THE DEVELOPMENT OF JAPANESE STUDIES
IN HONG KONG

Hitoshi Murakami

Department of Accounting and Corporate Governance
Faculty of Business and Economics
Macquarie University

2012

This thesis is presented for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
ABSTRACT

This thesis examines how the Hong Kong mentality has affected the development of Japanese studies in Hong Kong. It first defines the Hong Kong mentality as “insecure” “flexible” and “pragmatic” and analyses the background against which these characteristics developed. It places an emphasis on the unique history of Hong Kong, colonized by the British, once occupied by the Japanese, and finally reunified with China.

The development of Japanese studies in three different periods is analysed according to the demand for Japanese studies. The Period of Low Demand characterizes Japanese studies from the establishment of colonial Hong Kong until the 1950s, with particular attention to the sense of insecurity Hong Kong people lived under, and the weak Japanese presence in Hong Kong society. The Period of Growth of Demand examines the rapid growth of Japanese studies from the 1960s to the 1980s and discovers that it was due both to a strengthened Japanese presence and pragmatic motivations driving the growth. Finally, the Period of Expansion of Demand describes the current expansion of Japanese studies into new areas. It is analysed that the expansion came about because of new factors such as the penetration of Japanese popular culture into Hong Kong, reduced insecurity, and the introduction of a new education system.
STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

I certify that the work in this thesis entitled “The Development of Japanese Studies in Hong Kong” has not previously been submitted for a degree nor has it been submitted as part of requirements for a degree to any other university or institution other than Macquarie University.

I also certify that the thesis is an original piece of research and it has been written by me. Any help and assistance that I have received in my research work and the preparation of the thesis itself have been appropriately acknowledged.

In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

Hitoshi Murakami (40309606)
23 January 2012
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my grateful thanks to my supervisors, Dr. Kay-wah Chan and Dr. Misuzu Hanihara Chow, for their patience and continuous encouragement and support. The completion of this thesis would have not been possible without their valuable comments and suggestions. Their deep knowledge of Hong Kong has definitely set me in the right direction.

I would also like to thank my wife, Annie, and my daughter, Rin, for their understanding and support. It has taken me eight years to complete this, but they have always been my biggest supporters.

Last but not least, my thanks are due to my parents, especially my father, who always encouraged me but passed away in June 2011, unable to see me finish this. His professional experience and knowledge gave me great insight while writing this thesis.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION........................................................................................................... 1

PART I: HONG KONG MENTALITY.............................................................................. 4
  Chapter 1 Colonial Factors..................................................................................... 4
  Chapter 2 China Factors........................................................................................ 56
  Chapter 3 Other Factors.......................................................................................... 69
  Chapter 4 Defining the Hong Kong Mentality...................................................... 95

PART II: PERIOD OF LOW DEMAND........................................................................ 100
  Chapter 5 Demand Initiated Only by the Local Government.............................. 100
  Chapter 6 Lack of Demand and Lack of Presence................................................ 119

PART III: PERIOD OF GROWTH OF DEMAND......................................................... 158
  Chapter 7 Emergence and Growth of Demand in the General Public..................... 158
  Chapter 8 Growth of Japanese Presence and Pragmatic Motivations..................... 181

PART IV: PERIOD OF EXPANSION OF DEMAND.................................................... 225
  Chapter 9 New Developments in Japanese Studies................................................. 225
  Chapter 10 Weakened Insecurity and Secured Japanese Presence......................... 252

CONCLUSION............................................................................................................ 281

REFERENCES............................................................................................................ 297
LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1: Chinese population in the Peak and total Chinese Population.............. 16
Table 1.2: Number of admissions to Victoria Gaol and total population (1)........... 26
Table 1.3: Number of admissions to Victoria Gaol (2)...................................... 27
Table 1.4: Annual death-rate per 1,000.......................................................... 30
Table 1.5: Revenue from opium monopoly and total revenue............................ 34
Table 3.1: Population growth rate compared with the previous year.................. 85
Table 6.1: Number of ships from Japan entering Hong Kong........................... 127
Table 6.2: Japanese population and total population in Hong Kong in
the late 19th century.................................................................................. 127
Table 6.3: Total number of students attending schools, number of children
of local-school age, and number of uneducated children in the
late 19th century..................................................................................... 128
Table 6.4: Number and tonnage of Japanese vessels and all vessels
entering Hong Kong................................................................................ 131
Table 6.5: Number and tonnage of vessels from Japan entering Hong
Kong in the early 20th century.............................................................. 136
Table 6.6: Number of Japanese-flag steamers entering Hong Kong
in the early 20th century......................................................................... 136
Table 6.7: Japanese population and total population in Hong Kong in
the early 20th century............................................................................ 137
Table 6.8: Japan’s exports to and imports from Hong Kong with percentage
and the total of Japan’s exports and imports............................................. 143
Table 7.1: Number of Japanese language educational institutions and
learners in Hong Kong and worldwide..................................................... 160
Table 7.2: Number of examinees of Japanese Language Proficiency Test (Levels 1-4) in Hong Kong and worldwide............................ 176

Table 8.1: Number of corporate members and individual members of the Hong Kong Japanese Club............................................................. 182

Table 8.2: Hong Kong’s total imports and that from Japan........................ 211

Table 8.3: Hong Kong’s exports to Japan and all countries.......................... 212

Table 8.4: Hong Kong’s re-exports to and from Japan and all countries........ 212

Table 9.1: Total number of students at the Japanese Language Course affiliated with the Consulate-General of Japan.............................. 242

Table 9.2: Number of learners and primary/secondary schools where Japanese is taught................................................................. 245
LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1: Boat population in colonial Hong Kong (1)................................. 7
Figure 1.2: Boat population in colonial Hong Kong (2)................................. 9
Figure 1.3: Values of export to China and total values of export.................. 38
Figure 1.4: Hong Kong’s GDP and per capita GDP from 1961 to 1980......... 40
Figure 2.1: Hong Kong’s per capita GDP from 1961 to 1985...................... 61
Figure 2.2: Total trade with China, USA and Japan................................. 65
Figure 2.3: Total visitor arrivals from all regions and from mainland China... 67
Figure 3.1: Annual growth rate of Hong Kong’s GDP and private consumption expenditure in the past 20 years................................. 86
Figure 7.1: Percentage distribution of population aged 15 and over by educational attainment in 1961, 1971, 1976 and 1981..................... 159
Figure 7.2: Total vacancy for the Japanese Language Course affiliated with the Consulate-General of Japan and total application for the following year....................................................... 163
Figure 7.3: Number of students at the Japanese Language Course affiliated with the Consulate-General of Japan........................................ 163
Figure 8.1: Number of Japanese residents of over 16 years old in Hong Kong in the 1960s and the 1970s.................................................. 184
Figure 8.2: Number of Japanese residents in Hong Kong.......................... 185
Figure 8.3: Number of students at Hong Kong Japanese School Primary Section and Secondary Section........................................... 187
Figure 8.4: Estimated number of domestic households and those with TV set......................................................................................... 196
Figure 8.5: Number of Japanese visitors, total number of foreign visitors to Hong Kong and percentage of Japanese tourists........................................... 203
Figure 8.6: Number of Hong Kong visitors to Japan........................................... 206
Figure 8.7: Number of companies registered at the Hong Kong Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry............................................ 209
Figure 8.8: Hong Kong’s total trade with top three countries (Japan, China and USA) from 1960 to 1975.................................................. 213
Figure 8.9: Hong Kong’s total trade with top three countries (Japan, China and USA from 1975 to 1990.................................................. 213
Figure 8.10: Hong Kong’s GDP and annual growth rate from 1961 to 1989... 215
Figure 9.1: Number of learners of Japanese in Hong Kong at primary/ secondary schools, tertiary institutions and others......................... 226
Figure 9.2: Number of examinees of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test in Hong Kong.................................................. 227
Figure 10.1: Number of Japanese in Hong Kong and Hong Kong’s total population from 1991 to 2006.................................................. 253
Figure 10.2: Number of Japanese visitors to Hong Kong in the past 20 years.. 254
Figure 10.3: Number of Hong Kong people visiting Japan in the past 20 years.................................................. 255
Figure 10.4: Total external trade with China, USA and Japan in the past 20 years.................................................. 271
Figure 10.5: Hong Kong’s GDP in the past 20 years........................................... 278