

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides general information about cultural adjustment. Noticing someone might experience cultural adjustment when he/she comes to another culture which different with his/her own culture. Statement of the problems, the aims of the study, general methodology of how the research is conducted also provides in this chapter. It is also provides clarification of terms related to the research.

### I.1 Background

Language is part of culture, learning language means learning the culture of its language. It is important to learn the culture of the target language to help someone understand the target language better. Learning the culture of target language also help someone to prevent misunderstanding, misinterpretation even miscommunication. The importance of learning the culture of target language is in line with Brembeck (1973) who said that to know another's language and not his culture is a very way to make a fluent fool of one's self. It is not easy to learn another culture. It takes time, effort, and patience to gain better or even successful understanding of the target language culture. There are several efforts to do to learn the culture of target language; reading books, watching movies related to the culture of target language, and also going abroad.

A person who is going abroad, migrate and settle in another society, automatically will encounter different culture from his/her new society. The culture of that society becomes

the dominant culture and those of the immigrants form the subculture of the community. Usually, a person who comes to other societies with different culture will experience conflict and cultural adjustments. An adjustment is specified as the degree of psychological comfort and familiarity an individual feels for the new culture and situation (Mandenhall and Oddou, 1985). There are several stages of adjustment process; individuals experience the stages of adjustment in different ways. It is not easy for the newcomer to integrate with the new culture, it depends on his/her effort to deal with each stage of cultural adjustment. If the newcomer couldn't pass each stage well, he/she will fail to integrate with the new culture and will always face the problems.

The reason that the writer finds this topic interesting is based on own experience, at the first time the writer came to the new society it was really hard to integrate and accustomed with the new culture. It also took very long time to feel comfortable with the new culture. In several countries founded that many newcomers also find difficulties to integrate with the new culture, some of them failed to integrate with it.

To get a better point of view of how a newcomer do well in experiencing cultural adjustment and solve the problems that should be faced in the new culture, a movie related to the cultural adjustment was chosen to be analyzed in this research. Some movies provide more than entertainment. They can also give insights into different ways of life and even different cultures. Some movies can be a good starting point for a discussion on cultural differences (Cindy King, 2009). The Last Samurai was chosen for this research. In this research, the writer intends to analyze the process of cultural adjustment that first character experience when he comes to the new society for along time. The first character comes from America, in this movie he is the new comer and Japan is his new society. The writer will use the “W” pattern of

adjustment process theory as the method approach. The “W” pattern of adjustment process theory by Levine and Adelman (1993) will be used to analyze the first character experience cultural adjustment process in Japan.

Hopefully, this research would be useful for Indonesian students learning English as foreign language to be aware of cultural adjustment process when they come to another society. Furthermore, this research is expected to give contribution in cultural adjustment especially for people who plan to study abroad, and in developing Intercultural Communication material.

## **I.2 Statement of the Problem**

There are three problems that can be identified from this research; it will be drawn as departing points as follow:

1. How does the main character in *The Last Samurai* movie experience the stages of the W pattern of adjustment process?
2. How does the main character solve the problems that he finds in experiencing cultural adjustment process?

## **I.3 The aims of the study**

Based on the statement of the problems above, the aims of this research are:

1. To know how the main character experience all stages of the W pattern of adjustment process.
2. It is also to know how the main character solves his problems and the difficulties that he finds in experiencing cultural adjustment.

#### **I.4 Research Procedures**

##### **I.4.1 Research Method**

This research is conducted by using descriptive method that is the method used for investigating a problem, which needs a further analysis on the data when the data have been obtained.

The aim of a descriptive method is to systematically describe a situation or area of the interest factually and recently (Nazir, 1983:35). A descriptive method can be carefully applied in handling or answering the current situation by collecting, clarifying, discussing, and interpreting the subject of the study. Therefore, the goal of descriptive research is to systematically describe or illustrate the facts, characteristics and relationship of researched elements.

As Ratna (2006) stated, it benefits the ways of interpretation by presenting descriptive data. According to Ratna (2006) there are some important characteristics of a qualitative method:

- a. It gives the main attention toward meaning, and message based on the essence of object as cultural study.

- b. Its priority is the process rather than the goal.
- c. There is no distance between the researcher and the object of research.
- d. The design and framework of the research is temporary because it is opened research.
- e. The research is natural. It happens in social context each culture.

Through descriptive method, the writer observes the description systematically, factually, and accurately (Suryabrata: 1998) about the phenomenon, character and characterization (Nurgiantoro: 2002)

#### **I.4.2 Technique for Data Collection**

In collecting the data, the researcher will follow these following steps:

1. The researcher watch “The Last Samurai” movie
2. The researcher find the script of “The Last Samurai” movie
3. The researcher read and analyzes the script of “The Last Samurai” movie in order to find the process of cultural shock that the main character experience.

#### **I.4.3 Technique for Analyzing Data**

In analyzing the data the researcher will follow these procedures:

1. The researcher read all the script of the movie to separate it per scene. Each scene will be read again to find whether it contains the issue of cultural adjustment process. The scenes which contain the issue of cultural adjustment process are taken to be analyzed.
2. The researcher will use the “W” pattern of adjustment by Levin and Adelman theory to analyze the process of adjustment that the main character experience.

### **1.5 The Scope of the Research**

This study will focus on analyzing Woodrow Algren as the main character in “The Last Samurai” movie experience stages of adjustment process based on the “W” pattern.

### **1.6 Significance of the Research**

Based on the explanation above, this research is expected to give significance in terms of theory and culture. Dealing with culture, the result of this research is expected to give information to the reader about the process of adjustment and culture shock. It can give information about how to deal with a new culture and experience all stages of cultural adjustment. Dealing with theory, it is expected to enrich theories in movie analysis in term of culture. Furthermore, this study will be a reference of study which investigates the similar variables. This research also will help teachers/lecturers, especially English teachers/ lecturers, who are teaching about culture to their students.

This research discusses two different cultures that expected to enrich not about theory but also material for teaching culture. Through this study, the author will gain meaningful experiences on both conducting a qualitative descriptive study and also writing an academic report. Those experiences will be important for his further study and career.

### **1.7 Clarification of Related Terms**

The following are the terms used in this study:



1. Movie is a sequence of photographs projected onto a screen with sufficient rapidity as to create the illusion of motion and continuity.
2. Culture is a particular society at particular time and place
3. Culture shock is a condition of disorientation affecting someone who is suddenly exposed to an unfamiliar culture or way of life or set of attitudes.
4. Adjustment is making or becoming suitable; adjusting to a new environment.
5. Script is a written, printed, or typed copy; *especially* : a usually typed copy of dictated or recorded material (Merriam Webster)

## **I.8 Organization of Paper**

The organization of this research paper will be as follow:

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### **CHAPTER II THEORITICAL FOUNDATION**

This chapter explains the discussion of theoretical foundation that is relevant to the research. The theories are conducted from previous research related to cultural adjustment process.

### CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter discusses the methodology used in collecting and analyzing the data of research. Qualitative method is used in this research by using document analysis that is the script of the movie.

### CHAPTER IV FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter provides finding and discussion, where the data obtained by analyzed the script of the movie.

### CHAPTER V CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this chapter, provides conclusion of the result finding and discussion. Suggestions are also provide here for farther research.