Keywords: Culture shock, Mrs. Dutta Writes a Letter

Literature is one of the most exciting parts in study language. By reading literature, the readers not only get enjoyment but also knowledge about human life, human ways of thinking, even about culture or custom of certain country. It gives the readers valuable lessons of life as a reflection of human being with their good and bad deeds. Besides, it can enrich senses of humanity.

In this thesis, one of Divakaruni’s short stories entitled “Mrs. Dutta writes a letter” was selected to be analyzed. This study focused on culture shocks faced by the main character of the story, Mrs. Dutta. Therefore, this study was attended to answer the statement of the problems. Those were: (1) What are the examples of culture shocks faced by Mrs. Dutta on Divakaruni’s short story “Mrs. Dutta Writes a Letter”? (2) How did she solve her culture shock?

In analyzing this short story, descriptive qualitative research was selected as research design, because this study was concerned with an analytic description. The researcher used formalism approach, because he only studied the events of the story itself.

Based on the result of the study, there were seven examples of culture shocks faced by Mrs. Dutta when she lived in California. They were: (1) The habit of not waking up in the morning, (2) The habit of letting sager’s children to close their room's door, (3) The habit of sending mother’s day gift, (4) The way of washing clothes, (5) The way shyamoli addressed her husband, (6) The job description between man and woman, (7) Introducing herself to the people around her home.

Mrs. Dutta was shocked at the customs of American culture because she did not learn about American culture before she moved to California. As a consequence, she got culture shock when she faced the customs of American people that clash with her custom, in this case Indian customs. So it can be said that the reason why Mrs. Dutta got culture shock in California is because of the lack of information about American culture.

Mrs. Dutta shared her problem to Mrs. Bassu, her friend who lived in India. In this case Mrs. Bassu gave her friend some suggestions to solve her culture shocks. Finally, Mrs. Dutta could overcome her culture shocks and lived with her son, Sagar, her daughter-in-law, Syamoli, and her grand children.