

The Effect of Country of Origin, Perceived Quality, And Brand Image on the Purchase Intention of Etude House Cosmetics

Cindy Lestari Lie

Universitas Pelita Harapan, Indonesia

E-mail: cindslie@gmail.com

Innocentius Bernarto

Universitas Pelita Harapan, Indonesia

E-mail: bernarto227@gmail.com

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Abstract

The many interests of Indonesians for imported cosmetics have invited many foreign companies to enter the Indonesian market, including one of the leading cosmetic brands from South Korea, Etude House. The purpose of this research is to analyse and test the positive effects of country of origin, perceived quality, and brand image on the purchase intention of Etude House cosmetics. Based on the purpose of the research, the proposed hypotheses are: (1) The country of origin of a product affects positively on the purchase intention of a consumer, (2) The perceived quality of a product affects positively on the purchase intention of a consumer, and (3) The brand image of a product affects positively on the purchase intention of a consumer. The sample consists of Etude House consumers in Indonesia who are students of the University of Pelita Harapan, with a total of 146 respondents. The sampling technique used in the research is Convenience sampling method. The statistical analysis is applied by the approach of Partial Least Square – Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) method, with the program SmartPLS. The end result of this research has shown that (1) The country of origin of a product does not affect positively on purchase intention, (2) The perceived quality of a product has a positive and the most significant effect on purchase intention, and (3) The brand image of a product also has a positive and significant effect on purchase intention.

Keywords: country of origin, brand image, perceived quality, purchase intention.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

In the present period of globalization, improvements in the field of science and innovation have made it possible for individuals to be aware of new global merchandises (Gillespie, McBride, & Riddle, 2010). Thus, The Indonesian economy has been depending on item imports as one of the principle commitments to the improvement of its economy. Imported beauty sales in 2015 has reached up to US\$441 million (Adhitya, 2018). Based on the data of beauty product sales in 2016, 48% of consumers preferred global brand cosmetics as their brands of choice (“Consumer goods to Indonesia – Austrade”, 2018). The Brand Etude House has opened about 32 stores throughout Indonesia (Wulandari, 2013). In order to maintain and gain better purchase intention from current and new consumers of the brand, the company should always consider the effects of Country of Origin, Perceived Quality and Brand Image on the Purchase Intention of the brand.

1.2 Research Questions

There are 3 objectives in this research to be analyzed. First, does country of origin have a positive influence on the purchase intention of Etude House Cosmetics? Second, does perceived quality have a positive influence on the purchase intention of Etude House Cosmetics? Lastly, does brand image have a positive influence on the purchase intention of Etude House Cosmetics?

1.3 Literatur Review

1.3.1 Purchase Intention

Intention of purchase is a situation when the customer has not made a transaction but has entered the stage of the decision making process (Keller, 2012). This attitude will last until consumers get satisfaction from the products purchased, so consumers will remain loyal in using these products and even consumers will recommend these products to other people to take the product. Purchase intention cannot be separated from the consumer’s purchase decision theory, because intention is one of the final processes of purchasing decisions from consumers. Intention is a plan or how someone will behave from a particular situation in certain ways whether or not someone will (Schiffman & Kanuk, 2009). Purchase intention is obtained from a learning process and thinking process that form a perception (Mowen, 2006).

Purchase intention is part of the behavior component in consuming attitude. Meanwhile, Stigler (Schiffman & Kanuk, 2009, p. 240) states that a brand known by the buyer will generate interest in making purchasing decisions. The symbol and visualization of a product have a meaning that they can affect customer purchase intentions. Based on the description above, it can be concluded that purchase intention is a concentration of individual attention to an item that is accompanied by a feeling of pleasure towards the item, so interest causes desire and then, a feeling arises and convinces the individual that the item has benefits. Then, the individual wants to own the item by buying it. The intention of the purchase is also the inclination of customer to buy a certain brand of product by considering the level of possibility.

1.4 Hypothesis Development

1.4.1 The Relationship Between Country of Origin and Purchase Intention

Country of Origin is a person's association and mental trust in a product that is triggered by country of origin of the product (Kotler & Keller, 2012). Even when the quality of the products is sometimes not as good as the quality of the local products (for certain products). Based on the facts occurring at this time, the Country of Origin (COO) has become one of the considerations and raised topics in international marketing researches. Country of Origin is the country of origin of a brand that influences the purchase intentions of a consumer, which is one of the most important elements that is essential to the consumer buying behaviour. Country of Origin affects the perception and image of the products meaning that consumers tend to have specific and certain impressions of products based on the country that they were produced from. Their impressions maybe stereotypical as the quality of the product is strongly associated with the origin country (Shamindra & Saroj, 2011). Country of Origin is used as a quality standard for a product even before the product is actually bought.

Based on previous investigations, researchers have found that country-of-origin plays a significant role and has direct effect in the perception of consumers towards brands and products of specific countries (Degoma & Shetemam, 2014; Hanzaee & Khosrozadeh, 2011). Other studies have also shown that consumers takes consideration of where a product was made from, and directly affects the purchasing decision of perceived quality of domestic and foreign products, by the country's economic, political and technological advancements (Parkvithee & Miranda 2012; Rezvani, Dehkordi, Rahman, Fouladivandal, Eghtebasi & Habibi, 2012; Wang, Barnes & Ahn, 2012). Therefore, the hypothesis formulated is as follows:

H₁: The Country-of-origin affects positively on the Purchase Intention of Etude Cosmetics.

1.4.2 The Relationship Between Perceived Quality and Purchase Intention

Perceived Quality is the consumer's verdict regarding to the superiority of a product's quality based on subjective perceptions (Erdogmus & Turan, 2012), originating from the satisfaction of customer needs which leads to the consumers' perceptions of quality which is the behavior that arises from within the superiority of a product or service (Kotler, Armstrong, Saunders, & Wong, 2008). Perceived quality is how customers judge the superiority, experience and attitude of customers towards a particular product brand compared to competitors (Beneke, Flynn, Greig, & Mukaiwa, 2013). Thus, we can draw the conclusion that perceived quality is defined as how far a product meets the desires of the customer. This perception is relative because it corresponds to the views and thoughts of each consumer.

Based on previous investigations, researchers have concluded that perceived quality is one of the most important aspects of a product that affects a consumer's purchase intention positively and significantly (Nor, Yunus, & Edura, 2016). Perceived quality is much more important and considered by the consumers' intentions of purchasing and re-purchasing a product, as the higher the perceived quality of a product, the higher the perceived value is considered by the consumers (Degoma & Shetemam, 2014, Yee & San, 2011). Moreover, perceived quality is more impactful to the purchase intention of a product compared to the perceived price of the

product (Jaafar & Laip, 2012; Wu, Yeh, & Hsiao, 2011). According to the associated literature, the hypothesis to be verified and used in the study is as follows:

H₂: The Perceived Quality affects positively on the Purchase Intention of Etude Cosmetics.

1.4.3 The Relationship Between Brand Image and Purchase Intention

The American Marketing Association (AMA) defines brand as “a name, term, sign, symbols, or designs, or combinations of them, intended to identify the goods or services of one seller or group of sellers and to differentiate them from those of competitors” (Kotler & Keller 2012, p. 263). Brand Image is a perception of a brand that is a reflection of memory consumers will associate with the brand (Kotler & Keller, 2009). It can also be explained that brand image is a subjective and emotional picture of the customer, and is a particular form or picture of a trace meaning left behind in the minds of consumers (Wijaya, 2013). It also guides the consumers’ behavior towards the brand, whether to try it or leave it, because of a bad or irrelevant image with the needs of consumers. Brand image is what customers think or feel when they hear or see the name of a brand and is also called brand memory that contains the target market interpretation of product attributes or characteristics, product benefits, usage situation and marketer characteristics (Rosyidi, 2009).

Brand image was also proven to have a positively significant and direct effect on a consumer’s purchase intention. Brand Image influences a consumer’s purchase intention, as it reflects the consumers’ personal judgements and evaluations regarding the act of buying products publicly (Chih, Lin & Chen, 2013). Consumer purchase intention and loyalty are heavily influenced by the quality of a cosmetic products (Batra & Homer, 2004). High quality products help to create and maintain the confidence of consumers’ purchase decision. Consumers are always concerned with the quality of the cosmetics (Priyanga & Krishnaveni, 2016), thus, a consistent brand image and positioning help to increase the brand’s future success (Shah, Aziz, Jaffari, Ejaz, Fatima, & Sherazi, 2012; Tulipa & Muljani, 2015). Therefore, the hypothesis proposed is as follows:

H₃: The Brand Image affects positively on the Purchase Intention of Etude Cosmetics.

1.4.4 Research Model

Based on the theoretical framework above, the exogenous constructs are Country of Origin (COO), Perceived Quality (PQ), Brand Image (BI), and the endogenous construct is Purchase Intention (PI). The conceptual framework can be concluded as:

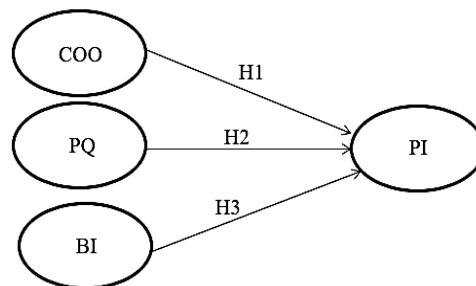


Figure 1. The research model.

2. Research Method

This research is a survey research, namely by method of collecting data and information by handing out online questionnaires via Google docs to the respondents. The population that will be used in this study is students of the UPH, Karawaci, Tangerang, Indonesia. The sampling technique used is convenience sampling method, which is a collection of information from the population that is easily obtained and able to provide information. The number of samples taken is 146 respondents who are students of UPH, and have purchased Etude House products, with the minimum age of 18. This research uses the partial least square-structural equation modeling (PLS-SEM) approach analyzed by SmartPLS 3.2.7 program. PLS-SEM is a variant-based structural equation analysis that can simultaneously perform measurement models at the same level as testing of structural models. The measurement model is used to test validity and reliability, while the structural model used is causal test (Abdillah & Hartono, 2015). The hypothesis testing will use the t_{value} of the data where the value should not be lower than the t_{table} value of 1.65 (level of significance = 5%). The indicators of the constructs are adapted from multiple previous researches, and are measured by the 5-points Likert scale, namely 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree, and 5 = Strongly Agree.

Country of origin is understood as the effect that appears in the consumers' perceptions affected by the location of where a product is produced (Czinkota & Ronkainen, 2010). There are 7 items used, which are the country innovation in production, level of technological progress, the production design, creativity, quality of production, the prestige of the brand's home country, and the image of the country as a developed country that are adapted from Ko, Kyung, and Hao (2015) and Yasin, Noor, and Mohamad (2007). Perceived Quality can be defined as the consumers' perception towards the overall quality or the relative superiority of a product or service to relevant alternatives in accordance with the consumer's objectives (Kotler & Keller, 2012). There are 6 items used in this construct, Performance, Resilience, Reliability, Aesthetics, Conformity, and Results which are adapted from Garvin (in Ko et al., 2015).

Brand image is a consumer-based brand knowledge, that can be considered as the type of association that comes to mind when consumers are remembering a particular brand (Keller, 2012). There are 8 items used, Benefits, Culture, Value, Corporate image that are adapted from Kotler and Keller (2012), and Brand Personality, Association, Knowledge, and Competence that are adapted from Hartono (2013). Purchase intention is something that represents consumers who have the possibility, will or plan to buy a product or service in the future. This increased interest in purchasing means an increase in the likelihood of purchase (Schiffman & Kanuk, 2009). There are 5 items used, Transactional interest, Referential interest, Preferential interest, and Explorative interest that are adapted from Bhakar, Bhakar, and Bhakar (2013).

3. Results

3.1 Respondent Profile

The majority of the respondents are females of ages 18-21 years old, with the average expenditure of IDR 100,000 – 300,000. Table 1 shows the detailed characteristics of the respondents:

Table 1. Respondent profile

	No. of Respondents (N = 146)	Percentage
Gender		
Male	2	1%
Female	144	99%
Age		
18-21 years old	116	80%
22-25 years old	30	20%
Average Cosmetics Expenditure		
< IDR 100,000	23	16%
IDR 100,000 – IDR 300,000	73	50%
IDR 300,000 – IDR 500,000	36	25%
> IDR 500,000	14	9%

Source: Data analysis result.

3.2 Measurement Model

The validity and reliability testing is carried out before evaluating the structural model. The validity is tested by calculating the average variance extracted (AVE), loading factors and discriminant validity (Hair, Hult, Ringle and Sarstedt (2014). The rule of thumb is used for convergent validity, namely the loading factor should be >0.7 (but 0.5-0.6 is still acceptable) and $AVE >0.50$ (Abdillah & Hartono, 2015). In testing the discriminant validity, it can be proven by the value of loading factor which is greater than the correlation between other latent constructs that are greater than 0.5, based on the rule of thumb (Abdillah & Hartono, 2015). The reliability testing is carried out by composite reliability (CR) where the values should be >0.7 , but 0.6 is still acceptable.

The Convergent Validity test was taken for each indicators, but a few indicators were proven to be invalid and had to be removed, as the loading factors were below the rule of thumb which should be >0.5 (Abdillah & Hartono, 2015). The first variable COO (Country of Origin) initially had 7 indicators, but 2 indicators were invalid, COO1 (0.288), COO2 (0.380), The second variable PQ (Perceived Quality) initially had 6 indicators, but one indicator was invalid, PQ5 (0.419), BI (Brand Image) initially had 8 indicators but 3 indicators were invalid, BI1(0.468), BI4(0.499) BI8(0.494). A Discriminant Validity test was also taken to further examination of the validity of the data, but indicators COO7 (0.500) BI2 (0.523), BI5 (0.686) had to be removed, in order to increase the strength of correlation between each variables. Table 1.2 shows the validity and reliability tests and Table 1.3 shows the discriminant validity of the data, which is as follows:

Table 2. Validity and Reliability test

Indicator	Description	Loading Factor	Result
Country of origin (AVE=0.560, CR=0.832)			
COO3	South Korea, the country of the brand Etude House is a technologically advanced country in producing cosmetic products	0.839	Valid
COO4	South Korea, the country of the brand Etude House has a good reputation in producing cosmetic products.	0.795	Valid
COO5	South Korea, the country of the brand Etude House, is known for their innovations in producing cosmetic products.	0.788	Valid
COO6	South Korea, the country of the brand Etude House, is known for their beautiful idols and celebrities.	0.530	Valid
Perceived Quality (AVE = 0.626, CR = 0.865)			
PQ1	I feel satisfied when I use cosmetic products from the brand Etude House	0.896	Valid
PQ2	Etude House cosmetic products are long lasting (durable)	0.721	Valid
PQ3	Etude House cosmetics contain safe ingredients.	0.731	Valid
PQ4	The variety of cosmetics produced by Etude House caters to my aesthetic needs.	0.804	Valid
PQ6	The brand Etude House makes me look classy.	0.792	Valid
Brand Image (AVE = 0.531, CR = 0.694)			
BI3	The brand Etude House has a good brand image.	0.693	Valid
BI6	The brand Etude House produces high quality products.	0.841	Valid
BI7	By using cosmetic products from Etude House, I feel as beautiful as Korean idols.	0.780	Valid
Purchase Intention (AVE = 0.732, CR = 0.893)			
PI1	I am interested in using the products from the brand Etude House.	0.856	Valid
PI2	I am interested in buying the products from the brand Etude House.	0.869	Valid
PI3	I am willing to recommend the brand Etude House to others.	0.823	Valid
PI4	I am interested in repurchasing cosmetic products from the brand Etude House.	0.894	Valid
PI5	I am interested in finding more information about the brand Etude House and their products.	0.834	Valid
Description: AVE= Average Variance Extraction; CR = Composite Reliability			

Source: Data analysis results.

Table 2. shows that all of the values of the data are considered to be valid and reliable as the AVE value > 0.5, the Composite Reliability is > 0.6 and the loading factors are considered valid, as they are > 0.7.

Table 3. Discriminant Validity

	BI	COO	PI	PQ
BI	0.774			
COO	0.513	0.748		
PI	0.757	0.402	0.856	
PQ	0.773	0.491	0.827	0.791

Source: Data analysis results.

The next validity test is to test the discriminant validity, by the use of the Fornell-Larcker criteria. According to Hair et al. (2014), Fornell-Larcker, the criteria is “the square root of the AVE of each construct should be higher than the construct’s highest correlation with any other construct in the model” (p.111). Table 3 reveals that all constructs meet the Fornell-Larcker criteria.

3.3 Structural Model

Structural model shows the relationships or strength of estimation between constructs. Multicollinearity tests were carried out to test the correlation between exogenous constructs and tested by the Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) value. The R-Square value is tested on the endogenous construct which is the predictive power of the structural model which can be used to explain the strength of the endogenous constructs (Hair et al., 2014).

3.3.1 Multicollinearity and R²

Multicollinearity test is a test that identifies correlation between exogenous constructs. In this test, Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) is used, and the value should be less than 5 (Hair et al., 2014). In Table 4, the results of the multicollinearity test can be seen more clearly:

Table 4. Multicollinearity test

Construct	VIF	Result
COO	1.399	Valid
PQ	2.564	Valid
BI	2.639	Valid

Source: Data analysis results.

Table 4 shows that all exogenous constructs, including COO (1.399), PQ (2.564), and BI (2.639) have passed the multicollinearity test, as the results of the VIF values are less than 10. The Inner Model in PLS-SEM also requires the value of R-Square test (the coefficient of determination) of the endogenous construct. R-Square values of 0.75, 0.50 and 0.25 show that the values of R-Square is substantial, moderate or weak (Hair et al., 2014). Table 5 shows the R-Square of Purchase Intention:

Table 5. R-Square Value

Construct	R-Square
<i>PI</i>	0.721

Source: Data analysis results.

Based on Table 5, it can be seen that the value of R-Square on the Purchase Intention construct is 0.721 (72.1%). Thus, the value of R-Square shows that the Purchase Intention construct has a strong model influenced by exogenous construct Country of Origin, Perceived Quality and Brand Image, and is affected by other constructs for the remaining 27.9%.

3.3.2 Hypothesis Testing

The hypothesis testing has a criterion to measure the significance of the data, by observing the value of the t_{value} , based on the level of confidence of the relationship of predictions between constructs supported by the conceptual foundation and previous empirical studies (Abdillah & Hartono, 2015). The hypothesis testing criteria is supported when the t_{value} is above the $t_{\text{statistics}}$ which is 1.65. (level of significance=5%, one tailed-test). The following is the detailed description of Table 6:

Table 6. Hypothesis testing

Hypothesis	Standardized Coefficient	t-value	Decision
H ₁ : The Country-of-origin (COO) affects positively on the Purchase Intention (PI) of Etude Cosmetics.	- 0.061	1.131	Not Supported
H ₂ : The Perceived Quality (PQ) affects positively on the Purchase Intention (PI) of Etude Cosmetics.	0.614	7.799	Supported
H ₃ : The Brand Image (BI) affects positively on the Purchase Intention (PI) of Etude Cosmetics.	0.314	3.364	Supported

Source: Data analysis results.

Based on Table 6, it can be seen that two of the hypotheses were supported and positively significant, and one hypothesis was not supported. The supported hypothesis results were H₂ and H₃, while Hypothesis H₁ was not supported, as the t_{value} was below 1.65 (level of significance = 5%, one tailed-test).

4. Conclusion

The following conclusions were drawn from the data analysis in this research. From the results of data that have been collected from Etude House consumers as many as 146 respondents, the multicollinearity test results show the value below 5, so it can be concluded that there were no symptoms of multicollinearity. Then, for the results of testing the value of R-Square, it can be concluded that the endogenous construct (Purchase Intention) has a model strongly influenced by exogenous constructs (Country of Origin, Perceived Quality, Brand Image) by 72.1% and

27.9% from other constructs. Based on the results of the first hypothesis test, it can be seen by the results of the hypothesis testing, that the results of data were not significant and the results of Hypothesis 1 of this study were consistent with the results of the hypothesis conducted by Ko et al. (2015) where the results of the first hypothesis were not supported. As the indicators of Country of Origin increases, the Purchase Intention decreases.

This is because Etude House cosmetics consumers do not consider where the country of origin of the product originated in the interest of purchasing and re-purchasing the cosmetic products from Etude House. However, there are other factors that influence consumers in the purchase intention in the products. These factors include the quality of cosmetic products of the brand Etude House, that is satisfactory to the consumers when they use the products, the affordability of Etude House cosmetic products that is relatively affordable to the market, and the ability for the brand Etude House to have a trendy and aesthetically pleasing packaging that attracts the purchase intention of the consumers. This could also be caused by the effect of the globalization of MNC companies, producing their products in other countries, for the benefit of economies of scale and efficient cost of production. Such as the Spanish fashion label Zara, it has taken the global strategy of manufacturing. Zara focuses on outsourcing their production in developing countries such as China, Cambodia, Bangladesh and Indonesia, and for more efficient labor and production costs, the design and value added stages of the production such as designing and quality control that have been done by the trusted of the home country, while more labor intensive and less value added tasks are outsourced such as purchase of raw materials and mass production of the products done in cheaper developing host countries (Escalona & Ramoz, 2014). Therefore, the hypothesis was not supported, and the Country of Origin does not influence Purchase Intention positively.

Based on the results of the second hypothesis test stating that Perceived Quality has positive and significant effect on the Purchase Intention of Etude Cosmetics. It can be seen by the results of the hypothesis testing, that the results of data were positive and significant. This relates to the previous researches that stated perceived quality as one of the most important aspects of a product's consumer purchase intention (Nor et al., 2016), as well as previous researchers' theory stating that perceived quality of a product has a positive and significant impact on purchase intention (Degoma & Shetemam, 2014). This result is also consistent with the results of research conducted by Ko et al. (2015) stating that perceived quality influence can reflect the customer's overall feeling about a product and can have a positive and significant impact on purchase intention. Therefore, Hypothesis 2 is supported.

Based on the results of the third hypothesis test stating that Brand Image affects positively and significantly on the Purchase Intention of Etude Cosmetics, it can be seen by the results of the hypothesis testing that the results of data were positive and significant. This relates to the previous researches stating that Brand image is proven to have positively significant and direct effect on a consumer's purchase intention (Chih et al., 2013). Therefore, Hypothesis 3 is supported.

5. Implications

Based on the conclusions, the implications are stated as follows; First, As the perceived quality

and brand image affect significantly and positively on the purchase intention of Etude House cosmetics, the company should focus on increasing the perceived quality of the products and build positive brand images with aesthetically pleasing and trendy product packaging in order to create better consumer purchase intentions. Based on the descriptive analysis, The Perceived Quality has the most significant influence on the purchase intention, but from the indicator PQ6 with the description “The brand Etude House makes me look classy” has the lowest mean value compared to the other indicators. This means that compared to the other indicators, how the brand image of Etude makes them look class, it is not as great as the other indicators. Therefore, Etude House cosmetics should focus on producing products with better quality, which could make the consumers look more sophisticated and classy. Second, Etude House should increase their attempt to strengthen and improve the brand awareness of the Etude House logo, which will increase the ability for the consumers to be able to distinguish the brand from other competitor brands, and produce aesthetically pleasing packaging, and the associate the brand with K-beauty even more.

6. Limitations and Future Research

Based on the results of this study, there are some limitations experienced when carrying out this research which are as follows; First, the study was only conducted on students of UPH, so that the scope of this study is limited and it only produces research on consumer purchase intention in a narrow environment. It is recommended that future research should be conducted to examine a larger variety of population and wider scope, the common population of Indonesia, in other regions of Indonesia, and other Universities, both State and Private Universities in Indonesia. Second, PLS-SEM has its disadvantages, namely that it cannot test the feasibility of the model. Therefore, it is expected that the next researcher can analyze using the CB (Covariance Based) -SEM (Structured Equation Modeling) approach which has the advantage of being able to test the feasibility of the model. Lastly, Convenience Sampling has a disadvantage that can result in sampling error. Therefore, the next researcher is advised to use a purposive sampling approach that requires researchers to specifically target the more knowledgeable and experienced samples for better and more detailed results.

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