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**“Psychology in Changing Global Contexts”**



**Faculty of Psychology  
Universitas Airlangga**

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#### **“Psychology in Changing Global Contexts”**

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## Cross-Cultural Emotion Recognition of Angry and Happy Face between China and Indonesia samples

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### Abstract.

*Face emotion recognition have an important ability in surviving in social relations and have been a nosology of anxiety disorder. The aim of this study is to test the influence of culture between Indonesia and China sample. Participants of this study are 40 student from both countries. Two experiments have been conducted to measure the latency and the score of correct answer in recognizing of happy, neutral and angry face. This reserach found that China samples are significatn more faster dan higher score in angry face recognition.*

**Keywords:** *Face recognition, Emotion, Angry, Happy*

### INTRODUCTION

Face recognition ability is a phylogenetically of social communication and represents of social aspect of interpersonal communication.(Grusser,1984; LeDoux, 1996). Emotional facial recognition may processed by separate neural systems from other task. Animal studies in monkeys have found specific activation neurons that respond to emotion recognition (Hasselmo, Rolls & Baylis,1989;Heywood & Cowey, 1992).

There are two important reasons to conduct the study. First is unfinished debate in cross cultural psychology whether emotion recognition is general or specific among the culture. The work of Ekman (1992) among others provides converging evidence for the existence of a set of primitive or basic emotions that allow rapid responses to biologically relevant stimuli. In humans, these basic emotions are associated with very specific facial expressions that are recognised across different cultures (e.g. Ekman, 1972).

Secondly, This research is focus in angry and happy face. Among the emotion recognition angry and happy are very important. The ability to orient attention towards threat which expressed in angry emotion is basic cognitive process for survival. Stimulus angry face modulated early frontocentral ERPs to angry faces (Bediou, Eimer, dâ€™Amato, Hauk, & Calder, 2009). Human have a specific ability to distinct response to happy and angry facial expressions (Nakato, Otsuka, Kanazawa, Yamaguchi, & Kakigi, 2010)

Other study shown the relation how happy and angry recognition corelate with social anxiety (Barrett, Lindquist, & Gendron, 2007; Dâ€™Argembeau, Van der Linden, Etienne, & Comblain, 2003). Thus its clear that the detection of angry and happy had adaptive and

survival in species (e.g. Power & Dalglish,1997). Hapines had been processed in a specfoc area in the brain.(Suzuki, Hoshino, & Shigemasu, 2009) Human infants as young as 5-6 months have ability discriminate between facial expressions of fear, anger, and sadness and angry face (Schwartz, Izard, & Ansul,1985;Serrano,Iglesias, & Loeches, 1992). Humans could detect an angry face in a crowd much faster than detecting a happy face in a crowd (Hansen & Hansen, 1988).

Third, Electrophysiological studies in angry or treathened situation found that threats are detected in brain located in the dorsal posterior insula and involving medial prefrontal cortex (1, 2), parietal(Schutter, Putman, Hermans, & van Honk, 2001), Amigdala (Adolphs & Tranel, 2003; Sato, et al., 2002).

Fourth, Cross culturally neuroscience found language involved in perception emotion recognition.(Barrett, et al., 2007; Chiao & Joan, 2009; MartÃnez Mateo, Cabanis, Loebell, & Krach, 2011; Pell, Paulmann, Dara, Alasser, & Kotz, 2009; Yuki, Maddux, & Masuda, 2007). This hypothesis support by evidence that located temporal area of he brain as the area that involved in facial emotion recognition. (Bonora, et al., 2011; Fowler, et al., 2006; Reynders, Broks, Dickson, Lee, & Turpin, 2005). Other studies support that temporal area as language processing and audio processing also involved in emotion recognition. (Hsieh, Hornberger, Piguet, & Hodges, 2012; Wang, Su, Fang, & Zhou, 2011).

Accordingly to test the effect of culture we compare the respond two distinctive emotions of angry and happy face pictures respond between China and Indonesia sample. Both of culture have different language. We hypotehsis a different activation between

respond in correctness, time reaction and EEG pattern activation between both countries.

**METHOD**

To answer the hypothesis we conduct two experiments. First experiment is to measure the correctness and time reaction (latency) in judging facial expression between two culture of Indonesia and china.

Participant of this study are 30 student with age of 19-26 year-old from both of culture. Second experiment is face recognition using EEG spectral analysis. Experimental design. We conduct an twogroup comparison design using emotional face of angry, neutral and happy stimulus. Instrument. We developed an on-line randomized facial emotion stimuli (Ekman)

using INQUISIT software. Three facial emotion block of experimental paradigm including caucasian face of fear, neutral and angry. Each block consisted of 12 pictures that been repeated 3 times randomly exposed to the participant. Data analisys. To analysis the comparrison data in latency and correctness and judgment of emotional face we used a non parametric test of wilcoxon signed rank test.

**RESULT**

None of the test of normality yielded an normal distribution. Therefore we employ a non-parametric statistics (tabel 1). Hypothesis testing yielded a significant different in latency and correctness in angry face recognition. China samples are significant more faster dan higher score in angry face recognition (tabel 2).

Tabel.1. Test of normality of experiment data

	Statistic	Df	Sig.	test of normality data
c_happy	0,2	30	0	no normal distribution data
c_neutral	0,24	30	0	no normal distribution data
c_angry	0,2	30	0	no normal distribution data
l_happy	0,15	30	0,07	normal distribution data
l_neutral	0,27	30	0	no normal distribution data
l_angry	0,26	30	0	no normal distribution data
Neutral_to_happy	0,2	30	0	no normal distribution data
Neutral_to_angry	0,18	30	0,01	no normal distribution data

C = correct Answer; l = latency in milli second

Tabel.2. Comparrison of latency (in milli second) and Number of correct answers in emotional face recognition

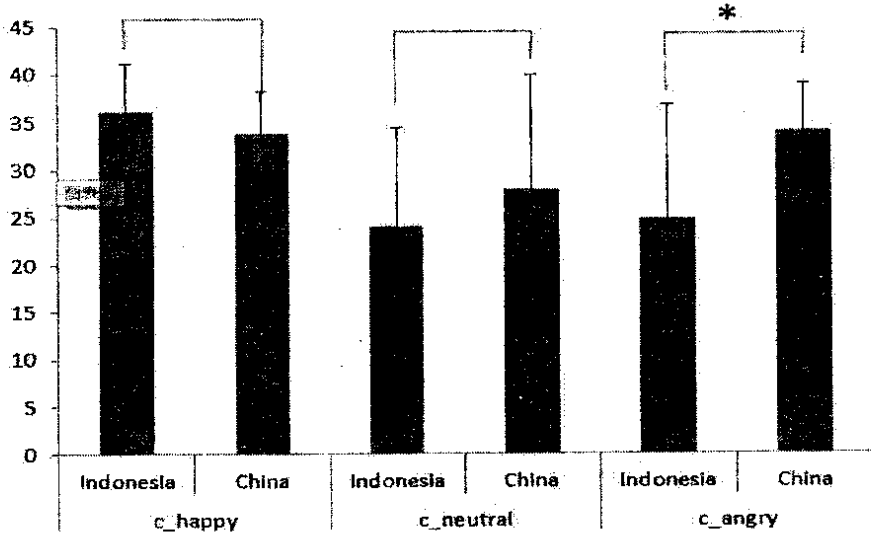
	c_happy	c_neutral	c_angry	l_neutral	l_angry	Neutral_to_happy	Neutral_to_angry
Wilcoxon W	187	201,5	170	198	177	209,5	221,5
Z	-1,91	-1,29	-2,6	-1,43	-2,3	-0,96	-0,46
P	0,06	0,2	0,01	0,15	0,02	0,34	0,65

Tabel.3. Mean and SD of latency and correct answers between two groups

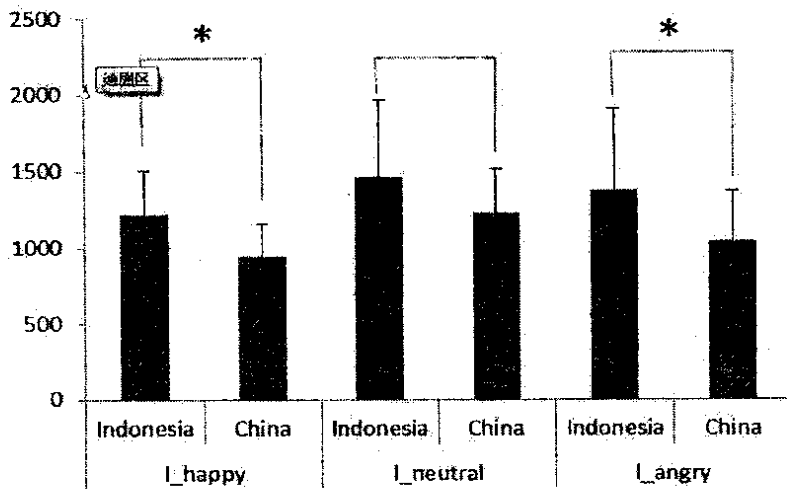
Latency (l) and correct answer (c)	groups	Mean	Std. Deviation	P
Correct answer happy	Indonesia	36,1	5,04	No significant difference
	China	33,9	4,27	
Corect answer angry	Indonesia	24,7	12	China group is higher in correct score to recognize angry face
	China	34	4,87	
Latency of happy	Indonesia	1218	290	China group is faster to recognize happy faces
	China	950	210	
Latency of angry	Indonesia	1371	537	China group is faster to recognize angry faces
	China	1048	324	
Neutral_to_happy	Indonesia	7,27	4,48	No significant difference
	China	5,4	4,78	
Neutral_to_angry	Indonesia	8	6,89	No significant difference
	China	7,8	8,27	



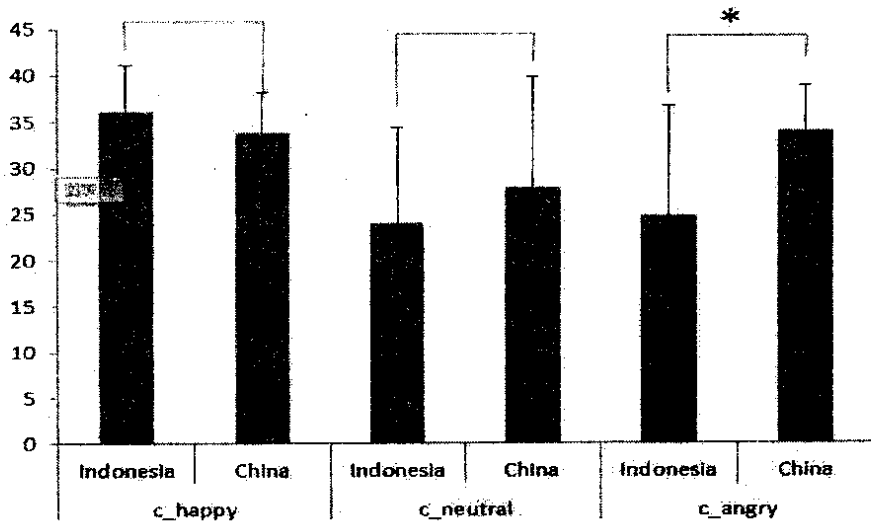
Graph 1. Correct answer comparisson between Indonesia and China Sample.



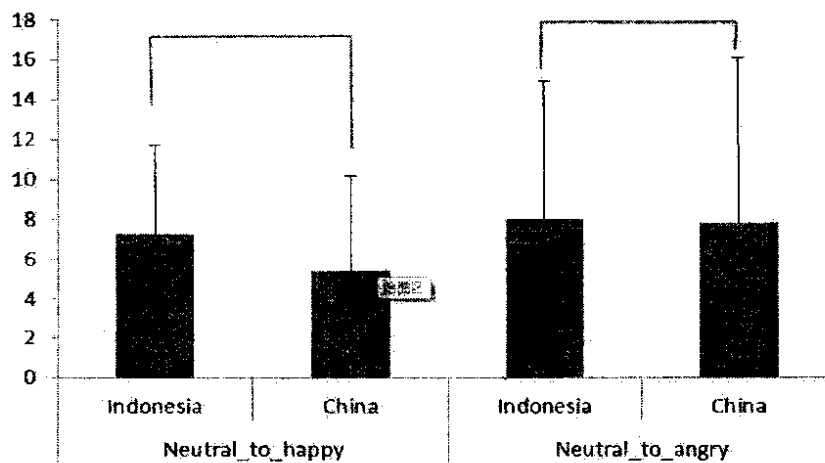
Graph 2. Speed of response comparisson between Indonesia and China Sample



Graph 1. Correct answer comparisson between Indonesia and China Sample.



Graph 3. Number of subjects mistaken neutral face to happy or angry



## DISCUSSION

The experimental result a mixed result. First, the result support the hypothesis that there is a statistical significant different between Indonesia and china samples in latency and correct response in emotional recognition. However this positive findings are only in angry face. This result supported the hypothesis that Culture through language processing in temporal lobe involved in emotion recognition. (Hsieh, Hornberger, Piguet, & Hodges, 2012; Wang, Su, Fang, & Zhou, 2011). China sample have more sensitive in latency and correct answer in angry face recognition. This may an effect of a cross cultural differences. First, angry face is a negative emotion recognition. Cross culturally Indonesia have positive value who perceived the stranger in a positive way. This values may affected in percentage of correct since Indonesia sample a lower score in correct answer.

Secondly we found no different in latency and correct answer between Indonesia and china in happy face recognition. This no significant different may resulted from our limitation study. We emphasize on two limitations of this experiment since there are control variabel that affected the results. First, Indonesian sample speak more than one language (English, Bahasa Indonesia and their regional language as their mother tongue). Since we use university student who are in student exchange both of samples have English ability. Secondly, repetition effect in face recognition may take effect since this experiment using repeated pictures.

China samples are significant faster dan higher score in angry face recognition. This result support our hypothesis that culture throught language that is representated in a different brain activation (temporal area) resulted statistically significant different between latency and the correct response of facial emotion recognition between two countries.

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