

Preserving Multicultural Society: Comparing the Presentation of Multiculturalist Ideas in the Sociology-Humanities School Textbook in Indonesia and Thailand

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ABSTRACT

The ethnocultural diversities of the societies in Asian have been widely discussed to preserve in the contemporary academic discourses including at the high school social studies curriculum and textbooks. The consequence is understanding of multicultural theme increasingly that is circulating through international networks. The demographic changes in both Indonesia and the Thailand, and the schooling challenges of cultural diversity causing educators to consider reform using multicultural ideas, values, principles, programs and practices at different levels or stages. The need is equivalent with the goals and aims of teaching social science subjects for school children in the senior high schools. The study addresses to investigate how multicultural actually implemented in the social science textbook used in the senior high school in Indonesia and the Thailand. The study conducted a qualitative content analysis of several books used to teach Sociology subject at the high schools in Indonesia and Thailand. Those book were selected on the basis as published or accredited to use by the official government bodies of both countries. For Indonesia, they were Sociology textbook for Grade 10 (published by Cempaka Putih), for Grade 11 (published by Yrama Widya) dan for Grade 12 (published by Cempaka Putih). While for Thailand, it was the book of social studies for Mathayom 4, 5 and 6 named ?????????????????? ?????????? ??? ????????????????????????????????? - Nathi Polmuang Watnattham Lak Kandamnern shivit nai sangkom or Duties of Citizens, Culture and Way of Life in Society (published by the ministry of education of Thailand).

Based on the book reviewed and qualitative content analysis pursued in the study, it could be understood that the topic of multiculturalism were introduced and further elaborated in the social-sociology subject school textbooks for high schools of both countries. Multiculturalism was elaborated as the given and inevitable societal condition of diversity of the society of both countries which should be understood, conceived and further preserved for the betterment of social cohesion. There were three themes in where the idea was elaborated: (i) the existing ethnic, religious, class and cultural diversities of the society as the very fabric of the societies; (ii) the prominent idea of the multiculturalism to ensure quality while holding and preserving multicultural nature of the societies; and (iii) the ideal of societal harmony by promoting the common grounds and the society/nation first above all else.

Kata Kunci: *multiculturalism, high school sociology, harmony*