

## **The Dynamics of Intercultural Communication of South Thailand Students In Medan**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this research is to analyze the dynamics of intercultural communication of South Thailandland students in Medan. The Language barrier becomes a problem in the process of communication between Thailandland students and society in Medan. Communication between individuals from different groups will attract individual attention to give attention and trigger responses to modify or regulate their behavior so that the message can be conveyed properly. This research uses the accommodation theory and intercultural communication theory. The research methodology used is a qualitative research method by searching, analyzing, and making interpretation data that is collected through interviews and observations. The informants are South Thailandland students in Medan. The results showed how intercultural communication barriers experienced by Thailandland students such as language, motivation, open communication, when interacting with society surrounding.

**Keywords:** the dynamics of intercultural communication, South Thailand Students, Medan

### **INTRODUCTION**

Today, there are often misunderstanding between groups, ethnicities, religions, and different races and cultures in the lives of people in Indonesia. When we communicate with others we are faced with different languages, rules, and value. Diversity problem that often arise in intercultural communication are due to different reason and motivations. In intercultural communication, these differences can cause problems. South Thailand students who take education in the city of Medan, especially at the beginning level, still often uphold the values they hold. According to Sumner ethnocentrism is "seeing everything in the group itself as the center of everything and other things measured and assessed based on the group's reference". The success and success of communication will have an impact on the success and reception of good messages by the communicant.

In identifying a form of communication interaction, it is necessary to consider the role and function of culture in the communication process. Communication between individuals from different groups will attract individual attention to give attention and trigger responses to modify or regulate their behavior so that the message between the two can be conveyed properly. From the explanation above, the reasearch is interested to analyze the dynamics of intercultural communication of South Thailand students while living in Medan.

The formulation of the problem is one part of the questions that will become the core of the problem in research. The formulation of the problem in this study is "What is the dynamics of communication between cultures of South Thailand students in Medan City?" The putpuse is to find out how the dynamics of intercultural communication between South Thailand students in Medan.

### **Definition of Intercultural communication**

Intercultural communication according to Infante in Kartika's book (2013: 1) is the study of communication between individuals or groups of people from different cultures, involving several areas of exploration. As a member of particular patterns of perceiving the world through learning symbol systems such as language and nonverbal behavior. Intercultural communication is communication with the characteristics of sources and recipients of messages originating from different cultures. Communication is a function of culture. Therefore, communication behavior is a reflection of the culture of origin of the participants. Communication is symbolic. When someone uses symbols, whether, in the form of words or gestures, it is assumed that other people also use the same symbol system. This is problematic when the communication is carried out with a partner who is different from other cultures. Thus, cultural differences that lead to the use of different symbols. Intercultural communication between people of different cultures.

Communication and culture are two sides of a coin that are inseparable and influence each other. Culture not only determines who talks with whom, about what and how communication takes place, but culture also determines how people encode messages, the meaning they have for messages and the conditions for sending, paying attention and interpreting messages. The entire treasury of human behavior is very dependent on the culture in which humans were raised. Consequently, culture is the basis of communication. If culture is diverse, then communication practices are also diverse (Mulyana, & Rachmat, 2010: 20)

### **The Dynamics of Intercultural Communication**

Communication that takes place between individuals with different cultural backgrounds experiences many conscious or unconscious barriers, so that a dynamic between the communicating participants is seen. Therefore, several characters need to be considered in the dynamics of intercultural communication (Lubis, 2018: 45-52), namely:

#### **1. Dynamic Communication**

Communication is dynamic, that is to say, communication is an activity of people that takes place continuously from generation to generation and undergoes changes in patterns, messages, and channels.

#### **2. Interactive Communication**

Communication does not only involve 2 or 3 people but involves several groups, organizations, the public, and the masses.

#### **3. Irreversible Communication**

Communication is irreversible meaning the message cannot be withdrawn after it is delivered. Once the recipient has been influenced by the first message, the effect of the message cannot be withdrawn even though corrections are made through the delivery of a new message.

#### **4. Communication Always Lasts**

In physical and social contexts, physical environment factors are considered to influence the communication process. The results showed that the influence of the social context became very dominant in paternalistic and traditional life such as Java and Asia in general. This social context is somewhat weakened when in egalitarian societies and high democracies such as the United States.

To understand the world, the values and behavior of others we must understand the framework of perception. In ideal intercultural communication, we expect a lot of similarities in cultural experiences and perceptions. But the cultural character tends to introduce us to experiences that are not the same or different. Therefore he brings different cultural perceptions to the world outside his own culture. From these writings, communication between humans is bound by culture, as cultures

differ from one another so that the practice and communication behavior of individuals built-in culture will also be different. It can be said that it is through the cultural influence that humans learn to communicate and view their world through categories, concepts, and symbols. Besides, it was impressed that each person from a different culture had different views in positioning an object or situation, and vice.

### **Accommodation Theory**

According to Howard Giles in the book Morissan (2013: 210-212) The theory of accommodation explains how and why we adjust our communication behavior with the communication behavior of others. Have you ever noticed, for example, two people who are talking together crossing their arms in their chests or they are mutually imitating each other's gestures, Giles calls this imitating behavior as "convergence" or coming together, while his opponent is a "divergence" or moving apart that occurs when the speaker starts to strengthen their differences. Accommodation in these two forms, both convergence or divergence, can occur in all communication behaviors through conversation including similarities or differences in terms of voice intonation, speed, accent, volume, words, grammar, gestures, and others. Both convergence and divergence can be mutual, both speakers become united or mutually exclusive, or non-mutual, one speaker and the other speaker move away. Convergence can also be "partial" or "complete". For example, you can talk rather quickly so that you can approach the level of the speed of your interlocutor, or you talk as fast as possible so that you can match the level of the speed of your interlocutor. Although accommodations are sometimes done consciously, but the speaker is usually more unaware he is doing it. Accommodation is more often an unconscious process. We may be more aware of the existence of divergence rather than convergence, because divergence shows differences so it is easier to pay attention. The researchers found that accommodation can have an important role in communication because it can strengthen social identity and unity, but conversely it can also strengthen difference and separation. For example, convergence often occurs when someone asks for someone else's approval. This can happen to a number of groups that already have in common. In other words, the equation will more easily lead to solidarity.

## **METHOD**

### **1. Research Method**

This research is a qualitative study by searching, analyzing, and interpreting data found through data, interviews, and observations. The data that has been collected is checked for validity through the validity of the data in the form of trust. Data analysis technique used is to reduce, present, and make conclusions from the results of research.

### **2. Data Collection Techniques**

#### **a. In-depth Interview**

In-depth interview is a technique of collecting data or information that researchers do to informants both formally and informally, by giving several questions to the informant. Interviews were conducted to obtain information about how to shape the dynamics of communication, barriers, and how to overcome the obstacles faced by Thailand students in the city of Medan. The characteristics of the informants or informants in this study are South Thailand students who have lived in Medan, especially on Jalan Halat for 2 years.

#### **b. Observation**

Observation is a technique in gathering data or information about something that will be studied empirically. This technique is used to see the object of research studies, namely the Cultural Dynamics of South Thailand Students in Medan City and to see the cultural barriers that occur.

The writer conducted an in-depth interview with the aim to find out what form of communication between Thailand students and students with the local community and what obstacles were encountered

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

After conducting field research through an interview process with two South Thailand students in the city of Medan, researchers can see some of the obstacles experienced by Thailand students while studying in Medan. As for perceived barriers such as language, motivation, openness of communication.

### **A. The Dynamics of Intercultural Communication of Thailand Culture in Medan City**

Culture is a way of life that develops and is owned by a group which is then passed on from generation to generation. Culture is formed from a variety of elements that are quite complex, including religious systems, politics, customs, culture, language, tools, clothing, buildings, and works of art. Language is one component of a culture that is an inseparable part of human beings so that many people tend to consider it inherited from generation to generation. When someone tries to communicate with people of different cultures and adjust their differences, it proves that culture can be learned.

Cultural diversity makes the people of Medan play a role as social creatures. This is also a supporting factor for multicultural life between ethnic and religious communities in peace and harmony. In addition, viewed from any side the City of Medan is the center of the City in North Sumatra. Especially it can be seen from the side of the culture of the people who are strong in maintaining their identity. With these conditions also makes Medan City does not have a dominant culture. Because each other ethnic competed in accentuating their identities. With this diversity, major conflicts between ethnic groups are rarely found, both from the mass media.

The existence of the South Thailand group covers almost every region in Indonesia, which begins with its arrival in the land of Java. In the city of Medan itself, precisely in Pasar Merah Village, Medan Area Subdistrict, several South Thailand groups settled as boarding children as students studying in Islamic-based tertiary institutions in Medan.

South Thailand students who have studied at the University in Medan also still have problems communicating with students or people from Indonesia. As experienced by Satnah, student who often experiences obstacles when communicating. This makes him less confident and becomes less sociable with the local community.

Barriers that often occur are usually found in verbal form such as the use of language. Thailand students assess the Medan City people in speaking always loud and fast, so that Thailand students do not understand what is conveyed. In addition, there are several different Thailand languages with languages such as coffee (kaa fee), language (phase), key (kun-jae), door (pra'tu), first (pre-thom). Further barriers arise from Indonesian students themselves who tend to use language without considering that there are also international students nearby who need to be invited to communicate. The process of intercultural communication is inseparable from a variety of obstacles from various parties who act as senders and recipients of messages.

Diversity Problems that often arise in intercultural communication are due to different reasons and motivations. In intercultural communication, these differences can cause problems. South Thailand students who are studying at the Medan City, especially in their early years, often uphold their values or motivations in themselves without seeing that they are in another area. As is the case that has happened between students South Thailand and Indonesian students. During an interview with the informant he said that: "Most of the students from Thailand when communicating with outside students are not yet fully open to their interlocutors. That is because there is still a need for an adaptation process in the new environment. In addition there is still a

sense of distrust of others who are not in the same culture as him. "From observations and interviews with research subjects, it can be seen that the cause of inter-cultural communication obstruction stems from the lack of good communication between the two cultures and is not often involved in communication. That is because there is still a fear of the information conveyed and feel the feed back obtained does not match what actually happened.

Cultural diversity is responded differently by South Thailand students and students in the city of Medan. South students have more open character, following campus activities such as HMI (Indonesian Student Association) and MAPALA (Nature Lover Students). In addition, Thailand students sell to increase income and mingle with the local community environment such as chatting and visiting the sick.

South Thailand female students in Medan have more closed characters. They consider the people of Medan City to be harsh and rude because in speaking they often use high intonation. This makes Thailand students close off and only open to people they already know like campus friends and the surrounding community. As experienced by the speaker, this South Thailand student was afraid to be interviewed so the speaker had to persuade and convince them to be willing to be speakers. The interview process also went rigid because Thailand students responded very cautiously because they were afraid that information from them would be misused.

## CONCLUSION

Intercultural communication of South Thailand students in Medan still has obstacles. Language becomes one of the obstacles in the process of intercultural communication between Thailand students and the people of Medan City. South Thailand students consider the people of Medan City to speak too fast so that they do not understand what has been said. There are several Malay Malay languages that are different from Indonesian such as coffee (kaa fee), language (phase), key (kun-jae), door (pra'tu), and first (pre-thom). The difference sometimes makes them confused. The characteristics of the people of Medan were responded differently by Thailand students and students. They consider the people of Medan City to be rude in speaking and always use high intonation. Thailand students are open-minded, such as participating in HMI & MAPALA campus activities and mingling with the community. While Thailand students are closed, do not want to communicate with others. Thailand students are only open with a few campus friends and residents around their homes.

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