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A Comparative Analysis of "Ivy Day in the Committee Room" and "New Year's Eve"
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This literature analysis will compare and contrast James Joyce's short story "Ivy Day in the Committee Room" and Pai Hsien-Yung's translated short story "New Year's Eve," emphasizing the historical backgrounds, political and social situations, character descriptions, symbols, flashbacks, and language usages.

"Ivy Day in the Committee Room" is one of the fifteen short stories in James Joyce's *Dubliners*, while New Year's Eve is one of the fourteen short stories in *Taipei-jen* by Pai Hsien-yung. *Dubliners*, which was published in 1914, is a depiction of middle-class Irish in the early 20th century, and inspired Pai to write *Taipei-jen*, namely "Taipei people," published in 1971. The latter was translated into English by Pai and Patia Yasin, and published in 1982 by Indiana University under the title of *Wandering in the Garden, Waking from a Dream—Tales of Taipei Characters*.

"Ivy Day in the Committee Room" and "New Year's Eve" have a great deal of parallelism. Dublin's situation portrayed in "Ivy Day in the Committee Room" reflects the loss of national identity among the Irish after the death of nationalist political leader Charles Parnell; while in China, many military and government workers fled to Taiwan following the loss of Mainland to Mao's Communist regime in 1949, and many settled in Taipei, the capital city of Taiwan. People in both Dublin and Taipei have more glorious past, and are facing difficult reality and uncertain future. "Ivy Day in the Committee Room" tells about the aimless conversations of a group of idled canvassers in the office of a nationalist candidate in the municipal elections on the anniversary of Parnell's death, while "New Year's Eve" tells about a bitter-sweet visit to a discharged major by a former Chinese Nationalist commanding officer at a Chinese New Year's Eve.

The conversations in both stories present a contrast between the heroic tales of past exploits and the despair of the current situation. Both stories take place in a particular day, yet flash back to longer histories. The cold air in the winter, the use of fire and alcohol, the contrast of elders and youths, the personal stories and the dialects of the characters in both stories will be compared and contrasted in this presentation.