



Chinese Ethnic Identity Politics in Singkawang City Election

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ABSTRACT

The political identity of ethnic Chinese has existed since the Dutch colonial rule through Chinese organizations that aimed to abolish discriminatory treatment of Chinese people. Ethnic Chinese take advantage of democratic freedom in various political events by forming organizations such as political parties. The involvement of ethnic Chinese in politics is inseparable from the history, groups and communities of ethnic Chinese continue to show their existence in multiethnicity in Singkawang City. In this study, the author uses a qualitative analysis research method that is descriptive. Data collection using interviews and documentation. The results of the study show that the Mayor of Singkawang City in 2017 was the first female ethnic Chinese mayor in the history of China and the City of Singkawang. Reviewing back in 2017 and the 2024 election, the Chinese won by the same actor. The use of the election factor and the use of ethnic Chinese identity politics in Singkawang City are very different from the previous year. The most widely used and very influential power factor to determine victory. The use of ethnic Chinese identity politics does not seem dominant, but the existence of actors in each couple.

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INTRODUCTION

The involvement of ethnic Chinese in politics, especially in Singkawang City, is inseparable from history, Chinese ethnic groups and communities continue to show their existence in multiethnicity in Singkawang City. Political identity is the direction of movement in determining the choice of elections which is a concept of political identity with political culture. The principle of political identity of a certain group or organization of society is the development of political culture principles to garner the support of various parties, especially in the wider community.

The direct election of mayors in the era of democracy and regional autonomy seems to open up opportunities for ethnic Chinese to make choices for their own ethnic groups. Judging from the phenomenon before 2017, there was an ethnic change in leading the city of Singkawang, namely the election of the Malay Ethnicity, in 2017 and in 2024 the election of the Chinese Ethnicity. Chinese citizens have great potential to dominate in political parties even when campaigns are held, all levels of Chinese society take to the streets to join other communities. This fact was rarely found during the New Order, West Kalimantan proved that it was a region that did not recognize racial discrimination, especially with the Chinese.

The use of identity politics that occurs in Singkawang City during elections, campaigns and mass gatherings can damage social harmony and divide the community. This happened when on the eve of the Singkawang City mayoral election, the local police found evidence of a Molotov cocktail in the form of a glass bottle the size of a health supplement drink, wicks and leftover kerosene liquid thrown by two perpetrators using motorcycles at the Budi Dharma Temple in Singkawang City. The situation leading up to the election is very useful, looking at the dynamics and understanding of ethnic Chinese in every event and political process.

RESEARCH METHODS

Research is a process by which a person understands a certain phenomenon and then develops it into ideas, theories, and concepts. The type of research used in this study is qualitative analysis research. Qualitative research is research that reveals symptoms in a holistic contextual way through data collection in a natural setting by utilizing research as a key instrument (Satrosmoro) in (Surta, 2016). This type of research uses descriptive motto, descriptive research, which is a study that describes or describes phenomena that occur in the community (Notoatmojo, 2012). In the study, qualitative research is used to explore in-depth information related to ethnic Chinese identity politics in the Singkawang City election.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Ethnic Chinese who are members of the world of politics are very idealistic, this is because there is no longer a prohibition for democracy and the point of view and ideals for the state must be implemented. It is undeniable that the idealism factor in identity politics of the majority of ethnic Chinese increases every year to join politics in Singkawang City. Many ethnic Chinese think that leaders from ethnic Chinese provide good figures to emulate.

The Idealism of Identity Politics

Idealism is an individual's belief in what is considered right by the individual concerned by coming from experience, education, cultural culture and habits. The idealism factor in the politics of ethnic Chinese identity in the Singkawang City election can be seen in fact in the field and only a few dare to show idealism. The Chinese ethnic group has a desire to improve social relations with the pluralistic community in Singkawang City.

The Chinese people think that the Chinese group does not have politicians who can fight for the aspirations of their circles. In fact, now many Chinese groups are involved in politics and can fight for aspirations. There are also those who think that Chinese groups joining politics still cannot fight for the aspirations of the Chinese group, this is caused by language problems so that it is difficult to convey their aspirations to the legislative institution or the language used cannot be understood well by the legislative institution.

This kind of Chinese society is a society that has not received education, and thinks that education is not very important, the most important thing is to earn money to eat and do not understand politics at all. Ethnic Chinese people who lack political understanding will just vote and do not think about the future. This shows the indifference of the Chinese community in politics.

Paragtism in Ethnic Chinese

Paragtism in the 2024 Singkawang City Election is very few in politics, this is because there are many ethnic Chinese people who understand politics and laws that have allowed ethnic Chinese to be democratic to fight for their rights. That way, ethnic Chinese who sit in the legislature can communicate with the ethnic Chinese community more smoothly so that the ethnic Chinese community can convey their aspirations without any hesitation.

The city of Singkawang is known as a city that is very tolerant of ethnicity, but there is still racial discrimination on a small scale of numbers, especially in the community service sector. In the 2024 election, ethnic exclusion is no longer an ambitious strategic one, but the understanding of the Chinese community with the intention and purpose of entering the political world. Decriminalization occurs when the election is carried out by individuals and in community services directly to ethnic Chinese who do not understand the rules at all in the service. This incident occurred very unfortunate in the city of Singkawang, a city that has a pluralistic reality society.

Special Groups That Are Excluded

The Singkawang City Election has been completed in February 2017 and November 2024 which allows for special groups that are privileged, especially for ethnic Chinese. The view of the Singkawang Community The Chinese ethnic group privileges their own ethnicity, but at the time of the campaign there is no group that is privileged by the success team of each candidate.

Looking at the facts on the ground and interviews with the success team, the absence of special groups that are privileged in terms of campaigns and elections, these are all considered the same and there is no favoritism. However, in the Hakka special group it is clear that they privilege groups from their own group.

In the use of ethnic Chinese identity politics in the 2017 and 2024 Singkawang City elections, there is no special group that is privileged, because for the pair of mayoral candidates and the successful team, the most important thing is the voice of the community, regardless of ethnicity, ethnicity, and religion because they are all the same. In another context, it is very clear that the Chinese ethnic group is privileged at the Cap Go Meh

event. Ethnic Chinese enlivened the Cap Go Meh event because the mayors elected in 2017 and 2024 were from Chinese ethnic groups.

CONCLUSION

From the results of the analysis related to ethnic Chinese identity politics in the 2017 and 2024 Singkawang City elections, from three driving factors and three indicators of the use of ethnic Chinese identity politics, it can be concluded that the idealism *factor* in Chinese ethnic identity politics in the 2017 and 2024 Singkawang City Elections is very visible in fact in the field and only a few dare to show idealism. The Chinese ethnic group wants to improve social relations with ethnic groups in Singkawang City considering the reality of a pluralistic society.

As legal Indonesian citizens, citizens of the Chinese ethnic group to enter politics are actually their normal rights and guaranteed by the constitution. However, it is not natural for ethnic Chinese to become members of the legislature or regional heads using the idealism factor to refer in a negative direction, so that policy-making becomes unfair. It will be heavy on their own ethnic group and their ability is doubted when the ethnic Chinese are led in Singkawang City by other ethnic groups.

The *pragmatism* factor in the politics of ethnic Chinese identity in the 2017 and 2024 Singkawang City elections is very few and not so clearly visible. This is because there are many ethnic Chinese people who understand politics and laws that have allowed ethnic Chinese to be democratic to fight for their rights. That way, ethnic Chinese who sit in the legislature can communicate with ethnic Chinese people more smoothly so that ethnic Chinese people can convey their aspirations without any hesitation.

The *power* factor in Chinese ethnic identity politics in the 2017 and 2024 Singkawang City elections is very clear in influencing to win the election in Singkawang City. It is evident that the involvement of ethnic Chinese in politics in Singkawang City is power, because if it has entered into the actors of power, they can participate in regulating or arranging development programs that are considered very good for the people as a whole.

Therefore, exercising power is based on applicable ethics and morals. This means that the policy of a person who has power must be acceptable to all groups in society under his power because its formulation and implementation are based on the rule of law, not just with power.

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SUGGESTION

In this study, the author found several things about ethnic Chinese identity politics in the 2017 and 2024 Singkawang City elections that need to be improved to be better in the future. The use of the power factor in Chinese ethnic identity politics should not be used as a tool of necessity, but should be used as a tool of necessity, but as a power that can be accepted by all groups in the society under their rule.

Review and pay attention to the need to succeed the program in the next election campaign so that it does not repeat itself as a mere discourse. As well as being neutral for prospective partners, successful teams and certain groups of people in behaving in the political world and other contexts, so as not to cause damage to social harmony.

For the next researcher, what needs to be explored is related to the history of ethnic Chinese in Singkawang City and the factors of using ethnic Chinese identity politics, because it must have changed either significantly or not at the time of the election.

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