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CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING OF BIPA INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT ANDALAS UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

This research is motivated by understanding the language and culture of other people in a society is very important, especially for international students who do not understand other languages and cultures that they encounter in other countries, for example how to act and behave. The position of international students is that they are individuals who enter and meet a new culture and situation. International students entering a new environment is not an easy thing, of course they need adjustments to face language and cultural differences. During this adjustment, international students usually experience culture shock or culture shock. Culture shock is a normal phenomenon for international students due to differences in language, culture, social environment and daily habits. This type of research is qualitative with descriptive methods. The respondent data in this research consisted of 3 BIPA international students. Data collection using observation, interview and documentation techniques. Data analysis uses the Miles and Huberman analysis model. Based on data analysis and discussion, the results obtained: Forms of cross-cultural understanding of BIPA international students at Andalas University 1) Patterns of perception in the results of interviews with BIPA international students, namely (a) recognizing Indonesian, (b) recognizing Indonesian culture, and (c) interpreting information about Indonesian language and culture 2) Conceptualization in the results of BIPA international student interviews, namely (a) interpreting differences in Indonesian language and culture, and (b) resolving an Indonesian language and culture problem 3) Communication in the results of BIPA international student interviews, namely (a) being able to speak Indonesian, and (b) can interact, international students interact well using two languages, namely Indonesian and English.

KEYWORDS: Cross-Cultural Understanding, BIPA, Perception, Conceptualization, Communication

INTRODUCTION

Culture is all knowledge, thought patterns, behavior or attitudes that become human habits, which are owned and passed down by ancestors from generation to generation. The habits that humans have, even influence human attitudes and behavior, in other words humans are a cultural factor because humans act within the scope of culture. According to Bennet, Bennet & Allen (2003) stated that cross-cultural understanding is the ability possessed by a person to move from an "ethnocentric" attitude to an attitude of respect for other cultures, thus giving rise to the ability to behave appropriately in different cultures. Cross-cultural understanding is needed by people who in their daily work always come into contact with people from other cultures or different cultures. According to Busch, D. (2018) said that cross-cultural understanding is a manifestation of intellectual property that can facilitate communication and understanding of new cultures.

Rodrigues (2018) said that cross-cultural understanding is a process of perception, conceptualization and communication. Cross-cultural understanding emphasizes that perception has an important role in determining the sustainability of a relationship. The perception, conceptualization and communication of international students when they come to Indonesia are

certainly different considering the different socio-cultural backgrounds so that there are often misunderstandings in interpreting the meaning of messages because each individual has a different language and culture, which affects the effectiveness in communicating. International students are foreign students who are studying at a university from outside their country.

BIPA is a program to advance Indonesian at the international level. Kusmiatun (2015) states that learning Indonesian for foreign citizens is referred to as learning Indonesian for foreign speakers (BIPA). BIPA learning is one part of language learning. BIPA is language learning with foreign speakers as the subject. BIPA learning is viewed more on the learner factor, people who become BIPA learners are foreigners, not Indonesian speakers. Indonesian is a foreign language for learners, whether as a second language, third language, fourth language, or others. With BIPA learning, foreign students are expected to be able to master Indonesian or speak Indonesian (Widianto & Zulaeha, 2016).

METHODS

The type of research used in this research is qualitative research. Data in this research is speech uttered by international students during interviews which is conveyed in the form of sentences and words. The data collected using observation, interview and documentation techniques. Data were analyzed based on descriptive methods. The research instrument is the researcher himself to collect data in this research. Researchers analyzed the forms of cross-cultural understanding of BIPA international students at Andalas University.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Data analysis was carried out with the aim of analyzing forms of cross-cultural understanding. In this research, three types of cross-cultural understanding were found, namely cross-cultural understanding of patterns of perception, conceptualization, and communication or interaction. These findings will be discussed one by one as follows.

A. FORMS OF CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING OF BIPA INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT ANDALAS UNIVERSITY PERCEPTION PATTERNS

According to Nugroho (2015) perception is the act of compiling, recognizing and interpreting information to provide a picture and understanding of the environment which includes all signals in the nervous system. The form of cross-cultural understanding in the form of perception patterns found in the results of interviews with international students is as follows.

> **Data 1:**
> **"Aa, belajar bahasa Indonesia itu mudah, tidak ada yang sulit, mudah sekali."** (Thet Paing Oo)

Based on the quote above, it is included in the perception pattern of the act of recognizing Indonesian because Thet Paing Oo said that recognizing Indonesian is easy to learn. He had studied Indonesian for a long time before coming to Indonesia. After coming to Indonesia, international students studied again at UPT. Andalas University Languages. The perception pattern in the data above is related to the views of international students in recognizing Indonesian. This can be seen from the way BIPA International students recognize and interpret information to provide an overview and understanding of the Indonesian language they are studying. International students must learn to recognize Indonesian to make it easier to communicate with Indonesians.

Data 2:
"Ah ya, ada saya tau apa budayanya minangkabau tradisional dance tari piring, pencak silat, randai". (Thet Paing Oo)

Based on the quote above, it is included in the perception pattern of actions to recognize Indonesian culture because Thet Paing Oo said that the Indonesian culture he saw while living in Indonesia, they said that the culture they knew was plate dance, pencak silat, randai. International students recognize what cultures exist in Indonesia so as to increase their knowledge about Indonesian culture. The perception pattern in the data above is related to the views of international students in recognizing Indonesian culture, especially West Sumatra. This can be seen from the way BIPA International students recognize and interpret information to provide an overview and understanding of the culture that exists in Indonesia.

B. FORMS OF CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING OF BIPA INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT ANDALAS UNIVERSITY CONCEPTUALIZATION OR UNDERSTANDING PATTERNS

According to Setiawan (2019) conceptualization is the basis of human actions and responses in social life. So international students' conceptualization of the concept of differences in Indonesian language and culture can provide an explanation of how they think, act, and ultimately live in a different country. The form of cross-cultural understanding in the form of conceptualization or understanding found in the results of interviews with international students is as follows.

Data 3:
"Di sini banyak budayanya, tapi di desa saya juga ada budayanya, tapi budayanya berbeda, budayanya juga berbeda, tapi kita juga punya di sini, bukan itu sama, tapi makanan di Indonesia dan Myanmar juga tidak berbeda, mirip sekali." (Thet Paing Oo)

Based on the quote above, it is included in the perception pattern of actions to interpret differences in Indonesian culture because Thet Paing Oo stated that they already know a lot about the culture in Indonesia, but for them there are many differences between Indonesian culture and the culture in their country. Despite this, they still respect Indonesian culture, in addition, in terms of the types of food in Indonesia, it is also different from the food in their country. So it can be seen that students can provide views on the cultural differences that they already know. Perception patterns of international students' views on interpreting Indonesian culture. This can be seen from the way BIPA International students recognize and interpret information and provide an overview and understanding of Indonesian culture that has been known through BIPA learning so far.

Data 4:
"Budaya yang berbeda itu mungkin yang pertama itu kalau di negara saya yang pertama saya tau itu yang makan pakai tangan kalau disana orang ngak makan pakai tangan terus orang disini lebih suka nanya gitu kalau di kampung saya itu kalau tidak kenal jarang yang nanya gitu". (Tambazana Josi Louisianna)

Based on the quote above, it is included in the pattern of perception of the act of interpreting Indonesian language and culture because Tambazana Josi Louisianna stated that there are many differences between Indonesian culture and the culture in his country. One of the habits of Indonesian people is to eat with their hands, whereas in their country this is rarely seen because in general in their country people eat with spoons. Apart from that, they also think that people in Indonesia are very friendly, because they greet each other even though they don't know each other, but in their country this rarely happens because if you don't know each other, people will be indifferent and interactions will rarely occur. It is this difference that must be understood because they live not in the country so they must understand each other so that there are no misunderstandings. Perception patterns of international students' views on interpreting Indonesian culture. This can be seen from the way BIPA International students recognize and interpret information and provide an overview and understanding of Indonesian culture that has been known through BIPA learning so far.

C. FORMS OF CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING FOR BIPA INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT ANDALAS COMMUNICATION UNIVERSITY

According to Somad, (2007) who stated that communication is an activity or event of information transmission, which is the process of conveying information between individuals and individuals or individuals and groups, through commonly used symbol systems such as verbal and written messages as well as through signs or other symbols.

> **Data 5:**
> **"Kalau mahasiswa Indonesia saya bisa bilang bicara sama bahasa inggris tapi dia tidak mengerti banyak tapi dia punya pakai bahasa inggris sama bahasa Indonesia saya pun juga sama-sama pakai bahasa inggris sedikit bahasa Indonesia".** (Thet Paing Oo)

The data above is a form of cross-cultural understanding of communication or interaction. The communication in question is the existence of a communication relationship between BIPA international students and students from Indonesia. International students often use English when communicating, but sometimes the person they are talking to cannot understand the language they are using, so international students try to communicate using Indonesian so that it is easier to understand so that communication and interaction can be established well and mutually. equally understandable by the individuals involved in the communication. Communication and interactions carried out are interrelated and influence each other in the communication process between individuals. This can be seen from the way BIPA international students interact with Indonesian students.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussions that have been carried out, it can be concluded that the form of cross-cultural understanding of BIPA International students at Andalas University is: First, the perception pattern of international students can know Indonesian very easily, then international students can also get to know Indonesian culture, such as knowing the types of According to international students, Indonesian culture, especially West Sumatra, is interesting, unique and the culture is more Islamic. Second, international students' conceptualization patterns in

interpreting Indonesian language and culture are different from those in their country, but international students can adapt or adapt to face differences in Indonesian language and culture and solve problems of differences in Indonesian language and culture. International students feel there are no problems with language and cultural differences. Indonesian culture because international students who live in other countries can certainly understand the differences in Indonesian language and culture. Third, international students' communication patterns can communicate well using two languages, namely Indonesian and English, but BIPA students still have difficulty communicating using the regional language, namely Minang. So there are difficulties when pronouncing it. However, overall students can interact and communicate well.

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