SOC352 Midterm Assignment

Muslim Negative Global Perception from Western Stereotypes

**Introduction**

Since the 9/11 terrorist attack brought the public’s attention to the Muslim groups, there is an intensified dispersal of Islamophobia in Western countries. With the increasing of middle-east conflicts, people begin to label Muslims as terrorists which leads to further prejudice and hatred crimes (Luqiu & Yang, 2018; Liqiu & Yang, 2019). Simultaneously, globalization brings awareness of terrorism towards Islamic countries to Asia. Western prejudice of Muslim terrorists produces negative images towards Muslims in Asia and deteriorate their relations with non-Muslim citizens.

Numerous scholars have explored the development of the relationship between Muslims and other religions amidst stereotyping tendencies by the western nation. This study proposes the degree of anti-Muslim sentiment in East Asian countries and whether the construction of the Muslim image in East-Asia is affected by Western ideologies. Both Muslim groups include local minority and immigrants. Asia has the largest number of Muslims where most of them live in central Asia. In contrast, East Asian countries such as China, Korean and Japan have a relatively small number of Muslims that Islam is a minority religion rather than the dominant one (Koo, 2018). There a view holds that the earliest contact with Islam was the trade between Arab and Persian. They traveled through the East Asian that passed China, Japan and Korean (Fathil&Fathil, 2011, p.133). Later civil war in China brought more Chinese Muslims to escape to Korean. Although China and Korean have a distinct culture and social context, the origin of Muslim can track to the same root which can become a starting point to study public’s attitude towards Muslims.

**Limitations**

Existing literature conduct the role of news media in China and Korean that tend to project a negative view toward Muslims. They examine news and online posts to evaluate the prevalence of negative attitudes which illustrate the overly reliance of domestic news to Western prejudice. There are 3 gaps in the existing literature. First, there is only little research about the perceptions of Muslims in Asian countries. Also, most of these studies perceived anti-Muslim sentiment as an existing phenomenon rather than a pending hypothesis. Second, researches use a limited coding theme on anti-Muslim sentiments. The degree of attitudes varies from minor misunderstanding to hatred crimes. The ambiguous scale of attitudes is insufficient to measure the construction of perceptions towards Muslims. Third, most researches ignore the impact of religious differences. Since Islam is a religion, this component should be studied in order to understand the attitudes towards a minority religion.

**Tentative Methodology**

 I will study the prevalence of anti-Muslim sentiment under the Chinese and Korean context by developing a measure that categories reactions towards Muslims into degrees. Also, I will examine the influence of Western countries by organizing the main resources which construct the public’s impression. The study will use a descriptive case study by comparing local non-Muslims’ attitudes toward Chinese Muslims and Korean Muslims.

References

Fathil, F., & Fathil, F. (2011). Islam in minority Muslim countries: A case study on Japan and Korea. *World Journal of Islamic History and Civilization*, *1*(2), 130-141.

Jeong, H. O. (2017). South Korean attitudes toward Muslims: Revealing the impact of religious tolerance. *Islam and Christian–Muslim Relations*, *28*(3), 381-398.

Koo, G. Y. (2018). Islamophobia and the Politics of Representation of Islam in Korea. *Journal of Korean Religions*, *9*(1), 159-192.

Luqiu, L. R., & Yang, F. (2019). Anti-muslim sentiment on social media in China and Chinese Muslims’ reactions to hatred and misunderstanding. *Chinese Journal of Communication*, 1-17.

Luqiu, L. R., & Yang, F. (2018). Islamophobia in China: news coverage, stereotypes, and Chinese Muslims’ perceptions of themselves and Islam. *Asian Journal of Communication*, *28*(6), 598-619.

| **Some Rubric** |
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| **Criteria** | **Ratings** | **Pts** |
| **Introduction****view longer description** | CommentsClearly introduces the area of interest and the problem. 0.5/1Uses a “hook” to capture the interest of the reader immediately. 1/1Introduces the necessary information relevant to the course and topic of interest. 0.75/1Provides a thesis statement that captures the intellectual position of the researcher in relation to the problem. 0.75/1Convinces the reader of the importance of the research problem in terms of its theoretical impact or practical significance. 0.25/1 | 3.25 / 5 pts |
| **Critical Analysis of the Existing Literature****view longer description** | CommentsReview focused on 1-3 specific items, such as what, when, where, how. 0.5/1Analyzes the state of the field on the identified topic, rather than just summarizing or describing. 2/3Review reflects thorough and careful research. 2/3Identifies the gaps, problems and issues unresolved by the literature. 2.25/3 | 6.75 / 10 pts |
| **Research Question(s)****view longer description** | CommentsUses the “funnel technique” to smoothly transition from the literature review to the research questions. 0.25/1States concisely the research questions. 0.75/1The research questions clearly correspond to the research gaps identified. 0.5/1The research questions are original, i.e., have not been asked in the literature already. 0.75/1There is an intellectual merit or broader impact of the research question. 0.75/1 | 3 / 5 pts |
| **Methodology****view longer description** | CommentsIntroduces the data gathering methods, sample, site, and design of research. 0.75/1Justifies the methodology in relation to the research topic or problem. 0.5/1The design of the methods is feasible and can be completed in 1-2 years. 0.75/1The methodology can actually answer the research questions being asked. 0.25/1States how the positionality of the researcher can potentially influence the results. 0/1 | 2.25 / 5 pts |
| **Writing Qualities****view longer description** | CommentsWriting is clear and concise, avoids excessive use of direct quotes. 0.25/1Subheadings used to clarify organization. 0.75/1Length appropriate - no more than 2 pages double-spaced. 1/1Writing is in active voice, present verb tense as much as possible. 1/1Grammar, spelling, citation style and punctuation are correct. 0.5/1 | 3.5 / 5 pts |
| Total Points: 18.75 |

Your research interest is somewhat identified, but it is not clear what exactly you want to focus on, why and how. You need to have research questions that are clearly and explicitly stated and justify why your topic is important to examine. You also need to have a clear and specific discussion of methods (population of interest? method used? why is this the best method for your study? Your positionality? etc.). Please proofread assignment before submitting to check for grammar/spelling/writing errors. Check comments throughout the paper for more clarification.