

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Research

Culture is a way of life that developed and shared by a group of people and passed down from generation to generation. Culture is made up of many complex elements, including religious and political system, customs, languages, tools, clothing, buildings, as well as culture, an integral part of human beings, so many people tend to think inherited genetically. When someone tried to communicate with people of different cultures and adjust to the differences, proving that culture is learned.

Culture is a holistic lifestyle. culture is complex, abstract, and spacious. Many aspects of culture help determine communicative behavior. The elements of the socio-cultural spread and include many social activities of human. While, the embodiment of culture are objects that are created by man as a creature of culture, in the form of behavior and objects that are tangible, such patterns of behavior, language, equipment life, social organization, religion, art, and others, which all of which is intended to help people in the hold of social life.

Human life is very close to culture. Different cultures often lead to confusion and even misunderstandings, so there needs to be teaching to

understand cultures to minimize misunderstandings and enrich knowledge about cultures.

Language is one of the characteristics of the culture of a country. A language of a country with another countries definitely different, and the differences distressed people of different countries to interact each other. Although in the world, we have an international language such as English, but, not everyone can use it to communicate with people who have different language.

In addition, to the language, which is the difference between the culture of a country and the culture of another country is the individual attitude of a country. Attitude is an evaluative reaction that is beneficial or unpleasant to someone or something that is expressed in a person's beliefs, feelings, or behaviors, and more to distinguish between a culture and another culture.

Allah in the Holy Qur'an (Al-Hujuraat :13) says:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ
لِتَعَارَفُوا إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقْوَىٰ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ ١٣

Based on the above verse, Allah SWT, does not create things in vain, Allah creates the world in various forms in it, Allah creates different human beings, there are men and women, have different appearance, differences in skin color, nature and others. Then, God divides people into tribes, has a nation and has a country that has a different culture. And God has created

us to know each other. And here is where we know, that difference is beautiful.

There are two previous studies that the researcher has found which related to this research or in the field of Cross-Cultural Understanding, the first is written by students of English Education Department, Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies entitled "*THE CULTURE SHOCKS FACED BY FOREIGN STUDENTS AT ANTASARI STATE INSTITUTE FOR ISLAMIC STUDIES BANJARMASIN*" by Nor Faizah Hayati (2016). This research describes the culture shock faced by foreign students who study at the Antasari State Institute for Islamic Studies Banjarmasin. the foreign students who are conscientious in this research are 5 students come from Turkey and 1 student come from Tajikistan. The results from this study indicates that the foreign students experience culture shock in academic aspects such as trouble with the registration system of courses, too many courses and campus environment and on their social aspect difficulty in adapting, both in terms of interacting, communicating and habits of local students. And the second is from UIN Alauddin Makassar entitled "*INCREASING STUDENTS' CULTURAL AWARENESS BY USING FILM IN TEACHING CROSS CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING*" by Serliah Nur (2016). This research is about the students 'attitude toward the use of films in teaching Cross Cultural Understanding as classroom research taking fourth semester students of English and Literature department, Adab and Humanities Faculty of UIN Alauddin as the sample of the research. .The

data analysis showed that they have positive attitude toward the use of film in the Cross Cultural Understanding class because; Films were interesting material, Using films were new variation of teaching in the class, Students understand the material easier and Students know the other culture better. Film can also increase students' cultural awareness because; They get information from the movie, They can compare their culture and others and It can prevent them from culture shock if they study Cross Cultural Understanding.

The first previous study, by Nor Faizah Hayati (2016) is focused on culture shock. Culture shock is a phenomenon in the study of cross-cultural understanding, culture shock is a condition where someone is not familiar new/local culture. In this case, the researcher did the research on foreign students that studied in UIN Antasari Banjarmasin. And the result showed that foreign students experienced culture shock during their study in Banjarmasin, especially UIN Antasari Banjarmasin. The second previous study, by Serliah Nur (2016) is focused in the material used in teaching cross cultural understanding, in increasing cultural awareness of students through showing film in teaching cross cultural understanding. And the result showed that film can also increase students' cultural awareness. These two previous studies are have their own focus in the study of cross cultural understanding, these two previous studies are also had differences each other and either had the difference with this research. Which the focus of

this research is to find out that whether International Events provided experience in learning cross cultural understanding or not.

English Education Department is one of majors in Faculty of Tarbiyah and Teacher Training, Antasari State Islamic University Banjarmasin which prepares the young generation to become English teachers. English Education Department prepares the professional and competent English teachers. Not only experts in teaching English, but also understand the country's cultures that use English as their first language, second language, or even their foreign language. In hopes of providing more experience in cross cultural understanding, English Student Association conducts International Events. International Events held once a year, the first International Events were held in year 2015 and the recent International Events were held in year 2018, which means International Events has been held 4 times so far.

In this research, the researcher limits the topic only about International Events that held by English Student Association of English Education Department of Tarbiyah and Teachers Training Faculty, Antasari State Islamic University.

Based on the descriptions and the statements above, the researcher would like to know and is interest in conducting research, and the title of this research is **“The Contribution of International Events in Providing Cross-Cultural Understanding Experience”**.

B. Research Question

This research aims to identify the role of International Events in providing cross-cultural understanding experience. The research questions are determined as follows:

1. How do International Events helps students to learn other cultures?
2. What are the cultural aspects at International Events which provide cross-cultural understanding experience ?

C. Research Objectives

Based on the statement of the problem above, the objectives of the research aim:

1. To describe the way International Events helps students to understand other cultures.
2. To describe what are the aspects which International Events could give in providing cross-cultural understanding experience.

D. Research Significance

The result of this research is expected to have advantages, such as:

1. Enrich the knowledge and experience of the researchers in this particular study.
2. Provide information and knowledge about Cross-Cultural Understanding.

3. Provide motivation to students of English Education Department to actively participate in International Events.
4. Provide a valuable contribution to ESA UIN Antasari in conducting and improving International Events.
5. Provide information and considerations for researchers in future.

E. Definition of Key Terms

In order to avoid the misinterpretation when exploring the content of this research, the researcher needs necessary to explain several key terms :

1. Students are object in this research, all students in English Education Department of Tarbiyah and Teachers Training Faculty, Antasari State Islamic University.
2. International Events is a cultural event that held by ESA UIN Antasari which held once a year that aim to help students in providing more experience in cross-cultural understanding.
3. English Student Association (ESA) UIN Antasari is an organization of English Students of Tarbiyah and Teachers Training Faculty, Antasari State Islamic University which exist to help English Education Department teachers in managing English Education Department especially on things that related to the students.