The Relationship between Social Interaction and Perceived Discrimination among Students at University X in Jakarta

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ABSTRACT

Interactions carried out by individuals show that the more diverse a person's interactions, the more relationships that exist. According to Robert M.Z Lawang (Soyomukti, 2016) social interaction is a process when individuals who communicate influence each other both in thought and action. According to Myers and Twenge (2017) discrimination is an act that occurs due to prejudice and stereotypes. The design of this research is non-experimental quantitative research with 269 subjects. The selection of subjects was done by convenience sampling technique. The description of the subject data shows that the mean value of social interaction tends to be high. In the perceive discrimination variable, the mean value tends to be low. The results of the correlation test between social interaction and perceived discrimination obtained a p-value of 0.016 (<0.05) coefficient correlation -0.146, meaning that there was a negative correlation between social interaction and perceived discrimination. Thus, it can be said that if the social interaction is good or high, the perceived discrimination will be low. For this reason, it is necessary to increase social interaction so that individuals have low perceived discrimination.

Keywords: Perceived discrimination, social interaction, students.

1. INTRODUCTION

Each individual always lives with others. When individuals live side by side with other people, then there is interaction. As revealed by Soekanto, human interaction with other humans can occur between individuals and individuals, individuals and groups, even groups and groups (Syarifudin & Raditya, 2018). Interactions carried out by individuals show that the more diverse a person's interactions are, the more relationships are established. In general, it is with this interaction that a person can show his sociability and openness to the people around him.

From existing research, discrimination against ethnic Chinese still occurs in everyday life. Discrimination against ethnic Chinese today is often still related to past experiences and reappears in certain situation (Hidayat et al., 2023). The research results show that the perception of ethnic discrimination can threaten the mental health of ethnic Chinese people in big cities on the island of Java, especially by triggering shame. Discrimination against them has occurred throughout history. This can make ethnic Chinese people feel very bad and unworthy, so they try to hide their ethnic identity (Daniel & Sugianto, 2023). That is, it occurs in social interactions. For this reason, this research wants to find out the relationship between the social interactions of ethnic Chinese students and the discrimination they feel.

This association and openness can also be understood as an open attitude towards other groups or ethnicities outside of one's personal ethnicity. Indonesian society, which consists of various ethnicities, provides the possibility to interact with each other. When they interact, there is mutual influence. According to Robert M.Z Lawang (Soyomukti, 2016) social interaction is a process when individuals who communicate influence each other both in thought and action.

2.   LITERATURE REVIEW

Social interaction can occur because it is influenced, among other things, by (1) suggestion, namely the process of influencing one person to another; (2) Imitation, namely the process of imitating; (3) Identification, namely the tendency to be the same as other people; (4) Sympathy, namely the process of attraction to other people, (5) Motivation, namely the encouragement to take the expected action; (6) Empathy, which is the process of feeling something that is felt by others (Wardhani, 2020).

Paying attention to the characteristics that can manifest social interaction, namely sympathy and empathy, is not easy to implement, especially when seeds or negative views have emerged towards other ethnicities. Negative views of the Chinese ethnicity, for example, always occur, because the Chinese are considered different and are considered immigrants, when in fact they are Indonesian citizens who have the same rights and responsibilities as other ethnicities.

From the ethnic Chinese side, they also sometimes feel as victims who receive discrimination. According to Myers and Twenge (2017) discrimination is an act that occurs because of prejudice and stereotypes. Prejudice is an inappropriate or incorrect negative attitude towards a group or members of a particular group. Meanwhile, according to (Juditha, 2015), prejudice is a rigid attitude towards a group based on false beliefs or preconceptions.

Interaction in the context of communicating with other people can be done verbally and non-verbally. Verbal communication is communication that is commonly carried out whenever there is a meeting between one person and another. Non-verbal communication can be done directly when face to face, or indirectly by using certain media. Non-verbal communication is any form of communication between humans but does not use words (Wood, 2014).

Discrimination aside from individual factors, discrimination can also occur due to social factors. The results of Lee's research (2018) show that the individual's environment is related to the discrimination he receives. This is shown that the provisions for public goods (public facilities) are determined by active social groups (the majority). Public facilities are determined by the aspirations of the majority, as a result in public facilities the interests of the minority are neglected.

Ward et al. (2001) also highlighted environmental factors associated with discrimination. It is said that perceived discrimination among immigrants occurs because they are not willing to adopt the cultural identity where they live. For example, research on international students in Australia found that those who believe their cultural group is discriminated against by their hosts, but they will adapt better when the boundaries between the two are fluid.

The study was conducted on 2,490 adolescents aged 17-18 years from low socioeconomic status in Chicago, United States of America. Participants came from among African-American, Hispanic and white. Most adolescents have experienced racial/ethnic discrimination. Even experiences of racial/ethnic discrimination contribute to behavioral and mental health outcomes among adolescents (Tobler et al., 2013).

The results of another study conducted in Southern California show that discrimination is not only about ethnicity, but also related to immigration status and documentation. This study involved high school students from ethnic minorities (Nieri et al., 2022).

Discrimination can be assessed negatively but can also be assessed positively. For example, one particular condition is considered discrimination by one individual, but for another individual it is not discrimination. This subjective difference of opinion is considered as perceived discrimination. Discrimination in the context of cultural psychology can occur in the area of

apperception (meaning). This means that discrimination is not just a perception or sensation. In addition, discrimination is the result of an active process, because meaning is something that is active, in contrast to passive perception or sensations that depend on stimuli (Irwanto & Gunawan, 2018).

The perception of discrimination or a person's attitude towards certain conditions really depends on the individual himself. The same conditions in different situations and times can give different perceptions. It is in this case that perceived discrimination will arise depending on each individual. Individuals are different not only because of their physical characteristics but also because the interactions they do can shape behavior towards the environment.

The formulation of the research problem is: is there a relationship between social interaction and perceived discrimination?

3.   METHODS

This research design is a non-experimental quantitative research. They are students who are undergoing online lectures due to pandemic conditions. The research subjects were divided into two, namely 30 test subjects and 269 research subjects. The selection of subjects was carried out using a convenience sampling technique based on the willingness of the subjects and the convenience of research during this pandemic.

The research instrument used was a questionnaire consisting of several parts. The first is a description in the form of an introduction from the researcher which contains the research objectives and requests to the subject for their involvement, as well as consent as subjects through filling out informed consent. The second part is the contents of the subject's demographic data. The third part is a question about social interaction and perceived discrimination.

Table 1 Result of reliability test of social interaction variables

Dimension	The reliability value before item removal		The reliability value after item removal	
	Items	**Alpha Cronbach**	**Items**	**Alpha Cronbach**
The individuals communication	4	0,625	3	0,739
Individual-group communication	6	0,730	6	0,730
Social contact of individuals	4	0,652	4	0,652
Individual-group social contacts	3	0,688	3	0,688

Table 1 contains the results of the validity and reliability tests of the social interaction variables which are divided into four dimensions. The number of items before the test was 17 items, after the trial one item was invalid, namely on the individual communication dimension. The reliability value before item removal was 0.625 then increased to 0.739. Meanwhile, in the other three dimensions, no items are discarded. Complete data can be seen in table 1.

The Perceived Discrimination measuring instrument was adapted from Measures of Ethnicity-Related Threat and Ethnic Identity (Perceived Ethnic Discrimination Questionnaire) developed by Contrada et al. (2001). After rearranging, 22 items with seven dimensions are obtained. The details are contained in table 2 below.

Table 2 Items and dimensions of variable Perceived Discrimination

No.	Dimension	Number of item
1	Verbal Rejection	(1, 2, 3)
2	Avoidance	(4.5.6)
3	Exclusion	(7.8)
4	Denial of equal treatment	(9.10,11)
5	Devaluating action	(12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17)
6	Threat of violence	(18,19)
7	Aggression	(20,21,22)

Data was obtained by distributing questionnaires to selected subjects. During the pandemic, when online lectures were still being implemented, the questionnaire was distributed via the Google Form. The questionnaire was prepared in the form of a Google Form which took 15-20 minutes to complete. The distribution of the questionnaire was carried out twice, first for item trials, then the second distribution for actual research subjects in August-September 2022.

Data analysis was carried out by testing the hypothesis using the SPSS program, by first carrying out several assumption tests to meet the statistical test requirements. Data analysis was carried out using the Spearman correlation test and the t-test for differences compare mean.

4. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

The number of research subjects was 269 people consisting of 218 people (81%) female, 51 people (19%) male. The ages of the respondents ranged from 17-29 years, most of the subjects were 19 years old (131 people or 48.7%), the second order was subjects who were 18 years old (62 people or 23%). Based on the ethnicity recognized by the subjects, 135 people (50.2%) were ethnic Chinese, the remaining 134 people (49.8%) were not ethnic Chinese. An overview of subject data is contained in the following table.

Table 3 Description of subject's data

	Variable	Frequencies (n=269)	Percentages
Gender	Female	218	81
	Male	51	19
Age	17	9	3,3
	18	62	23,0
	19	131	48,7
	20	33	12,3
	21	24	8,9
	<22	4	1,5
Ethnics	Chinese	6	2,3
	Non-Chinese	135	50,2

Social interaction variable data and perceived discrimination. Social interaction variables consist of four dimensions, namely individual and individual communication, communication between individuals and groups, social contact between individuals and individuals, social contact between individuals and groups. Paying attention to the average calculation results for each

dimension, the values tend to be high, when compared to the average value of the test results with the average value of the measuring scale (with a range of 1-5, the median value is 3).

Table 4 Description of social interaction variable data

Dimension	Mean	Standard deviation
The individual communication	3.9926	.61537
Individual-group communication	3.7850	.54611
Social contact of individuals	4.1589	.59583
Individual-group social contacts	3.7162	.74426
Social interaction	3.9132	.46448

Table 5 contains the average value of the perceived discrimination variable based on each dimension. The perceived discrimination variable consists of seven dimensions. Referring to the median value of the scale 1-5, the test results of the mean value of each dimension on the perceived discrimination variable obtained test results that tend to be low because they get values that are below 3.

Table 5 Average value of the Perceived Discrimination Variable

Dimension	Mean	Standard deviation
Verbal Rejection	2.4957	1.04841
Avoidance	1.6976	.86977
Exclusion	1.4777	.82264
Denial of equal treatment	1.4932	.80657
Devaluating action	1.5551	.83181
Threat of violence	1.4628	.84006
Aggression	1.4374	.80879
Perceived_discrimination	1.6599	.74023

From the perceived discrimination dimension, it can be seen that the average value is at a low value, because it is below the average value, namely 3. This can be said that the respondent does not have perceived discrimination.

The next part is testing for subjects who come from ethnic Chinese and non-Chinese. In the Chinese group, the results of the correlation test of social interaction with perceived discrimination obtained a p value of 0.460 (> 0.05), meaning that there was no correlation between social interaction and perceived discrimination. In the Non-Chinese group, the results of the correlation test of social interaction with perceived discrimination obtained a p value of 0.004 (<0.05), meaning that there was a negative correlation between social interaction and perceived discrimination, the correlation was -0.249 (in the range between 0.20-0 .39 including weak correlation).

Table 6 Average value of the Perceived Discrimination Variable

Subjects	p	Significance	Corr. coef
Chinese group (n=135)	0,460	Not- Significance	0,064
Non-Chinese (n=134)	0,004	Significance	-0,249
All subject (n=269)	0,016	Significance	-0,146
Subjects	p	Significance	Corr. coef

5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The description of the subject data shows that the mean value of social interaction tends to be high, meaning that the social interaction carried out by the subject is quite good, including establishing relationships and openness in inter-ethnic relations. In the perceived discrimination variable, the mean value tends to be low. This means that the perception of discrimination from the subjects is low.

Proof of the research hypothesis was carried out by testing the correlation between social interaction and perceived discrimination. The research hypothesis is proven, meaning that there is a negative correlation between social interaction and perceived discrimination, but the correlation value is small so that the correlation is ignored. Thus, it can be said that if the social interaction is good or high then perceived discrimination will be low. Conversely, if social interaction is low, perceived discrimination will be high. For this reason, it is necessary to increase social interaction so that individuals have low perceived discrimination.

Another test was conducted for subjects who came from ethnic Chinese and non-Chinese. In the Chinese group, the results of the correlation test of social interaction with perceived discrimination obtained a p value of 0.460 (> 0.05), meaning that there was no correlation between social interaction and perceived discrimination. In the Non-Chinese group, the results of the correlation test of social interaction with perceived discrimination obtained a p value of 0.004 (<0.05), meaning that there was a negative correlation between social interaction and perceived discrimination, the correlation was -0.249 (in the range between 0.20-0 .39 including weak correlation).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, data collection was carried out by distributing questionnaires compiled in the form of a Google Form, face-to-face research could not be carried out. Apart from the practicality and convenience of using Google Form, physical meetings still have several advantages. For this reason, if possible, research can be continued by collecting data directly or through interviews with several subjects who can represent the characteristics of the subject.

The lack of research discussing interaction variables and perceived discrimination makes the results of this study unable to be compared with other studies. However, it does not rule out the possibility of involving other variables that function as moderator variables or intervening variables between the variables of social interaction and perceived discrimination. The use of intervening or moderator variables can be used for further research.

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