

Chapter One

Introduction

This chapter discusses the background about the reason of why the researcher is interested to investigate the topic of the study. Then, this chapter also presents the statement of the problem followed by delimitation of the study, research questions, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, and the last is about the organization of the chapter.

Background of the Study

Language is an important aspect for communication. Learning a language means learning the culture of the language. People cannot learn the language itself without learning the culture because both of them are a unity. Dobrovol'skij and Piirainen (2006), Colson (2008) and Williams (2010) claimed that language is inseparable from its culture. So, it is clear that learning language cannot be separated with the culture.

Talking about culture, people may be familiar about Cross Cultural Understanding (CCU). Cross Cultural Understanding is a term to call an understanding about learning different culture. Sugirin (2009) stated that "Cross Cultural Understanding is the ability to recognize the culture differences, make correct interpretation and react properly to people or situations in the communication." (p.2) Moreover, Sinagatullin (2003) mentioned that Cross Cultural Understanding is the way to obtain adequate knowledge, internalize attitudes, and develop skills needed to function appropriately in the culture at all levels: local, national, and global. From this, people need to have CCU to balance their culture differences.

Cross Cultural Understanding is needed in language learning, especially in communication. Sinagatullin (2003) stated "The goal of training in cross- cultural understanding is to help students acquire attitudes, knowledge, and skills needed to

successfully function within their own micro-culture, mainstream culture, and the global community.” (p. 114). In this way, students are able to gain a knowledge and other differences from other culture that is useful for them. Sinagatullin (2003) also suggested that the goal of the training in CCU would be achieved on the condition that all the students, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, race, culture, social class, religion, or exceptionality, have an equal opportunity to learn at school. It means that all students without differentiating their background, will have the equal opportunity to learn about culture.

There are many kinds of way to learn about Cross Cultural Understanding. People can learn it by visiting some places, asking someone’s culture, or maybe observing another’s habit. Besides, people also can learn from books, songs, or movies. In this study, movies become the concern to be elaborated by the researcher. As Mallinger and Rossy (2007) stated “Movies tell stories about people, their hopes, dreams challenges, and fears, how they relate to others, and what behaviors are socially acceptable” (p. 608). There are many contents that people can adapt from movie as Mallinger and Rossy mentioned such as a story, a dream, and also a behaviour. Movie can provide source of knowledge that people can learn from the story of the movie.

As an English learner in Indonesia, the differences of the culture that are faced by students may become the problem as well. As we know that English in Indonesia becomes a foreign language (EFL). It means that Indonesian students learn English not as a second language, but as an additional learning. There are many aspects, especially about the culture differences itself. The students may feel that the culture differences is a barrier for them to learn English. Whereas, Yagi (1995) explained that cross cultural understanding is a common goal of foreign language teaching; however, conventional cultural lessons provide only a superficial, monolithic view of culture.

Based on the researcher experience as an English Department student, the researcher found that there are many differences between her culture and the native English speakers' culture. The example of the culture differences is when there is an event which is celebrated in the US, but Indonesian people do not celebrate it. One of the example of the event is Thanks Giving Day. The researcher had an experience to celebrate that event in one of the subjects in one of the Islamic private universities in Yogyakarta. It was the first for the researcher to celebrate Thanks Giving Day because it is not one of a celebration in Indonesia. Introducing a foreign celebration is useful for the students to learn about CCU because they learn a new culture that they do not know before.

There are some ways to enhance students' knowledge about cross cultural understanding. One of the ways is by watching English movie, which become the concern of the researcher in this study. Cardon (2010) suggested that one of the primary benefits, particularly among university students, is that movies are entertaining, engaging, and in many cases stimulate curiosity toward other cultures. It is clearly explained by Cardon that movie may become a media that can bring us to the culture.

As the researcher's experiences, sometimes the lecturers in her department also use a movie as media of their teaching. The lecturers was using the movie as the topic discussion in the classroom. Some of the subjects that use movie were Listening and Speaking for Daily Conversation, Material Design, and Teaching English to Young Learners. Most of the subjects were not showing the whole of a movie, only some part of the movie. This can be one of the example of the use of movie in the class.

Besides using the movie as a media to learn, the students also like to watch movie as the entertainment. Most of the English department students like to watch English movie because they can learn about the language, the cultures, and also the story itself. Because of

the differences between the English native speakers' cultures and the students' cultures, so the students need to have a knowledge about accepting the differences without forgetting their own cultures. Therefore, it is important to conduct a research related to CCU through watching English Movie.

Statement of the Problem

Students who learn a language will also learn about the culture. The differences of the English native's culture and the students' culture will make a confusing problem. The example of the culture differences is about the attitude of the English native culture. There are good and bad side from the attitude. It can be dangerous if the students cannot wise to adapt the attitude from the English native culture. From this, the students need to have an understanding about the cross cultural between those differences. The student should respect the other culture and be wise from that.

In this study, there are many possible problems about the topics that appear from the participants regarding to the CCU (Cross Cultural Understanding). For example, the participant may get confused about the differences between multiculturalism and cross cultural. Multiculturalism means several cultures, while cross cultural means the understanding of those different cultures. Irhandayaningsih (2012) stated that multiculturalism is both an ideology and a means to create egalitarian and peaceful relationship between cultural groups.

For the English learner, there are a lot of things that can be learned from learning English. America (US) and England (UK) as the English Speaking Country which become the orientation of English have cultures which most of them are different from Indonesian culture. The tradition, the behaviour, and the rules are quite different. Indonesia has so many rules which are not really acquitted to do like in America or England. It could make the

students get culture shock. One of the example is about the rules for a man and a woman which is not allowed to live together before they are getting married. However, in America or England, a couple without married can live together. The differences should be just a knowledge for the English students because it is not allowed to do in our country.

Beside the example that have been mentioned above, there are still many differences that are faced by English learner, especially in one of the Islamic private universities in Yogyakarta. The researcher thought that there is still a gap between the students and the culture differences. It becomes problem if the learners do not have good understanding about the cross cultural understanding.

Delimitation of the Study

This study aimed to find out the benefits of watching English movie towards the EFL students' CCU. Talking about culture, there are so many things that can be discussed. Because of that, the researcher make some limitations to the discussion. The researcher was focused on three things, there are native speakers' characteristic, native speakers' daily activity, and English speaking countries' national events which were all reflected in the movies being watched by the participants of this research. The other things would not be discussed in this study. Moreover, this study was conducted in the researcher institution, in one of the Islamic private university in Yogyakarta. It was because the researcher hopes that the finding of the study will give the benefit for the institution, especially in the department, to enhance the knowledge about cross cultural understanding.

Research Question

According to the background, the researcher formulated two research questions. They are:

1. What are the English native speakers' cultural aspects that students can get from watching English movie?
2. What are the benefits of watching English movies towards EFL students' Cross Cultural Understanding?

Purpose of the Study

Based on the Research Question above, the purpose of this study are to:

1. Investigate the English native speakers' cultural aspects on their personality and daily activity through watching English movie
2. Explore the benefits of watching English movies towards EFL students' Cross Cultural Understanding

Significance of the Study

This study provides some benefits for the students, lecturers, and future researcher, and institution.

Students. From this research, the students can get knowledge about the way to learn about cross cultural understanding, which is by watching English movie. The differences of the native personality, native daily activity and national event will enlarge students' knowledge about world's culture. The students may have plan to go abroad so they need those knowledge to accept the culture differences and do adaptation there. Furthermore, the students will learn about some good characteristics such as tolerance, respect, and always positive thinking.

Lecturers. The benefit for the lecturer or the teacher from this study is that they can get a knowledge about some ways to teach cross cultural understanding. Besides gaining more knowledge about other country's culture, the teacher can apply the use of movie as teaching media. The teacher can choose some movies that relate to their subjects and use it in

the class. The movie will be an interesting media to the students and it can also improve students' awareness about the barrier of the cross cultural understanding. The teacher can choose a movie to give an understanding about some aspects of the culture differences. The movies can be about culture that shows actors' personalities, cultural events, or culture differences.

Future Researchers. Next, this research will be useful for the future researcher who will do the research on the similar topic. The future researcher may be helped by the sources and also the data from this research to make their research more complete. In addition, the culture's knowledge from this study will be beneficial for the future researcher to open their mind about world's culture.

Institution. Last but not least, this research may gave an idea for the institution especially in the department to create a new subject about CCU. It was such a good idea considering the excitement from the students about CCU.

Organization of the Study

The researcher organized this study into some chapters. Every chapter consist of several aspects and definition. To make the reader have a background about it, the researcher will explain in a brief about those chapters. Chapter one showed the background knowledge of the researcher as the reason of why she is interested to do this research. There are two research questions which was mentioned in the chapter one. Moreover, there are also two purposes of the study related to the research questions. In the chapter two, the researcher mentions some references about the researcher which divided into some points. The first point is about culture. The next point is CCU. The last point is about movie. In the chapter three, the researcher explained several aspects about the research methodology of this research. The researcher mentioned about the place of the study, the participants of the study,

the data gathering study, and the data analysis. In chapter four, the researcher presented the data from the study. There were 2 main findings from the study; the English Native Speakers' Cultural Aspects that students can get from watching English movie and the benefits of watching English Movie. The last chapter is chapter five. As the last chapter of this study, chapter five describe the conclusion and suggestions for the study. The researcher made some conclusions of her research based on the finding in the chapter four. For the last, the researcher also made a suggestion for those who will do the similar researcher to make a better one.