

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

This chapter will provide conclusion from the previous chapters. It will conclude the analysis of China's foreign policy decision-making factors in South China Sea stability through the approaches that is implemented on the problem analysis. This chapter will also provides a suggestion to predict and suggest the solutions of the issue.

South China Sea is located surround by China, Taiwan and some of ASEAN member states like the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia. The area is covering 3.5 million square kilometers, where parts of its are part of some countries' maritime area. South China Sea is known with its oil and gas resources especially around Spratly and Paracel Islands, some island features in South China Sea. Besides the islands, South China Sea also consist of more than 250 reefs feature. The area becomes an attraction for fishery, especially from the surround countries.

However, the relation among the surround countries is not totally stable. Due to the claimant by China, South China Sea stability is being an attention. The tension in the area is getting higher after the reaction from each another towards China's claimant of the whole area of South China Sea. Eventhough the

claimant is still going on, China needs to maintain the stability in South China Sea as an important matter.

In this research, by using foreign policy approach and hegemony stability approach, China's foreign policy decision-making factors in South China Sea stability will be analyzed. Those approaches also predict the importance of South China Sea stability, in order to avoid conflict between China and Southeast Asia countries.

China's foreign policy decision-making factors in South China Sea stability are influenced by internal and external factors. The internal factor is the outcome from foreign policy decision maker which is the Chinese's leader. The leader in making of foreign policy need to consider China's domestic politics and economic and military capability. China's national interests that being implemented for years are aimed to achieve the people's need by means of peace, stable and conducive. The national interest's aims are opposite the action of China in responding the South China Sea dispute. Hence, the Chinese leader as the decision maker needs to consider to push back the aggressiveness of military action in order to react towards the dispute, since the dynamic of South China Sea impact some of Southeast Asia countries that surround the area.

Furthermore, China's economic capability has made China as one of the biggest economy country in the world. China that contribute to more than 15 percent of ASEAN states' trading,

make the decision maker to maintain the diplomatic stability with the region. The relations between China and Southeast Asian countries are in term of bilateral and multilateral, either in economy, investation, infrastructure and security cooperation. The economic trading between China and Southeast Asia is related to South China Sea, since the trading flow takes the Strait of Malacca to South China Sea as its route of export and import movement. If the conflict in South China Sea cannot be avoided, Southeast Asian nations' reaction will affect China's economy and other diplomatic reactions.

In term of economy cooperation with ASEAN, China is among the biggest four including the US, Japan and UK. China's attempt to achieve hegemony stability in the world, needs to consider the US as the opposite pole. Since some of ASEAN member states trust the US to maintain the military and security stability on its country and surround area including South China Sea border, China has to increase its awareness towards the US closeness with Southeast Asian countries. Hence, to maintain its security trustness from Southeast Asia countries, China puts its military patrol in South China Sea area and avoid a direct conflict by increase its diplomatic relations and strengthen economic cooperation with ASEAN countries.

Finally, there are several suggestions to maintain stability in South China Sea done by China. First, China can take a table talk with ASEAN member states as the suggestion by Singapore

to find the solution regarding South China Sea dispute. It can open possibility towards more maritime cooperation between China and the countries related with the issue. By the cooperation, the stability in the region and in South China Sea will maintain, even though each countries has claimed the features in South China Sea and China has built its military bases on its man-made islands. Second, with its natural resources potential, China should push and lowering its military patrol in South China Sea area especially that claimed by other countries. This aimed to maintain other countries' economy income that have their maritime rights on South China Sea, refering to some countries that happened to get lower sea activity especially fishery, which is impacted by the insecurity. This leads the tension in the region and lessen trust for China in term of military and security.