CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In the first chapter of this research, the researcher presents research background, research problems, research purposes, research significance, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms. Each section is explained as follows:

1.1 Research Background

An understanding on a culture can be in the forms of experiences or habits inherited by certain population or individuals, whether it is intentional or unintentional. It is linked to the existence of a group of people in the eyes of another group of people. According to Spencer-Oatey (2008), culture concerns on a vague set of essential presumptions and values, orientations to life, beliefs, policies, procedures and behavioral conventions shared by a number of people. Culture eventually affects the way they behave in their everyday life. In addition, it leads them to interpret on the meaning of other people’s behavior. Hence, culture signifies an enormous part of those who intend to pursue their education experience abroad since every student brings their own uncommon experiences and perspectives (culture) to foreign study.

People living in this modern era are generally encouraged to obtain educational experiences by studying overseas and globalization fulfills this today’s era. As pointed out by Birkin, Hughes, and Brennan (2014), travel abroad for the purpose of study is only one element
in the internationalization of higher education, as there are also activities aimed at improving the efficiency and competitiveness of higher education institutions in the global marketplace. Therefore, it is truly necessary to have knowledge that is competent at cross-cultural disciplines and foreign languages in order to succeed in taking part in competitive global markets. Volunteering is understood to offer a range of benefits to both volunteers and to the people with whom they work. Because volunteering is generally associated with giving one’s time and effort to others, it provides one of the best opportunities to develop some intercultural competences, such as community-building and contributing to social cohesion. (Birkin, Hughes, and Brennan, 2014).

There are foreign teachers who pursued volunteering in Malang. Among those foreign volunteers, there are American teachers that happen to teach English for Indonesian students through the program provided by American governments. One of those programs is provided by Peace Corps. The Peace Corps is a service opportunity presented for enthusiastic agents of change to partake in advancing a community in foreign countries and to work together with the local leaders to deal with the very stressing obstacles of current generations. Based on Peace Corps (2018), Peace Corps volunteers were sent to serve in 141 countries requiring involvements in the fields of Education, Community Economic Development, Environment, Health, Youth in Development, and Agriculture. In Indonesia, for instance, the Peace Corps volunteers were assigned to come to inaccessible regions, particularly in East Java. Peace Corps’ objective is to give an intensive English learning in Indonesian schools. The placement
for the Peace Corps volunteers is in the host family’s houses whose distance is near the schools. In addition, the volunteers are supposed to be capable of adjusting to Indonesian culture, people, languages, foods, and weather. Unluckily, this kind of new adaptation leads the volunteers suffer from cultural shock, and it is hard for them to get accustomed to this new ambience.

Incidentally, the researcher notices culture shock that Peace Corps volunteers experienced during their stays in Malang when socializing outside volunteer hour. American and Indonesian cultures are inevitably different result the Peace Corps volunteers stress out due to having tough situations to habituate with the distinctions between Malang and the places where they were born and raised. However, Peace Corps volunteers are commonly able to retain their survival in a country that is completely has nothing in common with their motherland. As suggested by Bochner (2003), the trigger of the emergence of culture shock is caused by dissipation of the symbols and signs in the social relationship that we familiarized.

There are some studies dealing with the research carried out by several researchers. Putri (2011), for example, conducted a study entitled “A Study Faced by Foreigner People Living in Malang”. She found that the foreigners staying in Malang require to enhance their competence in terms of learning Indonesian language, comprehending cultural acts including the interaction way when communicating with Indonesian people. It is due to the fact that they will eventually come to teach students in the host schools.
Another study was undergone by Efendy (2014) in which his research was entitled “A Study on Culture Shock Faced by Foreign Students of BIPA in University of Muhammadiyah Malang.” The result designated that language and local teachers and students became the prominent two aspects that the seven foreign students had to master.

Finally, Fitriany (2012) carried out her research entitled “An Analysis on the Culture Shock Faced by Overseas Students Studying in Indonesia.” Grounded on her study result, the culture shock that the six (foreign) students went through was regarding getting accustomed to the weather, public transportation, congestion, customs, and food.

Based on the preliminary observation conducted in 11th July – 16th July 2017, the researcher observed that the foreigners who were from California and New Jersey in Food Festival event at Ijen Boulevard in Malang had the cultural shock. One of the examples was when the foreigners used the public van, they felt shocked due to the fact that the passengers were staring at the Peace Corps Volunteers for too long, and even took pictures without permission. Therefore, the researcher attempts to investigate the phenomenon on cultural shock in social aspects experienced by Peace Corps Volunteers.

Hence, the researcher was interested in analyzing the culture shock in social aspects experienced by Peace Corps volunteers who teach English in Malang. There are several underlying reasons to bring up this topic. First of all, cross-culture becomes an appealing subject that is necessary to be studied since it provides an opportunity in terms of learning new cultures. Lastly, the Peace Corps volunteers would be likely to suffer from culture shock since
the placement of their stays are located in the countryside areas of Malang in which dealing with these circumstances would challenge them. Accordingly, it was interesting to examine the difficulties they encounter and the way how they overcome the culture shock they face during their stay in Malang.

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the research background written above, the researcher formulated the research problems as follows:

1. What kinds of culture shock do they experience in the social area by Peace Corps volunteers living in Malang?

2. How do Peace Corps volunteers deal with the culture shock living in Malang?

1.3 Research Purpose

Based on the research problems written above, the purposes of the research concluded by the researcher are:

1. To find out about Peace Corps volunteers’ culture shock in social area in Malang.

2. To describe how Peace Corps volunteers overcome their culture shock in social area.

1.4 Research Significance

The significance of this research meaningfully contributes in terms of theoretical consideration and the practical aspects. Theoretically, this research is expected to provide information about culture shock and more knowledge on cross-culture understanding for the readers, students of the University of Muhammadiyah Malang, next researchers and the future
lecturers. Conversely, this research will be practically beneficial for the researchers in terms of seeking culture shocks experienced in social area by Peace Corps volunteers living in Malang.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is focused on the culture shock and how the Peace Corps volunteers deal with the problems. In addition, this research is limited to 3 Peace Corps volunteers who reside in Malang.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. **Culture**: culture concerns on a vague set of essential presumptions and values, orientations to life, beliefs, policies, procedures and behavioral conventions shared by a number of people. Culture eventually affects the way they behave in their everyday life (Spencer-Oatey, 2008).

2. **Culture shock**: Culture shock refers to the conditions of being perplexed about new environment that someone feels (Wanning, 2008).

3. **Peace Corps**: The Peace Corps is a service opportunity presented for enthusiastic agents of change to take part in advancing a community in foreign countries and to work together with the local leaders to deal with the very stressing obstacles of current generations.

4. **Peace Corps Volunteers**: American citizens whose ages are 18 years old or older giving assistance for others assigned by the Peace Corps.