

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Across all the world that have so many cultures and societies, and in this case, human, as a social beings, have to know each other, as mentioned in Al Qur'an:

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

“O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the noblest of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted.” (QS. Al Hujurat 13)

Friendship is a voluntary relationship between individuals who choose which individuals come to know on purpose (Wright, 1991). In friendship, each other treats the other as a unique, genius and irreplaceable person rather than a simple role occupant, driven by external constraints (Wright, 1991). It is unlike in working environment or in family where roles are imposed upon individuals who are obligatory to bond with the others in the same work place or family.

Friendship is rewarding in diverse ways (Hruschka, 2010). The rewards of making a friend commonly include —companionship in leisure activities, emotional and social support and actual help (Argyle & Henderson, 1984: 231) . However, like any communal relationships, friendship is more than a relationship where people exchange utilitarian benefits. Rather it is affection that is in exchange between friends. Furthermore, friendship provides a great deal of satisfaction (Argyle & Henderson, 1984).

Across the world, friendships are seen in different ways. In many Western cultures for example, friendships are seen mainly as “voluntary and spontaneous, in contrast to family or work relationships” (Martin & Nakayama, 2010, p. 393).

Cultural differences in regard to friendships are related to notions about values and identity. Martin and Nakayama (2010, p. 393) state that in societies that stress values like individualism and independence, as is the case in most Western cultures, it makes sense to view friendship and romance as voluntary relationships. However, people who view the self always in relation to others – that is, collectivists – hold a notion of friendship that is also less individual oriented and less spontaneous.

Some people believe that friendship is a matter of similarity, and “that our friends are those who are like ourselves” (Doyle & Smith, 2002). Duck (2002) states that we look for individuals who assist us in supporting our thought-world and the more of these ‘thought-ways’ that we share with someone, the easier it is to communicate with that person: we can assume that our words and assumptions will be understood more easily by someone who is ‘our type’ than by someone who is not – we shall not have the repetitious discomfort of perpetually explaining ourselves, our meanings and our jokes (p. 333).

Intercultural friendship is a special kind of friendship between individuals with different national cultures, which is voluntary and rewarding as normal friendship in the same cultural context. However, the formation of intercultural friendship seems to be much more challenging than intracultural friendship because of a variety of reasons such as cultural differences and language.

According to Li, intercultural friendship is not only encounters challenges which exist in intracultural friendship context but also problems emerging from cultural differences and possible language barriers (Li, 2010). Although intercultural friends likely share some similarities such as musical taste, opinions, etc., they also most likely have to communicate these similarities across cultural differences which once again exemplifies the unique function of communication in intercultural friendship development.

In this era, intercultural friendship is very important for students, mostly if they’re wanted to develop their English skills through online communication or chatting with exchange students that come to their area. And first of all, it is

important to them to understand how to communicate with them that come from different culture to blend with their culture to avoid the mistake of communication between them.

Developing a relationship with someone from a different linguistic background also opens up the possibility of learning an additional language or dialect. The desire to deepen one's intercultural friendship can be a powerful source of motivation for second language learning. In some situations, new intercultural, international alliances can lead the opportunity to get to know, and even visit or live in, another part of the world. Intercultural friendship can open our eyes to new worlds and develop english language skill.

From the explanation above, the researcher conducted at student that have a friends abroad, and it's interested the researcher to find out how they're develop an English skills through the intercultural friendship such as using grammar or choosing a words correctly to communicate with them. And by those reason, the researcher is interested to conduct with the title "INTERCULTURAL FRIENDSHIP IN DEVELOPING ENGLISH SKILLS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS"

B. Research Question

1. How can the intercultural friendship develop college students English skills ?
2. What kind of communication that students use to develop English skill ?
3. What kind of language skills that can develop through intercultural friendship?

C. Objective of Study

1. To know how the intercultural friendship works to develop English language skills.
2. To know kind of communication that students use to develop English skill.

3. To know kind of language skills that can developed through intercultural friendship

D. Significance of Study

1. Theoretical

The finding of this research is expected to be a source for the next researcher who want to conduct a research in the same field. And hopefully this research could give a good information and reference for the future research

2. Practical

It is expected for students that this research can inform the students how to making an intercultural friendship to develop their English skills.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. Intercultural Friendship: a special kind of friendship between individuals with different national cultures which is voluntary and rewarding as normal friendship in the same cultural context (Fei Feng, 2011: 15). In this research, the researcher targetted the Intercultural Friendship which an Indonesians College students, especially Banjarmasin, that they're making a relationship with a people outside from Indonesia, and using English as a language to communicate with indonesian college students.
2. Develop: To grow or change into a more advanced, larger, or stronger form (Cambridge English Dictionary). Develop that the researcher means in this research is the subjects' English language skill.
3. Language Skill: Skills relate to different aspects of using language; such as listening, reading, writing or speaking. Skills are our ability to do these things. They are usually divided into two types: receptive and productive.. Language skill that the researcher's focused on college student's language skills when they're having an intercultural friendship

4. College Students: College Students in this research are the students who are from Universitas Tanjungpura Pontianak, and Universitas Islam Negeri Antasari Banjarmasin.