

**SITUATIONAL VERSUS DISPOSITIONAL FACTORS IN THE ATTRIBUTION OF
POLITICAL PARTISANSHIP BEHAVIORS OF HIGH AND LOW INCOME CLASS
VOTERS IN A SELECTED METRO MANILA RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY:
AN ATTRIBUTION ANALYSIS**

A Thesis
Presented to
the Faculty of the Department of Behavioral Sciences
De La Salle University



In Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree
Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Sciences

by

Jose N. Gaston Jr. and Oscar H. Suarez

March 1985

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABSTRACT	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
Chapter	
1. INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Conceptual Framework	4
1.3 Statement of the Problem	6
1.4 Statement of the Hypothesis	6
1.5 Definition of Terms	8
1.6 Significance of the Study	11
1.7 Scope and Limitations	12
2. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	
2.1 A Historical Sketch of the Attributional Approaches	14
2.1.1 Heider's Naive Analysis of Action	14
2.1.2 Jones and Davis Theory of Correspondent Inferences	15
2.1.3 Bem's Theory of Self-Perception	15
2.1.4 Kelley's Approaches to Attribution Theory	16
2.1.5 Diagram - The Development of the Attributional Approaches	18
2.2 Studies on the Divergent Perspectives Hypothesis	19
2.3 Political Partisanship	20
2.4 Partisanship and Parties in the Philippine Context	22
2.5 The Social Class Variable in Political Partisanship	25
3. METHODOLOGY	
3.1 Research Design	27
3.2 Population and Sample	27
3.2.1 The Community	27
3.2.2 The Sample	28

3.3	Research Instruments	29
3.4	Procedure	31
3.5	Plan for Analysis	32
4.	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	
4.1	Results	34
4.1.1	Table 1	39
4.1.2	Table 2	40
4.1.3	Table 3	41
4.1.4	Table 4	42
4.2	Discussion	45
4.2.1	The Issue of Social Class	45
4.2.2	Major Psychological Variables	47
4.2.2.1	Perceived Freedom	47
4.2.2.2	Control	48
4.2.3	Socio-Political Implications	49
4.2.4	An Attributional Interpretation	52
4.2.5	Preservation of the Status Quo	53
4.2.6	Cognitive Dissonance and Self-Perception	54
4.2.7	Party Identification	56
4.2.8	Group Pressure	57
5.	SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	58
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	
	APPENDIX A Sample Questionnaires	
	APPENDIX B Chi-Square Print-Out	
	APPENDIX C Maps of the Community	

A B S T R A C T

The need to discern the causes behind his own behaviors, as well as those of other people, has always been a natural propensity of man. Social Psychology has addressed itself to this need through the *Attribution Theory*. Under the theory, either situational or dispositional factors are responsible for all observed behaviors. A major approach to attribution theory, the *Divergent Perspectives Hypothesis*, rests on the view that people attribute their own behaviors to situational factors, and those of other people to dispositional factors. In contemporary Philippine society, a fertile area for attributional analysis is the political partisanship behaviors of Filipinos. This present study subjects this area to an attributional analysis, under the framework of divergent perspectives. The subjects of the study were high and low income class voters from a selected residential community in Metro Manila. The researchers hypothesized that high and low income voters will make attributions of their own political partisanship behaviors, and those of poor and rich people respectively, based on the study's framework. They also hypothesized that there exists a significant difference between the interpersonal and self-attributions of high income class KBL and opposition supporters, as well as those of low income class KBL and opposition supporters. Chosen as sample were 146 high income and 85 low income households from the selected community. The researchers used an originally constructed and pre-tested questionnaire to measure situational and dispositional attributions of self and others. A Tagalog translation was made for the low income subjects. Using the chi-square statistical treatment, the results at .05 level of significance showed that: (a) High income class voters attribute their own political partisanship behaviors to situational factors, (b) Low income class voters attribute their own political partisanship to situational factors, (c) The dispositional attributions that high income class voters make of poor people's partisanship behaviors, does not significantly differ from their situational attributions, (d) The dispositional attributions that low income class voters make of rich people's political partisanship behaviors does not significantly differ from their situational attributions, (e) There is a significant difference between the self-attributions of the high income class supporters of the KBL and the opposition, (f) There is a significant difference between the self-attributions of the low income class supporters of the KBL and the opposition, (g) There is no significant difference between the interpersonal attributions of the high income class supporters of the KBL and the opposition, (h) There is no significant difference between the interpersonal attributions of the low income class supporters of the KBL and the opposition.