

Chinese learning empowers mutual trust

By Dong Feng

At the just-concluded 2024 World Chinese Language Conference, participants said that Chinese language learning plays a very important role in promoting mutual learning among civilizations and enhancing mutual political trust. Meanwhile, language teaching needs to adjust approaches to meet the demands of a new generation of students.

The year 2024 marks the 20th anniversary of the Confucius Institute worldwide. Celebrating the milestone, the Thematic Seminar on the 20th Anniversary of the Confucius Institute was held in Beijing on Saturday. The Brilliance of CI and plaques of appreciation were awarded to 41 foreign dignitaries, sinologists, school principals, and directors of Confucius Institutes from 34 countries to honor their outstanding contributions to the construction and development of Confucius Institutes.

Foreign guests told the Global Times that language is the best key to understanding a country. As China's comprehensive national strength and international status continue to improve, China's exchanges with the world are becoming increasingly close, and Chinese is spreading around the world, gradually becoming a "golden key" for people to communication beyond cultures and nationalities.

Jose Vicente Andreu Beso, director of the Confucius Institute and professor at the Faculty of Philology, Translation and Communication, University of Valencia, is one of the awarded delegates. He told the Global Times that promoting the Chinese language is very important for international understand-

ing of China, Spain and other countries. It is a very positive two-way street for understanding the world.

Rafael de Miguel Gonzalez, director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Zaragoza, told the Global Times, "My students were first attracted by China's rich culture and then they start to learn the Chinese language. They are like family in a class and often help each other. In

this harmonious group, they are motivated to learn more and more Chinese. We are very proud of their success."

At the conference, sporting the theme of "Interconnection, Integration, Inheritance, Innovation," delegates found themselves closely connected to the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) that advocates respect for the diversity of civilizations, the common values of humanity, the importance of inheritance and innovation of civilizations, as well as robust international people-to-people exchanges and cooperation.

Ruth Njeri, a researcher from Tianjin Normal University's China-Africa Languages and Cultural Exchange Center, told the Global Times that young entrepreneurs can innovate together and come up with new ideas on how to better teach, learn and use the language.

"Chinese has grown beyond the Chinese people's mother tongue; it is also a world language. To answer the question how to leverage Chinese as a language to learn about the world and learn more about Chinese culture, from this perspective, young people may have more opportunities for cooperation in high-technology, media and film," she said.

Talking about the GCI, Gonzalez, who is also a scholar in geography, analyzed the similarity between the GCI

and Global Understanding. "Both have a lot of connections, because we are living in a global world, we have global challenges, particularly, through geography, we also have geopolitical challenges, regarding the end of confrontation, the old confrontation between the East and the West. With the GCI, Belt and Road Initiative, it will help people to understand each other, to develop empathy for each other, and to make a more harmonious and peaceful world," he said.

"War and violence are not the way to solve problems. I think approaches like the GCI and Global Understanding must contribute to solving problems and making a more peaceful and prosperous world," said Gonzalez.

Ye Dan, Chinese director of the Confucius Institute at Sao Paulo State University, told the Global Times that many students have changed their destiny by learning Chinese.

Paloma Guieiro Nunes, a Brazilian student at the Confucius Institute

at Sao Paulo State University, started learning Chinese in July 2020. She spent two to three hours learning Chinese each day.

Nunes passed the Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi, or the Chinese Proficiency Test, for level 3 after five months. In 2021, she challenged herself by watching Chinese TV shows with Chinese subtitles.

Majoring in architecture, Nunes was inspired by Chinese architecture and her graduation thesis was about Chinese culture.

After pursuing a master's degree in Chinese international education at Hubei University, Verena Veludo Papacidero started to work at the school as a Portuguese teacher. Since 2016, she has been a local Chinese teacher at the Confucius Institute at São Paulo State University in Brazil, which was co-founded by Hubei University.

Many delegates to the conference shared the important role that Chinese plays in promoting mutual learning among civilizations.

Maribel Temoche Cortez, local director of the Confucius Institute at the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, told the Global Times on Friday that learning Chinese has created new opportunities for many Peruvian students.

With her students speaking Chinese, Cortez believes that "they are going to understand more of the world, they are going to respect diversity, they are going to be more inclusive about the differences in the world. I think this is a very important mission at our Confucius Institute."

She also said that she thinks more citizens in Peru could have "this kind of skill to comprehend the world, to comprehend China."

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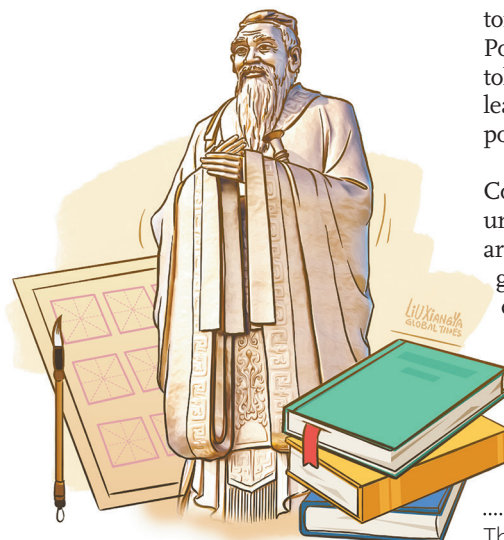


Illustration: Liu Xiangya/GT

Why US movie 'Oppenheimer' soared at Golden Rooster Awards

By Chen Xi

Among all the competitive nominees, the 37th Golden Rooster Awards, one of the most prestigious industry honors in China, has awarded the Best Foreign Language Film to the US movie *Oppenheimer*. Industry experts have weighed in on the film's impact, noting that it met the awards' criteria, which includes professionalism, artistry, innovation, and diversity.

Oppenheimer, a historical biopic directed by Christopher Nolan, resonated with Chinese audiences through its anti-war narrative, achieving a commendable 452-million-yuan (\$62 million) box office take during its run in the Chinese mainland.

An anonymous film industry insider who has been involved in previous Golden Rooster Awards selections

told the Global Times on Sunday that the win was the result of in-depth discussions among the jury. He noted that *Oppenheimer* is a "deserving recipient" of the Best Foreign Language Film award.

Shi Wenxue, a film critic who is also a preliminary judge of the main competition section at the Beijing International Film Festival, told the Global Times that among the five nominated foreign language films – US psychological thriller *Mother's Instinct*, US sci-fi blockbuster *Dune: Part Two*, US documentary *Kim's Video*, Russian movie *The Challenge*, and *Oppenheimer* – *Oppenheimer* stands out with its unique narrative techniques, superb directing, and well-defined character portrayals.

"The Golden Rooster Awards focus on criteria such as professionalism, artistry, innovation, and diversity,

and *Oppenheimer* excels in all these areas as it conveys profound contemplation on humanity, morality, society, and history," he said.

It is worth noting that the Golden Rooster Awards' Best Foreign Language Film category is reserved for films that have been publicly screened in the Chinese mainland.

During the award ceremony, a representative from Universal Pictures mentioned the film's contemporary relevance, noting its ability to provide not only visual and auditory spectacle but also profound reflections on civilization. This, they argued, is a reflection of the film's social responsibility and enhancement of societal awareness.

Acknowledging the "happiness and sense of mission" that come with being a filmmaker, the representative pledged to convey the trophy

to the team in the US and expressed the hope that the film will continue to thrive.

In 2023, while promoting *Oppenheimer* in the Chinese mainland, US director Christopher Nolan expressed his hope that Chinese moviegoers would be able to feel the experiences and imagined quantum world of J. Robert Oppenheimer, which he described as potentially very beautiful, awe-inspiring, and even dangerous.

Nolan's hope was realized. *Oppenheimer's* exploration of the moral and ethical implications of the scientific advancements during World War II has struck a chord with Chinese moviegoers.

Chinese ticketing platform Beacon released a report during the 37th Golden Rooster Awards, highlighting the high demand among audiences for movies that offer a very strong

topical resonance.

Such films may not be the primary draw for viewers to enter the theater, but they spark extensive post-screening discussions, helping the films break through to wider audiences, the report noted.

Film critic Zhou Liming, who has served as a juror at the Montreal Film Festival, told the Global Times that *Oppenheimer* was awarded the Best Foreign Language Film due to its "high reputation" and "artistry."

Zhou noted that for a war-themed film to achieve such high box-office success while maintaining narrative appeal is quite rare.

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