works.

1.1.1: In 202—220 BC, the Han Dynasty, each emperor almost has one or two young men as their sexual partners and recorded in the official history.(ShangShu YiXun)

1.1.2: In 618—907, the Tang Dynasty, male homosexuality prevailing can be seen in Tang novels. And in late Ming Dynasty(1368--1644, homosexuality has been very common.
The chart above mainly tells us the phenomena of the homosexual was recorded in different dynasties in ancient China. In Huang Di time, 2100 AD, the phenomena of homosexuality was recorded two times; in Xia, Shang, Zhou dynasties was recorded 3 times totally. In Han dynasty (202—220 BC) the phenomena was recorded over six times. And in Sui (581—618), Song (420—479), Yuan (1271—1368), Ming (1368—1644), Qing (1644—1911), the number of phenomena was recorded sixteen times in total.

1.2: American society treats gay subculture drifting away from the cultural mainstream, then being persecuted and ignored. After a long time people began to accept the gay subculture gradually. Gay movement was divided into three steps—silence, compromise, protect. Cultural identity and historical experiences of American gay movement are rooted in cultural and social environment. Under impacts of the objective conditions and subjective selection showed a compromise with the opposition of duality and contradiction. Development of American gay movement was prelude and cornerstone of gay liberation movement in the 1970s.
1.2.1: In the late nineteenth century, the United States, industrial revolution brought drastic changes in social life, constituting a gay identity and social power relations.

1.2.2: From the 1870s to the 1930s, the number of gay in American grew slowly. And in the middle of twenty century, American society attitudes toward homosexuality have changed a lot. This situation provided an external condition to the gay movements.

The attitudes towards homosexuals in ancient were worthy of our reflection. With the rise of a great year, many cultures existed, including homosexual culture which was aim to seek a joint cultural development, embraced and borrowed the cultural similarities and progressed together.

2. The Social Reality of the Homosexuality

The number of gay and homosexual incidence estimated by Professor Zhang Beichuan. At present, from 15-year-old to 60-year-old people, the number of homosexuality was about 30 million, of which two of thirds were gay and bisexual, the rest was lesbian. Due to the incredible social and economical development in recent years, the society is becoming more and more open. Meanwhile the homosexual group is enlarging continuously, especially the HIV infected ones that has been doing harm to society. Therefore, we saw great importance of conducting investigation and research into such group of people. Never had homosexuality been scarce through the whole human history. In terms of the huge population in China, the homosexual group taking tiny proportion of the total could have a great impact on
society merely with its existence and behaviors.

As for the existence of homosexual in China, in recent years, although the social statues of homosexual has been improved gradually, experts believed that living situation for this special community is still difficult. They were suffering the serious social discrimination. For a long time, the homosexual communities were almost living in fear and guilt. Experts did some surveys for some homosexuals who lived in cities and got well-educated. But results showed that the mental health of those homosexuals was very disquieted. Because of social discrimination, 30% to 35% of homosexuals have had strong suicidal thoughts, 9% to 13% of people have had suicidal behavior, 67% of people feel very lonely, 63% of people felt quite depressed. Because misunderstanding, more than a half of people felt painful and have serious impacts on their life and work.

At the same time, theoretical cycles also proposed that massive gay liberation movement made the legal status of Western homosexuals has improved to a large extent in 1960s. However, in China, on the one hand there is no strong awareness of the right rights of homosexual, on the other hand, some positive homosexuals requested changing the social attitudes had had rarely reaction. There is a controversy whether it should be regulated by the legal status of homosexual legislation. Some experts proposed that homosexuality was a kind of unique culture behavior, and a kind of subculture phenomenon apart from major culture, which cannot be accepted by most people in the society. Legislating for the homosexual community, paying close attention to the weak group, and restraining homosexuality
with the legislation, are of great significance. Therefore, it is necessary to make legislative measures from the following four aspects: (1) defining homosexuals enjoys personalities (2) defining homosexuals enjoys the personal right of privacy; (3) homosexual illegal activities are defined clearly; (4) define the legal status of the homosexual marriage. During NPC (National People’s Congress) and CPPCC (Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference), the famous sociologist Li Yinhe, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Sociology, sponsored proposals again calling for the legalization of gay marriage, caused widespread concern. She believed that same-sex marriage as an effective way to achieve the rights of homosexuals should be affirmed.

Even from some microfilms, we can also find phenomena of homosexuality. such as Finding Mr. Right, in March, 2013. And on December 15th, 2014, a movie named I love you if you were man was released. This movie mainly talked about a homosexual story between two college students. With an international perspective of homosexual development background, the film analyses of the development status and survival homosexual contexts in China. That makes people understood true meaning of homosexual, as well as a more tolerant treatment. We should treat them in a right and rational way, rather than blame and discriminate on them.
【Conclusion】:

There are more and more homosexuals around the world and most countries have paid more attention to this community. Most of western countries by legislating protects their lawful rights and interests. With the development of economy, actually I think it is a normal social phenomenon in our social life. Homosexuality is a unique cultural phenomenon, is an ideal subject of sociological research. Homosexual culture as a subculture has its unique characteristics drifts mainstream culture. Homosexual community as a subculture community has an unique code of conduct and methods. Among this community, people maybe poor or rich. Some of them even got a high education and it also included smart people and stupid. Homosexuality exists in all races, all classes, all nationalities among a variety of religious beliefs. Homosexual community is a disadvantaged group in our society, their needs and rights should be protected, which are the basic requirements of the State respects and safeguards human rights, rather than with a different sexual orientation would be discrimination against them. The public should gradually change the concept of treating homosexuals as aliens, but providing those homosexuals an equal and normal living environment, so that it can better protect human rights.
【Bibliography】:

11. YU Zong-fu, ZHANG Zhao (Mental Health Center of Student, Shandong University of Technology). *Psychological analysis of male homosexuality*. 2014
14. Fu-chang, Shenzhen Center for Chronic Disease Control, Shenzhen, Guangdong. *Study on drug-resistant gene mutation in HIV-1 infected MSM population in*
Shenzhen 2013

15. HE Chang Yunnan Normal University, *Gay Literature and its Comments in the West*. 2013