CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Culture refers to something that belongs to societies who use the custom from the past time and continue to be their habit. According to Tubbs and Moss, ‘Culture is a way of life developed and shared by a group of people and passed down from generation to generation’ (1943: 295). Culture can be defined as all of thinking, art and human art itself which lead from the result of the learning process. On the other hand human culture can also be influenced by their belief or their religion with all of the roles, the organization among the societies, the language they used, and kind of art their living.

Actually, every country, island and city has different culture because people who live in one place will live with their own way, their own habit and custom. For example; in America and Indonesia, the way people behave and speak are different. Usually an American goes straight the point when they talk and an Indonesian usually starts with short talk before going to the point. In addition, the differences between countries not only happen in their conversation but also in the way they introduce each other. In Japanese and Chinese culture, people usually bow their body in the first meeting. In Western culture, people shake their hand and never bow their body. Levin said that ‘Styles of introduction vary from country to country. Bowing to show respect is customary in parts of Far East. In the Western Hemisphere and in other parts of the world shaking hands is the common practice’ (1982: 7). These are what
they called as cultural variation. Basically they all have the same purpose, to provide an opportunity in order to know each other and respect them.

Because of the different culture, people will feel confuse when going to other country. When people are in a new environment, they will slowly realize that habit signs and responses that they usually get in daily life will be very different. Main causes from the syndrome are different of physic, environment and culture between home and the new country; climate, food, language, the way of dressing, people around and the way they life will be strange. Tendency to face something new is natural and normal. However this feeling can follow to fear, unconfident, stress and frustration. According to Martin and Nakayama (2003:272), most people experience the culture shock during a period of transition to a new culture, if they less communication with the societies they will face, because culture shock presumes cultural contact.

Furthermore, culture shock is a very different thing, sign and habit which happens to someone when he or she moves in a new place. According to Martin and Nakayama (2003:270), Culture shock is relatively short-term feeling of disorientation, of discomfort due to the unfamiliarity of surrounding and the lack of familiar cues in the environment. It supported by Eka Setya Wati (2006) who conducted a study about the cross cultural shocks experienced by Bob Haris in entering new culture and new environment in “Lost in Translation” movie. She found that entering new culture is not easy; people should have the cultural awareness to face different culture, custom, and societies before they enter new culture and new environment.
Based on the explanation above, the researcher would like to research about the culture shock faced by overseas students staying in Indonesia because there are many differences of culture that can raise some problems and obstacles for this adaptation process. Because of the problems found in the previous study, it makes the researcher would like to do a research about culture shock faced by overseas students then tried to find out the experiences or the problems of them, especially in reaching adaptation process.

I.2 Statement of Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the problems are formulated as follows:

1. What culture shocks are experienced by overseas students in Indonesia?
2. How do overseas students in Indonesia solve their culture shock?

I.3 Purpose of Study

Based on the statement of the problems above, the purpose of the study are;

1. To find out the examples of culture shock faced by overseas students in Indonesia.
2. To know how overseas students in Indonesia solve their culture shock.

I.4 Significance of Study

It is hoped that the result of this research will be useful for the readers, overseas students and lecturers. For the readers, it is hoped that this research will give
them knowledge about culture shocks. So, when they are going abroad they can have information to face the culture shocks. For overseas students, it will give them information about the culture shocks they face, and then they can have preparation to face anything that they will face in Indonesia. For the lecturers, they can help their students to adapt to the new culture to avoid culture shock.

I.5  Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is focused on the culture shock. And the limitation of this study is overseas students in Malang.

I.6  Definition of Key Terms

The writer gives the definition of key terms in order to clarify the terms to avoid the misunderstanding of the terms used in her study. Those definitions are as follow:

- *Culture* is the integrated pattern of human knowledge, belief and behaviors. Culture thus defined consists of language, ideas, beliefs, customs, taboos, codes, institutions, tools, techniques, and works of art, rituals, ceremonies, and other components (The New Encyclopedia Britannia, 1990: 784). Culture here means something that belongs to a group of people who use this custom from past time and continue to be their habit.
• *Culture Shock* is a relatively short-term feeling of disorientation, of discomfort due to the unfamiliarity of surroundings and the lack familiar cues in the environment. (Martin and Nakayama, 2003: 270). Culture shock means when people move to a new place or environment they will feel strength, unconfident, stress and frustration because of the custom in their new environment are different with their own custom.

• *Overseas student* is the student that study in different country or abroad. And overseas student here means the students which come from other countries.