

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background Of Study

God creates a human differently. We have to thankful because it is a gift from God. God also teach us to be more wise in acting and enrich a nation or country with many cultural diversities. Like a verse in Al-Qur'an Q.S. Ar-Rum 22 that talk about culture as following:

وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ خَلْقُ لِسَمِّ ا وَاتِّوَالْأَرْضِ صَوَحْتَلاَفُ ا لُسِنَتِكُمْ وَا لُوَا نِ كُمْ اِنِّ فِى ذَلِكْ لَآيَا تِ  
لِّلْعَالَمِيْنَ (٢٢)

Based on the verse above we know how God creates a human to know one another and understand about things related with human itself. The importance about it also mentioned in the Holy Quran Al-Hujurat verse 13 as follow:

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

In the current age of globalization, education expatriates have been sent for cross-national investment and overseas operation. However, the expatriate's adaption is not always successful in a culturally different environment, since they are supposed to adjust to both of the local working environment and the life environment, which are unusually very different and challenging. As culture is the guidelines for people's behaviors, it depends on their cultures. It gives them stability and security because they know how to understand and respond to what is happening. However, if people move to another culture or encounter people from a strange culture, their views may see cultural conflicts with the different beliefs, norms, values and traditions that exist in those countries. They may have difficulty in adjusting to a new culture and to those parts of the culture not familiar to

them. Those unfamiliar things include language, climate, religion, food and educational system, how people make decisions, spend their leisure time, resolve conflicts and express their feeling and emotions, as a result they may suffer from anxiety and feelings (of surprise, disorientation, uncertainty, confusion, etc.) called culture shock (Kohut & Baxter, 1987, p.432) in Mingli (2015, p.72).

Oberg (Oberg, 2006, p.142) had investigated and defined that it is the feeling of confusion, insecurity, and anxiety caused by the strangeness of a new environment. It is precipitated by the anxiety that results from losing all familiar signs and symbols of social intercourse. These signs or cues include the thousand and one way in which we orient ourself to the situations of daily life, such as shaking hands and meeting others, to give orders to servants, purchasing something, accept or refuse for the invitations, and many other things. Thus, these cues which may be words, gestures, facial expressions, customs, or norms are acquired by all of people in the course of growing up and are as much a part of culture as the language they speak or accept (Hall, 2012, p.1). Besides, according to Adler (1972) in Kamberi (Kamberi, 2013, p.72) stated: "Culture shock is a form of anxiety that results from the loss of commonly perceived and understood signs and symbols of social intercourse".

Studying abroad may be one of the most beneficial experiences for a college student. By studying abroad, students have a chance to study in the other country and take allure and culture of a new land. They will find that completely immersing themselves in education system of their host country is a great way to really experience and understand the people, its traditions, and its culture. Students attending universities in a culture different from their own have to contend with novel social and educational organizations, behaviors and expectations—as well as dealing with the problems of adjustment common to students in general. Globalization has allowed people to encounter a new culture. The

experience of having a culture shock will more common to be experienced by college student especially foreign students.

Paige defined (Nasir, 2011, p.96) international students as individuals who are temporary residents of a country, other than their own, for educational purposes and they are culturally distinguishable from their hosts. As international students are culturally different from their hosts, they have their own social norms, values and conduct. When they arrive in their new host country; they are fascinated by distinct cultural perspectives such as about food, customs, traditions or social atmosphere. In the other hand, Zhou and his friends in their article (Zhou, 2008, p.63), this is difficult enough when the newcomer is aware of the differences in advance, but even more difficult when the newcomer is unaware and falsely assumes that the new society operates like their home country. The collective impact of such unfamiliar experiences on cultural travellers in general has been termed culture shock. The emerging trend of international exchange of students and scholars has drawn the attention of educationists toward the adjustment problems of foreign students.

These differences may cause some problems when these students try to adjust in new social environment. The emotional response of international students to these difficulties and adaptation to cultural changes is called cultural adjustment. Gabel, Dolen and Cerdin (Nasir, 2011, p.96) defined cultural adjustment as the changes that individuals undergo to form a relationship with the host society. Besides, Constantine, Okazaki and Utsey (2004) in Nasir (2011, p.96) argued that cultural adjustment involves the process of understanding and incorporating behaviors, values and beliefs of the host culture in the perspective of the one's own culture of origin. In addition, Kagan and Cohen (1990) in Nasir (2011, p.96) also have defined cultural adjustment in terms of a process that involves several interrelated factors associated with behavioral, cognitive, affective and

demographic aspects and that results in different levels of adjustment from cultural assimilation to cultural transmutation. The international students have to deal with several adjustment problems in a new social and academic environment on entering a new country. These problems may include difficulty in language and communication, accommodation and housing concerns, adjustment to different food and tastes, climate change, and difficulty in making social relationship.

In relation with cultural adjustment, most university all over the world provide important functions in terms of foreign-language acquisition, intercultural appreciation, and agencies in the creation and evolution of foreign educational institutions. Thus, universities have extensive international engagements to help facilitate the creation of global connections between current and future institutional or about government leaders. International students constitute increasingly relevant to important source of diversity on universities. They enrich the cultural diversity of the universities with their home culture and ethnic experiences. In addition, international students help the faculty and students to develop their cultural sensitivities and skills in working with people from different background. Those students also help universities generate higher revenue in terms of tuition or other fees.

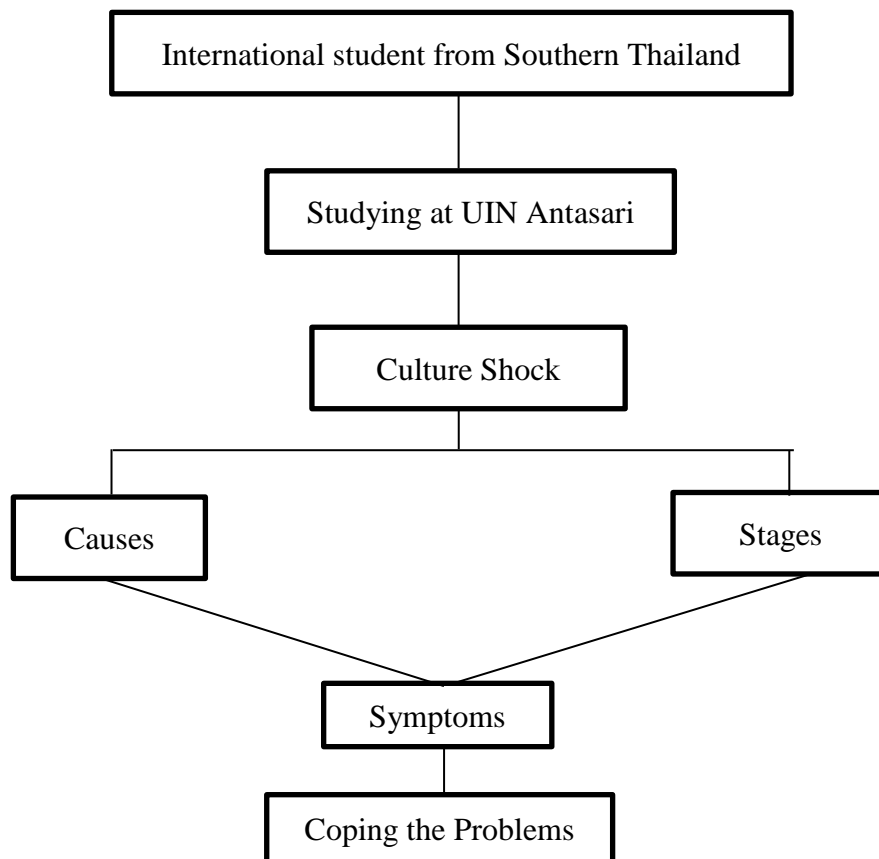
Indonesia is a popular university study destination and currently international students are enrolled in Indonesian institution across all education sectors. Banjarmasin is one of the big city in Indonesia which have various cultures inside from many provinces especially culture in South Borneo that is represented by various students who are studying at University in this city. Antasari State Islamic University (UIN) is one of Islamic universities in Banjarmasin which accept the students from all over the world. This college is an option which has been established by Mr. Amran as a person who handles the students from southern thailand who will continue their study to Indonesia

under the auspices of the institution named Abroad Alumni Association of Southern Border Provinces Thailand. As a university, it needs to be prepared to provide and guidance to many first year international students to enable them to acquire the necessary academic, social, and cultural competencies to negotiate the challenge of culture shock. International students are coming as new comer and are prosecuted to be able in adjusting to the new environment, new society, and changes in the environment such as physically, biologically, culturally, and phychologically.

Recently, many students from Thailand especially from southern Thailand choose Indonesia to continue their education. Leaving their home is not an easy thing to do because they will meet a new environment and different culture and it can cause them to experience culture shock. Because of the movement to the new environment can occur the culture shock, they might be try to adjust toward the culture. One of the culture shock phenomenon which is faced by Thailand students may include about the language. For the students who continue their study in abroad of course never know deeply about the foreign language such as Indonesian language so that they might be difficult to overcome to this phenomenon.

Culture shock phenomenon is being a matter for the students cause it can be a reason from the various difficulties in self adjustment especially for the students who are international students and come from other countries with its differences such as language, customs, and so on. Individu as social beings is prosecuted to be able to resolve the problem of culture differences which is appeared as a result from interaction with social environment and be able to align itself according to prevailing norms in campus environment. Self adjustment to the new environment which is different culture then direct the students to be able to socialize and adjust toward the culture through out from the various social phenomenon.

In this case, one of social phenomenon which is being investigated by the researcher is culture shock phenomenon. The process will give cultural learning prevailing in the new environment as a place where they are staying now, that is Banjarmasin. Based on the explanation above, the researcher thinks that problem is proper enough to be investigated.



Frame 1  
Mind Framework

Self adjustment problems which have been encountered by those students is a matter which is being an issue. Culture shock phenomenon is considered to be a fundamental issue for international students. When entering a new culture, they usually will face the difficulties so that it is important to discuss about self adjustment of international students in a new environment that is about culture shock experience.

Although the possibility of culture shock is around us, but the interest to discuss about this topic is still not much talked to. The researcher sees the importance of talking about the topic of culture shock, the factors causing and the possibility to overcome or solve the problems based on research and variety of literature. The researcher tries to do a research with title **“Culture Shock Encountered by International Student at Antasari State Islamic University”**. From this study, the researcher hopes that the culture shock which is being explained in this paper is meaningful to use this information to help ourself or others to avoid and be able to overcome the culture shock when people are in cultural differences and can be understood by the readers with the concept of cross cultural. The researcher knew that there were other researchers that have investigated about this theme such as Nor Faizah Hayati, a student of English Department 2016 A.D/1437 H, with the title *“The Culture Shocks Faced By The Foreign Students At Antasari State Institute For Islamic Studies Banjarmasin”*, Ayu Siti Rachma, a student at Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa University in Serang, with the title **“Study Fenomenologi Gegar Budaya Mahasiswa Asal Sumatra di UNTIRTA”**, and Marshella Devinta, a student from Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta (UNY) with the title **“Fenomena Gegar Budaya pada Mahasiswa Perantauan di Yogyakarta”**.

## **B. Statement Of Problems**

Based on the background of study above, the problems of the study are as follows:

1. What kinds of culture shock encountered by international students at Antasari State Islamic University in Banjarmasin?
2. How do they cope the culture shock's problems encountered by the international students at Antasari State Islamic University in Banjarmasin?

## **C. Objective of Study**

The study aimed to explore:

1. Culture shock's problems encountered by international students from southern Thailand.
2. How the international students cope culture shock's problems in order to adjust for new environment.

## **D. Significance of Study**

1. Field of student affairs

To create the relationship more closer with the students to decrease awkwardness for interacting or consulting about problems which might be faced by international students especially from southern Thailand.

2. For the student

To identify the early symptom or indication of culture shock so that can minimize the negative effects. When the problem has been solved then optimize academic and non academic potential students' can be attained.

3. For researcher

As a media to actualize learning experience and practice to think critically toward social phenomenon.



#### 4. Linguistics features

As an information or reference to be used for the next research.

### **E. Definition Of Key Terms**

1. Culture shock is a difficult situation in which someone faces many problems related to a new culture while people are being in another country. In this case, this culture shock includes about the cultural differences, causes, stages and symptoms of culture shock, and also cultural conflict that may happen to the international students.
2. International student is individual who is temporary residents of the other country, except their own country for some purposes especially in education. In this case, international student refers to the college students who are from southern Thailand and studying at Antasari State Islamic University in Banjarmasin from 2 faculties.