

Education Reform in Chinese Schooling System in Bandung, Indonesia

Tjiang Yemima Christine

This thesis is a research on the development and reformation processes of education in Chinese language in Bandung, Indonesia. Before entering the theme research, the study first discusses the reformation process of modern education in Chinese language during the Dutch colonization era in Indonesia and compares the correlations between the Indonesian modern education, the Dutch–Indonesian educational system, and Chinese educational system, as well as the impact of the Japanese invasion from 1943 to 1945 on education in Chinese language in Indonesia. Finally, the influence of the termination of the Chinese Civil War in 1949 on the education in Chinese language in Bandung is explored.

Although modern education in Indonesia during the Dutch colonization era began later than China, nonetheless, it developed rapidly, providing educational opportunities that were favorable for Chinese in Indonesia. In addition to the alterations of teaching methods, its educational ideas were close to daily life, allowing students to apply the knowledge that they have learned to their lives. This was due to the influences of the educational systems of China and the Dutch–Indonesian government; it was the first step to modernization of the education in Chinese language in Indonesia for Chinese Indonesians. In the 1950s, education in Chinese language and the political views of the Indonesian Chinese community were closely linked. This gave rise to two different education systems during the later education reformation. The observation of the Bandung area can be representative, for on the one hand, the development of education in Chinese language in Bandung area reached its peak in the 1950s, and each school of education in Chinese language had progressed; on the other hand, the 1955 Asian–African Conference held in Bandung caused the Chinese society to be divided as a result of different political identifications, making the Bandung a place that is given much attention.

The study found that the development of Indonesian education in Chinese language during the Cold War, which advocated that the educational reformation of the Indonesian education in Chinese language be localized, was not merely a result of

influence under the oppressive Indonesian political situation in the 1960s. As early as in the 1950s, the direction of the education in Chinese language development was affected by the differences in political positions among the Chinese. The differences in political identities toward the Mainland and Taiwan generated different ideas regarding education in Chinese language. The localization course emerged as the left and right parties competed against each other. The situation mentioned above was the main developmental feature of the Indonesian education in Chinese language then, and the effects lasted for a long time.

Keywords : Bandung area in Indonesia, Chinese language education, educational reformation