

<招待論文>

The Indonesian Youth Perception Towards Japan

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Abstract

Japan is well known as a high economic level state. The circumstance is marked by its membership upon the G-7 Group. For many Asian States, Japan is considered as one of state model in building its citizen's motivation in increasing its economic development. However, those achievements are not always inline towards the Image of Japan within half of Asian's point of views. There are some citizen in Korea and China which having negative image and critical thinking about Japan, especially when it is followed with Japan Involvement in the First World War (1914-1918) and The Second World War (1939-1945) including the predates events.

Japan and Indonesia are legally having diplomatic relations for more than 60 years since 1948. In order to understand Indonesian's perspectives towards Japan, the Writer had already been conducting a simple research by doing interviews towards 100 university students of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta in September 2016. They consist of 50 men and 50 women in the range of 18-20 years old which are the third generations after First and Second World War Generations. They are coming from 20 provinces from overall 34 provinces exists in Indonesia. Every interviewees should answer 8 questions provided which each questions containing 4 alternative answers which can be chosen among one of them.

The outcome of those research is resulting conclusion that the Indonesian Youth Generations are :

1. Majorities know Japan as advanced and discipline State
2. Majorities understand from the Historysubject in the School that Japan had ever colonized Indonesia, but without suing appology to the government openly, moreover suing compensation. Indonesian youth generations which are the third generations after First and Second World War could assume that the history had already been happening since long time ago, therefore the suing for appologize and compensation is considered not relevant anymore. Those are differents to what happening in Korea and People Republic of China. Those point of views are inline with their perceptions that Japan and Indonesia relation today is considered well.
3. Those good image of Japan are reflected in the Japanese motor vehicle brand product choosen which reaching 90 % by reasoning that Japanese Products are well in quality and post-selling services.
4. This is resulting, majorities (83%) of Indonesian Youth Generation are having positive image towards Japan.

The result of interviews is analyzed by using the International Relations and Historical Approach. Analysis is begun with description of triangle relations: Japan, Korea and China. Secondly, historical relations of Indonesia and Japan.

Key words: Indonesian Youth, Perception, Japan

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1. Background

Japan is considered as one of state model in building its citizen's motivation in increasing its economic development. Unfortunately, the achievement is not always inline with the Image of Japan in the point of view of some of Asian people. Some people of Korea and China still have negative perception towards Japan, especially those related to the involvement of japan in the 1st World War in 1914-1918 and 2nd World War in 1939-1945, and the phenomenon that preceded it. This situation can be proved by today's phenomenon which occurs in Korea and China. There are a lot of movements in those states which demand Japan to apologize openly and compensate for the adverse effects of Japan's involvement in the two World Wars.

2. Japan and Korea-China: Close but Distant Neighbour

The negative perception of Korea and China towards Japan is reflected in the writing of Bruce Stokes (2016) under the title *Hostile Neighbors: China vs. Japan: View each other as arrogant, violent; disagree on WWII legacy*¹⁾. China and Japan – neighboring economic and military powers – view each other with disdain, harbor mostly negative stereotypes of one another, disagree on Japan's World War II legacy and worry about future confrontations.

The two East Asian nations have a centuries-old relationship, punctuated by major conflict and strife. Most recently, Beijing and Tokyo have been at loggerheads about sovereignty over a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea, called the Senkaku by the Japanese and the Diaoyu by the Chinese. Only 14% of the Chinese say they have a positive view of Japan. In both countries positive views of the other nation have decreased since 2006.

In the case of China and Japan, publics tend to hold largely negative stereotypes of one another. The Chinese and the Japanese see each other as violent. Seven-in-ten Chinese see the Japanese in that light. Notably, about four-in-ten Chinese associate that word with the Japanese. Neither public sees the other as honest.

History remains a neuralgic issue in Sino-Japanese relations. Seven decades after the end of World War II, the two publics have starkly differing perceptions of whether Japan has expressed adequate regret for its wartime behavior. Just 10% of Chinese believe Japan has apologized enough for its military actions during the 1930s and 1940s.

Meanwhile, **Anti-Japanese sentiment in Korea** refers to the anti-Japanese sentiment in Korean society, which originates from historic, cultural, and nationalistic sentiments. The origins of anti-Japanese attitudes in Korea can be traced back to the effects of Japanese pirate raids and later to the 1592-98 Japanese invasions of Korea. Sentiments in contemporary society are largely attributed to the Japanese rule in Korea from 1910-45. According to a BBC World Service Poll conducted in 2014, 79% of South Koreans view Japan's influence negatively, and only 15% express a positive view, making South Korea, along with China, the second country with the most negative feelings of Japan in the world.²⁾

The joint survey, conducted by Japanese civic group Genron NPO and South Korean think tank

East Asia Institute from April to May, drew responses from around 1,000 people in each country and found that only 11.2 percent of Japanese respondents view South Korea as a military threat. This research mentioned that About 58.1 percent of South Koreans view Japan as a military threat, up from 46.3 percent the previous year, now that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is moving to beef up postwar security policy.

In a multiple-choice question, 83.4 percent of South Koreans and 71.6 percent of Japanese said they regard North Korea as a military threat, while 36.8 percent of South Koreans and 64.3 percent of Japanese said they viewed China as a military threat. It is shocking that in South Korea, Japan is seen as a military threat more so than China.³⁾

Abe's government is on pushing to pass bills to expand the types of missions the Self-Defense Forces can engage in and to enable Japan to engage in collective self-defense, or coming to the aid of an ally under armed attack, even when Japan itself is not under attack. They are also aimed at allowing Japan to participate in more peacekeeping operations abroad. Around 40 percent of the South Koreans polled said they also believe a military clash with Japan could occur within several years, while less than 10 percent of Japanese said likewise.

Ties between Japan and South Korea have deteriorated in recent years over history-related issues, including the *ianfu*, or "comfort women," Japan's euphemism for the tens of thousands of females forced to provide sex to Imperial Japanese soldiers before and during the war. Japan annexed the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945, when it was liberated by the Allied Powers. The two countries are also in a territorial row over a pair of tiny outcroppings in the Sea of Japan known as Dokdo in South Korea and Takeshima in Japan. South Korea refers to the body of water as the East Sea.

"South Korean people have an image of Japan as being a militaristic country based on their historic memories of the war and Japan's colonial rule. Prime Minister Abe's recent foreign policy is enlarging that image of Japan," said Jeong Han Wool, executive director and senior researcher at the East Asia Institute.⁴⁾

At least, there are three factors that make negative perception of Korean and Chinese people towards Japan, those are (1) historical background, (2) Geographical proximity to Japan, and (3) Marketing competition of industrial products. Firstly, the historical background makes people of Korea and China have negative perception towards Japan. Moreover, the occupation of Japanese military for 35 years during 1910 until 1945 had made people of Korea and China become sensitive towards Japan.

Secondly, geographic proximity to Japan has led both countries to have a claim conflict over their border island holdings. For example, the tension over Dokdo Island (South Korea) with Japan (Takeshima) or internationally it is called as Lian Court Rock.

Thirdly, it is related to the result of marketing competition of industrial products in the level of regional and global. The economic and industrial development of South Korea and China rise rapidly over the past few decades has led them to compete fiercely for international market share for their industrial outcomes.

3. Japan and Indonesia : Distant but Close Neighbour

Thus, how is the image of Japan in the perception of Indonesian youth at this moment? The explanation is using inductive method in which it reviews the result of interview with Indonesian young generation. After that, it is analyzed by using historical approach and international relations.

To understand Indonesian youth perception to Japan, we conduct such of interviews towards 100 university students of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. They are 18-20 years old which are the third generations after First and Second World War Generations. In those interviews they should answer 8 questions.

Jepang and Indonesia has been conducting their full diplomatic relations for more than 60 years since 1948. To know the perception of Indonesian youth towards Japan, the writer conducted a simple research by interviewing 100 university students of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. They consist of 50 men and 50 women aged 18 to 20, who are in the 3rd generation of World War I and World War II generation. They are derived from 20 provinces from a total of 34 provinces in Indonesia Each of them must answer 8 questions in which each question is given 4 alternative answers that they can choose one of them.

1) When you are hearing the name of “Japan”, what is your first perception in your mind?

- a. Discipline Citizen (43%)
- b. Advanced Economy (31%)
- c. Beautiful Country (12%)
- d. Ever Colonializing Indonesia (11%)

2) Do you know that Japan ever colonializing Indonesia for 3,5 years (1942-1945)?

- a. Knowing (54%)
- b. Well Knowing (41%)
- c. Don't Know (1%)
- d. Uncertain (2%)

3) According to you, How far the influence of History Science's Contents towards your perception about Japan?

- a. Influencing (68%)
- b. Very Influencing (8%)
- c. Not Influencing (23%)
- d. Don't Know (1%)

4) According to you, Does the Government of Japan Should apologize openly towards Indonesia due to their colonialization in the year of 1942-1945?

- a. Not Needed (50%)
- b. Needed, without prerequisite (25%)

- c. Needed, addition with compensation to the victims (14%)
- d. Don't Know (11%)

5) Mention the motor vehicle brands that you use to campus?

- a. Honda (70%)
- b. Yamaha (15%)
- c. Kawasaki (5%)
- d. Others (10%)

6) Why do you choose Japanese Products?

- a. Well Quality (53%)
- b. Obtainable (34%)
- d. Well Post-Selling Service (7%)
- e. Inexpensive (4%)

7) If it is simplified into scoring in the range of 0-100, According to you, How far the degree quality of Indonesia and Japan Government Relationship today?

- a. Very Good 76-100 (8%)
- b. Good 51-75 (65%)
- c. Average 26-50 (25%)
- d. Bad 0-25 (0%)

8) If it is simplified into scoring in the range of 0-100, How does your perception towards Japan?

- a. Good 60-80 (73%)
- b. Very Good 81-100 (10%)
- c. Average 26-50 (12%)
- d. Bad 0-25 (0%)

Taking from the simple research resulting upon conclusions of review:

1. Majorities are well knowing Japan as advanced and discipline state
2. Majorities understand from the History subject in school that Japan ever colonializing Indonesia but without suing appologize to the government openly, moreover suing compensation. Indonesian youth generation which are the third generation of post first and second world war can assume that the history had happened since long time ago which then the suing of apologize and compensation deemed irrelevant but this is different which what happen in Korea and People Republic of China. The viewpoint is inline with their perception that Japan and Indonesia relations today is in good relation.
3. Majorities (83%) of Indonesian Youth Generation are having positive image towards Japan.
4. Good image of Japan are reflected in the Japanese motor vehicle brand product chosen which

reaching 90 % by reasoning that Japanese Products are well in quality and post-selling services.

3.1 Historical Approach

Why does today Japan's image is considerate decent in the view of Indonesian youth generation? This can be started to be seen from how Indonesian legal historical literature explain about Japan to Indonesian student starting from elementary school until college, also including how does the social fact that being seen by them about Indonesia – Japan relation

a. Japan as inspiratory image. Near World War I (1914–1918), Japan had succeeded in defeating Russia in Manchuria. This phenomenon can be understood by Indonesian that Asian can stand equal and defeat Europe. This turn of event also as one of stimulant of Indonesian (Asian) spirit of nationalism that one day they can also defeat the Dutch colonialism (Europe).

b. Jepang as Fasilitator. World War II (1939-1945). In fact, Japan had occupied Indonesia for 3.5 years and impacting many disadvantages for Indonesia due to Romusha Program (Forced Work) or as Soldier (Heiho and Patriot in the name of PETA or Pembela Tanah Air). However, in the other side of Indonesian perspective, Japan existence also creating momentum which opening chance for Indonesia to prepare their independence. For example, Japan authority at that time permitted the establishment of Panitia Persiapan Kemerdekaan Indonesia (PPKI). In the early of 1945, General Mayeda in Hanoi invited 3 founding fathers (Soekarno, Hatta and Ki Bagus Hadikusumo) which supposed to prepare Indonesia independency soon. Even the early leaders of Indonesian National Army are ex-Heiho and PETA members.

c. Dualisme attitude toward Jepang. Indonesia in Soekarno Era (1945-1967).

In the early of independency, the first president of Indonesia, Soekarno was eager to state the slogan of Anti Neo Colonialism, and Neo Imperialism (Nekolim). This also include that Japan of Post World War II is ally of United States of America. Soekarno boldly stated the jargon of *Jepang Kita Tepang, Belanda Kita Gerinda*. Uniquely, he took a Japanese woman as wife.

d. Honeymoon of Indonesia – Jepang relations. Indonesia in Soeharto precedency (1967-1998)

In the Soeharto precedency which stated the jargon of developmentalism which then needed many foreign aids had impacted upon high flow of Japanese investment and product to Indonesia. Dam development is one of the investments conducted. Hydroelectric power plant powered by the dam was a means to facilitate the marketing of various Japan electronic products. For example is water pump machine, television, iron, Magic Jar and many more.

In the perspective of Indonesian, Japan is producer of industrial product with affordable price, guaranteed quality also best post-selling service than USA product or even Europe. It is not surprisingly if Japan two and four wheel vehicle could dominate more than 80% of market in Indonesia. Even, Japan domination could reach until iconic level; this means when people said about water pump machine is identically with SANYO, motorcycle with HONDA.

3.2 International relations study approach

ANALYSIS by the International Relations and Historical Approach. Indonesian youth

generations are having different perspectives than Korea and China citizen which having critical thinking towards Japan

- a. Indonesia was being colonized by Japan in a short amount of time (3,5 Years) yet giving inspiration and facilities for the Indonesian Independence process.
- b. Indonesia geographically quiet distant from Japan which resulting to no regional claiming conflict with Japan.
- c. For Indonesian people, China is more sensitive and critical issue, triggered by Economic domination of Diasporic-China's in Indonesian and PR. China's military activities in the South China Sea where Natuna Island (Indonesia) exist.

There are several reasons why Japan relatively gaining positive perspective in the view of Indonesian youth generation because of:

- a. Japan is not directly having border with Indonesia, therefore there will be no any conflict of interests frontally with Japan. For example in the term of territorial claim and transnational crime. This is different with what happen to People Republic of China and Korea which directly having border with Japan
- b. Japan in post World War II formally is not a militaristic state which then not directly involved with various world conflicts which possibly clashed with Indonesian interests. For example, majority of Indonesian are sensitive in issue of Arab – Israel conflict. In Yom Kippur War 1973, Japan position at that time is tend to be pro Israel than Majority of Indonesia which are pro-Arab. However, Indonesia is not emerging the anti Japan sentiment because of Japan is indirectly involved in the conflict.
- c. Based on moral and ethic, Japan and Indonesia had various similarities as Asian (East) which give priority to harmony than conflict, respect to seniority, and placing common interest over personal interest.
- d. Indonesian is relatively sensitive to the guarantee of safeties for Indonesian abroad. All the time, Indonesian rarely heard bad treatment news toward Indonesian who learn and work in Japan. Comparing to the fury of some Indonesian toward government of Saudi Arabia and Malaysia when there are bad treatment occurred to Indonesian there.
- e. For Yogyakarta people, Japan exclusively had psychological proximity due to some factors. First, Special Regional of Yogyakarta is the only one from 34 Provinces in Indonesia in the form of monarchy where king automatically becoming governor and *Adipati Pakualam* becoming vice governor. Yogyakarta King had closer ties of personal relation with Japan Kaiser (Hirohito and even Akihito). Yogyakarta which ever becoming the capital city of Indonesia (1946–1948) becoming the sister city with Kyoto (ex Japan capital city) and routinely conducting program together in the field of art and culture.

4. Challenges and Opportunities of Japan Image in 21th Century

1. Until second decade in the 21th century, Japan image is relatively good especially in Indonesian youth generation and Indonesian commonly because there are no issues which hinder the

relations of Indonesia and Japan in the sector of territory, ideology, military or even economy.

2. Indonesian youth generation have different perspectives with Korean and Chinese which both states having critical attitude toward Japan because of some reasons; First, Indonesia had been occupied by Japan in relatively short term (3,5 years) but giving inspiration and facilities for the Indonesian independent process. Second, Indonesia geographically relative distant from Japan which then not having conflict of territorial claim with Japan. It is different with South Korea and People republic of China which having border near Japan and direct border conflict with Japan.

Note

- 1) Bruce Stokes. Pew Research Center. September 13, 2016. "Hostile Neighbors: China vs. Japan :View each other as arrogant, violent; disagree on WWII legacy"
- 2) BBC World Service Poll conducted in 2014. Also read *Sansom, George; Sir Sansom; George Bailey (1961). A History of Japan, 1334-1615*. Stanford studies in the civilizations of Eastern Asia. Stanford University Press. p.360. ISBN 0-8047-0525-9.
- 3) Yasushi Kudo (Genron NPO chief). Joint Survey Japanese civic group Genron NPO and South Korean think tank East Asia Institute from April to May 2016. "Nearly 60% of South Koreans view Japan as military threat"
- 4) Jeong Han Wool, executive director and senior researcher at the East Asia Institute. Joint Survey Japanese civic group Genron NPO and South Korean think tank East Asia Institute from April to May 2016. "Nearly 60% of South Koreans view Japan as military threat"

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- [3] Yasushi Kudo (Genron NPO chief) & Jeong Han Wool (executive director and senior researcher at the East Asia Institute). Joint Survey Japanese civic group Genron NPO and South Korean think tank East Asia Institute from April to May 2016. "Nearly 60% of South Koreans view Japan as military threat"
- [4] BBC World Service Poll conducted in 2014.