

# **THE STUDY OF A THAI-SIKH CROSS-CULTURAL KID IN THAILAND AND HIS CULTURAL IDENTITIES**

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## **Abstract**

Other than its own people, Thailand is home to 13 million Thai-Lao, 9.5 million people of Chinese heritage, 1.5 million Malay Muslims, 1.4 million Khmer, and several indigenous communities. It is located in Southeast Asia. However, due to the Thai government's efforts to integrate numerous ethnic groups under a single nationality, exact numbers of persons from various ethnic backgrounds are never fully counted. In 1886, the first Sikh immigrated to Thailand for commercial purposes. Later, in the early 1900s, they arrived to establish their first permanent home in Thailand. Despite their modest number, Sikhs in Thailand are well-known personalities in the economic world. Regardless of how long they have lived in Thailand and how well-known they are in the Thai business community, there is a small group there that is said not to have been fully integrated into Thai culture, making it a phenomenon worth researching. A number of major aspects of the participant's life were studied in the study, including his religious beliefs, costumes, romantic relationships, and languages, all of which were thoroughly analyzed by the researcher during an in-depth interview. The subject's social contacts and relationships with his closest friends and family were also examined in the study. The subject's spirituality, religion, and beliefs regarding morality and the afterlife were all examined in the study. The participant employs different acculturation strategies in various aspects of his life. He practices marginalization in his religious beliefs, neither adhering to his Sikh upbringing nor converting to Buddhism, instead rejecting all religions due to unsatisfactory answers to his questions about faith. His wife shares his atheistic views. Conversely, he demonstrates assimilation in his language use, favoring Thai over Punjabi, which shows his preference for Thai culture. Acculturation can be intentional, through deliberate efforts to integrate aspects of another culture, or unintentional, resulting from exposure to a new culture due to factors like immigration. Ultimately, acculturation leads to a blending of cultures, with individuals or groups adopting certain traits from the new culture while retaining some original cultural elements.

Keywords: Thai Sikhs, assimilation, acculturation, marginalization