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# Attitudes of International Relations Bachelor's Degree Students Chulalongkorn University in the case of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union

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## Abstract

This research aims to (1) To study the reasons for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. (2) To study the attitudes of International Relations Bachelor's Degree Students Chulalongkorn University in the case of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. And (3) To study the attitudes of International Relations Bachelor's Degree Students Chulalongkorn University in the case of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union on the personal factors of the respondents, including gender, age and education level. This research is quantitative research; The population is 154 undergraduate students in International Relations, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University. The measurements used in the research were questionnaires, then the collected questionnaires were analyzed and processed by computer statistical software packages. in order to calculate the statistical value for answering the research objectives and hypothesis completely as set.

From the research results, it was found that the reasons for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union was national interests, Nationalism and skepticism. And the attitudes of the students towards the reasons for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union were as follows: the skepticism, for example, the UK was concerned about the future EU policy; the nationalism, such as voting for public referendum in England. The national interest, such as the British not wanting to bear the burden of helping other member countries.

**Keywords:** Attitudes, United of Kingdom (UK), European Union, Brexit

## 1. Introduction

The United Kingdom ( UK) has been a member of the European Union since 1973 , which the full name of the United Kingdom is “The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland”. England is actually only one - fourth of the United Kingdom consisting of England , Wales , Scotland and Northern Ireland .England is a country with a long history and has played an important role in international politics as well as being one of the world's strongest economies. England applied for membership in the European Economic Community for the first time in 1961 as it saw the rapid economic growth of its member countries. Their economy with Harold Macmillan Prime Minister of the Conservative Party. After gaining support from his government and his party and parliament, MacMillan was able to compromise and negotiate with dissenters and appoint a pro-European to his government. (Pannapa Chantrarom, 2016, pp. 2) With the belief that free trade will make people's lives better under the framework of the EU agreement, the main policy is to allow free movement of labor and capital. which has free trade between member countries without tariff barriers. Making the European market become a group of countries with an economic system that accounts for 22.22% of the global economy. That means goods and services produced in a particular country. of the European Union, for example, from the former England that

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produces products that can only be sold in England, it has become a wider market, almost all over Europe by default, including workers who used to work only in the country of their nationality can move to work in other countries in the European Union without having to apply for a work permit. Because being a member of the European Union does not only have the advantages of sharing a free trade area. But according to the latest agreement by EU member states in the Lisbon Treaty of 2009, The member states are required to surrender certain sovereignty to the European Union, including Finance, Taxes, International competition, Conservation of marine resources and Common Trade Policy. This is in addition to previous agreements providing for free movement of capital and labor. This is not only migrant workers but also immigrants from the Middle East. Concerns about job-deprivation and terrorism caused the British population to continually debate whether the UK should remain in the European Union or not. Or should it eventually break away? (So Preciso, 2020)

As a result of the historic referendum on Britain's withdrawal from the European Union on 23 June 2016 , with 51.9 per cent of the vote and 48.1 per cent of the stay. After Boris Johnson became Prime Minister And announced the stance of leading England out of the European Union, believing that it can leave the European Union A deal with the European Union has been reached, especially a trade deal, by October 31 , 2019 , or the UK will have to design a no-deal Brexit .really, which means The EU's tariffs are imminent and will affect the British economy immediately. Fighting Prime Minister Boris Johnson on the issue After more than three years of political turmoil, Britain left the European Union at 11:00 p.m. local time on 31 January 2020. End of 47-year EU membership. (Suthasinee Lertwatchara, 2016)

Britain's decision to leave the European Union has been a hot topic among international relations political science scholars. In keeping an eye on the issue of the reasons for England's withdrawal from the European Union. In particular, the idea of nationalism has returned to influence during the recent referendum on Brexit, which after a long period of controversy and conflict. Finally, the UK officially left the European Union. Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University. which is a leading university in Thailand has produced graduates in international relations for a long time. Therefore, the researcher was interested in the attitudes of undergraduate students. Studied in International Relations, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University on the cause of England's withdrawal from the European Union. In the future, these are the new generation of Thai academics in political science and international relations.

## **2. The objective of the study**

2.1 To study the reasons for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

2.2 To study the attitudes of International Relations Bachelor's Degree Students Chulalongkorn University in the case of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

2.3 To study the attitudes of International Relations Bachelor's Degree Students Chulalongkorn University in the case of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union on the personal factors of the respondents, including gender, age and education level.

## **3. Research Methods**

The research titled "Attitudes of International Relations Bachelor's Degree Students Chulalongkorn University in the case of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union" is quantitative research. The population is 154 undergraduate students in International Relations, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University. The measurements used in the research were questionnaires, then the collected questionnaires were analyzed and processed by computer statistical software packages. in order to calculate the statistical value for answering the research objectives and hypothesis completely as set.

#### 4. Results of study

4.1 Reasons why the UK wants to leave the European Union due to the need for independence in various policies and sovereignty as their own including the rules regulations The European Union is too strict. And that the UK will have to bear unnecessary costs that it has to pay for membership to the European Union. Including carrying the burden of immigration of countries in Eastern Europe. which the British themselves also believe that Their nation is superior to the European Union in many ways, for example, England was a great power in the past. economy and the pound's superiority over the euro, etc. These are all important factors in Britain's withdrawal from the European Union.

4.2 Attitudes toward the reasons for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union consisted of 3 aspects, ranked in order of highest average: National interests, Nationalism and Skepticism. (As in Table 1)

Table 1: The attitude level of Students on the Causes of Britain's Withdrawal from the European Union

	the level of attitudes		
	Mean ( $\bar{X}$ )	standard deviation (S.D.)	data interpretation
National interests	3.61	0.251	highest level
Nationalism	3.29	0.315	highest level
Skepticism	3.14	0.424	high level
<u>summary</u>	<u>3.35</u>	<u>0.33</u>	<u>highest level</u>

From Table 1, the level of attitudes of students towards the reasons for withdrawing from the European Union in England, a case study of undergraduate students in international relations, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, as a whole, found that the attitudes were at the highest level with an average of 3.35 ( $\bar{X} = 3.35$ , S.D. = 0.33) and the level of students' attitudes towards the reasons for UK's withdrawal from the European Union: A case study of undergraduate students in International Relations, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University. Each issue consisted of 3 aspects: National interests is at the highest level with an average of 3.61 ( $\bar{X} = 3.61$ , S.D. = 0.251) on nationalism was at the highest level with an average of 3.29 ( $\bar{X} = 3.29$ , S.D. = 0.315) Skepticism was at a high level with an average of 3.14. ( $\bar{X} = 3.14$ , S.D. = 0.424 )

4.3 Comparison of the level of attitudes of students towards the reasons for leaving the European Union in England overall to the personal factors of the respondents as a whole, it was found that : Overall, it was found that gender had a statistical significance of 0.026, which was less than 0.05, thus according to the hypothesis. Age has a statistical significance of 0.265, which is greater than 0.05, therefore it does not meet the assumption. The level of education has a statistical significance of 0.026, which is less than 0.05, thus according to the hypothesis. Considering each issue, it was found that National interest, Gender has a statistical significance of 0.008, which is less than 0.05, so it is in line with the hypothesis. Age had a statistical significance of 0.126, which was greater than 0.05, therefore it did not meet the hypothesis. The educational level had a statistical significance of 0.119, which was greater than 0.05, therefore, it did not meet the hypothesis. For Nationalism, gender had a statistical significance of 0.466, which was greater than 0.05, so it did not meet the hypothesis. Age has a statistical significance of 0.270, which is greater than 0.05, therefore it does not meet the hypothesis. The level of education has a statistical significance of 0.006,

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which is less than 0.05, thus according to the hypothesis. In terms of suspicion, Gender has a statistical significance of 0.670, which is greater than 0.05, therefore it does not meet the assumption. Age has a statistical significance of 0.130, which is greater than 0.05, therefore it does not meet the hypothesis. The level of education has a statistical significance of 0.384, which is greater than 0.05, therefore it does not meet the hypothesis.

## **5. Conclusions of the study**

It was found that the reasons for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union was national interests, Nationalism and skepticism. And the attitudes of the students towards the reasons for the UK's withdrawal from the European Union were as follows: the skepticism, for example, the UK was concerned about the future EU policy; the nationalism, such as voting for public referendum in England. The national interest, such as the British not wanting to bear the burden of helping other member countries.

## **6. Discussions**

Attitudes of students towards the reasons for UK's withdrawal from the European Union Overall, the results of the analysis of student attitudes towards the reasons for UK's withdrawal from the European Union were at the highest level. in the following order: national interests, nationalism, and skepticism. Consistent with the research of Thidarat Koprasi (2017) has studied the analysis of economic integration of the European Union and the European economic crisis in 2009-2016. that affects confidence in the economic potential of the European Union from England and the European Union has issued measures to solve the economic crisis, both short-term measures that member states have responded in a good direction. Long-term measures, on the other hand, are time-consuming as they involve a higher degree of renunciation of member countries' sovereignty. Finally, EU's outlook and challenges remain in high public debt. and the Union economy Europe lacks dynamic growth including domestic political problems Politics between EU member states and immigration problems. (Suebsawad Vutivoradit, Keratiwan Kalayanamitra and Sunhanat Jakkapattarawong, 2019)

## **7. Recommendations**

- 7.1 UK withdrawal from the European Union Therefore, England should carefully formulate its foreign policy, especially on the economy. By using negotiations with other EU countries to reach various agreements.
- 7.2 UK withdrawal from the European Union made England independent but lacks credibility in the financial system Therefore, it is necessary to build credibility quickly. to prevent economic slowdown.

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