

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, the statement of the problems, the purposes of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Research Background

One way in which culture has often been understood is as a body of knowledge that people have about a particular society. As Zion and Kozleski (2005) define that culture is the system of shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviors, and artifacts that the members of society use to interact with their world and with another. Culture is also used as identity of a country in the daily life in its society.

The process of living in the different culture which is called as cultural adjustment can be an exciting and stimulating experience. Hung-Wen (2006) describes that cultural adjustment is defined as the process of adaptation to living and working in a foreign culture. Krishnan & Kirubamoorthy (2017) assert that these include amongst others food, health care, driving, housing conditions, shopping, and the cost of living. In the process of adjusting, individuals begin to learn the rules and the customs of the new culture, whether they are accepted or rejected and it can be difficult for them.

The difficulty of being in a new culture is a common case that often happens. For example, based on Kirana (2013), Japanese workers experienced cultural adjustment when they were transferred to work in Indonesia. They are

accustomed to discipline and have a high work ethic have difficulty working in the environment of Indonesian workers who are often late and not excited enough to work. Other cases of difficulty to adjust are experienced by migrant workers abused by their employers in Saudi Arabia as stated in Asmorowati et al. (2007). This is due to the failure of adaptation because the workers did not get a good enough preparation related to the language and new work environment.

Based on the cases, the topic of cultural adjustment is essential for the creation of effective intercultural communication to enrich knowledge about cross cultural understanding so that people who want to go abroad may be able to adjust the new culture easier. In the other hand, international people benefit from living and studying abroad, including understanding other people's thoughts, beliefs, and new cultures. Moreover, studying abroad is a major decision that might shape students' future and also impact on their career. As Way, Otte, Ed, & Way, (2016) assume that nowadays, international education has become a phenomenon, and international students are considered as important sources of revenue for many countries. Related to that, University of Muhammadiyah Malang is one of the Universities in Indonesia cooperating with some countries in education such as providing the 3rd international internship program to Thailand for all departments of Teacher Training and Education Faculty, one of them is English Language Educational Department (ELED).

As the world is increasingly becoming to a multi-cultural, understanding the differences between cultures is becoming increasingly important (Tas, 2013). Thus, cultural adjustment attracts researches to focus on it as well as some

recorded by Digital library at University of Muhammadiyah Malang. As reported there, most of researchers discussed about cultural adjustments in general such as food, weather, rules, law, and housing conditions. There is only a few of thesis discussed surface or deeper analysis of cultural adjustment.

Based on some explanation and previous studies related to this research, the researcher is attempting to explore more to the limited number of research related to surface or deeper analysis of cultural adjustment that exists consciously or subconsciously in the 3rd international internship program to Thailand. Furthermore, the result of this study provides insights into the cultural adjustment phenomena in a multi-cultural society about phases and the way to adjust them.

1.2 Research Problems

This study is conducted to answer the following research problems:

1. What are the phases of cultural adjustments faced by ELED students of UMM participated in the 3rd international internship program to Thailand in 2016?
2. How did ELED students of UMM adjust the culture during the Program?

1.3 Research Objectives

The purposes of the study are:

1. To investigate the phases of cultural adjustments faced by ELED students of UMM participated in the 3rd international internship program to Thailand in 2016.

2. To analyze how ELED students of UMM adjusted the culture during the program.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

To avoid the research become broader, the scope of this study focused on the phases and adjustments of the cultures experienced by Indonesian students within their daily life during the 3rd international internship program to Thailand in 2016. The study is limited only to the students from ELED participating in the program.

1.5 Research Significance

a) For Students

By doing this research, students are expected to enrich and enlarge the knowledge about cross cultural understanding. Moreover, this study is also conducted in order to motivate them to analyze phenomenon occurs when they encounter new culture and environment.

b) For Teachers

The teachers who teach not only Cross Cultural Understanding subject, but also for those who teach the other subjects related to this field are expected to enrich and enlarge the knowledge about cross cultural understanding.

c) For Further Research

The result of this study is forecasted to give contribution for the next researchers who want to conduct a similar research with the topic about cultural

adjustment. They also can use the data and references taken in this research as a source to make a consideration for the next study.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To clarify the terms used in this study, the writer gives some definition of key terms. They are investigated in this study as follows:

- a. Culture is not simply a body of knowledge but rather a framework in which people live their lives and communicate shared meanings with each other (Scarino & Liddicoat, 2009).
- b. Cultural adjustment is defined as the process of adaptation to living and working in a foreign culture (Hung-Wen, 2006).
- c. ELED is one of the departments at University of Muhammadiyah Malang which is hoped to be able to provide its students as teacher in the future with ability in teaching English professionally.
- d. The 3rd international internship program is a program offered by Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of UMM only for its students from any department who want to experience their 3rd internship in which takes place in Thailand for one month.