

## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The present study attempted to investigate the factors related to the perception of the Chinese in Thailand by ethnic Thai people.

The factors which were investigated are the following:

1. Individual personality potentials for prejudice towards the Chinese.
2. The acceptance of societal standards regarding discrimination against the Chinese.
3. Peer group influence on the individuals' perceptions of the Chinese.

The sample consisted of 233 students, of which 114 were studying in pre-university level and 119 were studying in university level. Out of 233 students, 75 were male and 158 were female. All of the subjects in the sample were ethnic Thai in background for at least 3 generations.

The measures used in this study included a scale to measure Authoritarianism (F. Scale), a Conformity Scale (C. Scale) and an Anti-Chinese Scale.

The results obtained in the present study were the following:

1. There are no significant differences between the sexes and different levels of education on the F. Scale, the C. Scale and the Anti-Chinese Scale.

2. Negative feelings towards the Chinese (as measured by the Anti-Chinese Scale) among some of the subjects were shown to exist and were significantly correlated with:

- a. Personality factors of the individuals which were called "authoritarianism."
- b. Conformity of the individuals to peer groups which hold a negative image of the Chinese.

3. Negative feelings towards the Chinese were not significantly correlated with conformity to society in general (as measured by the C. Scale).

4. There were significant differences between persons who scored high and low on the F. Scale on the tendency to change their first impressions (as measured by the stories presented).

5. The general results of the F. Scale and C. Scale indicate the possibility of using these scales in Thai culture. Since there is a significant correlation between Anti-Chinese feelings and conformity to a peer group which has negative feelings towards the Chinese, further research should concentrate on the general effect that peer groups have on prejudice. This would seem to be especially important in societies like Thailand.