

SINOPSIS

Disertasi ini berhasrat mengkaji penyesuaian peradaban yang berlaku ke atas imigran Cina pada era kemerdekaan Malaya. Setelah berhijrah ke Malaya pada akhir abad ke-19 dan awal abad ke-20, masyarakat Cina sebagai pewaris peradaban Cina bertembung dengan peradaban tempatan. Oleh yang demikian, demi kesinambungan kehidupan, mereka sebagai imigran perlu memaksa diri bersesuaian dengan persekitaran dan cara hidup tempatan bagi mengatasi pelbagai masalah hidup. Penyesuaian peradaban orang Cina merupakan hasil pertembungan dan penyesuaian tersebut, hal ini akan dibincangkan secara panjang lebar dalam disertasi ini. Bab 1 disertasi ini merangkumi latar belakang imigran Cina, termasuk sejarah imigrasi dan komposisi masyarakat Cina awal. Bab 2 pula menjelaskan maksud dan keadaan peradaban baru yang dimiliki oleh masyarakat Cina, serta jenis-jenis identiti yang dimiliki oleh pelbagai kumpulan Cina menjelang era kemerdekaan Malaya. Seterusnya, bab 3 pula meneliti isu pendidikan dan kerakyatan yang menjadi isu perbalahan antara masyarakat Cina dengan pihak pemerintah tempatan, dan juga meninjau bagaimana kedua-dua isu ini mempengaruhi kesinambungan pembentukan peradaban penduduk Cina. Dalam bab 4 pula, pandangan yang berbeza di antara kaum Melayu dan Cina mengenai isu pendidikan vernakular dan kerakyatan diperbincangkan secara khusus. Penulis berharap perbincangan ini membolehkan kita menyedari kewujudan perbezaan pendirian mengenai kedua-dua isu tersebut yang wujud antara kedua-dua kumpulan etnik yang merupakan dua kumpulan etnik terbesar dalam negara ini dan berazam untuk menanganinya. Penyesuaian peradaban masyarakat Cina sebenarnya membawa implikasi mendalam terhadap perkembangan sejarah dan perkembangan politik Malaya selepas merdeka. Pada hakikatnya, penyesuaian peradaban yang dilakukan memberi kesan langsung terhadap perkembangan politik dan hubungan etnik selepas era kemerdekaan Malaya mahupun Malaysia yang ditubuhkan kemudiannya. Penyesuaian dan kompromi yang dicapai bukan sahaja secara langsung mempengaruhi pembentukan struktur masyarakat majmuk, malah ia juga menjadi pengalaman dan rujukan yang berguna kepada generasi muda, khususnya dalam menghadapi isu peradaban yang bakal melanda kita menjelang ambang era baru.

SYNOPSIS

This dissertation aims to study about the civilizational adaptation of the Chinese immigrants from China to Malaya during the era of independence in Malaya. After migrating to Malaya between the late 19 th century and early 20 th century, the Chinese as the “ torch-bearers” or inheritors of Chinese civilization were put in direct encounter with the indigenous people in Malaya. Thus, in orders to survive, the Chinese had to adjust themselves so as to be able to adapt to the new environment and adopt local lifestyles in solving their everyday problems of livelihood. The resulting of civilizational adaptation of the Chinese immigrants as a consequence of such encounter and adaptation will be discussed at length in this research paper. The first chapter will touch on the background of the Chinese immigrants which will include the history of such immigration and the composition of the early Chinese immigrant society. Chapter two will discuss the meaning and nature of the new picture of civilization embraced by the Chinese together with the various forms of identities held by different groups of Chinese immigrants during the era surrounding the independence period in Malaya. In addition, chapter three will discuss the issues of vernacular education and citizenship rights of the Chinese immigrants in Malaya which later developed to become the main contentious issues between the Chinese residents and the local authorities, and also how these two issues influenced the ensuing formation of the new picture of civilization of the Chinese residents. In chapter four, the difference in views between the Malays and Chinese on the issues of vernacular education and Chinese citizenship rights will be the focus of attention. The writer hopes that in the course of this discussion, the realisation of the different stands upheld by the two major ethnic groups in the country regarding the above two main issues would enable us to really delve into these matters with the genuine aim of solving them. The civilizational adaptation of the Chinese immigrants itself has great implications on the ensuing historical and political development of Malaya. In fact, the civilizational adaptation of the Chinese residents in Malaya have a direct impact on the political development and inter-ethnic relationship between the Chinese and Malays in Malaya as well as in Malaysia which came into being later. The adaptations and compromises achieved between the two main ethnic groups in Malaya have not only directly influenced the structural formation of a plural society in the country but also have become a useful experience and point of reference for the new emerging generation to learn in the face of new civilizational challenges impacting the country in this new era.