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Rofinus Daton Warat

Faculty of Language and Literature
Satya Wacana Christian University
Salatiga

Abstract

This is a study about cultural experiences encountered by Timorese English Department in Satya Wacana Christian University. The data of this study were collected through interviews with three Timorese English Department students. These students had spent between four and five years studying in English Department. The information gathered from the interviews was grouped based on the similarity of the topic. These participants’ comments were mainly divided into nine topics which were their problematic cultural experiences. The findings showed that most of them met cultural experiences mentioned in the questions of the interview. They also reported various reasons for problematic cultural experiences they encountered.

Keywords: cultural experiences, cultural differences, difficulties

INTRODUCTION

Culture and language have been inseparable in linguistics studies, especially in the field of Second/Foreign Language Acquisition. This correlation has triggered many experts to do research to find out the role and influence of culture on language learning. Some of them tried to figure out the relationship between inter-cultural contacts with students’ motivation in learning a foreign language. Take for example, Csizér and Kormos (2008) who