SUMMARY

This M.A. thesis is a study of the formation and characteristics of Chinese identities in Indonesia between 1965-1998. Although there are many studies on the Indonesian Chinese, most of these studies focused on a comprehensive and historical portrayal of the Chinese in Indonesia during the period before Suharto, while little attention has been paid to the Chinese identities in Indonesia under Suharto. The primary aim in this study is to investigate how Chinese identities have changed within the changing situations.

This thesis examines Chinese identities in Indonesia under Suharto in three aspects: national identity, cultural identity and ethnic identity. Attention is placed on three areas:

1) the historical background, causes and impacts of Chinese national identities between 1965-1998,

2) the making of Chinese cultural identities under Suharto, with a focus on three aspects: Chinese literature, religion in the Chinese society, and the Chinese organizations,

3) the transformation of Chinese ethnic identities, especially on the interaction between Chinese economic roles and their ethnicity, and the comparative study of ethnicity between the Indonesia Chinese and a overseas Chinese.

This study concludes that Chinese identities in Indonesia have been modified in the context of assimilation under Suharto, they identify with Indonesia, but the extent to which the Chinese identify with the indigenous is different in different aspects. In addition, though Chinese identities have changed, the Chinese problem is still
unsolved because of the complex interplay between politics, economy and ethnicity.