



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

***MULTIRACIAL IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES OF MALAYSIAN
CHINESE-INDIAN CHRISTIANS***

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**MASTER OF SCIENCE
UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

2013



**MULTIRACIAL IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES OF MALAYSIAN
CHINESE-INDIAN CHRISTIANS**

By

FAJAR SANTOADI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Science**

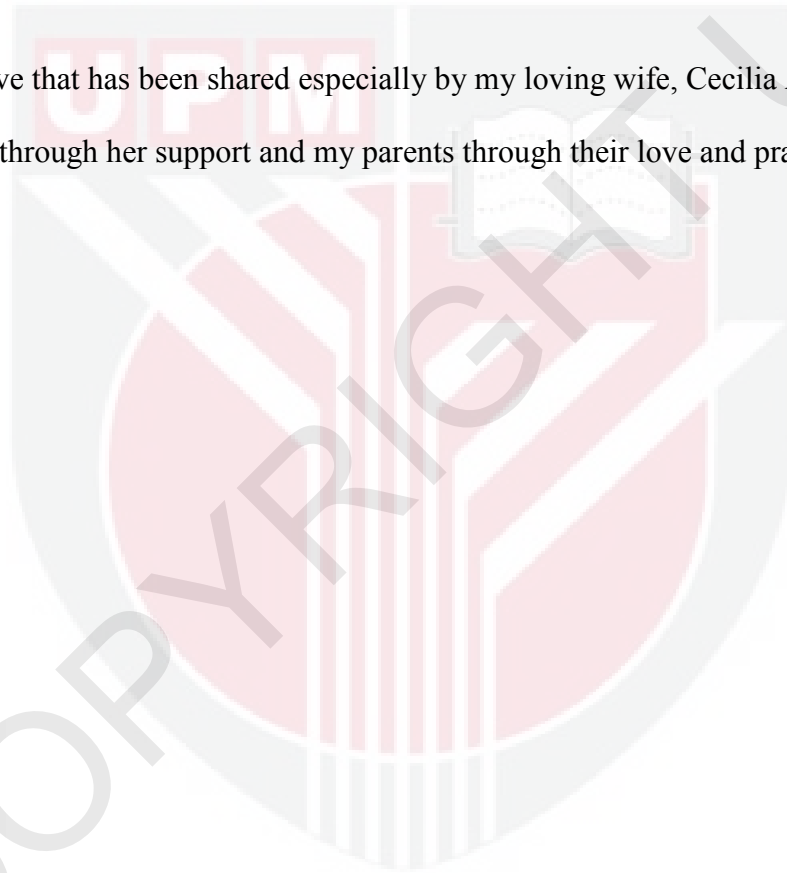
February 2013

DEDICATION

I dedicate this humble work for the spirit and thirst of knowledge and wisdom and the love for human persons cutting across racial, ethnic, and cultural differences.

To celebrate racial and cultural differences bound together where inclusive generations were born and nourished.

To the love that has been shared especially by my loving wife, Cecilia Anthonymsamy through her support and my parents through their love and prayer.



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment
of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

**MULTIRACIAL IDENTITY DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCES OF
MALAYSIAN CHINESE-INDIAN CHRISTIANS**

By

FAJAR SANTOADI

February, 2013

Chairman : Associate Professor Rusnani Abdul Kadir, PhD

Faculty : Educational Studies

Multiracial individuals are commonly found, multiracial identity development model developed in the context of Malaysia has not yet established. There is knowledge gap in this issue therefore this study was significant for multicultural counselling practice in Malaysia. Goal of this study was to explore Christian Chinese-Indian individuals' experience during the course of their development and the objectives were: (1) To explore the experiences of multiracial identity development of Christian Chinese-Indian individuals in Malaysia throughout the life span and (2) To explicate how the environmental factors bring about meaningful influence in the stage of Christian Chinese-Indian multiracial identity development. Interpretative phenomenological Analysis was employed to study conscious experiences of the respondents. Purposive sampling was used to select seven Chinese-Indian Individuals fitting to the criteria in Peninsular Malaysia. Recorded semi-structured interviews with the seven respondents and field notes were used to collect data. To ensure quality of this study, member checking, data triangulation, theory triangulation, peer debriefing or independent mini audit, and incorporating deliberate excerpt of the interview were

employed. This study found that: (1) the self-identification throughout the formative period was multiple, changing, and leaning toward Chinese or Indian or 'in the middle' depending on the predominant peer group change; (2) multiracial identity development model that was described as unawareness period, indefinite period, transitional period, and embrasure period; (3) each social environment played roles in the multiracial identity formation i.e. the parents influenced more in identity formation as Christian but less in identity as Chinese or Indian; extended family provided exposure to the Chinese and Indian tradition; peer groups gave significant influence in mono-racial identity formation as Chinese, Indian, and Malay and multiracial identity (*Chindian*); the neighbourhood role was not significant; the institutions of education and contact with general public in Malaysia triggered and strengthened multiracial awareness, and promoting inclusive self-identification as Malaysian. Implication of this study is developing healthy multiracial identity in Malaysia required alteration of arbitrary monoracial of category to acknowledgement of multiracial self and counselors are called to help CCIIs developing healthy multiracial identity by individual counseling, group counseling, and psychoeducation for CCIIs and their parents.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

**PENGALAMAN PERKEMBANGAN IDENTITI *MULTIRACIAL* WARGA
NEGARA MALAYSIA KACUKAN CINA-INDIA YANG BERAGAMA
KRISTIAN**

Oleh

FAJAR SANTOADI

Februari, 2013

Pengerusi : Profesor Madya Rusnani Abdul Kadir, PhD

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Terdapat ramai individu kacukan di Malaysia. Namun sehingga kini masih belum wujud suatu model perkembangan identiti *multiracial* dalam konteks tempatan. Kajian ini penting bagi kaunseling pelbagai budaya di Malaysia sebab masih terdapat jurang ilmu pengetahuan dalam bidang ini. Matlamat kajian adalah meneroka pengalaman individu kacukan China-India yang beragama Kristian selama perkembangan mereka dan objektif kajian ini adalah: (1) meneroka pengalaman perkembangan identiti *multiracial* individu kacukan Cina-India yang beragama Kristian di Malaysia sepanjang kehidupan mereka; (2) menerangkan bagaimana factor persekitaran memberi pengaruh bermakna dalam setiap peringkat perkembangan identiti *multiracial* Individu kacukan tersebut. Penyelidikan ini menggunakan kaedah kajian kualitatif *Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis* (IPA) untuk menyiasat pengalaman mereka. Kaedah persampelan bertujuan digunakan untuk memperoleh tujuh individu responden yang menepati kriteria di Semenanjung Malaysia. Temubual separa berstruktur yang dirakam dan catatan pengamatan digunakan untuk memperoleh data. Untuk memastikan kualiti kajian ini,

penyelidik menggunakan beberapa teknik iaitu *member checking*, triangulasi data, triangulasi teori, *peer debriefing* atau audit bebas mini, dan menyertakan kutipan temubual selengkap mungkin dalam laporan tertulis. Hasil kajian ini mendapati bahawa (1) identiti *multiracial* individu kacukan Cina-India yang beragama Kristian di Malaysia dari peringkat awal kanak-kanak hingga dewasa adalah identifikasi sendiri ganda, berubah-ubah, dan condong kepada China, India, atau ‘di antara’ mengikut perubahan kumpulan rakan sebaya. Model perkembangan identiti *multiracial* responden digambarkan sebagai peringkat tak sedar; peringkat ketidakpastian; peringkat peralihan; dan peringkat memeluk; (2) Peranan persekitaran dalam perkembangan identiti *multiracial* individu kacukan tersebut adalah sebagai berikut: orang tua berperanan penting dalam pembangunan identiti sebagai Kristian tetapi kurang penting dalam memperkenalkan tradisi China dan India; keluarga besar dan sanak saudara memperkenalkan tradisi China dan India kepada responden; rakan sebaya menentukan pelbagai identiti *monoracial* (China, India, dan Melayu) dan mempengaruhi kecondongan identiti *multiracial* sebagai (*Chindian*); kejiranan kurang berpengaruh dalam pembangunan *identity multiracial*; institusi pendidikan pada amnya dan kontak dengan masyarakat awam di Malaysia mencetuskan dan mengukuhkan kesedaran *multiracial*, dan mencetuskan identifikasi sendiri inklusif sebagai ‘*warga negara malaysia*’. Implikasi kajian ini adalah pembangunan *identity multiracial* yang sihat memerlukan pertukaran kategori *monoracial* menjadi *identity* yang menerima kepelbagaian bangsa dan kaunselor dinasihatkan membantu individu kacukan melalui kaunseling individu, kaunseling kelompok, dan psikoedukasi bagi CCIs dan orang tua mereka.

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7. Above all, I expressed my gratitude to Jesus my Lord who always gives me spirit to engage in effort of doing my best.

Without all kindness that I have been accepting, I am nobody. In this beautiful moment, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude.

May God grant all of you blissful life and bless your journey.

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 22 February 2013 to conduct the final examination of Fajar Santoadi on his thesis entitled "Multiracial Identity Development Experiences of Malaysian Chinese-Indian Christians" in accordance with the Universities and University College Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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DECLARATION

I declare that the thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at University Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

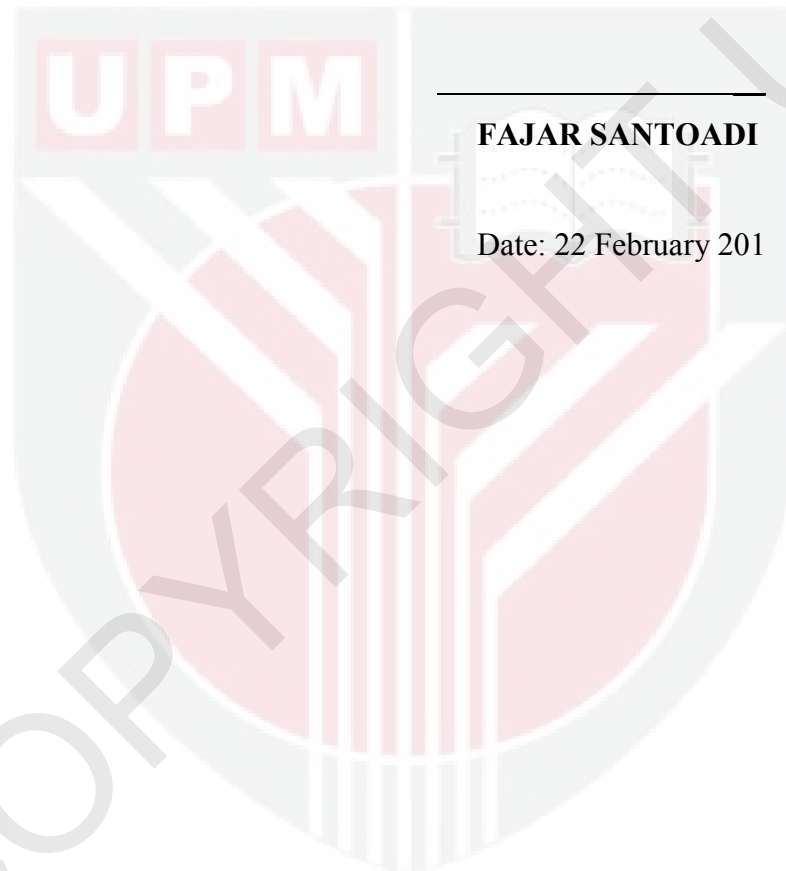


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BIODATA OF STUDENT

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