Summary

The object of study of this thesis is the Indonesian Chinese (1965-1997) and Sino-Indonesia bilateral relationship. By analyzing the social status of Indonesian Chinese in the different historical stages of Sino-Indonesia bilateral relationship, I study the role of Indonesian Chinese in this relationship as well as their impact in promoting the diplomatic, economic and trading relations between the two nations.

This study focuses on three different historical stages. The first stage is from 1965 to 1980. In 1965, the "September 30 Movement" took place in Indonesia, which in turn deteriorated Sino-Indonesia relationship. The second stage is from 1980 to 1990. During this period of time, the two nations restored direct trade and normalized diplomatic relations. In the third stage, which is from 1990 to 1997, the relation between the two nations became increasingly closer.

The whole dissertation is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is Introduction. It introduces the current studies in the area of Indonesian Chinese and their role in Sino-Indonesian relationship, as well as the limitation of these studies.
The second chapter analyzes the evolution and characteristics of the Indonesian Chinese’s social and economic status in Indonesia from a historical angle. It also reviews the basic condition of Indonesian Chinese Problem before 1965, hence establishing the fact that this problem has its historical continuity.

Chapter Three analyzes the role of the Indonesian Chinese in Sino-Indonesian bilateral diplomatic relationship. This chapter has four sections: a brief introduction of Sino-Indonesian diplomatic relation from 1965 to 1997, the Chinese Government’s consideration of Indonesian Chinese in its overall policy toward Indonesia, the Indonesian Government’s consideration of Indonesian Chinese in shaping its China Policy, and how the Indonesian Chinese influenced and promoted the bilateral diplomatic relationship.

Chapter Four analyzes the role of Indonesian Chinese in bilateral economic and trading relations. It also observes the indigenous Indonesian reactions over Indonesian Chinese active investments in China. There are three sections in this chapter: a brief introduction of Sino-Indonesian economic and trading relations between 1965 and 1997, an analysis of Indonesian Chinese’s investments in China, and the Indonesia’s viewpoints on these investments.

The last chapter is Conclusion. By means of a historical analysis and horizontal comparison, I conclude that in the process of
formulating foreign policy toward each other, the Indonesian Chinese is always an important factor for the two Governments foreign policy makers. It is also a major influential factor of this bilateral relationship. This role changes with changing times and conditions, and becomes lesser influential, but it is unlikely to disappear totally in a short period of time. The status of Indonesian Chinese has been directly affected by Sino-Indonesian bilateral relationship, but it can also become an active promoting factor, although the dynamics come mainly from the Indonesian Chinese businessmen.