CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The introductory chapter presents the background of study, statement of problem, purpose of study, significance of study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Study

Everyone knows that culture is part of human life and it cannot be separated each other. Culture may be defined as the people’s way of life or social heritage and includes values, norms, institutions, and artifacts that are passed from generation to generation by learning alone. Culture encompasses the patterns of daily life and the life styles of people, as well as the values and attitudes that underline their behavior (Hoult in Bryjak and Soroka, 2001).

Every country has its own culture that might be different from one country to another. 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 concept are transmitted for generations, and they provide guidance for everyday behaviors.

Sometimes this behavior is too strange for another people who come from another culture and it can make misunderstanding and misinterpretation. The cultures not only influence behavior but also involve assumption, ideals and values in people’s minds.
Newcomers may be anxious because they do not know the custom or understand people’s behavior in daily life. It is very important for someone who will be in a new environment to know well about their new culture. That is why self adjustment is very important to them.

A research by Ahmad Usamah (2008) about Culture Shocks in Chitrabannerjee Divakaruni’s Short Story “Mrs. Dutta Writes a Letter” found seven culture shocks faced by the main character. They are; 1) The habit of not waking up in the morning. 2) The habit of letting Sagar’s children to close their room’s door. 3) The habit of sending Mother day’s gift. 4) The way of washing clothes. 5) The way Shymoli addressed her husband. 6) The job description between man and woman. 7) Introducing herself to the people around her home.

Based on the research above, there are many cultures that we can find in different society. Basically, cross culture can be learned widely through any media such as, novel, short story, especially film that would be researched by the writer.

So, people have to adjust themselves to new culture and environment in order to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation. They should have the cross culture awareness before they enter a new culture. That is why the writer is interested in using different media to study more about culture. This research will explore more about culture shocks in “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” film, how someone named Ian Miller, an American, get confused and shocked in entering a new culture, Greek culture’s family.
1.1 Statement of Problem

Dealing with the background, the research problems are:

1. What are the culture shocks experienced by Ian Miller in entering new culture and environment in “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” film?

2. How are Ian Miller’s reactions in facing culture shocks in “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” film?

2.2 Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study will be expressed as follows:

1. To know the culture shocks experienced by Ian Miller in entering a new culture and environment in “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” film.

2. To know how Ian Miller reacts in facing culture shocks in “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” film.

2.3 Significance of Study

This study is expected to give contribution to the English Department students who want to conduct a research in the same subject but different object of investigation. The writer hopes it can enrich and enlarge the knowledge of the students about the cross culture understanding and motivating students to analyze cross culture phenomenon which happens at the time we enter a new culture and environment. For the teacher, the researcher wishes it can give more information and new point of view about culture shock reaction on daily life. So, the teacher can handle culture shocks and conflict that happen in his/her class appropriately. And for further researcher, the writer hopes this study will make awareness to culture shocks that it can be studied more specifically to be thesis.
2.4 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is the culture shocks in entering a new culture and environment. Meanwhile, the limitation of this study is only on culture shocks experienced by Ian Miller in “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” film.

2.5 Definition of Key Terms

There are several key terms that must be clarified in order to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation. The writer defines the key terms as follows:

1. **Culture** is the set of attitudes, values, beliefs, and behaviors shared by a group of people, but different for each individual, communicated from one generation to the next (David Matsumoto, 1996: 16). It is usually called tradition and custom by people. Culture is descended by learning in particular society’s environment that has many values and beliefs.

2. **Culture Shock** is a sense of confusion and uncertainty that may affect people exposed to an alien culture or environment without adequate preparation (Myra Sulman, 2001). It happens to people that have no experience about a new culture and they will confuse with the culture.

3. **Film** is a story that is recorded as set of moving pictures to be shown on television or at the cinema (Oxford dictionary fifth edition, 1995)

4. **Ian Miller** is the actor of “My Big Fat Greek