

The Emotional Expressions of Chinese People in Batam Island

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Chinese people have long been a subject in the social history in Indonesia and their emotional expressions in front of the public especially have been affected by history. The previous empirical research findings in the Batam Island showed that Chinese people had unique emotional expression and this uniqueness may inflict interpersonal conflict with people of other ethnicities. This research was held to describe the emotional expression of the Chinese in the Batam Island. Their expressions compared with those of non-Chinese. The adapted *Display Rules Assessment Inventory* (Matsumoto & Yoo, 2007) were distributed to the research participants (men and women in the Batam Island, totally 195 Chinese and 132 non-Chinese). The analysis data result were presented in percentage and it showed that there were several similarities and differences between these two ethnic groups on (1) the display rules of seven basic emotions and (2) the display rules of emotion toward targeted persons, both in public and in private places. Based on the sociocultural paradigm, this finding will help solve any interpersonal – related problems faced by the Chinese with people of other ethnicities in the Batam Island.

Keywords: emotional expression, DRAI, sociocultural paradigm, Chinese and non-Chinese, Batam island

Sejarah sosial yang dialami etnis Tionghoa di Indonesia memengaruhi ekspresi emosinya terutama pada situasi publik. Temuan empirik terdahulu di pulau Batam memperlihatkan bahwa keunikan ekspresi emosi etnis tersebut dapat memunculkan salah paham dan memicu konflik interpersonal, khususnya dengan etnis lain. Studi ini bermaksud menggambarkan ekspresi emosi warga beretnis Tionghoa di pulau Batam, dibandingkan dengan ekspresi emosi warga beretnis non-Tionghoa. *Display Rules Assessment Inventory* (Matsumoto & Yoo, 2007) yang teradaptasi, disampaikan kepada partisipan (laki-laki dan perempuan, 195 orang beretnis Tionghoa dan 132 beretnis non-Tionghoa di pulau Batam). Berbentuk persentase, hasil analisis memaparkan persamaan dan perbedaan dari dua kelompok partisipan tentang (1) *the display rules of emotion* pada tujuh emosi dasar, dan (2) *the display rules of emotion* tersebut terhadap person target, di situasi publik dan situasi personal. Dengan penjelasan menggunakan paradigma sosiokultural, informasi tersebut dapat dimanfaatkan untuk menolong warga yang menghadapi masalah terkait relasi interpersonal dengan etnis lain di pulau Batam.

Kata kunci: ekspresi emosi, DRAI, paradigma sosiokultural, Tionghoa dan non-Tionghoa, pulau Batam

The Chinese is one minority group of immigrants in Indonesia. According to Turner and Allen (2007), about three percentage of Indonesians now are of Chinese. On the other hand, Sindhunata (2006) said that they make up about three to five percentage of the Indonesians. It is long known in the history of

Chinese people in Indonesia that they are treated differently compared to people of other ethnicities. This unfortunate condition has long provided them with different social position in the social environment in Indonesia. This difference is felt by not only the Chinese but also people of other ethnicities in Indonesia. This difference inevitably affected the Chinese' behavior in Indonesia (Setiady, 2010).

Racism and discrimination issues have long been related to the Chinese in Indonesia (Setiady, 2010;

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