Introductory Filming of Historic Site Museum of Tatung University: A Documentary Perspective

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1. Introduction

The founding history of Tatung University can be dated back to 1918, when the Xie-Zhi Company founder Mr. Lin, Shang-Zhi extended achievement from his construction business and established social integrity by upholding the spirit of “integrity, diligence and frugality.” Founder Lin, Shang-Zhi specialized in industry and perceived the principles of “business relying on people,” he then terminated his personal business in 1942 and donated profits generated from over 30 years of business as educational foundation to establish the Xie-Zhi Industrial Revitalization Association (Li, Ting-He, 1997), using the funding of the association to organize the Tatung Skill Foster Institute. This was the first “industry-school cooperation” school in Taiwan which solidified the foundation of industrial education.

Dissemination has evolved through time while the media also continuously renovated and audiovisual dissemination gradually becomes the mainstream of knowledge dissemination. The study attempts to portray the founding and architecture and landscape aesthetics of Historic Site Museum of Tatung University through film production, to instruct and pass on the landscape aesthetics of Historic Site Museum of Tatung University to the students.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Life and Educational Philosophy of Lin Ting-Sheng

Lin, Ting-Sheng was born in Xinfuding, Mengjia of Taipei City, known as across from the Laosong Elementary School on Kangding Road, Wanghua today, on November 15, 1919. This place was also the birth place for Tatung business, the construction plant for Xie-Zhi Company.

Lin, Ting-Sheng received Japanese education since he was little and stressed on the Japanese parenting instructions. His educational philosophy after operating the school was profoundly affected the founder Fukuzawa Yukichi of Keio University, who advocated on Egalitarianism and no one shall be created on top of the other. The inscription board with I for all and all for one,” is hanging on the Hall of Tatung University which originated from the concept of Swiss educator Memphis Tullow. The educational philosophy of these two scholars has profoundly affected Lin, Ting-Sheng. The school operation by Lin, Ting-Sheng was based on Western education, where freedom and democracy were highly stressed. Lin, Ting-Sheng expects the students to possess imaginary room for freedom and democracy, however based on the morals and ethics in Japanese education. In sum, he expects to “maintain Chinese education as the system but practice with Western education.”

2.2 Educational Development of Tatung University

Mr. Lin, Shang-Zhi (father of Lin, Ting-Sheng) terminated his personal business, Xie-Zhi Company in 1942 and donated his assets to found a company school with mission in “industry-education in one for research and development,” The remaining 80% were all donated to Xie-Zhi Industrial Revitalization Association, using the foundation to organize “Tatung Skill Fostering Institution,” set up Xie-Zhi Industrial awards issuing xie-Zhi Industrial Books.

Lin, Ting-Sheng was employed as the first principal. The school added advanced mechanical subject in 1948 and has since developed into the Tatung Senior High School today. Tatung Company is an affiliated internship plant for the school, where students learn and grow under the mutual assistance of academia and company plant. Students implement theories and practices through industrial education and it was the first industry-school cooperation nationwide.

Tatung Engineering College was promoted to Tatung University in 1999 consisting of 15 colleges under the Engineering College, Mechanical Information Technology College, and Business Administration and Design College, accounting for cradle for fostering social talents through bachelor program, master program with 12 classes, on-the-job master, and nine classes for doctoral program.

2.3 Introduction to Historic Site Museum

Lin, Ting-Sheng Home was founded in 1940 and mainly used for family residence. The building was a Japanese-Western style containing one 2-floor Western building (Figure 1.) and the Japanese architecture (Figure 2.) of 1 floor on the side. The Western building was equipped with guest reception room and...
two rooms on the top. As for the affiliated building surrounding the wall on the back, it contains worker bathroom, poultry room, tool room, and bomb shelter.

After the renovation of Zhi Sheng Hall, the original Japanese building has been partially changed to static reading room or provided as venue for cultural experience by students of Japanese major. The area of Western architecture provides a space for dynamic performance, providing students or off-campus group for performance. Please refer Figure 4 of the location.

3. Discussion on the Documentary

John Grierson (1898-1972) was known as the father of documentary in English suggested that documentary is a “creative processing on true materials” (Nichol Bill · 2001).

3.1. Analysis of existing documentaries

1. Taiwan Revolutions: History of Advertising

where Private TV Stations selects a program from Taiwan Revolution to conduct research of the evolution of the Taiwan advertising history and the entire program starts from the advertisement made by various companies from the 1960s. Senior media workers and advertising experts appeal the entire advertising history of Taiwan through interviews.

2. The Story of King of Management: Wang, Yong-Qing

where the Common Wealth Magazine produced the data and images of Mr. Wang Yong-Qing before his death into documentary and the content comprising activity images of his participation in business plus the narrative stories about him.

4. Script

The documentary form starts out with expository documentary due to such form is more in line with existing data and presentation. The content of documents started with the background of Lin, Ting-Sheng, his special growing environment, experience in Japanese Ruling Period, wars and taking-off of Taiwan economics, rich growing environment and experience, which are equivalent to the history of contemporary industrial development for Taiwan. The documentary later discusses the reason and concepts of school operation, whereas Tatung school was based on industry-school cooperation as the school concept, which differed significant from other schools at the time. Due to the exceptional insight of Lin, Ting-Sheng, many first subjects and department compared with other schools in Taiwan have been established. Eventually, the film jointly talks about the details of Lin, Ting-Sheng’s life through his peers, business partners and other students.

The documentary was scheduled to shoot a 50-minute film and the content of shooting consisted of “study and growing course,” “founding history of Tatung University” and “Introduction of Historic Site Museum.” The length of “study and growing course” was approximately 15 minutes with main introduction of the study course of Lin, Ting-Sheng and the origin of Tatung University, using historical data collection and interview of key figures as well as presentation through old pictures, narrative history and actors interpreting the stories. The length of “founding history of Tatung University” was 20 minutes, based on the educational philosophy of Lin, Ting-Sheng to therefore bring out the development history of Tatung University, whereas the film was mostly presented through historical data, old pictures and interview. The “introduction to historic site museum” was 25 minutes and mainly introduced from the renovation project of historic site museum and the establishment. Finally the film was closed on the interview of relevant figures as conclusion.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

whereas the collection of historical data, interview and film shooting and editing all require in-depth discussion. In the collection historical data, the interview with people has impressed me the most. When we interviewed with an old employee of Lin, Ting-Sheng from the past, it was praised by an 80 to 90 year old man whose historical data received was narrative. Plus the old man was speaking in Mandarin with Taiwanese accents, and we were often required to repeat listening to the tape in order to understand his meaning. In addition to the interview, the image of historic site museum before renovation was rarely found in records and the original architecture style was difficult to depict due to the building falling into disrepair. Therefore only help from old pictures and the plane diagram of the building could be observed with the original appearance of architecture.

The renovation of Lin, Ting-Sheng Hall allows more students to experience the attentiveness of the old principal and they could understand frugality and low-key style of Lin, Ting-Sheng through the characteristics of many building, which coincided with his status and ranking at the time. This document intends to convey the spirit of Tatung’s founder and to become the paradigm of students.

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