

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This study emphasizes the intricate relationship between language and culture, often likened to two sides of the same coin, where each influences and shapes the other. The participants' experiences with English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) underscore the fluid and dynamic nature of language in intercultural communication, revealing how deeply English is intertwined with cultural and linguistic backgrounds. This requires adaptability and resilience to manage diverse interactions effectively. This study highlights the importance of recognizing and accepting various English dialects and local linguistic varieties, demonstrating that prior exposure to different languages and cultures enhances participants' ability to engage in multicultural environments and overcome communication barriers. The findings emphasize the need for a pragmatic approach to language use, focusing on mutual understanding rather than strict linguistic norms. Consequently, there is a need for higher education institutions, especially those involved in international student mobility programs, to adopt more inclusive language policies that reflect contemporary linguistic realities.

Developing intercultural competence through ELF thus requires not only linguistic mastery but also an awareness of cultural nuances and the flexibility to adapt to diverse communication contexts, preparing students for effective global interaction at last. In this context, fostering positive ELF experiences necessitates a balanced focus on both internal and external factors, by understanding more about cultural nuances and the flexibility to adapt to diverse communication contexts, By enhancing both the cognitive and personal aspects of their growth, participants can achieve a more meaningful and transformative engagement with ELF. Ultimately, the IISMA program should be viewed not only as an academic exchange but also as a platform for broader personal and intercultural development, equipping students with the skills needed for successful global interactions.