



Forms and Functions of Wisdom in Real-life Contexts

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The present study defines wisdom as a process which emerges after a person has successfully implemented his or her integrated idea to a real-life context and exerted positive influences through his or her action. After asserting that wisdom can only be observed in real-life contexts through real persons' endeavor, the present study aims to investigate wisdom through semi-structured interviews with 66 wisdom nominees nominated by 80 nominators of diverse backgrounds. Analysis of the interview transcripts yielded 220 wisdom incidents that fall into five categories. Thus, wisdom emerges in real life when one (1) strives for common good by helping

others and contributing to society, (2) achieves and maintains a satisfactory state of life, (3) decides and develops life paths, (4) resolves difficult problems at work, (5) insists on doing the right things when facing adversity. The present findings support the process view of wisdom which encompasses three core components: integration, action taken to embody one's visions for a good life, and the resulting positive effects.

Keywords: *Wisdom, process, real-life context, everyday cognition, Taiwanese Chinese, integration, embodiment, positive influences, good life*

