

Is There a Difference Uncertainty Avoidance on Indonesia's Ethnics? Study On Minangkabau and Betawi Ethnics

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Abstract

This study empirically examine the differences level of uncertainty avoidance on the Indonesian ethnics (Minangkabauness and Betawiness). Respondents in this study consisted of 206 respondents, with each respondent 103 individuals who background Betawiness and Minangkabauness are in Indonesia. In this study, researcher used the Value Survey Module scale (VSM) 2013 developed by Hofstede. The result of analysis using independent sample t-test shows that there is no difference of uncertainty avoidance level on Minangkabauness and Betawiness. Minangkabauness and Betawiness have the same level of uncertainty avoidance, Minangkabauness has 37,48 score for uncertainty avoidance, while Betawi has a score 37,09 for uncertainty avoidance. Both are have a low level of uncertainty avoidance.

Keywords : *Uncertainty Avoidance, Minangkabauness, Betawiness, Indonesian, Ethnics*

Background

One phenomenon that is currently prevalent in Indonesia is urbanization. Data show that the migration towards urban areas in Indonesia increase from year to year. This can be evidenced by looking at the growth of urban population is very high. The rate of urban population

growth fell sharply to 2.01% in the period 1990-2000, but seen the percentage of the population living in the city seemed to increase rapidly. The Indonesian Statistical Center noted that the percentage of urban population in Indonesia in 1980 was only 22.38%, the rate has increased to 35.91% in 1990. Ten years later (2000), the percentage of urban population in Indonesia had reached 42,43% (BPS, 1982, 1992 and 2001), Romdiati (2004).

According to Price Waterhouse Cooper data in 2014, Indonesia's urbanization population rate was 51.4% or the second highest after Malaysia with a figure of 73.4%. While other ASEAN member countries, such as Vietnam, only 31.7%, Thailand 34.5%, and the Philippines 49.1%. (<http://ekonomi.metrotvnews.com>)

Besides Jakarta as a major city that is the destination of urbanization, secondary cities that is the destination of urbanization are Bandung and Surabaya. Based on the results of the 2010 census, the population of Surabaya City reached 2,715,500 million with an average growth rate of 0.53% in the last 10 years. The population density reached 7,649 people / km. (Katherina, 2014).

Meanwhile, in addition to the migration of people from villages to cities, many Indonesians also migrate abroad. There are some driving and pulling factors for Indonesian people who migrate abroad.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (in Hidayatunnismah, et al, 2013) the number of international migrants has increased from 150 million in 2000 to 214 million in 2010.

More than two million people in Indonesia choose to migrate out of the country, rather than following the transmigration program offered by the government. Based on data on the placement of Indonesian workers in 2011-2015 issued by the National Agency for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Workers (BNP2TKI), there were 2,299,187 Indonesians who went to work abroad. Meanwhile data on the realization of transmigration migrants in 2011-2015 from the Center for Data and Information of the Ministry of Education PDDT showed that there were 26,989 households or 100,452 people who participated in the transmigration program with the most placement in West Kalimantan, Central Sulawesi and Southeast Sulawesi. (<http://news.okezone.com>)

When an individual decides to go to migrate, then the individual will be faced with various conditions and situations that are not yet known and cannot be predicted in advance. Individuals must also be prepared with ambiguous situations that will be faced on overseas land. Like social environment, weather, food and even jobs that have not been known before.

Individual attitudes in dealing with unknown or ambiguous and uncertain circumstances have a close relationship with one of the cultural dimensions, namely uncertainty avoidance (Hofstede, 2010).

Uncertainty avoidance is the amount of feeling threatened by ambiguous or unknown situations, to members of a particular community culture. Feelings of uncertainty that individuals have can also

be felt by others who are also members of a culture. Therefore, feelings and ways to deal with an uncertainty are in accordance with the culture of a community group, which is then transferred and strengthened through the basic institutions of the family, school and the State. (Hofstede & Hofstede, 2010)

The high rate of urbanization in Indonesia is caused by many factors, one of which is the wander culture that is owned by several tribes in Indonesia. One tribe that has a migratory culture is the Minangkabauness. Minangkabau migrants are not only spread in Indonesia, but also spread in other countries such as Malaysia. The population of Minangkabau in the West Sumatra region is around 3,747,343 people. Jabotabek there are 636,000 people, Riau 534,854 people, Jambi around 385,734 people, North Sumatra 306,550 people, Riau Islands 111,463 people, Bengkulu 66,861 people, South Sumatra 64,215 people and Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia 450,000 people. (<http://indonesia.go.id>)

The Minangkabauness also stands out in the trade sector. So, there are many migrants from the Minangkabauness who have a profession as traders in the overseas. Various Minangkabau wares are related to human daily needs, such as in the well-known culinary field, namely various "Masakan Padang" (Padang restaurants) and various clothes in big markets in Indonesia such as Pasar Baru Bandung or Tanah Abang Market in Jakarta. (Ramadhan et al, 2012)

The Minangkabauness is not vulnerable to change and differences (Navis, 1984), so it can be said that the Minangkabauness has a low level of uncertainty avoidance. In line with the research conducted by Wardhani (2009) which states that in general Minangkabau entrepreneurs have a low value of uncertainty avoidance, in other words

have a high tolerance for uncertainty. However, research conducted by Mangundjaya (2006) on an BUMN (state-owned enterprises) X in Indonesia stated that BUMN (state-owned enterprises) X employees with Minangkabau ethnicity had high values of uncertainty avoidance.

Culture with low uncertainty avoidance can accept uncertainty in life more easily, so they generally have a strong desire to take risks. Culture with low uncertainty avoidance has control over conflict and competition. In addition, they also assume that something different in the environment is not something that threatens therefore they have a high tolerance for differences and something new. (Mueller and Thomas, 2000)

While it is inversely proportional to the Minangkabauness who have a wander culture. On the other hand, the Betawiness who are the original inhabitants of Jakarta have very limited mobility and population distribution. Betawi people will move to another location just in case things outside their willingness such as the expansion and development of the Jakarta area that requires them to move. In general, Betawi people do not like to migrate and this is one of the characteristics of the Betawi culture. (Saidi, 1997)

The statement that Betawi individuals were not many who migrated was also strengthened by the results of interviews with an officer at the DKI Jakarta Pavilion, TMII. According to him in the family lineage of Betawi is called the Batih family. The Batih family bequeaths the arts, land and other assets. So there are several family members in one adjacent area. Betawi people tend to maintain what has been inherited such as art and assets. However, due to technological clashes and life competition, Betawi people tend to survive by relying on what has been inherited, and not following the flow of life competition.

And this is what causes the social conditions of Betawi people to rarely inhabit the city of Jakarta and become marginalized.

Based on some of the explanations discussed above, it can be concluded that by migrating, someone will be faced with various conditions and situations that are unknown and unpredictable. Individual attitudes in dealing with ambiguous situations relate to one of the cultural dimensions, namely uncertainty avoidance. The level of migration in Indonesia is also caused by the culture of migrating from several ethnic groups in Indonesia. One ethnic group in Indonesia that has a very strong culture of wandering is the Minangkabauness. Meanwhile, the Betawiness has a very different culture that tends to settle and do not like to migrate.

H1. There are differences in the level of uncertainty avoidance in Minangkabauness and Betawiness.

Methods

Sample

Subjects in this study amounted to 206 people (103 Minangkabauness and 103 Betawiness), consisting of men and women ages 18-55 years. The study population was people who has Minangkabauness and Betawiness ethnic background in Indonesia. Sample of the subject of research was done by using a *non-probability sampling*, with the kind of *convenience sampling* is a sample determination technique by means of a subject chosen based on comfort or convenience rather than relying on probability theory to represent a target or population (Sinclair, Wang and Tetrick (2013)). The study also uses *google apps* from *google form*.

Measures

Measuring instruments used in the study was a questionnaire. Uncertainty avoidance in this study was measured using the scale of the Values Survey Module (VSM) 2013 with 30 items. The shape of the scale used is a Likert scale with the following options: 1 (Very Very Important) to 5 (Less / Not Important). In the cultural dimension of uncertainty avoidance, a score of 5-60 shows the level of weak or small uncertainty avoidance. While the 60-115 score shows the level of strong or high uncertainty avoidance. It also shown 0.832 in cronbach's alpha coefficient which means good reliability.

Results and Discussion

The study aimed to examine the differences level of uncertainty avoidance in the Minangkabau and Betawiness. Based on data obtained from 206 respondents (Minang and Betawi), it shows that individual Minang and Betawi do not have differences in the level of uncertainty avoidance (sig. 2-tailed = 0.850), which is obtained from the independent t-test. while the Minang has a score $M = 37.48$ and Betawi has a score $M = 37.09$ which means that they into the low category (based on the calculation of the UA index formula).

Research conducted by Hofstede in the span of 1967 to 1973 in multinational companies in 74 countries, placing Indonesia in the 60th position in the UA dimension, which means Indonesian society has a low UA characteristic. (Hofstede, 2010)

The low value of uncertainty avoidance owned by Betawi people can be caused by cultural acculturation. Koentjaraningrat (in Soekanto; Mukhlis & Muqim, 2013), stated that The acculturation process itself can occur because of several factors, including the

large number of individual immigrants in the region and inter-ethnic marriages.

Urbanization to Jakarta and the presence elements of the plurality of society and culture in the lives of Betawi people responded with a high tolerance. Betawi people also embodies a simple lifestyle, not excessive and patiently accepts the conditions and facilities provided by the surrounding environment (Ahyat, 2015).

Meanwhile, Mona Lohanda (in Ahyat, 2015) sees Betawi culture as having "flexibility" in responding to various influences from outside and inside. Along with the times and entering the era of globalization, the nature of Betawi people has now changed a lot, especially for those who live in urban areas and in the suburbs, Srikandi and Gafur (in Ahyat, 2015). Nalapraya (in Ahyat, 2015) also explained that there have been symptoms of changes in the lifestyle and mindset of educated generations of the 1970s Betawi people. Efforts to parallel the immigrants show that Betawi people are not afraid of competition, which is one of the characteristics of a society that has a low value of uncertainty avoidance.

Aside from a very open attitude to migrants, Betawi people also experience the acculturation process in terms of marriage, with high rates of intermarriage. Ahyat (2015) also explained that Betawi women who are married with individuals from other ethnicities tend to move far more than Betawi women who marry Betawi people themselves. Betawi women are more active in general activities. For example, professional activities, working in government, and religious activities.

The low uncertainty avoidance in Betawi individuals can also be influenced by educational factors, as stated by Ahyat (2015) a number of Betawi women also, both living in the outskirts of the city and

in the middle of Jakarta, found that many Betawi women who had higher education. This statement can be supported by data retrieval methods that use google form, so that the majority of individuals who are respondents are individuals who have broad knowledge, higher education and good knowledge of technology. The explanation above is in line with the description of the subject based on marital status which shows the results that the average uncertainty avoidance in married subjects is in the low category.

Conclusion

Based on the results of hypothesis testing that has been done, it can be concluded that there is no differences in the level of uncertainty avoidance between Minangkabauness and Betawiness. Both of Minangkabauness and Betawiness have low levels of uncertainty avoidance (37,48 for Minangkabau and 37,09 for Betawi). The result also shown that respondents have a low category range in uncertainty avoidance based on mean empiric calculation.

Suggestion

In the results of this study it can be seen that Betawi people have been able to develop and compete with other immigrants, this proves that Betawi people have been able to get out of the stereotypes that exist in society and are also more advanced than the previous generation. It is expected that Minangkabauness and Betawiness are able to maintain and continue to develop themselves to be more productive, creative and able to compete with the wider community, so that they can educate the next generation in a much better way.

For further research, this research can be developed, not only to find out

differences, but also to research the contribution of uncertainty avoidance to other variables. Subsequent research is recommended to use a pure questionnaire without the help of the google form, so that it can choose and observe respondents directly. So that the results obtained are more accurate

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