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ABSTRACT
This paper discusses conflict management of the 1997 anti-Chinese riot in Makassar, Indonesia, besides providing some conflict resolution to the issue. For data collection, this qualitative research uses in depth interviews with ten respondents, coupled with observation and document analysis. Result of the study showed that the following approaches such as avoidance approach in conflict resolution, cooperation, mediation, conciliation and compromise considered as parts of conflict management in order to create peace among the ethnic groups. Furthermore, conflict management plays an important role to propose some steps to find the best solution to prevent the anti-Chinese riot in Makassar. In other word, efforts to create a peaceful society depend on how to manage the situation especially in a multicultural society so that peace keeping, peacemaking and peace building can be implemented in the society.

Keywords: Chinese Group, Conflict, Ethnicity.


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Conflict Management of the 1997 Anti-Chinese Riot In Makassar, Indonesia: Overview of Ethnic Relation Between the Chinese Minority and the Local People

1. INTRODUCTION

Conflict may lead to a number of social problems such as chaos, war, bullying and death. It is undesirable situation where every society tries to avoid conflict from being happen among its members. One of the key elements to avoid conflict is to understand the differences and to be able to handle and manage the situation. Thus, conflict management refers to the practice of being able to identify and handle conflicts sensibly, fairly, justly, effectively and efficiently. According to Rahim (2002), there are five management approaches considered as a model of conflict management namely; integrating, obliging, dominating, avoiding, and compromising.

In the view of Sayyid Qutb, chaos, war and conflict among human beings may be avoided once social justice exists. Even though Qutb refers to human liberation intellectually and emotionally from the instinct of servitude to and worship to any but Allah, this conception can be applied as a complete equality of all human beings, and social solidarity in the sense that one can gain complete access without any feeling of fear of life or fear of someone’s strength. Qutb thus terms this form of liberation as one of the ‘cornerstones for the establishing of social justice’ (Asyraf, 2012).

In the context of human relationship and interaction, differences of interest and opinion between groups are normal, natural, and the means of controlling and managing such differences will determine whether conflicts manifest themselves in primarily non-violent or violent ways. However, the point is that, conflict can be either positive or negative force and not all conflict needs to be resolved. The only key is to understand the difference. This article is concerned with how to manage the 1997 Anti-Chinese Riot in Makassar, Indonesia, besides exploring the available information about the conflict management of the Anti-Chinese Riot. In this case, the study analyzes the qualitative data based on in depth interviews with ten respondents, coupled with observation and document analysis. In terms of determining sample for this study, the researcher uses purposive sampling by considering the following criteria; 1.) the respondents live in the location of the research and they really know about the situation of the location. 2.) The respondents have involved directly or indirectly in the events. 3.) The respondents really understand about the event. 4.) The respondents have enough time to be interviewed about the event and, 5.) the respondents have to give objective information about the event so that they do not manipulate the information regarding the event. In addition to these criteria, the respondents were chosen since there is no strict rule about percentage of the total population involved in qualitative research. However, the number of respondents will be limited when the researcher feels that the information provided by the respondents reaches saturation points (Idrus, 2009: 1993-1995).

The choice of the location for the research was also based on the following considerations: 1) the anti-Chinese riot of 1997 in Makassar is purely an anti-Chinese movement, which is not a political movement or organized by any political elites. This can be seen from the fact that the rioters burned and destroyed Chinese property spontaneously. 2) The anti-Chinese rioting, including the anti-Chinese riot of 1997 in Makassar City, has become one of the national problems for the Indonesian government since it took a large number of victims and millions of US dollars. So far, the anti-Chinese riot of 1997 in Makassar is still a mystery. Hence, the result of this research is aimed at exploring the main causes of the riot and the best way to solve the problem. 3) It is easy for the researcher to obtain the data, including secondary data, and conduct interviews with respondents. This is because the researcher has been living in Makassar City for a long time and can speak and understand the respondents’ local language. 4.) In terms of respondents, the researcher chose the respondents based on characteristics such as occupation, education, length of stay in the research location, sex, and ethnicity. Objectives of this study are therefore the followings; 1)
to identify cause for the riot and to manage anti-Chinese riot in Makassar in 1997. 2.) to provide some aspects of conflict management in preventing and ending anti-Chinese conflict in Makassar.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There are no exact dates in the Indonesian history which explain when the Chinese ethnic came to Indonesia. But even so, some historical heritages such as carpet, bronze drum and ceramic confirmed the influence of Chinese culture and thus, showing the migration of the Chinese people to this country during the period of Dynasty Jin (265-420CE). In this case, monk Faxian travelled to India and when he returned to China in 411 in which ship drifting and dumped off in Ye Po Ti, a place located in Borneo Island, Indonesia. Since then, many Chinese people migrated to Indonesia during the fifth century (420CE).

During the period of the Dutch colonization in which for the first time the Dutch came to Indonesia in 1596, there were many changes in Indonesian social life. For instance, there were several Chinese settlements such as in Kalimantan, in the eastern part of Sumatera Island and in the northern part of Java Island. The migration of the Chinese to Indonesia took place continuously and this phenomenon worry the Dutch government and in order to prevent the migration wave of the Chinese, the Dutch restricted the Chinese migration besides controlling strictly the activities of the Chinese people by applying certain rule. For example, the Chinese had to have special permit that issued by the Dutch government when they want to run business and to live in Indonesia. Therefore, it was not surprised that these Chinese ethnic lived in their settlement (Chinese Town) and this social phenomena took place continuously until now. The Dutch government also classified the population into three categories among which giving special treatment to the Chinese in the form of doing job as broker between the Dutch and the local people, tax collector, monopolize salt in the market and so on (Susanto, 1996:18). The scenario unfortunately, incited resentment and social jealousy among the local people towards the Chinese community.

The arrival of the Chinese ethnics in Sulawesi Island including Makassar city, can be traced back in the 13th century or during the era of Yuan Dynasty (1280-1367). The first Chinese ethnics came to Makassar was Hokkien and followed by Teo Chiu, Hakka and Cantonese (Bahrum 2003: 38). Even though they could not understand one another when they speak their local language, but they manage to interact and cooperate in business activities. In general, the Chinese migration to Sulawesi Island including Makassar city are motivated by two main factors namely: economy factors and political factors. Generally, the social relation between the Chinese minority and the local people were very close each other before the arrival of the Dutch hundreds years ago. During the Chinese New Year festival for instance, the local people participated in the celebration by helping the Chinese minority in preparing everything related to the celebration including Barongsai attraction and the ceremonial in the Vihara or Klenteng. On the other hand, during the Muslim festival, there were the Chinese people who sometimes gave donation in supporting the local people for the celebration. In short, the social relation among them was very intimate and there was no ethnic conflict between the Chinese minority and the local people in Makassar at that time. But unfortunately, the social relation between these two different groups became cool when the Dutch government issued discriminative rule towards this different group which incited resentment and social jealousy among the local people towards the Chinese community.

In the context of the anti-Chinese riot in Makassar Indonesia, few theories of collective behavior are suggested by scholars. According to Chester L.Hunt (2015), there are some theories that explain about the riot such as: 1) the social contagion theory, 2) convergence
theory and, 3) emergent norm theory. He argues that even there is no rule in the crowd but in reality there is a new rule when the crowd occurred. In the above case, the rioters select which properties they want to destroy and not to be destroyed. H.A.Rusdiana (2015) suggests that there are some solutions to face conflict including ethnic conflict such as: contending, problem solving, yielding, inaction, and withdrawing. For contending, problem solving conducted through win-win solution where the problem can be solved without taking care of the others. Yielding relates to people who are ready to accept the other people. In action means the people are not doing anything while they are waiting for their action of the others. Furthermore, withdrawing means the people avoid and leave conflict behind. Besides that, another conflict resolution as suggested by Sarwono (1999) include: conciliation, mediation, arbitration, coercion and détente. In terms of conciliation, it relates to the effort to solve the problem including ethnic riot. In this case, the rioters can meet together to discuss and to solve their problem so that they can cooperate one another. While mediation refers to the effort to solve the problem by inviting the third party in solving the problem. Even so, the third party does not have authority but they can give advice which are the best solution for the rioters. For arbitration, it relates to the effort to solve the problem by inviting the third party. In this case, the third party has the authority to make a decision that binds the rioters. Whereas coercion as Taher (1997) explained, refers to the majority group that dominates minority group including rules apply to minority group. Finally, détente relates to persuasive approach to solve the problem in which two sides were involved in the conflict and try to negotiate so that they can work together in solving the problem. According to Johan Galtung (2014), there are some steps in conflict resolution such as: 1) peacekeeping where the violence can be stopped through military intervention in which this army plays a role as peacekeeper. 2) Peacemaking. The main goal of this solution is to reconcile the willing of the party involved in the ethnic conflict by doing mediation, negotiation, and arbitration among leaders of the party. And 3) peace building which requires the implementation and the reconstruction of political, social and economy in order to create peace building which may lead people towards achieving prosperous and justice in society. Besides that, another approach the researcher used is the constitution of Madinah in which this constitution as Rahardjo (1999) argued, became the foundation of civil society established by Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) where the constitution of Madinah had some main principles including egalitarianism, appreciation for achievement, law enforcement, justice, pluralism and democracy amongst members of the society.

3. MATERIALS AND METHOD
This research was conducted in Makassar during April 2018. For data collection, the researcher used in depth interviews with ten respondents, coupled with observation and documents analysis (Sugiyono, 2014:226-240). Apart from that, this type of research is a case study and used purposive sampling based on some consideration namely: 1.) the respondents must live in the location of the research so that they really know about the situation of the location. 2.) The respondents have involved in the events. 3.) The respondents really understand about the event. 4.) They have enough time to be interviewed about the event. 5.) The respondents must give objective information about the event so that they do not manipulate the information. In addition to the data analysis, the researcher used data reduction, data display and drawing conclusion.
4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

As noted earlier, this research focuses on conflict management of the 1997 anti-Chinese riot in Makassar. The purpose of the research is to get detail information about how to manage the anti-Chinese riot in Makassar, besides understanding aspects of conflict management that influence peace keeping, peace making and peace building process in Makassar. Result of the research shows that aspects of conflict management such as avoidance approach in conflict resolution, cooperation, mediation, conciliation and compromise are significant and effective in solving the anti-Chinese riot in Makassar.

4.1. Sources of Conflict

It is important to note that factors such as prejudice, discrimination, stereotype, rumors, provocateur, relative deprivation and segregation become the sources of anti-Chinese riot in Makassar. Prejudice means negative feeling arouses between the local people and the Chinese minority which make these two different groups cannot be integrated one another as acknowledged by AM (respondent 1) who states that:

“Memang ada prasangka antara orang cina dengan pribumi misalnya orang cina itu dinilai sombong, kurang bergaul dan dapat memonopoli kegiatan ekonomi sementara orang cina melihat pribumi tidak mampu bekerja keras dan anggap diri sendiri hebat” (Wawancara, 11 April 2018)

(It looks that there is a prejudice between the Chinese minority and the local people. For example the local people thinks that the Chinese is superior and dominate economy activities while the Chinese thinks that the local people cannot work hard and thus feel superior over others” (Interview, April 11, 2018)

While discrimination refers to unequal treatment between the Chinese minority and the local people. This was clearly explained by MS (respondent 2) saying that:

“Sebelum tahun 1997 memang warga masyarakat ada diskriminasi antara orang cina dengan penduduk lokal” (Wawancara, 27 Maret 2018)

“Before 1997, there was a discrimination between the Chinese minority and the local people” (Interview, March 27, 2018)

Whereas stereotype means negative image or labelling either the local people or the Chinese minority thus making these different groups cannot be united. Result of the research also identify that rumors became another source of conflict which spread untrue stories so fast amongst the people. Provocateur refers to the persons who incited hate and resentment among the people. In this case the provocateur arouse hatred among the local people towards the Chinese minority. As SK (respondent 3) argued that:

“Sepertinya ada yang sengaja memprovokasi massa untuk melakukan kerusuhan”. Wawancara, 25 Maret 2018

“It seems that there are some provocateurs arouse among the local people to destroy the Chinese’s properties during the riot” (Interview, March 25, 2018)

In the context of relative deprivation, it means that there is a social jealousy since there is a wide social economy gap between the rich (Chinese groups) and the poor people (local groups) in society as a result of the Dutch rule discussed earlier. In this regard, AQ (respondent 4) argues that:

“Salah satu penyebab kerusuhan anti Cina 1997 di Makassar yaitu karena adanya kecemburuuan sosial dikalangan penduduk lokal” (Wawancara, 18 Juni 2018)
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“One of the main cause of the anti-Chinese riot in Makassar in 1997 is because there is a social jealousy among the local people towards the Chinese” (Interview, June 18, 2018)

Whereas segregation refers to a separation between one group and another group in terms of residential area which also led to issues in their social interactions. Each group tends to interact mainly with people of similar race and class, who appear to be living in the same area in Makassar.

4.2. Conflict Management

Conflict management involves not only the government employee but also public figures. Both parties should play significant role to manage ethnic conflict in Makassar, besides the public as well who will have to participate actively in supporting the efforts implemented towards peace keeping, peace making and peace building process. In addition, there are some aspects of conflict management that influence the solution of ethnic conflict especially between the Chinese minority and the local people such as avoidance approach, cooperation, mediation and reconciliation. As AT (respondent 5) explained that:

“Untuk mengatasi kerusuhan anti Cina, maka perlu dilakukannya kerjasama, mediasi dan rekonsiliasi di antara orang Cina dan penduduk lokal” (Wawancara, 30 Maret 2018)

“In order to prevent the anti-Chinese riot, it is important to do cooperation, mediation and reconciliation between the Chinese and the local people” (Interview, March 30, 2018)

In terms of avoiding, either the local people or the Chinese minority have to avoid any kind of conflict through cooperation. These two different ethnic groups should work together and not to fight between one and each other. In the context of mediation, it means that the competing groups or community should invite the third party to make a reconciliation for any arising issues so that the competitors can find solution earlier for the problem. Some other factors influencing conflict management of the anti-Chinese riot including the role of the government employee and public figures, coupled with the support of all organization in society, approaches and methods that used in managing the Chinese conflict. As SB (respondent 6) expressed:

“Saya kira peranan pemerintah, tokoh masyarakat dan organisasi lainnya penting untuk mencegah kerusuhan anti Cina di masa yang akan datang” (Wawancara, 4 Juni 2018)

“I Think that the role of government employee, public figures and other organization are very important to prevent the anti-Chinese riot in the future” (Interview, June 4, 2018)

5. CONCLUSION

The arrival of the Chinese ethnics in Sulawesi Island including Makassar city, can be traced back in 13th century or during the era of Yuan Dynasty (1280-1367). The first Chinese ethnics came to Makassar was Hokkien followed by Teo Chiu, Hakka and Cantonese. In general, the social relation between the Chinese ethnics and the local people were very close before the coming of the Dutch hundreds years ago. Unfortunately, the social relation between these two groups became cool when the Dutch government issued discriminative rule which incited resentment and social jealousy among the local people towards the Chinese community.

Besides the Dutch policy, the above discussion also highlighted other factors and sources leading to the conflicts. These include prejudice, discrimination, segregation, relative deprivation, rumors, provocateur, stereotype and social isolation. Interview with the respondents also suggest that there are some methods considered effective in solving the problem of the anti-Chinese riot in Makassar such as mediation, reconciliation, compromise

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and avoiding. Besides that, it is also important to be noted that in pluralistic society like Makassar, with many kinds of ethnicity, language, customs, habits, religion and occupations, it is very difficult to unite them in the sense to prevent the conflict. Thus, holistic and comprehensive approaches as suggested are needed including supports and commitment from the government employees and those working with non-government organizations.

REFERENCES


