

Mate Selection Preferences in Intercultural Comparison: Literature Review

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Keywords: Mate Selection Preferences, Intercultural

Abstract: In early adulthood, each individual will face a new life, namely marriage. To carry out this new life, the individual will later seek life based on the characteristics used as mate selection preferences. This is done to avoid the emergence of incompatibility in marriage. Culture is one factor that supports individuals in choosing a life partner. Each tribe has different cultural characteristics so the preferences for choosing a life partner are also different. Indonesian and Chinese people have criteria in mate selection preferences. This review aims to look at mate selection preferences in intercultural. The method used was a literature review using the data obtained from Google Scholar by two keywords in Indonesian i.e. "mate selection preferences" and "intercultural". This literature review discusses the differences in mate selection preferences in each culture, each with its own characteristics. Mate selection preferences in Intercultural is inseparable from the role of culture. The role of culture will increase habits carried out by individuals in their mate selection preference. Therefore, the Indonesian and Chinese have many cultural differences, the preferences mate selection is different, depending on each individual's culture.

1 INTRODUCTION

Mate selection preferences is usually done by individuals before getting married. The preference for choosing a life partner is the process of choosing someone who is expected to be a life companion and someone who will become a partner in raising children later (Lykken & Tellegen, 1993). Each individual will face a new life in early adulthood, namely marriage. To live this new life, individuals will later seek life based on the characteristics used as mate selection preferences. This is done to avoid the emergence of incompatibility in marriage. Selection of a mate is a process of looking for and finding friends to be involved in a relationship, making the relationship a long-term commitment and ending in marriage (Wisnuwardhani & Mashoedi, 2011). According to Buss (2008), mate selection preference is described as a psychological mechanism that develops in relation to individual sexual choices from ancient times to the present. Early ancestors chose potential mates by considering certain

characteristics that were deemed possible for obtaining offspring and reproduction.

Indonesia and China have different cultures, thus the preferences for choosing a life partner are also different. This culture will influence the individual in choosing a life partner. From the research that has been done, several types of life partner preferences, namely (1) characteristics that are absolutely desired and on average each person has these characteristics (Kaptjin, 2011), (2) are specific based on sex differences (Buss, 1989), (3) characteristics that vary between individuals (Lykken, 1993), (4) characteristics vary based on culture (Buss, 1985).

The results of a literature review conducted by Aziz (2017) reveal how to build a *sakinah* family in the traditions and rituals of traditional Javanese marriages, the Keraton Surakarta and Yogyakarta. Thus we can see that Indonesia has many customs and traditions from each region, it will create a cultural pattern in the

preference for choosing a life partner.

The results of interviews with Dahlan et al. (2022) regarding female teachers in Indonesia, the teachers set criteria for potential partners who have the same religion, have responsibility, have a stable job, support careers, protect, solve problems, accept strengths and weaknesses and love family. In this study it can be seen that female teachers choose the preference of a life partner, many of whom choose partners who have the same religion. In this case, what is highlighted by Indonesians in choosing a partner is still looking at the religious similarity side.

Research conducted by Ratnani et al. (2021) Men and women in Indonesia need several characteristics that must be present in their partner but place them in a different order of priority. Characteristics that occupy a different priority order between men and women are intelligence, coming from a good family or heredity, university graduate, attractive personality, financial security, having an attractive physical appearance, able to take care of the house, desire and love children, physically healthy simple body and person.

Men and women have several reasons for choosing a partner classified as very important, that is, it must belong to their partner and therefore be their life partner for men or women. Reasons that are considered very important are having the same religious background, being attracted to or falling in love with each other, having a home and children, being a virgin or a virgin, having fun, being physically or spiritually healthy, mentally stable, and having good social skills (Ratnani et al (2021). Meanwhile, it is different from the preferences of Chinese people in choosing a life partner. In the study of Lin et al. (2018) shows that Contemporary Chinese adults still choose partners with a combination of traditional Chinese values (e.g., similar family background) and Western culture (e.g., good communication). However, people who tend to be young in China show a preference in choosing a partner by seeing greater incorporation of Western values than more mature partners.

Preferences in selecting partners in China for men and women are oriented towards relationships, commitment in relationships, long-term relationships, mutual support, mutual care, and living in good

circumstances (Zhang et al. 2015).

Some references are still rare in explaining in general how the preference for choosing a life partner is between Indonesians and Chinese. Thus it becomes an interesting thing to examine more deeply related to the preferences of the choice of life partners for Indonesians and Chinese.

Research on mate selection preferences between Indonesians and Chinese varies and does not have general specifications, however, these two countries have strong inclinations towards several cultures within their countries. It can be seen from the several studies mentioned above. Overall, differences in preferences in the selection of life partners between the two are different due to different cultures.

1.1 Mate Selection Preferences

Mate selection preferences is usually based on the selection of a candidate who can meet the person's needs and the thought that the person chooses a life partner who can meet the needs that must be met (Degenova, 2008). The definition of life partner preference according to Townsend & Roberts (1993) is that partner preference is a criterion that is usually considered, desired, and prioritized by individuals when choosing a life partner. According to Degenova (2008), two factors influence the preference for choosing a spouse: family background and personal characteristics (Degenova, 2008). In the family background, there are 3 aspects, namely socioeconomic status, education, and intelligence, as well as race and religion. In personal characteristics, there are 4 aspects, namely individual traits and behavior, age, similarity of attitudes and values, and gender roles and personal habits.

2 METHODS

Review of the guideline literature using PRISMA. The database used are Google Scholar. Article criteria from 2012 – 2022, reviewing 30 articles and using 20 articles. The keywords used in Indonesian and English include mate selection preferences and interculturality.

3 RESULTS

Table 1: Mate Selection Preferences (Indonesia)

Title, Author, Year	Purpose	Result
Faktor-Faktor yang Memengaruhi Pemilihan Pasangan Hidup pada Guru Wanita Berstatus Lajang (A.Mukarrama Diah Reski Dahlan, Asniar Khumas, & Dian Novita Siswanti, 2022)	This study aims to determine the factors that influence the choice of a spouse for single female teachers	Based on the research results, female teachers determine the criteria for potential partners who share the same faith, are responsible, have a steady job, support careers, can protect, are solutive to problems, accept strengths and weaknesses, and love family.
Studi Deskriptif Preferensi Pemilihan Pasangan Hidup Antara Pria Dan Wanita Pada Dewasa Awal (Indah Puji Ratnani, Mukhlis, dan Afni Benazir, 2021)	This study aims to look at the picture of preferences in the selection of life partners between men and Muslim adult women.	The results obtained show that there are both equations differences between men and women who are Muslim in choosing a potential partner life is mainly related to the characteristics that exist in the candidate. related with reasons in choosing a potential life partner, the similarity is found in fifteen of the eighteen characteristics of life partners, while the difference was found in three characteristic. Meanwhile, related to the priority characteristics that must exist in the candidate his life partner, the similarity of the priority order of men and women only occurs in four out of thirteen characteristics of spouses, while at nine other characteristics men and women place a different priority order.
Pengambilan Keputusan Memilih Pasangan Hidup Pada Wanita Dewasa Awal Yang Orangnya Berbeda Suku (Dwi Pratiwi Setiyawati & Dr. Dra. Hastaning Sakti, M. Kes, Psikolog, 2014)	This study aims to provide an overview and understanding decision-making process of choosing a life partner is carried out by young adult women whose parents are of different ethnicities.	The results of the study show that decision-making chooses for life partners in early adult women whose parents are of different ethnicities is decision making that is influenced by family conflict, long-distance relationships, weight-bearing seeds, the mother's experience, and not balanced information about paternal ethnicity and principles in decision-making.
Tradisi Pernikahan Adat Jawa Keraton Membentuk Keluarga Sakinah (Safrudin Aziz, 2017)	This study aims to discover the Javanese keraton traditional wedding traditions forming a sakinah family.	This paper reveals how to build a <i>sakinah</i> family in the traditions and rituals of traditional Javanese marriages, the Keraton Surakarta and Yogyakarta.

Table 2: Mate Selection Preferences (China)

Title, Author, Year	Purpose	Result
Chinese and American Individuals' Mate Selection Criteria: Updates, Modifications, and Extensions (Ruoxi Chen, Jason P. Austin, John K. Miller, and Fred P. Piercy, 2015)	To know Chinese and American individuals' mate selection criteria	We also compare our findings with the results of previous mate selection studies, highlighting possible developments in Chinese and American individuals' mate selection criteria, and suggest potential modifications and extensions of existing survey items to more comprehensively capture individuals' mate selection criteria, particularly in different cultural contexts.
Insider Perspectives of Mate Selection in Modern Chinese Society (Szu-Yu Lin, Richard B Miller, Li Ping Su, Jason Whiting, Roy Bean, Chih-Han Hsieh & Tsui-Shan Li, 2021)	To know the perspectives of mate selection in modern Chinese society.	These results indicate that contemporary Chinese adults value a combination of traditional Chinese (e.g., similar family background) and Western (e.g., good communication) values. Overall, the young Chinese participants showed greater incorporation of Western values than the older participants.
Can I Make My Own Decision? A Cross-Cultural Study of Perceived Social Network Influence in Mate Selection (Shuangyue Zhang dan Susan L. Kline, 2009)	To know decision a cross-cultural study of perceived social network influence in mate selection.	Network influence predicted Chinese marital intentions and relationship commitment. In contrast, relationship length and beliefs about support, care, living a better life, and network influence predicted U.S. participants' marital intentions and/or relationship commitment.
In-Law and Mate Preferences in Chinese Society and the Role of Traditional Cultural Values (Qingke Guo, Yujie Li, and Shushuang Yu, 2017)	To know in-law and mate preferences in Chinese society and the role of traditional cultural values.	This paper reveals how to build a <i>sakinah</i> family in the traditions and rituals of traditional Javanese marriages, the Keraton Surakarta and Yogyakarta.

Some of the literature review results in table 1 overview preferences in partner selection in Indonesia. In this case, the elements of customs, religious compatibility, faith, responsibility, having a steady job, supporting careers, can protect, solving problems, accepting strengths and weaknesses, and loving family are very inherent in decision-making in choosing a life partner Indonesian people.

According to the above literature review, the preference for choosing a life partner for Chinese people explains that there are differences in preferences for choosing a life partner between young couples and adult couples. shows that Contemporary Chinese adults still choose partners with a combination of traditional Chinese values (e.g. similar family background) and

Western culture (e.g. good communication). However, people who tend to be young in China show a preference in choosing a partner by seeing greater incorporation of Western values than more mature partners. Chinese people prefer partners who are capable of commitment, whereas relationship length and beliefs about support, care, living a better life, and network influence are predicted. Some Chinese people still look to their traditional culture in choosing a life partner.

4 DISCUSSION

This study contributes to the psychology literature looking at the preferences for choosing a life partner between Indonesian and Chinese people. Indonesia's mate selection preferences, tend to choose partners who are religious compatibility, faith, are responsible, have a steady job, support careers, can protect, are solutive to problems, accept strengths and weaknesses, and love family. This is in line with DeGenova (2008) statement that in choosing a partner several things affect a person, namely endogamy and exogamy. Endogamy is a system that traditionally indicates choosing a partner from their group, such as fellow Muslims or fellow white race. Whereas exogamy lets someone choose a partner outside their group. Mate selection preferences in Indonesia are also related to personal characteristics. When someone decides to choose a life partner, a match is needed so that the relationship can run as expected (DeGenova, 2008).

Chinese people in choosing their life partner tend to choose partners whose women are relationship-oriented, committed to relationships, long-term relationships, mutual support, mutual care, and living in good circumstances. Meanwhile, it is different from the preferences of Chinese people in choosing a life partner. There is a difference between the preferences for choosing a life partner for adult and young couples. This research shows that Contemporary Chinese adults still choose partners with a combination of traditional Chinese values (e.g. similar family background) and Western culture (e.g. good communication). However, people who tend to be young in China show a preference in choosing a partner by seeing greater incorporation of Western values than more mature partners. This is in line with the opinion of Degenova (2008) which is choosing a partner based on individual traits focusing on physical factors, personality, and mental health. Some Chinese people also see similarities in attitudes and values as well as gender roles and personal habits (Degenova, 2008).

5 CONCLUSION

Partner selection preferences in intercultural contexts are inseparable from the role of culture. The role of culture will increase the habits carried out by individuals in choosing their partner's preferences. Therefore, Indonesians and Chinese have many cultural

differences, so that the preferences for choosing a mate are different, depending on the culture of each individual.

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