

## **The Adaptation Process of South Thailand Students in Medan**

**Ayu Fitri Azhari<sup>1</sup>, Muhammad Fachri Syahreza<sup>2</sup>**

*University Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara*

*Jl. Kapten Mukhtar Basri No 3 Medan – Sumatera Utara, Indonesia*

*Ayuazhari1028@gmail.com*

### **ABSTRACT**

South Thailand student are foreign student who stay in Medan. The main problem is there are some obstacles for them to communicate with local resident and they need the ability to adapt in new environment. The researchers want to find out how their adaptation process in Medan. This research use Anxiety & Uncertainty Management Theory and the researchers interviewing and making an observation in their residence. Based on research result we found that there are some obstacle to communicate with local resident like the difference language and culture. But as time goes by they can adapt in local resident because they often communicate and interact with local resident and some of them take a part in local organization in their college and also some of them being a seller in around their residence in some certain time. The conclusion is they need more time in adaptation process in local residence.

**Keywords:** *Adaptation, Intercultural communication, South Thailand Students, Culture*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The development of the world nowadays is rapidly proceed and have high mobility and dynamics for advancement in all sector. The development and advancement in all sector especially in education, everyone able to study abroad wherever they want. Nowadays there are many foreign student in Indonesia and their amount continues higher by time. Their existence in our country make us to interact with them because communication is an important thing in our social life.

The Adaptation process that someone does can naturally than the reality that exist in society. Gudykunts and Kim (2003) stated that everyone has different motivation for adapt. Individual abilities to communicate based on new cultural norms and value depends on their their adjustment process and adaptation. Nevertheless, everyone must face the challenge for adapting to be able to useful for new environment. Furthermore, Gudykunts and Kim stated every individual must undergoing the process of adaptation when meet and interacting with the person who come from different culture and environment. Like South Thailand Students, they come and bring the difference in ethnic, race, language, and culture. Communication itself can be like a blood vessel in human environment. Communication connecting interaction between us and foreign students. Talk about communication, we can't separate it with culture. These things, communication and culture, relate each other as mentioned by Edward T Hall "Communication is Culture, Culture is Communication". Culture and communication interact closely and dynamically. The essence of culture is communication because culture created by communication. However, the culture that created in a group have an effect in their way to communicate to each other. South Thailand Students in Medan feeling the cultural difference. The cultural differences cause the way of them to communicate is different to us so they need vety long time to adaptation in Medan.

From these differences, the language and environment are really stands out differences. Different language from different background, becoming an obstacle for some person to communicate with the person from different country and has different language. So are South Thailand Students, many of them faces the problem. The way communicate and culture of them with the local student and local resident around their residence has so many difference. The writer wants to analyze what kind the differences of the culture and the adaptation process process carried out by South Thailand Students in Medan especially kota Matsum. Based the background that mention above, the effective of this research is to analyzing how the process of adaption of South Thailand Students in their society

### Anxiety/Uncertainty Management Theory

Theory of William Gudykunst focuses on the differences in culture for foreigners. His theory is using for any situations in doubt and fear. He uses “effective communication” in the process of filtering misunderstanding. The other experts use “accuracy, fidelity, understanding” for the same problems. Gudykunst believe in dread and uncertainty is the base of bad communication in every tribes. There are two causes of misunderstanding. Seeing those as difference in cognate uncertainty and the dread of affection (emotional). Basically, the things that contained in adaptation process are communication process. The communication process are the part of some communication pattern who carried out by someone in their daily activities for interact with other person. The communication process are how communicator tell the message to communicant. So the communicator can create a similarity of meaning between communicator and communicant. The essence of a communication process are the similarity meaning about what that communicated between communicator and communicant. Adaptation happens in and through communication, furthermore the important result of adaptation are the identification of significant symbols about host communities. Because generally the introduction of cultural patterns through interaction, so the strangers recognizing the host community patterns then build new cultural relationships through communication.

According Berger and Leukman, they stated that socialization and enculturation are the basic form disclosure of basic human behaviour that internalized by us who learn the characteristic of others and then become the only world that exists. The other process that determine the process adaptation are called recocialization and acculturation, which is when a stranger who have been socialized in their culture then moved to a new place and interact with the environment for certain time. In this process of adaptation, foreigner gradually begin to detect a new patterns about thought and behaviour and structured personally about adaptation that relevant for host community. What determines in this process are our ability to recognizing the difference and similarity in new environment. As the acculturation process progressed in the context of adaptation to new cultures, some old cultural patterns that unlearning maybe occur, at least to the degree that a new response adopted previously situation become a difference. This adaptation process called deculturation.

When the process of deculturation and acculturation happens, the newcomers has gradually made an adaptation process, Foreigner can be pressured to adjust to the roles that needed but cannot be forced to accepted some certain values. The form og communication experiences a dynamic process, because the process take a place that living social contexted, develop and even changing based on times, situations, and certain conditions. Culture is a dynamist livelihood for intercultural communication process.

According to Koenjaningrat, there are seven cultures that can be called as main content of every cultures in the wolrd that can support the process of intercultural communication i.e :

- a. Language

One of important element in human life that become a requirement for interaction are the knowledge about language. Language is an instrument that used by humans for interacting with human being. In term of language, the South Thailand Students speaks Pattani Malay, or in Thai is Yawi or Jawi. It's a dialect by Malay that spokens in southern province of Thailand that borders Malaysia. There are some Pattani vocabularies that have a similarity with Indonesian such as “eating” which in Pattani means “make” while in Indonesian “make” means “to use or wearing”

b. Knowledge System

Educational background is a thing that make the intercultural communication process easier. If in Indonesia the people educational background not so dominant to Islamic education, that's different in South Thailand. The early educational must Islamic educational.

c. Social Organization

Social organization as a forum for meeting and uniting their ideas and expected to avoiding conflict that happens in community.

d. Life tool system and technology

Equipment and supplies of human life (clothing, housing, household appliances, weapons, equipment for produces. Transport, and so on.

e. The livelihood system

The livelihood system of life is more focused on the type of humans work for daily needs

f. Believing system

Beliefs is links the relationships between believed objects, with certain characteristic so that object different. Level, degree, our beliefs shows the depth and content our beliefs. The arts of every ethnic groups has its characteristic about art and cultural its self. The most obvious characteristic from Southert Thailand people are their clothes. They use syar'I veil, skirts, and also knee-length cloths so they so easily recognized in Indonesia. If most Indonesian people who wear hijab syar'I so they also wear gamis, and the Southern Thailand students not.

## METHOD

a. Research methods

This research categorized as qualitative descriptive research.

The location of research is in Homebase South Thailand Students located in Halat Street Medan.

b. Subject and object research

The subjective of this research is foreigners of Southern Thailand generation 2018 who study in Universitas Muslim Swasta in Medan. This research is using 2 data such as Primer Data and secondary data.

c. Data Collection Techniques

1. Interview

Interview is a technique of collecting data or information that researchers do to informants both formally and informally, by giving some questions to the informant.

2. Observation

The observation is Participant Observation which means The researcher with his ability see and watch subject and taking the active role in this research.

3. Documentation

Technic of documention is searching for the data such as notes, transcript, books, newspaper, magazine and the others.

#### d. Data Analyst

The analyze is interpretation to data which is taken from the result of research. Then arranged in a theory.

##### 1. Collecting data

Collecting data must be done by accurate method. The main method is observation, Deep interview and using questioner, documentation.

##### 2. Informan

The informan are The students of Southern Thailand in 2018 in Medan. Hasnah Yusuf ( female) and Kamil Waedaoh (male)

##### 3. Drawing conclusion

The way of the researchers of finding the conclusion of this research are continuous research. From collecting data till find out explanation in problem that researched and got the conclusions

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### A.Data Description

#### 1.Profile of Southern Thailand Students

In this research, the researcher interviewing two Southern Thailand Students class 2018 in UMN and UNIVA Medan

Name : Hasnah Yusuf  
Date and Birthplace : Pattani, 21 April 1998  
Faculty : B. Inggris  
Semester : 2

Name : Kamil Waedaoh  
Date and Birthplace : Pattani, 2 Juli 1998  
Faculty : Ekonomi  
Semester : 2

1.What the background of Southern Thailand Students who come to Indonesia for studying in Medan in 2018 and there are eight person. Many country being their destination for studying. Hasnah and her friends choose Indonesia for continuing study with reason there are some similarity between Indonesian and Malay Language. So they expected will not find difficulties in communication and learning process. Hasnah said to the researcher “ I think Indonesian have similarity with Malay, so I choose Indonesia. If I go to Malaysia its too close. They assume Indonesian has similarity with Malay that their daily language in Pattani.

2.What the South Pattani Thailand do adapting in their residence society and in college

#### a.Interviewing Kamil Waedoh

Kamil Waedaoh is Southern Thailand students who the first we meet. He friendly enough and can interacting very well. He said language become an obstacle, but he can understand the meaning.

There are some obstacles when we talk with him so we repeat our question slowly. “I study in UNIVA, every day I meet my Indonesian friends, not only in college but in my neighborhood. I often talk with my neighborhood, I often buy some daily needed with my neighbor. Sometimes they offered me free food if I held activity in my home. Kamil Waedaoh has a close relationship with his classmate, his friend understands about the cultural difference between them, so Kamil feels comfortable interacting with local students. In his neighborhood Kamil blends with neighbors. Interaction and communication not only happen in college, but Kamil also joined in college events like Mapala and so on. “if my neighbor held an event, I often invited by them. We are like a family here, we discuss many things when we meet”. The Southern Pattani students especially Kamil feel comfortable living in Medan. Kamil judges Indonesian people friendly. Relationships between Southern Thailand and local students are very well. There is nothing a conflict that ever between them. Even though since 2018 they come to Medan that the majority of the neighborhood are Batakese, not make Kamil feel different. When communicate Kamil still feels confused because of the language differences.

#### b. Interviewing Hasna Yusuf.

Hasnah said learning a new language in a short time is very difficult. Hasnah said “ I still feel confused when I talk using Indonesian, I understand the meaning but I can't speak fluently, my friends often help me for speaking Indonesian. Hasnah tells about her experiences when she first studied in UMN. She wonders why the lecturers make a handshake with girl students. That thing seems strange for her because in Southern Thailand a lecturer never makes a handshake with girl students, they just greet and smile without making hand touching. “the first time we study in college, we see the lecturer make a handshake. At the beginning we do that, but we just smile to the lecturer. After the lecturer understands we are Southern Thailand students, he never makes a handshake to us. In Southern we can't shake hands if we aren't Muhrim. Being in a different society makes Hasnah feel difficult to communicate. She says “ I can't understand when lecturers speak Javanese. She often feels confused when she buys a hijab, but the seller is not wearing a hijab.

#### **Data Analyst**

Reducing the level of uncertainty, there are three stages of interaction in order to reduce the level.

1. Pre Contact or stage to make impression through verbal and non verbal symbols. In this point, the first impression that is created by Southern Thailand students are there are many sellers who are not Muslims and they are afraid if the sellers sell the food that contain forbidden ingredients, because the seller is never wearing a hijab. And Southern Thailand students consider Indonesian people free to make friends because Indonesian people are free to make a handshake with everyone. The Southern Thailand students have assumptions that Indonesian people speak softly, but some of them speak loudly even though they are good people.
2. Initial contact and impression  
Further response from the impressions that emerge from the initial contact. At this stage, the further response from the initial impression that comes are observing and asking some Indonesian students. They get information and explanation that not all Muslims in Indonesia are wearing a hijab, the food that is sold is not always halal, and shaking hands with a lecturer is the way to respecting an older person.
3. The adaptation process of Southern Thailand Students  
Basically the things in the adaptation process are the process of communication. The core of the communication process is there are similarities of the meaning about what that is communicated between the communicator and the communicant. The first time they arrived in Indonesia, they can't adapt very well. It is because there are some language differences that make an inequality of meaning. The movement of a foreigner from their country to a new country is permanent. Because



they must live and become members of the host community, they must focus on their relationships with the new environment like the native people. The deculturation process come as acculturation process progressed. They begin to adopt a culture that previously different with their culture. The example are now they greeting to lecturer.

## **CONCLUSION**

The process of intercultural communication between Southern Thailand students and the Indonesian people went harmoniously. The students who have lived for less than two years in Indonesia, sometimes have difficulty in adapting and communicating with Indonesian people. Both of them understand each other's cultures, creating harmonious and harmonious relationships in neighborhood and college . The students who recently lived in Indonesia sometimes find it difficult to learn Indonesian culture. There are two adaptation processes taken by students, the first is the acculturation process and the second is the deculturation process. When the two processes have been carried out gradually the students have carried out the adaptation process. After carrying out the process of cultural adaptation, the process includes a process of interactive and transactional communication, which is dynamic. Everyday they communicating and interacting with local students and local residence based on information needed, the knowledge they have, personal experience about daily life. The example are the Southern Thailand students get the knowledge from lecturer. The form of communication above has a dynamic process, because the process take place in social context, develop and changes based on time , situation, and conditions

## **REFERENCES**

- Anonym. 2014. Pedoman Penulisan Skripsi. Purwokerto: STAIN Press. Arikunto, Suharsimi. 2005.
- Communication Skill. Yogyakarta: Penerbit Deepublish. Kusumohamidjojo, Budiono. 2009.
- Dasar-Dasar Komunikasi Antarbudaya (Cetakan Ketiga). Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar. Madris. 2002.
- Filsafat Kebudayaan: Proses Realisasi Manusia. Yogyakarta: Jalasutra. Liliweri, Alo. 2001.
- Gatra-gatra Komunikasi Antar Budaya. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar. 2007.
- Ilmu Komunikasi Teori dan Praktek. Bandung : Rosda Karya. Iskandar. 2009.
- Komunikasi Jenaka: Parade Anekdot, Humor & Pengalaman Konyol. Bandung: PT. Remaja Rosda Karya. 2004.
- Komunikasi Efektif: Suatu pendekatan Lintas Budaya. Bandung : PT. Remaja Rosdakarya. 2006.
- Manajemen Penelitian. Jakarta : Rineka Cipta. Effendy, Onong Uchjana. 2004.
- Manusia dan Kebudayaan di Indonesia. Jakarta: Penerbit Djambatan. Kustini, Henny. 2017.
- Makna Budaya Dalam Komunikasi Antarbudaya. Yogyakarta : PT. LKiS Pelangi Aksara. 2009.
- Metode Penelitian Suatu Pendekatan Proposal. Jakarta : Bumi Aksara. Mulyana, Deddy. 2002.