Abstract

In order to provide a new perspective into mobile phone studies, this thesis sets an inquiry into the functions the mobile phone plays in young migrant workers' adaptation in city life in Pearl River Delta with an emphasis on unique characteristics of young migrant workers' city life and their usage of mobile phones in connection to these characteristics.

This study, applying the theory of social shaping of technology, complemented with adaptation theory and modernity theory in the analysis of in-depth interviews with some factory workers in Pearl River Delta, we come to a conclusion that the mobile phone plays a distinguished role migrant workers' life in cities, specifically in regard to their economic, social, cultural and psychological adaptations in city life.

Findings indicated that the effects of the mobile phone on economic and social and cultural adaptations of migrant workers are not dramatically beneficial for their adaptation in city life though, the mobile phone does have a more obvious effect in its psychological function as a companion soul mate in young migrant workers marginalized life in cities.