

Tay ethnic minority in Vietnam from urbanization to Kinh-ization in Hoang A Sang's *The Dreams of chestnut colour*

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Abstract

The dreams of chestnut colour is a collection of articles which were published on newspapers and online newspapers from 2007 to 2012 of Hoang A Sang – a Vietnamese writer and journalist. Being a member of Tay ethnic minority group, the author grew up at Cao Bang province where Tay people lives along the valleys and the mountains. Account 1.9% of the national population, Tay ethnic group is the second largest ethnic group in Vietnam after the majority Kinh ethnic group which approximately account for 87% of the national population. At the age of 18, Hoang A Sang moved to Hanoi (the capital of Vietnam) for college, and after that, started his career as a painter and then a writer, a journalist. *The dreams of chestnut colour* is divided into two parts which were named *Woodland* and *City*. It can be seen as a interpretation of a journey from the woodland of Tay people to the city of Kinh people, and from the city back to the woodland. In general, “urbanization” in Vietnam is often defined as “Westernization” and “modernization”. But in *The dreams of chestnut colour*, the author connects “urbanization” process of Tay people with “Kinh-ization” process which caused both environmental hazards and cultural conflict between Tay people and Kinh people.

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