

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### A. Conclusion

Second-generation immigrants who grew up with two different cultures must have different assimilation experiences in comparison to their parents. For the second-generation Batak-American immigrants, they faced a situation where they grew up in the Batak-American community yet they also faced and adapted themselves in the dominant American culture to be accepted in American society. Experiencing Batak cultures inside the house, they see Batak gender norms as part of their identity however, they must have their perspective on the norms as it was very different from the American egalitarian culture that they grew up with.

By finding out the assimilation impacts towards second-generation Batak-American immigrants, the first research question which is *What are the impacts of assimilation towards second-generation view of Batak gender norms?* concludes that the impacts of assimilation towards second-generation immigrants in their view on traditional Batak-Toba gender norms and family are two. One is that assimilation made second-generation Batak-Indonesian immigrants view Batak traditional culture as stuck up cultures and two is that assimilation made second-generation Batak-Indonesian immigrants do not fully believe in Batak's Gender norms but still apply some parts of the gender norms. For second-generation

immigrants who view Batak gender norms as stuck up culture, the impacts of assimilation are seen through how they believe equalities in all aspects from the education and career, how they reject the purchasing woman symbol in Batak marriage process *Sinamot*, how they reject the patriarchal structure in the family, and how they choose Egalitarian values for their ideal marriage. Meanwhile, for the second-generation who still accept some of the value, they tend to tolerate the patriarchal values in Batak family structure and Batak gender role such as having a man as the head of household and tolerating the pressures that come from gender role as advantages. By using Portes and Zhou's Segmented assimilation theory (1993), the research finds that the outcomes of the second-generation Batak-American assimilation are segmented but it is more towards the straight-line theory in which children of immigrants are acculturated into the normative structure of the American egalitarian gender norms.

For the second research question which is *how did assimilation affect second-generation Batak-American immigrants on their view of Batak gender role and family structure?* The research finds that the assimilation affected second-generation Batak American immigrants in their view of gender role and family structure from different ways which are from the *progressive living environment, family, oppression, and education*. From the progressive living environment, second-generation immigrants that lived in the progressive culture state were impacted with the liberal values that persist equality value across genders. For the family, some of the informants learned to assimilate into the American egalitarian cultures while a small amount of them learned to adapt to the traditional Batak

gender role. With oppression, second-generation immigrants learned to not believe in the Batak traditional values by rejecting the stuck-up mindsets in a Batak gender role that they once experienced. For the last one which is education, second-generation immigrants learned equality through gender studies at school, those they were more influenced by the American egalitarian norms.

The next is answering the third research question which is *How are the constructions of Batak gender roles and family roles experienced by the second-generation Batak-American immigrants?* For the gender roles experienced by second-generation immigrants, the research finds two different results. In comparison between men and women, most women experienced more gender roles in their life. The most common gender role that they have experienced is to know how to handle the domestic job and to look attractive. Meanwhile, for men, the most common role that they have experienced is to have a promising career.

For the family structure, second-generation immigrants experienced diverse family structures. Surprisingly, the majority of second-generation immigrants experienced their mother as the head of the family. However, this happened because of the divorce of their parents and their fathers were still head of the household before their mother took over the position after the divorce. Meanwhile, for the rest of second-generation immigrants, they experienced family structures where the father became the head of the household, a family with equal partnership parents, and a family with an ambiguous household where the father was a decision-maker and a house-husband while the mother is the breadwinner.

By mentioning the impacts of assimilation, how did the assimilation affect second-generation immigrants in viewing Batak gender norms, and the experience of second-generation immigrants with Batak gender role and family structure, the research finds that the results of the research are following the segmented assimilation theory by Portes and Zhou. It is not in the way of the results are all segmented but by the fact that human capital impact the assimilation outcomes of second-generation immigrants. Portes and Zhou (1993) argue that the outcomes of second-generation immigrants' assimilation are related to the structural and cultural factors of the immigrants where second-generation immigrants with high human capital are more likely to have successful assimilation outcomes. Meanwhile, Second-generation Batak-American immigrants on this research were part of the advantages group that have human capital advantages in which their living environment, family, and education supported them to assimilate into the dominant cultures. Thus, they (human capital) lead them to have successful assimilation outcomes.

## **B. Recommendation**

As the topic of assimilation in the United States among second-generation Asian-American immigrants is no longer focused on East-Asia immigrants, the topic of assimilation should also cover other minorities that are still under-represented by the media and studies. Second-generation Batak-American immigrants, as one of the under-represented ethnic minorities, have different

outcomes of assimilation in giving their perspective to one of Batak's values, gender norms. As this research has been conducted on only ten second-generation Batak-American immigrants who live in the same area, the result is limited and not wide enough to represent second-generation Batak-American immigrants. Thus, future research can examine conduct their study to a larger research population so it can gain more factual findings on the impacts of assimilation towards second-generation Batak-American on their perspective of Batak ethnic gender norms or other Batak culture elements.

