

*Concept of Mat-Rempit (Illegal fast driving)- A Study from Malaysia*

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## Introduction

Who actually individual that titled Mat Rempit? In the fact is, term 'Mat Rempit' did not exist in Bahasa Malaysia dictionary. Word 'Mat Rempit' actually introduced and popularized by Malaysian mass media which reveals madness phenomenon youth in activity illegal racing motorsikal previously (BeritaHarian 6th of November 2006). This working paper real focus is to check again concept definition 'rempit' that usage in Malaysia. Generally, word 'rempit' possibility taken from English language., namely ramp it which reflect racer extorting oil in road (circuit) which eventually become nickname to groups involved (Rozmi 2004). According to another definition based on Kamal Affendi (BeritaHarian 6th of November 2006), term 'rempit' start from combination 'rem' and 'pit'. Word 'rem' referring to performance extract oil to test engine power which often done by motorcyclist, while 'pit' on the other hand with reference to racing circuit, namely 'pit stop'. Result of the combined both word create term 'rempit' which eventually become general term to date. Apart from definition above term Mat Rempit also referred to individuals which participated illegal race use powerful small motorsikal (Rozmi, 2004; Rozmi, 2005). There is also possibility that term Mat Rempit derived from word 'berth'. This is because when riding motorcycles, this young people will squeeze to advance forwards, interrupt, mencelok and mengelencong to slash bigger vehicle. Article draft from new research by Rozmi et al (2009) on the other hand provide few features to treat the individual as a Mat Rempit, namely i) youth group; ii) Using low powered motorcycle; iii) illegal race iv) involving betting or not; v) activity in own group; vi) group structure that is not formal; vii) sub culture that is distinctive; and viii) Dangerous action and disturbing public peace.phenomenon that is distinctive, of which those involved with this phenomenon not necessarily motorcycle rider that 'merempit' that considered hardcore, but also involves audience actively involved in activity and event Mat Rempit.on the other hand, term Mat Rempit has definition that is far fuzzier. Individuals involved in this fenemona might be sustained under Section 42 Road Transport Act 1987 where they can be prosecuted ride dangerously motorsikal. There is hearsay from Malaysian Transport Minister that government would be amending Road Transport Act by end of this year to curb activity Mat Rempit (Utusan Online 2009). At the same time, party Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM) have proposed so that word Mat Rempit need to be destroyed and replaced with name 'road bully'. According to PDRM nickname Mat Rempit can become pride element to this group that will encourage further activity that negative in nature (Utusan Malaysia 20th of May 2009). Variety of definitions used for concept 'rempit', so researcher make concept redefinition 'rempit' as this study focus. This redefinition try to give criteria that is clear and complete to enable any future study can identify individual called as 'Mat Rempit' by operational. For the purpose, researcher have conducted study that is shaped qualitative to observe what does it mean with 'rempit' and activities related to him from individual that have been involved with activity considered 'rempit' itself. Patterned definition this

phenomena (Smith & Eatough 2007) is hoped able to avoid definition influence by society that behave out-group.

## Method

Study this involved deep a few interview serial which involves interview focus-group and interview individual. Interview focus-group involving 3 subject group in Penang, Johor Baharu and Kuala Lumpur that consisting of those who have been defended before under Section 42 because driving precariously motorsikal. Sampling technique used for focus-group is by purposive where police in areas involved give cooperation to researcher by ask individual that in prosecution process due to collision Section 42 be volunteers for interview purpose. Interview this involved 1 interview session (as long as 30-45 minutes every session) to every group staffed 4 to 5 persons, of which every subject paid and an amount of RM10. Interview individual on the other hand involving 16 student 3 to 5 in a secondary school in Semenyih, Selangor that consisting of subject that have been involved and still involved with activity Mat Rempit. Sampling technique used for group individual is by purposive and snow-ball with school counsellor parties assistance involved which identifies right students of this study. Interview session individual involving between 3 to 13 interview session (as long as 1 hour every session) to every subject carried out within 4 month, of which every subject paid and an amount of RM20 to every session. Agreement form join study already obtained from previous all studies.

Every interview session has been undertaken by experienced by an interviewer semi-instructor and recorded by audio and field record. For the working paper purpose, analysis only done through field record where interviewer make a note of salient points activity considered 'rempit' by subject. Analysis carried out with hand for grouping activities and the information in definite themes. Concept definition 'rempit' that formed from analysis then discussed with 3 interview subject individual (that is Mat Rempit rigid) for validated by them and carried out correction.

From analysis, Rempit can be defined as any collectively motorsikal competition activity (at least two persons) which involves race. eg. sprint or wipe. It triggered physically by act challenge through chugs signal motor (ramp), speech or hand signal. An Mat Rempit is individual involved in this activity. Therefore all following criteria should exist to say the individual as Mat Rempit, namely i) in collectively motorsikal competition activity (at least 2 persons); ii) in activity which involves race and or action stunt and iii) Activity involving act challenge. Criteria information and things that about explained one by one in partially extended.

#### a) HuraianAktivitiPertandinganMotorsikalSecaraBerkumpulan

This competition can happen whether by planned beforehand and also by unplanned spottily whether by day or night. There is collectively 3 form motorsikal competition, namely: i) companions or acquaintance in a region; ii) two or more groups bermotorsikal informal (that consisting of friend groups that is different, whether from an area that is same or from area that is different) or iii) two or more groups formal (that consisting of member of a group that have structure membership that is formal, whether at national level or area). Group formal have membership form respective which need to be recorded, of which every member would be given official adhesive and group official card involved (that should make payment. It is officially registered organization.eg. shell group.

#### b) HuraianAktiviti Yang MelibatkanPerlumbaan Dan / AtauAksi Stunt

Race carried out is to see objective who can bring by quickest motor cycle (speed used are among 120-170 km per hour). Race forms happened is: i) Sprint test - By race straight road; ii) Main wind (By of which racer will follow each other before tried to overtake among themselves in right time) iii) Main wipe - Race which involves road that have bend and iv) Main roundabout - Race which involves recurring round in roundabouts road. For action stunt on the other hand it carried out by to see objectivewho that can do by oldest action stunt (measure is based on how many post that street lamp that can be escaped). Action forms stunt happened is: i) Wheelie - Ride motor cycle by raise front tyre (can be carried out by an, together or redundant a motor cycle) ii) Wheekang - Ride motor cycle by raise rear tyre or iii) Aksi Superman - Ride by motor cycle lie centre as if fly, without place leg in foot brake or in gear.

#### c) HuraianPerbuatanCabarMencabarSemasaPertandingan

Act challenge physically which sparked activity rempit can be done through: i) Isyarat chugs motor (ramp) - Individual or group which challenges will be doing to the utmost ramp in front individual or group that want challenged him to contest. Signal ramp also can be carried out by indirect with challenger do to the utmost ramp while riding rapidly motor cycle in a region to challenge any other rider that can hear ii) Percakapan- Individual or group's representative which challenges will go itself for to individual or group that want challenged him to contest. This challenge could come

about either by good tone or with rude tone (tease) or iii) Isyarattangan- Individual or group's representative which challenges will be cited finger to individual preference or group that want challenged him to contest. When pick this finger, challenger can in a state of ride rapidly motor cycle or when stop.

#### d) Matlamat Pertandingan

Competition carried out have following goals: i) Main kosong- Pertandingan does not involve any reward material, only get satisfaction and name "good" only ii) Main duit- Pertandingan involving prize money (in value hundred to thousands of ringgit) iii) Taruhan motorsikal- Pertandingan involving motor cycle stake rode by those involved in competition. This commonly made if motor cycle is type stealing iv) Main burn motor- Pertandingan involving motor cycle burning that losing in competition involved. This commonly made if motor cycle type stealing or v) This Ganjaran perempuan- Pertandingan type is seldom and usually involve that volunteering to competition winner.

#### e) Sebab -Sebab Terlibat Dalam Aktiviti Rempit Yang Dilaporkan Subjek

Following is primary reason reported by subjects on their main reason involved in activity rempit; namely i) Akibat boredom; ii) Fun Perasaan during merempit; iii) Rasa 'heart burnt' when challenged other rider and iv) Untuk obtain recognition 'high status's from other rider where feeling of pride subject and great in self.

#### Discussion

Based on this study findings is very clear that were differences from definition aspect 'rempit' among what does it mean by audience and mass media compared to what does it mean by group 'Mat Rempit' itself. Word 'rempit' by public have connotation that is negative, whereas for Mat Rempit on the other hand word involved have connotation neutral. Although behaviour 'rempit' from illegal race aspect and behaviour sound loudly motorsikal engine could be perceived as act which upset other people, but for Mat Rempit behaviour involved regarded as behave 'personal' only. Few subjects interviewed say that they dissatisfied with society's ridicule because they consider 'rempit' is an activity that 'legal' because consider it no connection with crime. They think society have no right to judge them since society draw conclusion.

One of subject said: “Why Mat Rempit always faulted? Remember that bank robber wearing motor to? Them drive the car. But why people drive the car not faulted? Here rather agreeable researcher with what subject try to present. Society high possibility have bias that is certain result of usage availability representation. We likely more link Mat Rempit with crime activity due to mass media enlarge this issue. But at the same time, subject opinion involved also need considered by alert since exist possibility self-serving bias here during interview. Researcher find out study subjects involved in interview individual have the spirit that 'spirited' to explain to researcher on who actually Mat Rempit. Few subjects become very emotional when defend activity 'rempit' when researcher try offer alternative view on issue involved (for example, activity 'ramp' which upset other people peace at night)—“Care them!”, word one of subject tonally bridled at. Here, exist social reality difference possibility between general society and of individual considered (and consider) themselves design as 'Mat Rempit'. Possibility an Mat Rempit has cognitive distortion or cognitive distortion when perceive action considered him not wrong. At the same time, unknowable whether subject in fact cheat or not as study more focused to narrative truth (narrative truth) and not historical truth (historical truth) which requires researcher see individuals in life subject what recounted by subject (Spence 1984).

As this study is qualitative in nature which uses number of samples that a little and concentrate to 4 location only, so survey results this is more characteristic preliminary that can pave the way to quantitative other studies which uses sample size that is larger and representative. Definition criteria was nominated in this study need to be confirmed as universal to many 'Mat Rempit' all over Malaysia prior it usable confidently to study phenomenon Mat Rempit. This case will be enabled pengfokusan target group any given study that is future can make more accurately and not based on definition that is vague and patterned by society definition that behave out-group. Apart from that, ancillary observation this study show that existence of cognitive distortion probability at some subject 'Mat Rempit'. Perhaps will emerge problem for shaped study survey if subject involved distort the reality (consciously or not) when replying questionnaire form and disturb study findings reliability.

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