

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

There are many International students who is studying in Indonesia. One of them is Thai International students. There are a lot of Thai students who studying in Indonesia. According to Kementerian Riset dan Teknologi Indonesia, Thai become the third most international students who studying in Indonesia. Thai students as a foreigner must have a different experience and difficulty during their study in the foreign country.

Having numerous differences, obviously Thai undergraduate students need more time to adjust Indonesia's culture, custom even the value, during the adaptation Thai students may get some acculturative stress. Acculturative stress happens when students encounter difficulties and conflicts as a result of adjusting to unfamiliar social norms and custom of a new culture (Lin & Yi, 1997). Along this time international students have a problem during their study and the problem is different between one and another. According to (Sandhu & Asbaradi, 1994) the acculturative stressors of international students are perceived discrimination, homesickness, perceived hate, fear, stress due to change or culture shock, and guilt. Thai student in Indonesia and in another country may also have a problem during studying abroad. Acculturative stressors such as language, academic, psychosocial and cultural, financial, and political have been found to have significant effects on acculturation (Pan, Wong, Chan, & Joubert, 2008). It means that we need to do another research to know how is Thai student lived experience in the different place to develop a deeper understanding of Thai student, because everyone has a different lived experience in a different place.

According to Tannikarn Soonsinpai (2009) Thai students in Australia experience difficulties adapted in an independent life for the first time, and suffer extreme homesickness. Based on the previous study Thai students clearly

have some difficulties during their study in Australia. Thai students in Indonesia may also have the same problem.

This research chooses Thai undergraduate students because they will have a different experience in the different place. A lot of Thai student live in Indonesia but as a host we never know how to treat Thai students properly. This happens because of the different lifestyle they have before. As an Indonesian it is necessary for us to treat them. Therefore we need to do another research in the different place like Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta.

International student who study abroad definitely will have a different experience in every place. According to Meeaeng (2006) opinion, Asian international students experience some difficulties in communication and interaction while studying in Colombia. On the other side, the international student in Australia experiences a racial taunts, discrimination, and difficulty in socializing outside of their peer's cultural group. It causes them to have limitation of opportunities to practice their English and gaining experience of the Australian culture (Ashley (2015)). Thai student in Indonesia might have different experience from the other International students. It happens depend on where they live. Due to the different culture, social, economic, religion, and weather in every place, it will make some differences in Thai lived experience. This research is needed to understand the student lived experience. For this reason, since there have not had any research of this issue it will be critical aspects to know Thai undergraduate student lived experience in Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta. The current's study will use student's personal perspectives as the object of this study.

This research focuses on Thai students lived experience because there will be a different experience, in the different place. Meeaeng (2006) stated that each individual experience as an International student in online learning environments was unique. Every place in the world has a unique or preference to experiencing a different lived experience. Therefore, Thai students in Indonesia might have a different experience from another Thai

student in the different place. It is better to know more about Thai students experience in Indonesia, because a lot of Thailand students study here. We never know what Thai student experiences during their study in Indonesia.

In the current study, the researcher is interested to know about lived experience of Thailand international Students in Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta. This research uses phenomenological approach with qualitative methods in doing this research

Based on the reasons above the researcher propose a research entitled “PHENOMENOLOGICAL STUDY ON THAI UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS’ LIVED EXPERIENCE AT DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA”

B. Problem Statement

The problem statements of this research are:

1. How Thai undergraduate students’ perceives their lived experience at Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta?
2. What are the difficulties (if there are any) faced by Thai Undergraduate students in Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta?

C. Limitation of The Study

The limit of this study is Thai undergraduate students’ lived experience studying at Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta.

D. Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study in this research is to describe how Thai undergraduate students’ perceive their lived experience at Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta. This study cannot be generalized because using only not many participants, however it will give an achieve picture of analysis.

E. Benefits of the Study

The researcher expects this study to give some benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

Related to this study, the researcher hopes that this research can be used as a reference for the other researcher who wants to construct a research especially about students experience in another object.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. For the researcher, the result can increase knowledge about phenomenological study especially for International students' lived experienced
- b. For university, the result of the research can add a timely informative reference about the lived experience faced by international Thailand student studying at Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta.
- c. For the reader, the result of this study can be used as a reference to conduct future research dealing with similar problem with different setting.

F. Research Paper Organization

This paper consists of five chapters. The first chapter is about introduction. It explains about the main problem of this paper. It covers the background of the study, limitation of the study, problem of the study, objectives of the study, and the benefit of the study.

The second chapter is underlying theory. Explain about theory and previous study.

The third chapter is research method. It is containing the type of research, subject of the research, data and data source, technique of collecting data, method of analysing data, and data validity.

The fourth chapter is research finding and discussion.

The fifth chapter is conclusion and suggestions. It is a core of review of previous discussion in this paper.