

INTER-ETHNIC RELATION IN A MULTI-ETHNIC SOCIETY

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Abstract. The relationship between various ethnic groups in a pluralistic society is quite parallel with how two or more ethnicities relate in societies compare to where the ethnic groups are two or three. The idea of avoiding conflicts, and tying unity, harmony and peace may be hard to sense. Scholars of Sociology have identified some factors to which multiethnic environment would be peaceful and livable, raising the topic that concerns inter-ethnic relation to align with the concept of culture, social identity, economic political and issues. These terms all have their particular influences on how multiethnic society would be, either a land of peace or its opposite. This study precisely analyzes and lays description to what factors relatively have influence towards the relationship of many ethnic groups in a multiethnic society. The paper studies the fact that culture may have its role on how many ethnic groups live in a single society, while social identity political as well as economic factors matter in formation of inter-ethnic relations in a pluralistic society.

Keywords: *Ethnicity, Nation, Ethnic Identity, Multiethnic Society, Inter-ethnic Relation, Tribes, Peace, Conflict*

КӨПЭТНОСТЫ ҚОҒАМДАҒЫ ЭТНОСАРАЛЫҚ ҚАТЫНАС

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Аңдатпа. Плуралистік қоғамдағы әртүрлі этникалық топтар арасындағы қарым-қатынас этникалық топтардың екі немесе үш болғанымен салыстырғанда, қоғамдардағы екі немесе одан да көп этностардың қарым-қатынасымен параллельді. Қақтығыстарды болдырмау және бірлік, келісім мен бейбітшілікті байланыстыру идеясын түсіну қиын болуы мүмкін. Әлеуметтану ғалымдары этносаралық қатынасқа қатысты тақырыпты мәдениет, әлеуметтік бірегейлік, экономикалық саясат және мәселелер ұғымымен үйлестіре отырып, полиэтникалық ортаның бейбіт және өмір сүруге қолайлы болатын кейбір факторларын анықтады. Бұл терминдердің барлығы көпэтникалық қоғамның бейбітшілік елі немесе оған қарама-қарсы ел болатынына ерекше әсер етеді.

Бұл зерттеу көпэтносты қоғамдағы көптеген этникалық топтардың қарым-қатынасына қандай факторлардың салыстырмалы түрде әсер ететінін нақты талдап, сипаттайды. Мақалада мәдениеттің біртұтас қоғамда қанша этникалық топ өмір сүретінінде өз рөлі болуы мүмкін, ал плюралистік қоғамда этносаралық қатынастардың қалыптасуында саяси және экономикалық факторлардың әлеуметтік сәйкестігі маңызды екендігі зерттеледі.

Түйін сөздер: *Этнос, ұлт, этникалық сәйкестік, көпұлтты қоғам, этносаралық қатынас, тайпалар, бейбітшілік, қақтығыс.*

МЕЖЭТНИЧЕСКИЕ ОТНОШЕНИЯ В ПОЛИЭТНИЧЕСКОМ ОБЩЕСТВЕ

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Аннотация. Отношения между различными этническими группами в плюралистическом обществе вполне аналогичны тому, как две или более этнические группы относятся в обществе по сравнению с тем, где этнических групп две или три. Идея избегать конфликтов и связывать единство, гармонию и мир может быть трудной для понимания. Ученые-социологи определили некоторые факторы, благодаря которым многонациональная среда будет мирной и пригодной для жизни, подняв тему, касающуюся межэтнических отношений, чтобы она соответствовала концепции культуры, социальной идентичности, экономических, политических и других проблем. Все эти термины имеют свое особое влияние на то, каким будет многоэтническое общество, будь то земля мира или ее противоположность. Данное исследование точно анализирует и описывает, какие факторы относительно влияют на взаимоотношения многих этнических групп в полиэтническом обществе. В статье рассматривается тот факт, что культура может иметь свою роль в том, сколько этнических групп проживает в одном обществе, в то время как социальная идентичность, политические и экономические факторы имеют значение в формировании межэтнических отношений в плюралистическом обществе.

Ключевые слова: *этничность, нация, этническая идентичность, полиэтническое общество, межэтнические отношения, племена, мир, конфликт.*

Introduction

The existence of harmonized relationship between people of different cultures and ethnic background is a social study, of which relates to the identity politics. Each ethnic group in an appropriate society has a trace of its ethnic background or sole history, and so other identity factors may give it a lot of variances between another ethnic group. Features like traditions, language or religion might bring a difference between one ethnic group and another. The availability of pluralistic societies has become more wider in most of our modern world. Hence, concerns about interethnic relations have increased. Even as individuals of differing ethnic backgrounds live and work in closer proximity than ever before, concerns of ethnicity and ethnic

identity often bring about volatile responses in many people.

As we face it, rarely does a day pass without reports of some new incidents of ethnic conflict around some parts of the world. Undeniably, each society, each community and each incident involve a particular set of historical, situational or psychological twists, which makes it difficult to generalize the matter on the nature of interethnic relations. Scholars of social science have attempted to find systematic ways to comprehend the nature of interethnic relations at large, and interethnic “communication” behavior. The basic literature they created presents a wide range of concepts, theories, and results that offer in-depth knowledge into how and why different ethnic groups and individuals interact with one another. While psychologists have tried to understand the factors within individuals and the immediate social situations that help explain ingroup communication behaviors (for example communication between people of the same background) and outgroup communication behaviors that is between people from different backgrounds. From the perspective of sociologists, they examined interethnic relations mainly from the societal instance, focusing on macro-structural factors like social stratification and economic distribution. Furthermore, anthropologists have come up with case studies of interethnic relations in specific societies, and sociolinguists and scholars of communication have focused on the processes and the outcomes of face-to-face interethnic interactions. Each of the aforementioned groups of scholars have their own literature they developed on inter-ethnic relations. For the fact that the relationship between two or plural ethnic groups might be peaceful or with less conflict, some relationships may be harsh and sour, based on the factors these scholars outlined.

Methodology

As a social studies, this research is qualitative descriptive study using ethnographic methods approach. Spradley (1997: 12) explained ethnography as a culture that studies other cultures, of what is a building encompassing knowledge of research techniques or various descriptions culture and build a systematic understanding of the infinite human culture from the perspective of people who have studied the relevant culture. The study analyzed the qualitative data by observing, understanding and giving the interpretation of each data or facts and literature to the meaning and descriptions described under the narrative words into statements. Following the trail track of literature by different social scientists and the knowledge idea they developed for studying inter-ethnic relationship or the formation of ethnic identity as a field of study on its own.

Discussion

Inter-Ethnic Relation

The word "ethnicity" is coined in the field of sociology simply as a label to term a social group and to distinguish it from other social groups based on common features of national origin, religion, language, and race. In this group-level meaning, ethnicity then becomes the objective character, quality, or condition of a social group as well as an individual's background in an ethnic group. While we give “Multiethnic Society” a meaning; we could say that this is the existence of many ethnic groups in a single society or nation. So, referring to Multiethnic society we sought to notice the real need for relationship between these ethnic groups. Ethnic identification as a theory was developed through the school of psychology, which

posits the fact that an individual may belong to a certain social group like religious or even occupational. To dig further, ethnicity studies and understanding ethnic background is a sole subject in anthropology and sociology. But all these schools agree that there might be the existence of relationships between one social group and another. Through ancient times, we can recall the existence of trade between one nation and another, or war alliance between a state and its counterpart or domestically the record of marriage between a citizen of one state with another. In more ancient times, some marriages between distinctly different tribes and nations were due to royalty trying to form alliances with or to influence other kingdoms or to dissuade marauders or slave traders [1]. The distribution of economic resources in a single country between different citizens of different background could be a reason for identifying a factor for connecting relationship or friendship, or even the market demands between an appropriate ethnic group and the other. In modern theory of ethnic relation, some scholars of sociology believe that the utmost factor that determines the kind of relationship that would reign in a given multiethnic society is based on the social relationship they have with one another. Such scholars added that social factors like culture, communication and social stratification have a huge implication on the outcome of how these ethnic groups would relate. The practical fact here is that most scholars of sociology laid that people rapidly feel the sense of mutual understanding through social interaction. They mentioned that social interaction is the main event through which a peaceful relationship can exist between people of different background, and so they cited the promotion of social events like, inter-cultural activities, inter-religious events, games or organizing same educational environment between different ethnic groups. Communication tends to be the key to opening a new phase of mutual understanding between the sender and the receiver. People of cross ethnicity can comprehend one another through communication. To scholars of anthropology, inter-ethnic marriage is a key that simply leads to a peaceful inter-ethnic relationship in a pluralistic society.

Social Interaction

In an auxiliary level social interaction is necessary for social activities. Social interaction is any activity organized for individuals to meet other individuals or group against another. The activity could be in the form of scolding greetings, friendship, handshake, visit one another, or even a voluntary work that can be said to have been done or happened is social interaction (Soekanto, 2004: 61) [2]. Each interethnic encounter has its unique circumstance, in which some factors may be of greater relevance to the relationship of these ethnic groups and play a more noted role than others. Additionally, the forms of social interaction on the social ethnic unity in a multiethnic community can be seen from various means such as support in terms of the market or economic interaction. The market is public place where people interact. Markets here referred to as the local market which are often found in many large societies as a spot to meet and buy or sell to and from each other. Nevertheless, interethnic marriage is another element that in history is believed to harmonize interethnic societies. In more ancient times, some marriages between distinctly different tribes or nations were mostly due to royalty trying to form alliances with or to influence other kingdoms or to dissuade marauders or slave traders. Two examples, Hermodike I c.800BC and Hermodike II 600BC were Greek princesses from the house of Agamemnon who married kings from what is now Central Turkey [3]. In most multiethnic societies where peace reigns, one

would find a history of inter-marriage among these tribes. Marriage as an element for peace and unity among them, will also lead to the formation of acculturation among the assorted ethnic groups. One study conducted in Africa showed that the regions with higher levels of inter-ethnic marriages have lower levels of ethnic conflict [5]. When we regard social interaction as a factor for the determination of inter-ethnic relation, we as well may pick the topic of how the state administration (whether local or federal) organizes or promotes inter-cultural events which could be like sports, educational, competition or even religious summits to unite the whole society irrespective of ethnic background.

Communication

Interethnic communication occurs whenever at least one involved person takes an ingroup-out-group psychological orientation. As explained by Tajfel (1974), John Turner and Howard Giles (1981), and Marilyn Brewer (1979, 1986), the participants in interethnic communication tend to see themselves and their interaction partners along ethnic lines. The extent to which ethnic categorization influences communication, according to Rupert Brown and John Turner (1981) and Tajfel and Turner (1986), varies on the “intergroup-interpersonal continuum” [6]. At one end, communication encounters between two or more individuals whose behaviors are fully determined by their particular ethnic group categorization is a thread which can tie peace and understanding between them. In the other hand, those are encounters in which the participants are not in any way affected by ethnic categories and, instead, they communicate with each other based entirely on the personal relationship that exists between them. Thus, we can see that the raised factor of communication can determine the relationship that may exist between people of different ethnicity or cultural background. A single word can tend to make a person have a different comprehension or intention in mind towards the person who casts the word. Terms like racism, stereotype or hatred can be easily perceived through verbal communication (or sometimes physical expression). Here, we can see how strong communication proves to be a factor in the determination of inter-ethnic relations.

Politics and Ethnic Identity

The idea of Nationalism, patriotism and political identity in modern political thoughts make it more hot for most multiethnic societies to live in peace. These are some determiners peace or conflict in multiethnic communities. How the state creates, develops and manages the pluralistic society would decide the livability of the environment. This means the distribution of resources, fairness in rule of law and government representation and listening of masses problems are all some effects that might affect the peace or its vice in such societies. Nowadays, most of such states with multiethnic societies preach and try to indoctrinate “Nationalism” and “Patriotism” into the citizens to make them forget the cultural and ethnic differences they have between them, but then in issues relevant to self-identity people still go back to their origin in identifying who they are, or designed to be identified as a particular tribe or ethnic group when ethnic matters relevant to ethnic identity rises. Many political scientists agree on the fact that this could be a nightmare or a great threat guaranteeing the reign of peace and harmony in pluralistic environments. Relating the relations between national, ethnic, ‘racial’, religious and cultural groups in multiethnic societies leads to differential outcomes, which

depends on historical and demographic factors. In some countries this could simply be a focus on majority-minority relations (ethno-territorial, linguistic, religious, cultural minorities) in the nation-state. Ethnic identities belong to the process of organizing the world as ordered multiplicity and to the process of contestation of the hierarchies of the world system (Wallerstein, 2004) [7]. They create symmetries, based in identity representations of groups, between state powers and the image of distinct social subgroups with distinct biographies i.e (languages, origins, bodies, group/ethnic religions, etc.). So, this shows that an individual in a society can be identified simply by skin colour, ethnic background, religion, language or even a region of origin or residence. Such ideologies may differ among people within a single society, finding thousands of people with different identities living in one society. The differences in identity will lead to misunderstandings and conflicts, but creating the spirit of nationalism and patriotism especially to the young population of the society can bring a sense of unity and harmony to a pluralistic society.

Conclusions

In general, it's factual that we all agree that conflicts arise whenever there are differences in people, be it difference in ethnic background, interest, religion or language. Though, some factors can mitigate unforeseen conflicts and infiltrate peace in multiethnic societies. Social interaction which constitutes aspects like cultural events, social activities, marriages, competition between people of different ethnic backgrounds is mentioned as a major aspect in this paper. Furthermore, the reality in communication between persons of different identity or ethnic background can easily be a meter to measure relationship in multiethnic society. The third point noted in this paper outlined how state-nation takes the matter of ethnic and political identity or we may say how state with multiethnic societies inspires the citizen towards the fight for nation building, and the sense of being identified as a national citizen instead of being identified through ethnicity. In conclusion, the peace of societies that are homes to people of different ethnic background is based on by the factors mentioned in this study, which are social interaction, communication and politics or the impact of identity implied in the appropriate nation..

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