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INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ADVANCED RESEARCH (IJAR)

Article DOI:10.21474/IJAR01/12312

DOI URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.21474/IJAR01/12312>



RESEARCH ARTICLE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN MAKASSAR INDONESIA: DO THEY EXPERIENCE ANY CULTURAL SHOCK?

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Manuscript Info

Manuscript History

Received: 10 November 2020

Final Accepted: 12 December 2020

Published: January 2021

Key words:-

Cultural Shock, International Students, Indonesian Culture

Abstract

International students' desire to learn languages and cultures from a different place is increasing in this millennial era. Many kinds of programs are available, one of them through the Darmasiswa program. This program offered to all international students in some countries which have diplomatic relation with Indonesia to study Indonesian language, art, and culture for a year. Therefore, this study will discuss and explain some cultural shocks faced by Darmasiswa students in Makassar, Indonesia. This research was a descriptive qualitative method, and the populations of this research were 5 Darmasiswa students in Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar from Madagascar, Japan, Poland, and Sudan. The researchers have done interviewed all Darmasiswa students to collect the data. The results show that there were some cultural shocks experienced by Darmasiswa students, such as some funniest things they have experienced, like the manner of eating, various Indonesian cuisine, the friendliness of Indonesian people, and Indonesian women that are allowed to drive a motorbike. Therefore, almost foreigners will surely find some culture shock, but the most important is adjusting and trying to understand the different things they find in a foreign country and always be positive.

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Introduction:-

A symbol used to convey what is on our mind is a language; language is one of the needs. Language is an essential connecting tool for humans, especially in terms of communication (Gibson, Gibson, & Ingold, T, 1994). Each place certainly has its language and to be able to communicate with each other in different places. It means that we must learn their language. Learning the language of a place or country means that we will also indirectly learn the culture (Johnston et al., 2016). The way of learning and understanding the different languages and cultures from different countries means cross-cultural communication. Cross-cultural communication is not only limited to learning foreign languages. However, it also includes understanding how cultural patterns and core values. Then this understanding has an impact on the communication process (Doris, 2016).

The desire to learn and understand different languages and cultures today is undoubtedly even greater. The growth of technology that is increasingly developing makes us able to see further and broader not only about the place

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where we were born and raised but also to see the world out there. Many people are interested in learning different languages and cultures as communication tools (Ellis, 1999).

This desire also brings international students to Indonesia to learn Indonesian culture and language through some programs such as the Darmasiswa program. Darmasiswa program is a scholarship program organized by the Ministry of Education and culture of Indonesia for all international students from countries that have diplomatic relations with Indonesia to study Indonesian language, art, and culture for a year (darmasiswa.kemdikbud.go.id, 2019). Therefore, this study will discuss and explain some cultural shock faced by international students in Makassar, Indonesia.

Literature Review:-

Darmasiswa Students as International Students:

Indonesia is well-known as a country rich in diversity of ethnicities and cultures, and it seems that this is what makes foreigners interested and to know and even study it. Many of them come to travel and stay for a long time to learn the Indonesian language and cultures. One of the examples is that they join the Darmasiswa program. Darmasiswa program its scholarship program to all foreigners' students from countries which have diplomatic relation with Indonesia to learn and study Indonesian language and culture given by Indonesian government especially in Ministry of Education and culture of Indonesia and they will stay and learn for a year (darmasiswa.kemdikbud.go.id, 2019).

This program's primary goal is to promote and increase the interest in the language, art, and culture among other countries' youth. The government of Indonesia designs this program to provide stronger cultural links and understandings among the participating countries. This project was established in 1974 as part of the ASEAN initiative, participating in 185 countries and 72 universities in Indonesia in 2020, including Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar (darmasiswa.kemdikbud.go.id, 2019).

Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar has entered the 9th year in this program, and for this year, they will handle five students from 4 countries, two from Madagascar, from Sudan, Japan, and Poland. They will learn about Indonesian culture, art, and language (IPPD Unismuh Makassar, 2018).

Shock Culture:

The feeling of surprise, anxiety, mistakenness when someone is in contact with a different culture, such as when someone comes to a foreign country, is also referred to as culture shock. These feelings arise due to differences and difficulties in adapting to new cultures (Mumford, 1998). Culture shock can cover aspects of daily life, such as food, dress, and price of goods (Krejci, n.d.). The more different the culture, the more severe the effects. Therefore, culture shock is a problem that arises because of cultural differences in a place of origin (Zapf, 1991). There are four categories of individuals who move and felt the culture shock is (Furnham, 2010):

1. Tourist: visit a foreign culture for less than six months
2. Sojourners: stay temporarily in a foreign culture for more than six months
3. Immigrants: living permanently in a foreign culture
4. Refugees: excluded from the local culture.

Every international student who follows the Darmasiswa program comes from different countries to decide to stay and settle, for example, a year in Indonesia; surely, they have to adjust to the condition in Indonesia. In the process of adjusting, they will experience some unexpected things that are called shock culture.

Shock culture is a process of initial adjustment with a not familiar environment (Rempel, 2011). This condition occurs when one moves for a temporary period to a foreign country (Olagoke-Oladokun et al., 2019). Everything is unfamiliar to the physical setting (road maps, stores, school environment) and the social environment, such as etiquette and habitual ways of doing things (Zhou et al., 2008). It is substituting them with strange ones and anxiety because of the loss of familiar signs and social interaction symbols (Brown et al., 2010).

Pedersen et al. (2011) & Irwin (2007) defined that Culture Shock is a phenomenon in individuals experiencing problems in adjusting to cultures apart from their own, which occurs anxiety, sadness, social isolation, and rejection of host culture. Culture shock is a phrase that describes feelings of anxiety and disorientation that many people experience for a period when living in a foreign country (Jandt, 2004) & (Oberg, 1960).

There are three forms of Culture Shock; these are anxiety, stereotypes, and prejudice. Anxiety is an anxious feeling because of not knowing what is expected to do (Jandt, 2004). A stereotype is a positive or negative judgment about any observable belief group membership, and prejudice is prejudgment before becoming aware of the relevant fact (Jandt, 2004).

Experts like Winkelman (1994) differentiated the resolution and stages in a variety of ways. These are the honeymoon or tourist phase, the crisis phase, the adjustment and reorientation phase, and the adaptation, resolution, or acculturation stage.

The first stage is a honeymoon or tourist phase is about the feeling that a traveler faces, usually during the first few days or weeks. We may characterize it by interest, euphoria, excitement, positive expectation, sleeplessness, and idealizations about the new place's new culture. The second stage is that the crisis phase is generally emerging within a few weeks to a month; this feeling is about dislike and criticizing the culture. The third stage is an adjustment, and the reorientation phase is about the foreign's ability to adjust effectively to the new cultural environment. The last stages are adaptation, and the acculturation stage is about the foreign's ability to adapt to the environment and accept all the differences that exist. (Winkelman, 1994)

Indonesian Culture:

Indonesia is a country that has riches of natural resources, and diverse cultures spread from Sabang to Merauke (Setiawan et al., 2017). Indonesia is rich in language, culture, ethnicity, and customs (Rizky, & Wibisono, 2015). Indonesia consists of 34 provinces; every region has its own culture and tradition, various cultures such as traditional clothing, traditional houses, dances, musical instrument, and local weapons (Prabowo, Listyorini & Ahmad, 2015). Indonesia is a popular destination for international students. Indonesia is known for its excellent quality of life but with affordable living costs. This fact causes so many international students to choose to study in Indonesia (Pratminingsih, 2014).

Indonesian people are known for spicy food. It can be seen from any Indonesian cuisine categorized spicy such as Ayam Betutu from Bali, Bebek Pedas from Madura, Rendang from West Sumatra, Rica-Rica from North Sulawesi, Mi Aceh from Aceh (Kubo, 2009). These foods are not necessarily acceptable for foreigners because most Europeans do not like spicy food. People living in hot climates felt better after eating hot food, like Indonesian people, rather than people living in a cold region like European (Bosland, 2016).

Eating for each person is different depending on where they come from (Visser, 2015). Moreover, between Indonesian people and others country such another Asian countries and Europeans surely have their manners of eating such Indonesian people where most of the people are Muslims where Muslims eat better to use the hands instead of using spoon and fork and use the right hands (Masud & Ajmal, 2012).

Indonesian people also are known as friendly people, because even meet with foreigners, they always give a smile (Cholil & Sciortino, 1998), but between man and woman, especially for Muslim, man and woman have distance, because of taboo for man along with a woman who does not have marital ties with him (Uty, 2018).

Indonesia's culture and language have made international students more interested in coming to Indonesia and learning the language and culture (Sawir, 2005). Indonesia's various cultures and languages made foreigners curious (Kusmiatun et al., 2017). Moreover, many international students choose Indonesia to study more about language and culture (Lewthwaite, 1996).

Research Method:-

This research was a descriptive qualitative method. To collect data, the researcher provided the interview, which tended to investigate some culture shock faced by Darmasiswa in Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar. An in-depth Interview was semi-structured to find information about the related issue discussed in this research.

The Participants:

This research participants were five Darmasiswa students (from Madagascar, Poland, Japan, and Sudan) in Universitas Muhammadiyah Makassar who stay in Makassar for a year to learn the Indonesian language and culture, and it was taken by using a random sampling technique

Instrument:

To answer the research question, the researchers undertook some efforts to get valid data. The researchers conducted an open-ended interview. It was applied as well by used voice recorded in order to obtain original data

Findings and Discussions:-

The data comes from 5 Darmasiswa students who study the Indonesian language and culture at Makassar Muhammadiyah University for a year in 2019. They come from Japan, Sudan, Madagascar, and Poland. The researchers interviewed them to find clear information about some culture shock they faced as long as they stayed in Makassar Muhammadiyah University.

Findings:

After conducting the interviews, the reserachers then found some data as follow

Table 1:- The result of an interview.

No.	Respondent	Country	Interview results
1	AY	Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has better language skill in Bahasa Indonesia - Answer the interview in Bahasa Indonesia - Surprised about manner of having meal. Using hand in eating is categorized as an impolite. In Indonesia especially in Makassar, it is highly recommended to use right hand in having meals. - Surprising to use dipper in taking bath - Learning Bahasa Indonesia is not tricky. - One difficult thing faced in learning Bahasa is pronouncing Indonesia alphabets that not exist in Japanese. - Like staying in Indonesia because Indonesian people are friendly
2	AMAA	Sudan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surprised knowing that women in Indonesia are allowed to drive. In his country it is banned - Not eating rice in his country - Like Makassar some cuisines like coto and bakso - Try to answer the question during the interview by using Bahasa. - Has difficulty in pronouncing words/letters which do not exist in his language - Happy to stay in Makassar - Missing family in his country
3	MP	Madagascar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staying in Makassar is similar living in Madagascar - The situation and the city look like in his country - Some cultures are similar such as bathe corpse ceremony - Like some Makassar cuisines like sarabba. - Surprising with the friendly people who always greet even do not knowing other people
4	ALJ	Madagascar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Living in Makassar seems to be living in Madagascar - The situation and the city look like in his country - Some cultures are similar such as bathe corpse ceremony - Surprising to the friendliness of the people in Makassar. - Surprise to be called "Mister" which means a mannequin in Madagascar. - Like some Makassar cuisines like coto and onde-onde
5.	KP	Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not easy to adjust to the weather in Makassar which is more sweltering than in his country - Indonesian currency with low value - Has no good language skill in Bahasa Indonesia - Use more English than Bahasa Indonesia during the interview - Difficult to learn Bahasa Indonesia, compared to his friends.

Based on the matrix, the researchers then found some fact dealing with the international students' perceptions during their stay in Makassar. They are as follows:

1. The first Darmasiswa students come from Japan. He is AY. AY has been in Makassar for about four months, starting from September 2019 ago. His Indonesian language is better than others. It is proven by answering this interview. He combined them by using Indonesian and English. Discussing the culture shock that he faced, first, he said that he was surprised about eating such explained by AY that in his country, using the hand in eating categorized as impolite, but on the contrary, in Indonesia, it is advisable. AY was also shocked when He must take a bath by using a dipper for bathing. In learning the Indonesian language, according to AY, the Indonesian language not tricky. Especially about the daily conversation because the grammar in Indonesian is not as tricky and as much as the grammar in English, he only has difficulty in mentioning some Indonesian alphabet that is not in Japanese, for example when he mentions one of traditional food "*Saya sukabeeronceng, ooh...baroncong*." From all of that, AY is happy to be in Indonesia and will stay until his study period is over; moreover, Indonesian people very friendly to him.
2. A different case happened to the students from Sudan, AMAA. He was surprised to see that in Indonesia, especially in Makassar, women are allowed to drive a motorbike while in his country, it was banned. He also explained that they are not eating rice in his country, but in Indonesia, especially Makassar, everybody must eat rice, but he likes Makassar cuisines such as coto and bakso. Like AY in learning the Indonesian language, he had difficulty mentioning some of the Indonesian letters, which are also not in Sudan. His Bahasa Indonesian also is better. He always tries to speak Indonesian while answering this interview and combine it with English. AMAA was also happy to stay in Makassar. He is just missing his wife and his children.
3. Another Darmasiswa students from Madagascar, MP and ALJ also told their experience while staying in Makassar. ALJ said that he fell like in Madagascar the first time he was landing in Makassar because the situation and the city look like in Madagascar. There are also some cultures in Madagascar similar to the culture in Makassar, such as the circumcision party, Mannene in Toraja (bathe corpse ceremony). ALJ also said that he likes Makassar cuisine more than Madagascar cuisines such as coto and onde-onde, while MP likes Sarabba (Ginger healthy drink). In order, MP and ALJ not really felt homesick. The culture shock was facing by Madagascar students such as Makassar people who are very friendly even they do not know someone. They still say hello, contrary to Madagascar, that they only greet someone only when we know each other. They also felt surprised when called "*mister...mister*" because 'Mister' meant a mannequin in Madagascar.
4. The last Darmasiswa student comes from Poland; He is KP, the same as the four other Darmasiswa students, which he also has been in Makassar for four months. According to KP, it is not easy to adjust to the weather in Makassar, where the weather Makassar is sweltering than to his country. He was also surprised by Indonesia's currency, which has a very high but low value, and He was terrific with the friendly people of Indonesia. KP is not the same as the other because he still difficult in the Indonesian language; his Indonesian not good. It is proven by answering this interview he used more English than Indonesia. He also said that he had come to one of the fast-food restaurants in Makassar, and because of the language difficulties, he got the wrong order.

Discussion:-

According to Jandt (2004), there are three culture shock forms; these are anxiety, stereotypes, and prejudice. The finding of this research indicates that most Darmasiswa students have not experienced the three forms of culture shock (Jandt, 2004), such as stereotypes and prejudice. For the first time, they just felt the anxiety, but they could adjust to their condition day by day. For example, AY (Japan), KP (Poland), and AMAA (Sudan) explained that for the first time, they felt anxious about how can they adjust to the condition in Makassar. AY said he fell queer when he must take a bath by using a dipper, not a shower, but he can adjust to that condition day by day. As same as Ashraf that for the first time, he felt unusual when eating must be with rice because, in his country, he does not eat rice. While KP from Poland, he was worried about adjusting to the weather because the weather in Makassar is far sweltering than that in his country. Therefore, even though they faced some culture shock, it does not negatively affect them. Besides, give prejudgment about the condition in Makassar. They always try to have a positive feeling and try to adjust to the situation. Unlike the students from Madagascar, MP and ALJ, they did not feel shocked in Makassar. Moreover, they fell like in Madagascar because many things remain with their country.

Ferraro (1990), Kohls (1984); Oberg (1954); Preston (1985) states that foreigners can face four stages of culture shock. These are honeymoon stages, crisis stages, adjustment stages, and adaptation stages. Based on this research's findings for these four stages, almost all the Darmasiswa students did not feel the second stage, a crisis stage, except KP from Poland. AY and AMAA were told that they came to Indonesia because of their interest in Indonesia's diverse languages and cultures. In the order, they fell into the honeymoon stage for the first time. They did not fall into the crisis stage because they always have a positive feeling about any differences. They try to adjust and adapt to those. MP and ALJ are even more excited than the others. They feel at home. Makassar and Madagascar are

similar, so they do not need a long time to adjust and adapt. Different case with KP, where he felt all the culture shock stages. Starting from the first time came to Makassar, he was enthusiastic with the friendly people of Makassar and then felt a crisis stage when challenging to communicate with the local community. Then day by day, he tries to adjust and adapt to Makassar.

Conclusion:-

All the Darmasiswa students were happy and enjoy being in Makassar, Indonesia, even though they must face some culture shock. They were very interested in the diverse languages and cultures, and they were very unusual with Indonesia's friendly people. The majority of Darmasiswa students agreed that learning the Indonesian language not difficult, especially about daily conversation. It was proven by their Indonesian that the better the day, even though they have only been for four months in Makassar. Moreover, in answering this interview, most of them using the Indonesian language, but sometimes they combine it with English. Therefore, almost foreigners will surely find some culture shock, but the most important is adjusting and trying to understand the different things they find in a foreign country and always be positive.

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