

Measuring Children's Ethnic Prejudice

Srisiuni Sugoto, Sari Dewi Sutjipto,
and Ananta Yudianto
Faculty of Psychology
University of Surabaya
Surabaya Indonesia

Aminuddin Mohd. Yusof
School of Psychology and Human Development
Faculty of Social Science and Humanities
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Bangi Malaysia

The validity of Doyle and About 's Multi-Response Racial Attitude (MRA) test was examined using Surabaya's Javanese (SJ) and Chinese (SC) children's pictures projected in multimedia, including the development of racial prejudice among the participants. MRA (Kline, 2005) uses six children pictures from three different ethnic groups. To encourage children's responses, their attitude was measured through a computer program. Children from 5-6 years ($N = 82$) and from 9-11 years ($N = 86$) from Muslim, Christian, public and private schools were participating in this study. A criterion-related validity was tested by correlating the new MRA test and the Ethnocentrism Scale (E-scale) test of prejudicial attitude. Only the third set of MRA's test is correlated significantly with E-scale ($r = .469$, $p < .05$). Older SJ children seems to develop prejudice more than the younger ones, on the other hand the SC children have much less prejudice towards SJ children.

Key words: children's prejudice, MRA

Validitas tes *Multi-Response Racial Attitude* (MRA) dari Doyle and About diteliti dengan memakai gambar anak Jawa (AJ) dan anak Cina (AC) yang diproyeksikan di multimedia, termasuk perkembangan prasangka rasial di antara para partisipan. MRA (Kline, 2005) memakai enam gambar anak dari tiga kelompok etnis berbeda. Untuk menyemangati anak-anak merespons, sikapnya diukur melalui program komputer. Anak-anak berusia antara 5 hingga 6 tahun ($N = 82$) dan antara 9 hingga 11 tahun ($N = 86$) berasal dari sekolah Muslim, Kristen, dan swasta berpartisipasi dalam kajian ini. Validitas terkait-kriteria diuji dengan mengorelasikan tes MRA yang baru dengan tes Ethnocentrism Scale (E-scale) sikap berprasangka. Hanya perangkat ketiga dari tes MRA berkorelasi secara bermakna dengan E-scale ($r = .469$, $p < .05$). Anak AJ dari kelompok yang lebih tua tampaknya mengembangkan prasangka lebih dari anak dari kelompok yang muda, sebaliknya AC jauh lebih sedikit prasangkanya terhadap AJ.

Kata kunci: prasangka pada anak, MRA

Many of the countries in the Malay Archipelago are inhabited by several ethnic groups. The ethnic origins of Malaysia and Indonesia, for example, are originally Malays. However, it is now well-known that Malaysia is a nation of diverse ethnics. In Indonesia, there are about 300 ethnic groups with their own cultural identities (Koentjaraningrat 1995). This multi-ethnic nature enriched the cultural diversity of the two countries.

Nevertheless, to live together in harmony is not an easy task. One of the grim histories was the racial riots

This article has been presented at The Seventh Conference of Asian Association of Social Psychology (AASP) Kota Kinabalu, Sabah-Malaysia, July 25-28, 2007.

Correspondence concerning this article should be addressed to Srisiuni Sugoto, PhD, Faculty of Psychology Universitas Surabaya. E-mail: srisiuni@ubaya.ac.id

which occurred in Malaysia on 13 May 1969. Another inter-ethnic collision also happened later on 13-15 May 1998 in Jakarta whereby Indonesian Chinese Surabaya were harassed, and raped. Disappointingly, it was difficult to find evidences (Tan, 2004). The underlying factor of the riot was because Chinese Surabaya who comprises of minority group (around 3 % of the population) dominates the urban economic activities but, still, they are not given a fair treatment in politics.

According to Coppel (2004) even though the Chinese Surabaya speak Indonesian language and are not able to communicate in any Chinese language, the Indonesian Chinese of Surabaya are not regarded as inclusively one of the ethnic groups in Indonesia, so that the Chinese Surabaya do not feel 'at home' in Indonesia. This is different from the case of immigrants of Iban ethnic origin in Sarawak