

ABSTRACT

Ethnic relations are a special type of inter-group relations. Almost always they involve power relationship in which a dominant group allocates to itself the greater share of rewards and of control over the most important resources. Interactions between ethnic group, however, need not involve overt conflict.

Taking rural scene as studied site, this research asks four main problems. How do the native-ethnic group socially construct and position the Chinese-ethnic group in the context of rural community? What is the nature of patterned relation between the native-ethnic group and the Chinese-ethnic group in the context of rural community? What is the social consequence of patterned relations between the native-ethnic group and the Chinese-ethnic group in the context of rural community? How can be the construction, the position, the relations, and the consequence of ethnic relations be related in the context of rural community?

To answer the questions, the research applies Simmel's theory on social interaction. The field-works was conducted in Sumberbrantas, a sub-village of Tulungrejo, Sub-district Bumiaji, District of Kota Batu, East Java. The collected data are principally analyzed in qualitative mode.

The findings show that in the context of rural community, the native-ethnic group have dynamically constructed and positioned the Chinese-ethnic group, from dominant-employers to partnership-members, from partnership-members to competing-players, and from competing-players to remover-removed.

The ethnic relations that patterned in the context of rural community also continuously change time to time, from domination to cooperation, from cooperation to competition, and from competition to latent conflict. Though the conflicts look like ethnic and religion conflict, the real interest beyond them are economic-material one.

The social consequences of that patterned behavior are ranged from self-alienation, awareness of objective interest, workmanship improvement, to informal expulsion. The native-ethnic group tend to discriminate the Chinese-ethnic group, and want to physically removing them from participating in the society. The social constructions, positions, relations, and consequences of ethnic relations in rural setting can be figured in a dialectic model and appeared in the context of legal equity policy.

The findings support most of Simmel's proposition on conflict intensity and functions of conflict. His concept on "the stranger", however, cannot be applied to the ethnic relationship, especially in rural setting. The other implication, this research rejects part of modernization theory, specifically what some critics call it as assistantialism approach. It means approach, which can be applied by placing the subject of community development in cooperative and or competitive situation.

Key word : Ethnic Interaction, Social Construction, Social Position, Patterned Relation, Social Consequence.