

## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Chapter 1 is consisted of background of the study, the limitation of the study, the problem formulation, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, and the organization of the study.

#### **A. Background Of The Study**

Culture is arts, behavior, values and attitudes which is unique and very interesting. Indeed, every country in the world has a different culture as a heritage from their ancestors that must be preserved from generation to generation. Culture in another word is the way of life and must be shared and followed by people in a society. There are a lot of cultural differences in this world, such as foods, custom, literature, art, and etc. According to Oatey, culture is belief and value which shared by people in society and influence their behavior (2). It can be said that culture is a result of the values which has gone through a long process of thinking and cannot be changed in a short time and as a combination of tradition, beliefs, behavior, habit, custom, and thought shared by people in society.

As stated before, every country has a different culture and between one to another will not be the same whether in language, custom, and habit. Each culture has its own uniqueness, such as attitude, belief, norm, value, and needs. “As people grow and live in cultural environment and they interacting each other, culture will become their way of life, automatic and familiar” (Lopez 2). The results of cultural process itself are developed from generation to generation.

Lanati and Venturini believe that culture and migration are interrelated (1). It means that culture in a host country is adopted by immigrants and this will form multicultural societies.

People where the immigrants or sojourners having significant contact are referred to as host country. Immigrants or sojourners are distinguished based on the duration of time someone lives in the host country. According to Ward, Bochner and Furnham, sojourners are temporary residents who come to a new place or country for a certain period of time, whereas immigrants are people who relocate to a new country for long term resettlement. They usually will not return to their home country. (23). It means that sojourners do not live in a country for a long time. There is possibilities that they will return to their home country after accomplish their goals. The examples of sojourners categories are such as tourists, and overseas students.

Furthermore, when immigrants or sojourners move to the new country, they will bring their own culture and also the way of life. They need to learn and adapt with the norms, customs and conditions of the new culture through socialization with the host country. Lee and Kim add that by bringing their own culture into another country, they were faced different cultures. This condition automatically will result culture clash (97).

Culture clash and culture shock are seems like similar, however they are different. What culture clash and culture shock have in common is that they are both cross-cultural experiences which can be negative or positive.

Culture clash is tension between people because one or both feel threatened because of different ethnicity, culture, and religion. Whereas, culture shock is what an immigrants or sojourners feel when they arrive in a new country for the first time with customs and cultures are different from their own (Portillo par.3-5).

It can be concluded that culture clash is a threat done by people based on one's culture, ethnic and race, whereas culture shock is a condition when someone feels shock with the environment, condition and culture in a new country which different from his own.

Culture shock theory was firstly introduced by Kalervo Oberg. He defines that "culture shock is embodied by the feeling of anxiety as a result from losing of someone's familiar social signs and symbols" (qtd. in Yana 2). When people come to a new destination country, they will face different culture. Because of this condition, they need to adapt with its cultural environment in order to survive.

Furthermore, a new research done by Ward, Bochner, and Furnham believe that culture shock consist of four phase, that are honeymoon, crisis, recovery and the last is adjustment (81). Actually those distinct phases are resumption from the earlier research done by Oberg's but with different terminology. Oberg also defines that "culture shock is usually characterized as a feeling by someone like anxiety and nervous with unfamiliar ways of custom and some differences in new country" (qtd. in Yana 2), it will cause a negative impact to individual's health problems such as stressed, surprised, confused and disoriented.

Moreover, there are other impacts of culture shock that usually happen to immigrants or sojourners such as excitement, amazement, social interaction and life changes (Junaaid and Pertiwi 113). This is more likely to have a positive impact on immigrants or sojourners. Indeed, culture shock can be used as a motivation to get a better experience. So when someone who has experienced culture shock before, he / she can minimize it, cope and adjust well to decrease culture shock problem. In this case, adaptation can be used to decrease the possibility of social conflict and anxiety in culture shock. The adaptation process with the culture of the host country usually takes a long time. It depends on how individuals manage it (Winkelman 122). The faster a person opens up and accepts the differences between both cultures, the easier he / she manage culture shock.

The culture shock phenomenon is portrayed in *English Vinglish* film by Gauri Shinde in 2012. The story of the film is full of conflicts, not only between Sashi as the main character and her family, but also Sashi and the society in the new country. Sashi is an Indian housewife and also a mother of two kids. She is described as a traditional Indian housewife who cannot speak English, because of her inability in speaking English; Sashi is often being the subject of ridicules of her husband and children. She also finds it difficult to face a condition that forces her to speak in English such as parents meeting in school. Sashi's daughter is more underestimate her and less respect of her because of her shortcomings.

The conflict begins to rise further when she has to help prepare the marriage of her niece in New York. She is scared because she has to leave India to go to New York City alone for 5 weeks, meanwhile her husband and children will

come when the event starts. Various worries arise about goes to foreign country with her lack of English. After she experiences some accidents of culture shock and mostly because of her lack of English, she motivates to learn English by joining English class. Yet, the problem goes on. Culture shock problem still arises along with her learning English and her daily life in America, such as different attitude, food, the way people communicate each other, norms and etc. In the end of film, finally Sashi can adapt with the new culture because her ability to learn the new condition and accept the dissimilarity of those two cultures.

Everyone will be at the time when he / she have to adapt to a new culture and he has to learn in order to survive. In this film, the culture shock is experienced by Sashi because of facing American culture. The story clearly illustrates how Sashi as the main character manages the culture shock in America and how finally she can survive. Therefore, by analyzing the interesting conflicts in the story above, this study is entitled **“The Positive Impacts On Culture Shock For The Main Character’s Sashi Depicted In *English Vinglish* Film”**.

## **B. Problem of the Study**

Based on the limitation above, this study will formulate the statements of the problems as following:

1. What culture shocks are experienced by Sashi that reflected in the film?
2. What kinds of phases of culture shock experienced by Sashi that reflected in the film?

3. How are the positive impacts of culture shock on Sashi as reflected in the film?

### **C. Limitation of the Study**

Culture shock is one of social problems in a society. Culture shock happens because someone moves to a new environment that has a new culture and tradition where all of the values must be maintained by them. Because of the problem statement above, this study will only focus on the main character Sashi as a sojourner in new country. She is shocked with the new culture, habit and the way of life in America as reflected in Gauri Shinde's *English Vinglish* film. It focuses on the phases of culture shock and its positive impacts to the main character Sashi.

### **D. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are:

1. To identify the culture shock that is experienced by Sashi as reflected in the film.
2. To describe the kinds of phases of culture shock experienced by Sashi as reflected in the film.
3. To analyze the positive impacts of culture shock on Sashi's character as reflected in the film.

### **E. Significance of the Study**

The significance of the study are:

1. This study hopefully can be useful as one of the references for English department students to enrich their knowledge about Culture Shock.
2. The result of this study will be useful as a reference for students of Sultan Agung Islamic University Semarang in general to do further studies and also as guidance for those who are interested in literature.

### **F. Outline of the Study**

This study is divided into five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction. It consists of background of the study, limitation of the study, problem formulation, objective of the study, significance of the study, and organization of the study. Chapter II is theoretical framework consisted of synopsis of the film and related theories of definition of culture, American culture, Indian culture, the definition of culture shock, and impact of the culture shock. Chapter III is research method, which consists of source of the data, data collecting method, and data analysis method. Chapter IV is findings and discussion. It is culture shock reflected in *English Vinglish* film. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion.