SUMMARY

The lives of the Indonesian Chinese community have always been a popular subject in various academic studies. However, much emphasis of the studies has been placed on exploring the difficulties and resolutions faced by the community. Pertaining to this observation, this thesis attempts to look at issues related to the Indonesian Chinese through a new facet - by comparing the literary images of the Indonesian Chinese depicted in the works of two prominent authors in Indonesia.

Oey Tong Pin is an Indonesian Chinese author, while Pramoedya Ananta Toer is an ethnic Indonesian. Both authors are renowned in the literary field. By studying the Indonesian Chinese characters in their works (fiction and non-fiction), this dissertation seeks to compare and contrast how the two authors, representative of two distinct ethnic groups, view the Indonesian Chinese community. In addition, further study will be conducted to determine the factors affecting the characterization of Indonesian Chinese figures.

This dissertation will examine the two authors' characterization of Indonesian Chinese by scrutinizing three social relations that the community forged, namely, the relations between Indonesian Chinese and ethnic Indonesians, the relations between Indonesian Chinese and the colonial government, and the bond among the Indonesian Chinese themselves.

A number of similarities can be found in the two authors' characterization of Indonesian Chinese. Firstly, both authors believe that the relations between Indonesian Chinese and ethnic Indonesians is largely cordial, and that the two communities have worked hard for the prosperity of the nation. Culturally, besides putting in a fervent effort to preserve the Chinese culture, Indonesian Chinese also earnestly tried to fit in with the locals by speaking their dialect. During the anti-colonial period, Indonesian Chinese even fought hard alongside with the locals. However, due to the colonial masters' divide and rule policy, a rift was created between the two communities. The diversity in language and religion further contributed to the deepening of the differences and worsen the stereotypes.

As the two authors have distinctly different backgrounds and reasons for writing, some of their views on Indonesian Chinese inevitably differ. Oey Tong Pin's writings are primarily a recollection of the history of overseas Chinese. Hence, he devotes much attention to details and careful depiction of the lives of the Indonesian Chinese in different social levels. In contrast, Pramoedya Ananta Toer, who placed a greater emphasis on Indonesian nationalism and humanism, produced works that depict Indonesian Chinese as Indonesian nationals. As a
result, he discusses the role of Indonesian Chinese on the national level and examines the community’s contribution to Indonesian as a whole.