CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses some topics related to the background of the study, statement of the studies, purpose of the studies, significance of the studies, scope and limitation, and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Every people know that culture is a part of human life and it cannot be separated each other. Culture of any people refers to the product of history which are shared by people and built up over time, also according to who is perceiving and interpreting it. It is largely through by the processes which the people are sometimes not aware of how their behavior and attitudes have been shaped by their culture. Therefore, culture becomes a way of life, beliefs, values, and assumptions about life that guide people behaviors. According to Brislin (2000:4):

Culture refers to shared values and concepts among people who most often speak the same language and live in proximity to each other. These values and concepts are transmitted for generations, and they provide guidance for everyday behaviors.

While, Hall states that culture is defined as a historically shared system of symbolic resources through which we make our world meaningfully (2002).

Virtually, every country, city, and region has different culture because the way people live and behave in one place will live with their own way. It includes the way of their thinking, their habitual, and their style. For instance, the way of Americans thinking are individual and they always know when they have to take the
statements seriously and when not, whereas Indonesian, they prompt to help each other, not individually, also sometimes they do not have strong conviction. In Yogyakarta and Surabaya, the way people behave and speak are different. In Yogyakarta, people usually speak with low and soft intonation while in Surabaya, they tend to speak with high intonation. In addition, the style of introduction in Japan and America is different. In Japanese culture, people usually bow their body in the first meeting, while American culture, people only shake their hand without bow their body. These are called as cultural variation. Basically, they have the same purpose in order to know each other and respect them.

Effects of those differences make people feel confused when they go to other country or other city. It can be called as culture shock. Culture shock is not necessarily an acute illness. It is defined as a term used to describe the anxiety and feeling (surprise, disorientation, confusion), it is not only focus on psychological feeling but also about physical distress. According to Oberg, “Culture shock is described as precipitated by the anxiety that results from losing all our familiar signs and symbols of social intercourse” (Oberg, 1960). Meanwhile, according to Samovar:

Culture shock is a mental state caused by the transition that occurs when you go from a familiar cultural environment to an unfamiliar one and discover that your normative, established patterns of behavior are ineffective (2012:10).

Every person definitely ever feels culture shock whenever he/she is being out of place in a certain place and time. Including general awkward with new situations, irrational fears, difficulty with sleeping, anxiety and depression, homesickness, preoccupation with health, and feeling sick or nauseous. Most of the newcomers may
be anxious because they do not know about the custom and people’s behavior. Therefore, it is very important to know well about the culture which we want to visit or stay for a while or maybe for amount years. The study about culture shock has ever been conducted by Putri (2011). She found that foreign people who live in Malang feel not easy in entering a new culture. Many foreign people have some problems with daily activity and daily needs, insecure feeling that makes them lost confidence, things they miss about their country, also the changes of health and emotional problem. Furthermore, it is supported by Fitriany (2012) who conducted a study about culture shock faced by overseas students who studied in Indonesia. She found that overseas students faced culture shock in food, transportation, weather, and habit. As like Indonesian students community in Hamburg, Germany, definitely they face those situations for the first time they stay there. For instance, the experience of the writer’s friend, she felt many difficulties in adjusting herself in the new environment at the beginning she stayed in Hamburg.

Based on the reasons above, the writer wants to analyze the Indonesian students community in Hamburg, Germany as the respondents of this study and focus on the culture shock experienced by them.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the writer would like to focus on finding the answer to the question:

1) What are the culture shock experienced by Indonesian Students Community in Hamburg, Germany?
2) What are the factors affecting culture shock experienced by Indonesian Students Community in Hamburg, Germany?

3) How do the Indonesian Students Community in Hamburg, Germany solve their culture shock?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

In accordance with the problems above, this study is conducted to get the answer of the research question. The purposes of the study are:

1) To describe what are the culture shock experienced by Indonesian Students Community in Hamburg, Germany.

2) To know what are the factors affecting culture shock experienced by Indonesian Students Community in Hamburg, Germany.

3) To describe the way the Indonesian Students Community in Hamburg, Germany solve culture shock.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The result of this study is expected to be benefit for the English teacher and the students who want to go overseas, and the next researcher. It is expected to give information generally for the teacher and especially for students to minimize or even to avoid culture shock. Also, the result of this study is expected to give contribution for the next researcher who wants to conduct a similar research with different topic.
1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is focused on the culture shock and the limitation of this study is Indonesian students community in Hamburg, Germany.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

To clarify the terms used in this study for the readers, the writer gives some definitions of key terms. They are investigated in this study as the following:

1) Analysis: a logical process of a study that begins with looking at the raw data (Royse, 1999: 35).

2) Culture Shock: the depression and anxiety experienced by many people when they travel or move to a new social and cultural setting (Irwin, 2007).

3) Indonesian Students Community in Hamburg: a group of Indonesian students who are studying and living in Hamburg, Germany whom the writer wants to analyze.