

## The Nationalism Practice of Chinese Ethnic at Pecinan Bintoro Village Demak Regency

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### Abstract

Chinese ethnic in Pecinan Bintoro Demak is an Indonesian citizen who should have a sense of nationalism. The purpose of this study is to describe and analyze the understanding and form of participation in ethnic Chinese ethnic practices. The research method used qualitative approach with data collection technique through interview, observation, and document study. Interviews and observations were used to analyze ethnic Chinese understanding, while the forms of participation used interviews, observations, and document studies. The result of the research shows that (1) Chinese ethnic Pecinan Bintoro of Demak Regency have a unity meaning where society is united without seeing the difference of tribe, religion, culture, and all live together side by side. The family has a central role in instilling the values of nationalism. (2) The form of ethnic Chinese participation is seen from the participation of ethnic Chinese in Kampung Pecinan Bintoro Demak District in several social activities, example salvation in commemorating Indonesia's independence day, and come to mourn when there are neighbors who died. Although for gotong royong activities, the competition on the anniversary of Agustusan is still not so visible, it does not make the boundary wall among the surrounding community.

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## INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a large nation with multi ethnicity. Various tribes, cultures, customs, races, religions make Indonesia well known by its plurality. The plurality that exists does not to make selfishness, but to support each other to build mutual strength. It is realized that the power of Indonesia to achieve its independence aspiration is the growth and development of the spirit of national unity. The sense of nationalism is very important for the nation of Indonesia to be a nation that is advanced, modern, safe, peaceful, fair and prosperous (Soegito, 2013).

Nationalism is an ideological movement to achieve and maintain autonomy, unity, and identity as a population, whose members are determined to form an actual and potential nation (Soegito, 2013). Similarly, the Chinese ethnic who have pledged themselves as citizens of Indonesia, should have a sense of Indonesia nationalism.

In Demak Regency, the number of Chinese citizens according to the data of Bintoro urban village, the number of Chinese citizens spread in Chinatown amounted to 57 consisting of 31 men and 26 women (Kelurahan Bintoro Demak, 2017). The Chinese in Demak Regency are Chinese Crossbreed. The livelihoods of Chinese ethnic who living in the Chinatown of Demak Regency are trading. The majority of occupations are cultivated by the Chinese is as entrepreneurs whether it is a entrepreneurs of motorcycle dealers, car dealers, grocery store owners, jewelry stores, electronics stores, and so forth. In addition, other occupations are cultivated as same as other ethnic communities such as general practitioners, specialists, and many other occupations. The selection of a research area is essential to help simplify and focus the issue, even when entering the area does not have the problem of solving another person's problem or knowing it before entering the area (Sunarjan, 2014).

Ethnic Chinese and Javanese ethnic live together in Pecinan Bintoro Village Demak Regency. The relationship between Chinese ethnic and Javanese ethnic in the village of Chinatown Bintoro from the outside looks good,

very rare conflict. After observation, the tolerance in the community in the region was already exists, but still at a low level that is the freedom of its citizens to do their activities. While the tolerance at a high level that is there was no active participation of Chinese ethnic. Children and teenagers from Chinese ethnic in the area were also never involve to participate in youth activities such as youth, as well as other community activities.

That problem becomes a study in this research. The objective of this research is to describe and analyze the understanding of Chinese ethnic nationalism, and to analyze the participation of ethnic Chinese in Pecinan Bintoro Village Demak Regency.

## METHODS

This study uses qualitative research methods based on the Habitus theory of Pierre Bourdieu and structural functionalism of Talcott Parsons. The research location is in Pecinan Bintoro Village Demak Regency. The author took this location because the Chinese ethnic in Pecinan Bintoro Village have long lived and mingled with other ethnic and have become citizens of Indonesia.

The data collection techniques through observation, interviews, and document studies. Interviews and observations aim to uncover an understanding of the values of ethnic Chinese nationalism. While in expressing the form of participation using interview techniques, observation, and document studies. Informants in this study are ethnic Chinese and Javanese ethnic communities are classified based on age level, type of work, and education level. While Informants from the local Tool is Bintoro urban village and the head of RT/RW. In this research, the data validity test using triangulation technique. The step analysis of data used through four ways of data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and withdrawal of conclusions.

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## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Understanding the Nationalism of Chinese Ethnic in Pecinan Bintoro Village Demak Regency**

The understanding of Chinese ethnic in Pekinan Bintoro Village Demak regency can be said to be very diverse. Such understanding was derived from direct interaction within their families as well as in school learning. This is a form of habituation that was implemented in the family, school, and community. Chinese ethnic of Pecinan Bintoro village Demak regency, has a unity meaning that the people unite without seeing the differences of tribe, religion, culture, and all live in harmony. In fact, for Chinese ethnic to accept each other and not hostile is the attitude of unity. The Chinese ethnic community and other ethnic communities in the village of Pecinan Bintoro Demak regency accept each other and appreciate their differences. Inter-ethnicity also relates well and provides the freedom to engage in activities as well as other citizens.

The ethnic Chinese community and other ethnic communities in the village of Pecinan Bintoro district of Demak accept and appreciate each other's differences. Inter-ethnicity also relates well and provides the freedom to engage in activities as well as other citizens.

Families have a very protective attitude towards the development and interaction of their children. This is what will shape the child's mindset about understanding unity. When families provide examples and support to socialize with the surrounding community, then the child will be more passionate about the surrounding environment so as to foster a sense of unity.

The understanding idea of the nationalism of Chinese ethnic that had been good enough, reinforced by some previous research results, such as research results by Galih Mahardika (2016), Deka Setiawan (2012), Wiyanto (2015), Wasino (2013), M. Shokheh (2015), Turnomo (2014) and Basundoro (2012) which showed that the reality of multicultural understanding as a manifestation of nationalism between Chinese ethnic and Javanese ethnic had been conceptualized both in terms of mutual understanding, maintaining togetherness in one region. In addition, Dasim Budimansyah (2010), Dessy (2016), Sugeng (2015), Dewi Liesnoor (2015), Cahyo Budi, Masrukhi (2014), & Suwito (2017) through his research indicate that the roles of families, schools and communities are important in improving the spirit of nationalism.

### **The Participation of Chinese ethnic in Pecinan Bintoro Village Demak Regency**

The participation in the nationalism practice of Chinese ethnic in Pecinan Bintoro Village Demak regency can be seen from the attitude of kinship and openness. This was evidenced by the participation of Chinese ethnic in public events such as weddings, condolence, and the event celebrating of Indonesia's Independence Day. The Chinese ethnic in Pecinan village Bintoro Demak Regency in daily activities were doing more trading activities. However, when getting an invitation in an activity, Chinese ethnic took the time to fulfill the invitation.

The Chinese ethnic community in Pecinan Bintoro village Demak Regency had a feeling and awareness as an Indonesian citizen. This is evidenced by their participation in raising the Indonesia's flag and other attributes. One of the children of Chinese ethnic also became a member of Paskibra at his school. The family background of culture as well as education in school and community environment will certainly create an individual understanding about the concept of nationalism.

Parents and schools that provide habituation to children in implementing nationalism attitude, it will build a spirit of

nationality to the child. This is the background of one of the informants namely Cristian Prayogo became one of paskibra in his school. Cristian Prayogo claimed to be a member of Paskibra at school with his own willingness, no coercion from the school. This is because of the habituation of parents and school environment that does not distinguish between Chinese ethnic and other ethnic so that it can build spirit of nationality of the Chinese ethnic child.

The nationalism of Chinese ethnic in Pecinan Bintoro Village Demak Regency can be seen from the following figure.



**Figure 1:** The participation of Chinese Ethnic in The Independence Day of the Republic of Indonesia 2017

The crossbreed of Chinese family's life was quite adaptable to the local community. In addition they were also more easy in accepting the influence of local culture, religion and beliefs. The crossbreed of Chinese families was prefer to give names to their children with mixed

European and Javanese names rather than Chinese names. For an example of the names of research informants such as Cristian Prayogo and Mr. Edi. Although they are from Chinese ethnic, but the names of Chinese ethnic in the village of Pecinan Bintoro Demak Regency using mixed names of Europe and Java.

The people of Pecinan Bintoro village with a variety of activities and activities make inter-ethnic rarely gather, but the ethnic Chinese community still establish good relations with the surrounding community. The tolerance that exists in society allows coexistence. This can be evidenced by the good relationship between ethnic Chinese and other ethnic groups in the region. When there are weddings, ethnic Chinese and other ethnicities give each other invitations. Especially when the celebration of Lunar New Year, there are ethnic Chinese who give the basket to the surrounding community. Although not yet thoroughly the ethnic Chinese community in the village of Chinatown Bintoro do so, but between communities can coexist without any conflict.

In addition, the surrounding environment also did not matter when the Chinese ethnic could not follow some of the activities undertaken by surrounding communities. For the people, the most important is peace and security in the environment can be achieved. It is appropriate to the Tallcott Parsons social system in which systems in society have structures and parts that are related to each other and the social system is always directed to equilibrium. Communities in Pecinan Bintoro Village Demak regency made the difference that exist as part of their life. From that understanding the community do not make a difference in its life to encourage it to take action that ends up being an act of conflict but making it a diversity in life.

The Chinese ethnic in Pecinan Bintoro Village Demak Regency also had patterns in adapting to their environment. For example, in everyday life Chinese ethnic use conversations in both Javanese and Indonesian. While Mandarin was rarely studied. The confidence of Chinese ethnic in the village of Pecinan Bintoro Demak Regency to the culture of Indonesia embodied in

the naming of shops. Some shops owned by Chinese ethnic in the area of Chinatown Bintoro Demak, taken from puppet figures and using the Javanese language, such as: Arjuna Shop, Mirah Shop, Dragon Shop, and Enggal Shop. The use of a better known name would certainly get support from the surrounding community. This was a step to achieve the goal to be more known and accepted by the community. In addition, the Chinese ethnic fusion to the existing cultures in the surrounding environment would have a positive impact in creating a balance in the society.



**Figure 2.** Ethnic Chinese and Other Ethnic Groups in Kampung Pecinan Bintoro Demak

The findings of research on nationalism in the era of globalization, have been reinforced by some previous research results As well as research by Ediyono (2016), Suwigyo (2017), Washington (2007), Sucihatiningsih (2014), Suprayogi (2014), & Maman Rachman (2016). The character of nationalism, such as, has a high faith (religiosity), tolerance, unity and unity, discipline, respect for the services of heroes, democrats, responsibilities, and loves the local culture.

### **Building Diversity in Chinatown Community of Chinese Bintoro Village Demak Regency**

The Chinese ethnic community and other ethnic communities in the village of Pecinan Bintoro Demak regency tolerated each other and appreciated their differences. Inter-ethnicity also related well and provided the freedom to engage in activities as well as other citizens.

The social functions that run on the nationalism practice of Chinese ethnic in the village of Pecinan Bintoro Demak Regency can

be seen from the attitude of the Chinese ethnic in the village of Pecinan Bintoro Demak regency. This is evidenced by the participation of ethnic Chinese in public events such as weddings, condolence, and events when commemorating Indonesia's independence day. The Chinese ethnic in Pecinan Bintoro Village Demak Regency in daily activities were doing more trading activities. However, when getting an invitation in an activity, ethnic Chinese take the time to fulfill the invitation. The surrounding environment also does not matter when the ethnic Chinese could not follow some of the activities carried out by the surrounding community. For the people, the most important is peace and security in the environment can be achieved. People in Pekinan Bintoro Village of Demak regency make the difference that exist as part of his life. From that understanding the community does not make a difference in its life to encourage it to take action that ends up being an act of conflict but making it a diversity in life.

There is something that needs to be improved in the practice of ethnic Chinese nationalism in Kampung Pecinan Bintoro Demak District is needed support to the ethnic Chinese to follow the activities in the community. Both from surrounding communities and regional devices. This is in line with Sunarjan's (2017) research showing that the active performance of government and stakeholders through empowerment and empowerment can have a positive impact on people's lives.

The role of society and family in building the values of nationalism is needed. The family has an emotional closeness to the child, so with a good approach and understanding the children generated from the family will be individuals who have an attitude of nationalism in the environment of his life.

A citizen should have a sense of nationalism so it is appropriate that individuals take actions that embody nationalistic attitudes such as tolerance, sacrifice, unity, and so on. With the attitude of nationalism will create harmonious interactions between ethnic and group in society.

## CONCLUSION

Understanding the values of nationalism in the Chinese ethnic community in the village of Pecinan Bintoro Demak district is the value of respecting the differences, respecting the adherents of other religions, and accepting the differences. The form of ethnic Chinese participation can be seen from the attitudes shown, such as attending the invitation, hoisting the Red and White Flag when the celebration of Indonesian Independence Day. Communities in Kampung Pecinan Bintoro Demak district make the difference that exist as part of his life. From that understanding the community does not make a difference in its life to encourage it to take action that ends up being an act of conflict but making it a fortune in life.

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