

No	Proceeding	ISBN	Tanggal	Tempat	Judul
1.	Proceeding the 2016 Jambi International Seminar on Education (JISE)	ISBN : 978-602- 74195-0-6	April 3-4 2016	Jambi, Indonesia	Students intercultural communication competence (thailand pattani students in indonesia cmpus state islamic university of sunan gunung jati bandung)

## **Students Intercultural Communication Competence (Thailand Pattani Students in Indonesian Campus State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Jati Bandung)**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The third wave has put the information technology era. Communication and transportation occupy important role in people migration from one place to another. This occurred to students of Pattani Thailand who migrated to Indonesia to study in UIN SGD in Bandung. They encountered problems to communicate across cultures and adapt to a new environment.

This study will focus intercultural communication competence of Pattani students. To deal with the subject, the study used a qualitative approach, data collected through interviews by a non-participant observation and document analysis. The theory used intercultural communication of Gudykuns, data analysis model of Miles and Huberman that relies on data analysis. The study concluded that Pattani students did not have enough culture cognition; see themselves as exclusive group; insufficient interaction with surrounding community; closed attitudes; verbal communication behavior; and less active in interpersonal relationship.

**Keywords:** Pattani, adaptation, cognition, behavior, communication between cultures.

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## **Introduction**

### **A. Research Background**

The third civilization wave has put the era of information technology, communications and transport occupying an important role in human life. It was in turn able to mobilize people to migrate from one country to another for various purposes, including technical knowledge and skills in other countries.

The reality also occurred in some children Pattani Thailand in the past two decades who have migrated to various countries, including Indonesia, especially Bandung in order to study in UIN SGD. The problem that then arises for children Patani is the extent of their ability to communicate across cultures and adapt in the new living environment, as well as in the university environment, particularly on the issue of language. Indonesian language difficulties often cause anxiety when communicating in the classroom and informal moments with the people of Indonesia.

Through communication, people are able not only to convey thoughts and ideas to others, but also develop his true identity to the highest level. Through human communication also good relations can be developed with the surrounding environment even accross borders. In essence, communication is an important part even very important for people throughout their lives.

Contact between cultures in education occurs also with Patani students from Thailand studying in Indonesia. For these students studying abroad is not just to add insight and knowledge but also help develop the horizon and increase the understanding of their own culture and the culture of others. Patani society is ethnic Malay-Muslims in southern Thailand since some time ago until today many seek education outside the country, as is currently happening at UIN Sunan Gunung Jati Bandung.

The Patani student remains as stranger for Indonesian, which is much psychologically, even though they are physically close, maybe even friends of the class. Intercultural misunderstandings and conflicts can occur in their lives. They are faced with a number of issues ranging from the understanding of Indonesian culture, especially the sub-culture of Sundanese Bandung, the way we communicate, behave and act so that they are able to adapt and finish his studies at UIN Sunan Gunung Jati Bandung. Their success in the study of UIN Sunan Gunung Jati Bandung is largely determined by the extent to which they are able to adapt, learn a new culture, to the openness in accepting new cultures.

## **B. Problems Identification**

Referring to the background of the research that has been presented in advance, the researchers formulate research problems as follows: How can intercultural communication competence of Thailand Pattani students at State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Jati Bandung?

## **C. Problems Limitations**

Discussing just in order to provide theoretical research paper related to intercultural communication.

## **D. Problems**

1. How cognition Pattani students about the culture of Indonesia?
2. How Pattani student sees himself when he was in Indonesia and how students of Pattani utilizing the mass media as a means of internalization of cultural values in Indonesia?
3. What is the attitude of Pattani students towards Indonesian students in UIN Sunan Gunung Jati Bandung and how is Pattani student behavior when communicating with Indonesian students in UIN Sunan Gunung Jati Bandung?
4. How Pattani student behavior in an interpersonal relationship with the Indonesian students in UIN Sunan Gunung Jati Bandung?

## **E. Purpose**

Pattani to determine student knowledge about the culture of Indonesia. To find out the views of Pattani students about Indonesian people. To find out how Pattani students utilizing the mass media as a means of internalizing the values of Indonesian culture. To determine Pattani student attitudes toward Indonesian student in Bandung UIN Sunan Gunung Jati. To determine the Pattani student's behavior when communicating with Indonesian students in UIN Sunan Gunung Jati Bandung. To determine the behavior of Patani students in an interpersonal relationship with the Indonesian students in UIN Sunan Gunung Jati Bandung.

## **E. Theory and Framework**

This literature review contains the results of theoretical research and studies that are considered relevant and consistent in explaining phenomena and research focus. The existence of the theory in qualitative research serve as a "guide" to describe the area as well as the direction of research to be conducted. This is understandable, because

qualitative research is a research that is flexible, grows and develops throughout the study taking place.

One of the results of research that can be put forward here is the research of Budiyansyah (2002), which revealed that a host family for foreign students can help overcome loneliness and strangeness felt by all foreign students who are away from their environment. Friends and host families are also considered as an excellent way to introduce local customs and culture. Budiansyah patterned qualitative research is to try to provide important information about the contribution of host families for foreign students in the adaptation in a new place. Host families can be a bridge to connect foreign students to the new environment on aspects of culture, a way of communicating and others. Morris (in Gudykunst and Kim 1992: 221) noted that foreign students who establish a high level of social relations with the natives have a high level of satisfaction in various aspects of his experience in native place.

The relationship between culture and communication is important to understand intercultural communication. Communication and culture can not be separated from one another, because each affect each other. Cultural form of communication, and communication form the culture.

Researchers look at the events of intercultural communication between Pattani and indigenous students in Indonesia with a phenomenological perspective, namely taking regard of human consciousness and meaning subjectivity as a focus for understanding social action. According to Schutz (in Mulyana, 2001: 62) and Guba (in Hidayat, 2003) understanding of action, speech and interaction is a prerequisite for any social existence. People refer to objects and actions by assuming that they share perspectives with others.

In each situation the phenomenological, the context of space and time historically that uniquely put the individual we have and implement a stock of knowledge consisting of all the facts, beliefs, prejudices, and the rules that we have learned from personal experience and knowledge.

## **F. Research Methodology**

This study used a qualitative research methodology. Creswell 19 988: 14) states qualitative research is research the background of the time and place naturally, the researcher is an instrument of collecting data and then the data analysis by

inductively then describes the processes studied expressive method used to collect data in this research is the method of participant observation (participant observation), in-depth interviews and document analysis. Blumer (in Mulyana 2001: 154-155) argues, only through a close relationship with those who are being investigated, researchers can enter the world (inner world) their analysis of the data used refers to interactive analysis techniques Miles and Huberman. This technique is called interactive model which basically consists of three components, namely the reduction of the data (data reduction), presentation of data (data display), and withdrawal as well as testing the conclusions (drawing and verifying Conclusions).

## **G. Discussion**

Intercultural communication is an inescapable phenomenon for mankind today. According to Grace and Winny Kresnowiati (2008: 6-8), there are some triggers that bring forth communication among cultures, among them the benefit of domestic (domestic plural), economic interests, the interests of international politics, to the educational aspects of social interaction anatarnegara.

In the aspect of education has become a common phenomenon that there are many Indonesian children who are studying abroad, so was not a bit of foreign children studying in Indonesia. At such a context, the ability of intercultural competence is absolutely necessary, at least not able to speak at the destination until the issue of the local culture. Many stories in social media make people quickly return to his homeland due to their failure to adapt to the new place.

According to Grace and Winny Kresnowiati (2008: 6), every person who migrated to other places must equipt himself in the cognitive, affective and conative to be aware of the following points:

1. Be aware of cultural bias.
2. More culturally sensitive.
3. Acquiring the capacity to really engagement with members of other cultures to create a lasting and satisfactory relationship with that person.
4. Stimulate greater understanding of culture itself.
5. Expand and deepen one's experience.
6. Studying the communication skills that make someone able to receive their own communication style and content.

7. To help understand the culture as something that produces and maintains the universe of discourse and meaning for its members.
8. Helping to understand the contact between cultures as a way to gain insight into their own culture: assumptions, values, freedoms and limitations.
9. To help understand the models, concepts and applications field of intercultural communication.
10. Helping to realize that systems of different values can be systematically studied, compared and understood

The results also revealed that the Pattani student sees himself "imperial" when compared with UIN students who come from Indonesia itself. As a continuation of this imperial attitude, then they tend to be closed to native students. They are more waiting than proactive to interact with other UIN students. They tend to be cautious in communication, and it leads to low absorption in a new culture.

There are feelings of anxiety and even fear when they want to start a conversation due to their ignorance of the culture of Indonesia. Waiting attitude may be considered better and wise than on trying to open talks or communication in the uncertain region. Such an attitude may be positive in terms of reducing conflicts caused by cultural differences, but on the other hand can have negative consequences, namely the slow absorption of local culture by outsiders.

The mass media in a country is a reflection of the nation's culture. Therefore, to understand the culture of a nation can be through mass media, especially television. Television in Indonesia for example, apart from presenting events that are also national cultures it also broadcast many shows such as culture, food, clothing, language, and various local customs.

In an effort to understand about Indonesia and Bandung Sundanese in particular, many Pattani students absorb information from television and newspapers. Pattani students see students of UIN Bandung quite critical, insightful and knowledgeable. This is according to those shown in the classroom and outside the classroom. Adaptability is an important ability to be able to continue to survive in a place or land of others. In the context of inter-cultural, adaptability can be explained by the model of "U". This model is called pseudo-medical.

Second, how to deal with culture shock may follow the model of learning culture as initiated by Furnham and Bochner. The core of this model are individuals just need to learn and adapt to the basic properties of the new society that change. However,

according to Furnham and Bochner, that in order to adjust to the new culture, individuals do not need to make the new culture as a part of himself so as if he develops two cultures. But when he has returned to its original place, he can discard things that have been learned.

So far, they are generally able to adapt as evidenced by the lack of an Pattani students who returned to his native country before bringing diplomas from UIN Bandung. They generally bend over backwards to socialise, interact in an effort to understand the local culture so feel comfortable staying in Bandung. In addition indeed they have a strong determination to complete an undergraduate at UIN Bandung.

## **H. Conclusion**

First, Pattani students who study in UIN SGD Bandung do not have enough cognition of culture in UIN SGD Bandung and Bandung as a whole.

Second, Pattani students sees itself at the moment in UIN SGD Bandung as covered individuals, less able to socialize, and do not have a deep understanding about the various subjects presented in UIN SGD Bandung.

Third, to understand the culture of Indonesia and especially Bandung, Pattani students not only use the process of interaction with surroundings, still they use mass media, especially television. Many television programs can help them understand the culture of Indonesia and Bandung.

Fourth, Pattani student attitudes toward students of UIN SGD Bandung generally closed or introvert. This is due to their inability to associate openly due to their lack of cultural understanding of UIN Bandung students. Pattani student communication behavior with students UIN SGD Bandung is determined more by language or verbal conversation. Most Pattani students do not understand the non-verbal behavior of students at UIN SGD Bandung because of cultural differences. Pattani students are not too intensive in conducting interpersonal relationships with students of UIN SGD Bandung. They interact more with fellow Pattani students. Nonetheless, there are among those who occasionally joined discussions to add insight and knowledge, especially the course materials. Interpersonal relationships are more done in class on the occasion of the lecture.

## I. Recommendation

This research resulted in several suggestions expected to be input for the parties concerned:

First, advice for the UIN SGD Bandung to open an informal class for foreign and Pattani students specifically deepen Indonesian. This is necessary because the entire lecture in UIN SGD Bandung use the Indonesian language (bahasa Indonesia) as the language of instruction. Their weakness in understanding Indonesian language will influence their absorption of the lecture materials.

Second, for foreign students to study in UIN SGD Bandung should prepare themselves in mastering Indonesian. It helps them to take in advance the Indonesian language courses. So that when they attend lecture in UIN SGD Bandung there is not much constraints on aspects of the language.

Third, in addition to mastery of Indonesian, foreign students should also understand the culture of the country of destination. Because ignorance of local culture will become communication barriers for foreign students in Indonesia.

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