CHAPTER 4

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

In this chapter, I will discuss women’s experiences and challenges when they are traveling found in *The Naked Traveler Anthology*. Women’s stories in *The Naked Traveler Anthology* have similar pattern with Riyandari and Tubun’s (2015) research and others. They tell their experiences and challenges they are facing during traveling. In *The Naked Traveler*, there are twenty stories which consist of thirteen women stories and seven men stories.

In this thesis, I focus on women stories in *The Naked Traveler Anthology* (2014). The first story is Trinity’s story. She writes about her fear of flying. She writes about her experience traveling by plane. The second story is about Ms. Complaint who always brings souvenirs from the place she visits. The third story is about Wendy Utji who collects things which remind her of the experiences she has in the places she has visited. The fourth story is Mayawati Nur Halim’s experience in Koh Samui, Thailand. She and her sister are lost in Koh Samui. They are trying to find their hotel with limited information about it. Then they can find it with local’s helping. Halim also writes about her experience during her journey in India. The fifth story is Okke’s story when she is in Timor Leste to work. It is her story about her struggle to learn the local language, Tetun. She wants to learn the language because a girl makes fun of her in Tetun language. The sixth story is about Susan’s experience as an intern teacher in Thailand. She
writes about the culture of the school and her challenges when she is teaching there. The seventh story is Rini Raharjanti’s story. She writes about her journey to Luang Prabang. The eighth story is Maria Wardhani’s story about her experience in Los Angeles, USA and also her experience during her journey to Sipelot beach in Malang. The ninth story is Vinda’s experience in Venice when she wants to save the budget for toilette fee which in turn hampers her journey. The tenth is Aan Wulandari Usman’s story. It is her experience when she lives in Japan. She writes about her experience finding a way to a place with her limited Japanese.

In this chapter, I will divide the story into two sub-chapters, experiences and challenges. In sub-chapter 4.1, I will discuss the experiences written in *The Naked Traveler Anthology* and in sub-chapter 4.2, I will discuss the challenges the women write in *The Naked Traveler Anthology*. Each sub-chapter will consist of some activities. The outline of the activities related to women’s experiences are shown in table 4.1., while the outline of women’s challenges are shown in table 4.2. Women’s experiences and challenges during travelling above will be discussed in the light of other studies on the same matter.
4.1 Indonesian women travel writers’ experiences shared in *The Naked Traveler Anthology*

In this sub-chapter, I will discuss women’s experiences in *The Naked Traveler Anthology* (2014). The women who write their story in the book have different backgrounds. They are writers, teachers, and housewives. Most of them are women who love traveling and share their experiences in Trinity’s blog. They have various experiences which are then shared in the book. For the purpose of analyzing the anthology, I categorize their experiences into shopping, eating local culinary, walking around the town, enjoying the scenery, surfing, learning local culture, and meeting new people.
Table 4.1  
Women’s Experiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>EXPERIENCES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miss Complaint</td>
<td>Shopping souvenirs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rini Raharjanti</td>
<td>Tasting the signature food and the local food in Luang Prabang, Laos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enjoying the town atmosphere in Luang Prabang using mini bicycle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enjoying the scenery along her way to Luang Prabang which heals her bad mood.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Meeting with new people in her journey and they share stories about their experiences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayawati Nur Halim</td>
<td>Joining the tour package providing by travel agent in Koh Samui, Thailand.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendi Utji</td>
<td>Enjoying her friend’s hometown scenery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Joining her friends to learn surfing in Bali.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan</td>
<td>Experiencing new culture in her internship place in a school in Thailand.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.1.1 Shopping

One of the activities that women travelers often do is shopping. In *The Naked Traveler Anthology*, one of the writers named Miss Complaint writes her experience when she shops for her relatives when she travels. She writes that she is often asked by her friends to buy local products of the place Miss Complaint visits. There are many variations of product that her friends ask her to buy such as shoes, clutch, clothes, perfume, food and even glassware. Miss complaint states that buying local souvenirs for her friends is a symbol of their friendships; therefore, she tries to make time to buy local souvenirs of the place she visits.


[Clothes, kebaya, and batik are the most common souvenirs (my relatives and friends ask me to buy). There were also shoes, handbag, chocolate, and wet food. I have agreed to buy glassware and crumbly food, too.] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, p. 43).

I have mentioned earlier in chapter two that shopping for local souvenirs is a favorite activity of women travelers as is found in Riyandari and Tubun’s (2015) study where the respondents mentioned
shopping as a must activity for them in their travel. Similarly, Small (2007) describes her respondent’s shopping activity during her holiday.

FRANCES [age 65+]: [Holiday at age 20] The shoes and high-heeled sandals purchased in Surfers [holiday destination] were absolutely gorgeous, beautiful soft leather, pale pink, blue, ... Frances purchased a pair of ... gorgeous, silver dance sandals for herself which were very stilt... (2007, p. 83).

Miss Complaint’s shared experience which is similar to both Riyandari and Tubun (2015) and Small (2007) who highlight shopping as an itinerary which is in the main list of travel activities.

4.1.2 Eating local culinary

Eating local culinary is a mandatory when a traveler visits a place. Tasting local food can be called as culinary tourism. Culinary tourism regards food as the tourist destination of a place (Long, 2013). Rini Raharjanti (2014) writes her experience in eating the signature food of Luang Prabang, Laos when she travels to there. Her first significant experience in tasting Laos’ signature food is told in the part when she has breakfast with French ambience in Lao Coffee Shop. In that Coffe shop, she has a chance to enjoy French food in Laos. French food is the legacy of the French which was once colonized Laos.

Saya berjalan menuju sebuah kedai kopi bernama Lao Coffee Shop, tidak jauh dari penginapan saya. Saya sarapan dengan tuna baguette dan segelas susu hangat di coffee shop itu. Uniknya, di tempat itu tersedia beragam pilihan makanan Prancis. Prancis?
Ya, mungkin karena dulu Laos pernah berada di bawah jajahan Prancis untuk beberapa waktu.

[I went to a coffee shop called Lao Coffee Shop which was not far from my guest house. I had breakfast with baguette tuna and a glass of warm milk in that coffee shop. It was unique because it provided various French food. France? Yes, maybe because Laos was colonized by France for some time.] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, hal. 143)

Raharjanti’s second experience in tasting Laos’s signature food is when she has dinner with her new friends in a Night Market. There, she eats Laotian noodle soup, a local food from Laos.

Di Night Market, saya dan beberapa teman dari Skotlandia dan Spanyol makan malam bersama menikmati mie kuah khas Laos. [At night, in the Night Market, I enjoyed Lao’s noodle with some of my new friends, from Scotland and Spain] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, p. 144).

What makes Laotian noodle soup different from other countries’ noodle soup is its wide-range variation of noodles (fermented rice noodle, vermicelli noodle, rice-and-tapioka noodle) (Cindy), different kind of toppings (chopped chicken, fried pork, blood cakes, lean pork, sausage slices and offal, and different kind of broths (clear broth, thick broth) (Feldmar).

Rini Harjanti’s experience of tasting signature food of the place she visits, in this case the signature food of Laos is in line with Riyandari
and Tubun’s (2015) research on Indonesian women holiday where the respondents mentioned that eating local food is one of their holiday activities. Unfortunately, Riyandari and Tubun’s study fails to mention the name of the food tasted by the respondents.

4.1.3 Walking around the town

Walking around the town is an activity that women do in their travel. In The Naked Traveler Anthology, there are two women who walk around the town. The first woman is Mayawati Nur Halim who joins a travel agent providing a package of tour around the town in Koh Samui, Thailand. Koh Samui is the most well-known island in Thailand. It has many beautiful beaches and provides many resorts for the tourist; ‘from the hustle and bustle of Chaweng Beach to the lively yet relaxed atmosphere of Lamai Beach to the timeless feel of Bophut’s Fisherman’s Village to the tropical beach paradise of Maenam.’ (Audiger).

Halim tells the story about her walking around when visiting many interesting spots in Koh Samui:

Kami diajak mengobrol banyak hal oleh pemandu wisata di luar sesi wajibnya, dikasih tau spot – spot menarik, difotoin, barang-barang kami dijagain saat manjat ke view point di Koh Nang Yuan yang cantik nian.

[We chated about many things with our tour guide outside the main session. Our tour guide informed us of interesting spots, took our pictures, took care of our belongings when we climbed the view point in beautiful Koh Nang Yuan.] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, p. 87).
In the end of the travel, Halim says that she enjoys the service that the travel agent provides as the guide is very kind and warm. Halim mentions that the tour guide is very happy because Halim and her sister are the first Indonesian tourists who visit Koh Samui, Thailand.

The other traveller who mentions that she walks around the town in her travelling is Rini Raharjanti. When she is travelling to Luang Prabang, Laos, she rents a mini bicycle and rides the bicycle around the town.

_Pagi itu saya menyewa sepeda mini berwarna merah, lengkap dengan keranjang kecil di depannya. Saya menggowes dengan senang hati mengelilingi Luang Prabang._

[That morning, I rented red mini bicycle with little basket in front of it. I rode the bicycle around Luang Prabang happily.] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, p. 143).

Riding bicycle is a way of enjoying the scenery in town. Jones has said in his study that “cycling for everyday travel is of marginal status in most English towns and cities” (Jones, 2012). By riding bicycle, Raharjanti can visit places such as Mekong River. She enjoys the river view while cycling. Then, she visits Buddhist Temples and Old Heritage House in Luang Prabang. Finally, she takes a rest at Night Market, enjoying the atmosphere there.

_Saya terus menggowes sepeda mini menyusuri Sungai Mekong, kuil-kuil Buddha, Old Heritage House, dan melakukan pemberhentian terakhir di Night Market ketika malam menjelang._
[I rode the bicycle along the Mekong River, Buddhist Temples, Old Heritage House, and the last point was in Night Market.] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, p. 145).

Walking around the town as a spectator of a visit in a new town seems to be a typical activity of the travel writers. Although I use the word ‘walk’ but the activity is not limited to travel on foot but also travel by bicycle and other type of transportation.

4.1.4 Enjoying the scenery

During traveling, people will always enjoy the atmosphere or the scenery near them. In the book of *The Naked Traveler Anthology*, Wendy Utji enjoys the atmosphere in her friend’s home. She feels comfortable with the atmosphere in her friend’s house. She is familiar with the crowded Jakarta where people yell at each other on the phone and where the traffic is always 24 hours busy. In her friend’s house, she can enjoy the wind and the scenery of her friend’s yard which is full of green plants and colorful flowers.

*Buat saya yang (waktu itu) tinggal di Jakarta yang supersibuk dan tidak pernah sepi, suasana sore itu sangat berkesan. Bandingkan saja, Jakarta selalu macet dan penuh polusi, raung kendaraan dan telepon genggam pun saling berteriak memenuhi telinga. Nah, di kampong teman saya itu, saya bisa mendengar desau angin di antara daun mawar!*

[For me who (at that time) lived in Jakarta which was hectic and never quiet, that afternoon atmosphere was so impressive. To
compare, Jakarta always had traffic jam and was heavily polluted; the sounds of vehicles and people yelling on the phone could not be avoided. You see, in my friend’s hometown, I could hear the sound of wind between the roses!] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, p. 52).

Not only the atmosphere, the scenery can also be enjoyed during a travel. Raharjanti (2014) writes about the scenery when she is on her way to Luang Prabang, Laos. She enjoys the scenery of the mountainous land. She feels peaceful on the way to Luang Prabang. Her experience is in contrast with her previous experience where she feels disappointed with the transport. The scenery during her journey heals her anger and disappointment.

Kegondokan saya berangsur hilang saat melihat pemandangan indah sepanjang jalan. Perbukitan hijau yang asri diselipi dengan sungai yang meliuk-liuk mendominasi pemandangan sore itu.

[My anger was slowly waning when I saw the beautiful scenery along the journey. The beautiful green hills with river flowing dominated the scenery.] (2014, p. 139).

Enjoying scenery is the sensation which people will find during a journey. In Mazuchelli’s book, The Indian Alps and How We Crossed Them (Mazuchelli, 1876), she describes her joy in seeing the scenery of Himalaya Mountains, India and paints it.
Looking back whence we came, we see stretched below us a vast and almost limitless Steppe, the plains of Bengal; and the eye wanders over billows of blue mountain, each lessening in height as it nears them, till the last is seen to merge into the vast ocean-like expanse, that ceases only at the horizon (Mazuchelli, 1876, p. 36)

Mazuchelli seems to have the same experience with Raharjanti who enjoys the beautiful scenery of nature which improves her mood.

4.1.5 Surfing

Other outdoor activity done by woman travelers mentioned in the story besides bicycling is surfing. Wendy Utji (2014) writes about her experience collecting “vacation trash” from surfing. She goes to a vacation with her friends who are in mood to learn surfing. Every day, they go to the beach to learn surfing. As a result, they get sunburnt. Her burned skin is a proof of her experience in learning surfing which she adds in her collection of “vacation trash.”


[One of the craziest collections of my vacation trash is human back skin! It began from the backpacking event to Bali with my friends who were beginning to be interested in learning surfing.}
Because we were still beginner, we went to the beach almost every day. The missions were not only to learn surfing but also flirted and (hopefully) be liked by the surfers. As a result, our skin got sunburnt. (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, p. 56).

Outdoor activity like surfing is an activity which women do during their traveling. In chapter two, we can picture it from Small’s finding (2007) about women holiday. In her research, one of her respondents also does surfing. Her name is Barbie, and she wears bikini to increase her confidence. She confidently surfs facing the wave which can defeat her into the sea water.

BARBIE [age 20]: [Holiday at age 20] Once settled, sunscreened and sexy in her new bikini, Barbie made her way proudly to the surf. However, she was taken aback at the size of the waves. It was the only time in her life Barbie felt the absolute centre of attention and confident in a swimsuit! (Small, 2007, p. 83).

Reading Utji’s experience and Barbie’s experience, I infer that going surfing is an activity which is often shared by the travellers who enjoy their time in the beach although surfing seems to be a new trend for Indonesian travellers as implied by Utji; “...my friends who were beginning to be interested in learning surfing. Because we were still beginner ....”. 
4.1.6 Learning local culture

When people are traveling, people will face cultural difference. People must adapt to the culture there and follow the regulations existed in that culture as they are just visitors. In The Naked Traveler Anthology (2014), Susan writes the experience of her internship in a school in Thailand. She writes about the traditions run at the school. Every morning, she must attend a ceremony with all school members: teachers and students. The ceremony is similar to Indonesian flag ceremony every Monday morning.

Di sekolah itu ada beberapa ritual unik setiap harinya. Setiap pagi, beberapa guru bertugas nangkring di depan gerbang sekolah untuk menyambut murid – murid sambil berkata “Sawatdee ka” (jika yang menyambut guru perempuan) atau “Sawatdee krup” (jika yang menyambut guru laki – laki).

[Every day the school has some unique rituals. Every morning, some teachers stand by in front of the school gate to welcome the students by saying “Sawatdee ka” (when a female teacher greets the students) or “Sawatdee krup” (when a male teacher greets the students).] (2014, p. 114).

Besides the ceremony, their uniform especially the footwear amazes Susan. In that school, students must not wear their shoes in the class. They are only allowed to wear socks in the class. However, the teachers are allowed to wear footwear, any footwear. Most teachers there
wear sandals, even thongs. The different habit shocks Susan, but she can adapt the new habit.


[In this school, students should not wear shoes while they are studying. It means that the students should take off their shoes and place them neatly in the shelf in front of the class. They are only allowed to wear socks. The teachers are allowed to wear shoes. Surprisingly, most teachers keep their own sandals in their room. Can you imagine they are wearing flurry sleeping sandal, even thongs when they are teaching!] (2014, p. 115).

Another new habit that Susan experiences is students’ habit when they are having lunch. In school, every student gets two coins as vouchers that can be traded with the food and drink provided by the canteen. By distributing vouchers, the students will not buy snacks outside the school. Beside the students, the teachers can also take food and drink from the canteen, but, the teachers do not need coins to get the food and drink.

*Hal unik lainnya adalah ritual makan siang di kantin. Semua murid berbaris mengantre untuk mendapatkan dua buah koin plastik. Satu untuk ditukar dengan makanan, satu lagi untuk minuman. Di depan konter makanan, mereka akan mendapatkan...*
sepiring nasi putih dengan sayur tersebut. Minumannya juga ada 5-6 pilihan.

[Another unique thing is the lunch ritual at the canteen. All students are lining up to get two plastic coins, one for the food and one for the drink. In front of the food counter, they get a plate of rice with the vegetables. There are 5-6 variants for the drinks.] (2014, p. 115).

When people go traveling, people will experience new cultures of the place they visit. Davidson writes about her experience when she followed nomads in India in her book *Desert Places* (1996). Davidson learned new habits which was different from her usual habits. Susan’s experience in learning new habits in different culture is similar to that of Davidson’s. They learn new culture in the form of new daily habits and enhance their knowledge about new culture.

### 4.1.7 Meeting new people

When they are traveling, meeting new people is a common experience. That experience will enhance our knowledge, our relation from them. When Raharjanti (2014) is in Luang Prabang, Laos, she meets new people. Raharjanti and her new friends, later on, share their experiences. They talk about their travel experiences, and laugh when the story is funny and interesting. Susan seems to enjoy the meeting and feels comfortable talking to her new friends.

*Beberapa teman baru dari Skotlandia dan Spanyol bergabung untuk makan malam bersama.... Saya mengobrol dan sesekali*
waktu terbahak-bahak membicarakan berbagai pengalaman travelling yang seru dan lucu. Anehnya, saya merasa seperti telah mengenal mereka dalam waktu yang cukup lama.

[Some new friends from Scotland and Spain join our dinner…. We are talking and laughing about our experiences during travelling which are fun and challenging. Oddly, I feel like I know them for a long time.] (2014, p. 145).

Raharjanti’s experiences are similar to Davidson’s experiences when she meets her traveling partner, Narendra (Davidson, 1996). With Narendra, Davidson is able to follow the local nomads in India. It proves that meeting new people can enhance our knowledge and expand our relations.

Narendra assured me that living with the nomads would be easy enough to organize. I could meet a group at the Pushkar festival and complete a year's migratory cycle with them (Davidson, 1996, p. 6).

From the above findings, it can be inferred that traveling is broadly defined not only as an activity in which a person moves from one place to another place, but also as an activity which a person does when they stay in a foreign country. The experiences shared by the travel writers in The Naked Travelers Anthology (2014) show the readers that traveling is not only a matter of enjoying the scenery, eating nice food from another country, or entertaining them, but also an experience which gives them new insight about other cultures and connect them to new people.
However, from nine experiences discussed in this sub-chapter, only one experience which is stereotypical women’s experience; it is shopping. Shopping is stereotypically considered as women’s thing as stated by Jansen-Verbeke that women do “shopping, window shopping, or visiting a market and whilst there, spending their money” (Jansen-Verbeke, 2006, p. 84) is not surprising. Therefore, women travel writers’ activity of shopping when they visit other country is not surprising.

The rest of the experiences, the eight other experiences in *The Naked Traveler Anthology* (2014), are not specifically related to experiences commonly attached to gender-stereotyped activities. The experiences the women travel writers write are mostly common things which can be experienced by both men and women. It is because the woman writers in the book are “free” women who do not embrace the perception that women are domestic beings and men are active in public space as I cited in the background of this thesis. Therefore, their experiences are not specified by gender.

4.2 Indonesian Women Travel Writers’ Challenges Shared in *The Naked Traveler Anthology*

In this sub-chapter, I will discuss women’s challenges shared in *The Naked Traveler Anthology* (2014). During traveling, some obstacles may challenge women travelers. In the book, I find six challenges; they are language barrier, anxiety feeling, limited budget, lack of direction, habit, and scam.
### Table 4.2
Challenges in Travelling

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>CHALLENGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Okke</td>
<td>Cannot speak <em>Tetun</em>, Timor Leste’s language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan</td>
<td>Cannot communicate very well in her first class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aan Wulandari</td>
<td>Do not understand Japanese language.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity</td>
<td>Fear of flying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Utji</td>
<td>Spending too much money for eating in a France Café.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinda</td>
<td>Cost of the toiletries is so expensive in Venice.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayawati Nur Halim</td>
<td>Lost in Thailand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Wardhani</td>
<td>Scam in India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Complaint</td>
<td>Do not know the way to her destination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rini Raharjanti</td>
<td>Scammed by travel agent in Laos.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### 4.2.1 Language Barrier

Language is a medium of communication. With language, people can communicate with other people to get and give information. However, language can be an obstacle if it cannot be understood by the receivers. While travelling, women in *The Naked Traveler Anthology* (2014) also face the difficulty to communicate with the hosts since they speak different languages. The first woman is Okke. She finds it difficult to understand Timor Leste people’s way to communicate. The language that people of Timor Leste use is *Tetun*. One day, a kid insults Okke...
because she does not understand the language. Because of the kid’s insult, she starts to learn the language seriously.


In the first three months, my understanding of the language was only as ‘tourist’ language (very basic). I only knew the basic words that the (language) course has given. However, my laziness disappeared when a little girl name Annacleta Pinto da Silva, usually called Anna, insulted her in the class. Anna was very mischievous, but she was closed with me. She always called me malae beikten, malae bulak, and panderu. I saw Anna’s naughty and suspicious mimics. I asked someone and I found the meaning. It meant ‘stupid person, crazy stranger, and shemale!’ Argh! No way! So, I learned really hard! so I can counter Anna.] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, p. 91).

Okke’s struggle in learning the language surely faces difficulties. One of the difficulties is that her social environment does not support her
to learn the language. Because most Timor Leste’s people can speak Bahasa Indonesia, they will speak with her in Indonesian.

_Pernah saya berusaha untuk menjelaskan sesuatu dalam bahasa Tetun, tapi setiap berbicara satu kalimat saya harus bilang, “Hein, lai [tunggu sebentar] hau hare’e kamus uluk [saya lihat kamus dulu].”_ Mungkin karena nggak sabar, mereka kemudian bertanya, “Husi nebe? [dari mana?]” saya jawab, “Husi Indonesia.” Nah! Setelah itu, mereka bilang “Oooh, bicara bahasa Indonesia saja Kakak, kami bisa pakai bahasa Indonesia.” Yee! Orang pengen belajar, juga! [Once, I have ever tried to explain something in Tetun language. However, every sentence I had to said, “Hein, lai (wait a minute) hau hare’e kamus uluk (I look for the word in my dictionary first).” Perhaps because they didn’t want to wait, they asked “Husi nebe? (Where are you from?) I said “Husi Indonesia.” Nah! Then they said “Oohh, you can speak in Indonesian, because we understand Indonesian.” Yee! I just want to try!] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, p. 93).

The second woman is Susan. In the book, she writes about her difficulties in teaching because of the language. In her first day as a teacher in Thailand, she handles a kindergarten class. All students do not understand English, so she teaches the class with body language. It is getting worse because the teachers who accompany her in the class also speak bad English.

_Sebagai percobaan, saya mengajar kelas TK pada hari pertama. Bayangkan, mereka tidak bisa bahasa inggris dan saya karena_

[As an experiment, I taught kindergarten in the first day of school. Imagine, they couldn’t speak English and because I was new there, I totally couldn’t understand what they were talking about. As a result, I used body language for learning process. Fiuh! It was pretty sad because local teachers who should help me are not fluent in English either.] (2014, p. 113).

The third woman is Aan Wulandari. She lives in Japan for three years to accompany her husband’s study there. She lives in Southern Japan, in Fukuoka, Kyushu. Because she likes traveling, she looks for information about local sights. Wulandari and her family ride bicycle around Fukuoka, so they must be able to reach the tourist destinations by bicycle.

One day, they want to visit a place which is a little bit far away from her living place. At first, they think that the place could be reached easily with the help of a map. However, only after a couple of minutes of cycling, they are lost. They cannot find the direction only by checking the map. The signs from the board are not helping because they are written in Kanji, while Wulandari and her husband can only read hiragana and katakana. The only way to reach the place is by asking the direction to some people whom they meet along the way. Finding good people who
are willing to help them is easy, but understanding the information is
difficult because Wulandari and her family’s Japanese language is limited
so they cannot understand the Japanese. They have to ask many people
before they finally arrive to their destination. Although the place is not
too far, their inability to understand Japanese language misleads them into
taking a wrong route which costs them two hours bicycling to reach the
destination.

Kami bagaikan orang bisu dan buta di negeri ini. Bisu karena
belum bisa ngomong. Hanya beberapa kosakata yang kami
kuasai. Buta karena kami belum bisa membaca huruf kanji yang
keriting itu, Yang bisa kami baca hanyalah huruf hiragana dan
katakana.... Orang Jepang itu baik banget. Bertanya satu kata,
akan dijawab dengan kalimat sepanjang gerbong kereta api. Buat
yang ngerti bahasanya, sih, tentu akan semakin jelas, tapi buat
kami tentu saja malah tambah ruwet.”

[We are like mute and blind people in this country. Mute because
we couldn’t talk and only understood some vocabulary. Blind
because we couldn’t read kanji that was curly; we only understood
hiragana and katakana. That Japanese were so friendly, when we
asked one word; they would answer our question with long
sentences like a railway track. Of course, for those who
understand the language, it’s very clear, but for us it was so
complicated.] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; dkk, 2014, p. 193).

Okke’s, Susan’s and Wulandari’s experiences are also experienced
by previous women travelers like Davidson. In her book Desert Places
(1996), Davidson writes about her difficulty in communicating with local
people in India when she traveled there. Because of her lack of understanding of the language, one of her accompanies, Mohan Singh ji, became her translator.

Mohan Singh ji, a union boss, incorruptible and deeply committed to political reform, he could speak a few words of English and was, therefore, to be my interpreter (Davidson, 1996, p. 13).

Davidson’s hiring a translator is a point that distinguishes Davidson with the three women in *The Naked Traveler Anthology*. Those three women try their best to survive by themselves.

### 4.2.2 Travel Anxiety

Travel anxiety is a subjective feeling that a traveler has such as nervous, scared, stressed, uncomfortable, and disturbed (Reisinger & Mavondo, 2005). In *The Naked Traveler Anthology*, Trinity (2014) writes about her fear of flying. She cannot handle her anxiety of flying especially when she flies with a person who is more afraid of flying than she is. Travel anxiety can be reduced if the person can control their emotions and learn from the latest bad experience to lessen their fear (Reisinger & Mavondo, 2005). In Trinity’s case, she will not sit beside the person who has the fear of flying. She will sit separately from them and try to calm herself.

*Pernah dengar pteromerhanophobia? Itu adalah rasa ketakutan yang berlebihan saat naik pesawat terbang. Saya, sih, tidak mengkategorikan diri masuk ke situ, tapi saya semakin parno kalau terbang sama orang yang lebih parno daripada saya!*


Have you heard about pteromerhanophobia? It is an exaggerating anxiety of flying. I do not categorize myself of having that phobia, but I will feel more afraid if I fly with others who are more afraid of flying than me.] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, p. 7).

Fear of flying is a challenge that a traveler sometimes has to face. According to Smith in his journal article *Pulling the Plug on Culture Shock: A Seven Step Plan for Managing Travel Anxiety* (2008) there are only thirty millions people in US travel overseas each year for business. It is small number of US population. The reason for such a small number is people’s fear of flying.

### 4.2.3 Limited Budget

Budget is an essential thing while traveling. When using public facilities, such as toilet, electricity, water, transportations, and hotels, the travelers, especially women must arrange the budget carefully. They have to calculate their budget; therefore they will not use their budget overly.

In *The Naked Traveler Anthology* (2014), there are two women who experience traveling budget.

The first woman is Wendy Utji. She experiences an over budget meal in a café near Sacre Coeur in Paris. She enjoys the service and the supper, but then she finds the price too expensive for her as a low-budget traveler.

_Saya diingatkan pada suatu senja menjelang makan malam, di salah satu kafe trotoar dekat Sacre Coeur di Paris. Terbayang jelas suasana kafe yang sibuk, dengan sejumlah pelayan cowok_
yang keren dan gaya, mengenakan kaus hitam lengan pendek agak ketat dan bahasa Inggris yang (tumben) tidak berlogo Prancis. Sayangnya restorannya itu termasuk mahal buat kantong turis hemat seperti saya.

[I was reminded of an afternoon before dinner, in one of the sidewalk cafes near Sacre Coeur in Paris. I could draw in my mind the ambience of the cafe which was hectic, with some cool and stylist waitress wearing black short-sleeved T-shirt which is a little bit tight and their English (rarely) not in French accent. Unfortunately, the restaurant was expensive for me as a low-budget tourist] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, p. 55).

The second woman is Vinda. She experiences uncomfortable feeling because she cannot go to the toilet. When she is in Venice, she does not want to spend her money to pay for toilet fee because it is very expensive.


[In Venice, we were so peeved because of the high price of public toilet admission. My friend wants to save money so she held her
pee during walking around. I also didn’t dare to drink a lot because I intended to drink when it was close to the hostel. Unfortunately, it was 11:00 PM and we lost. Feeling confuse and panic, I was trying to find a dark corner. After finding the dark corner in the bush, I was ready to take the “position”; suddenly someone came out from his home. Perhaps, he was suspicious because of our noisy voice. We failed!] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, p. 183).

On the limited budget, Riyandari and Tubun (2015) also found in their study that some of their respondents are specially concerned with their budget. The respondents said that when they had enough money, they spent the money to shop, but when they did not have money, they just enjoyed the traveling by taking photos or walking around (2015, p. 13).

4.2.4 Lack of Direction

Planning a travel is a must especially planning to know how to go to a certain destination. The information about the hotel where the traveler will stay must be clear. People can buy some guidebooks to know the information about the place where they want to visit. According to Whitman in her book of Wanderlust and Lipstick: The Essential Guide for Women Travelling Solo (2009), the most recent published guidebook, the most recent information will the travelers get (2009, p. 50). Therefore, researching before the traveling is an essential thing to do for travelers.
In *The Naked Traveler Anthology*, Halim (2014) writes the experience when she is lost in Thailand. She cannot find her hotel because there are no signs of the hotel name.

Nyasar di negeri orang, di daerah yang sama sekali asing, tanpa kenal siapa-siapa, menjelang malam hari pula, pasti bukan hal yang diharapkan oleh siapa pun. Tapi, itulah yang kami (saya dan kakak perempuan saya) alami di Maenam, Koh Samui, Thailand, Desember 2007. Masalah mulai timbul saat saya menunjukkan nama dan alamat guest house kami sebelum naik songtaew. Tak ada sopir yang tahu lokasi Coco House Samui, guest house kami, berada. Saya tunjukkan hasil print peta lokasi guest tersebut, tetap tak ada yang tahu.

[Lost in another country, in an area that was totally unfamiliar for me, without knowing anybody, towards dark, certainly it wasn’t something expected by anyone. However, that was what we (me and my sister) experienced in Maenam, Koh Samui, Thailand in December 2007. The problems began when I saw the name and address of our guest house before riding songtaew. No driver knew the location of Coco House Samui, our guest house location. I showed the print out of location of that guest house, still nobody knows.] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, pp. 78-79)

Another story which tells about ‘lost in a journey’ in *The Naked Traveler Anthology* (2014) is shared by Wardhani. Wardhani travels to *Sipelot* Beach in Southern Malang. She gets a recommendation to enjoy the scenery there. From what she hears, the beach is beautiful and very quiet because not many people know about the beach. Wardhani is told that the beach is only one hour away from Malang, so she plans to travel there with her friends. At first, she and her friends enjoy the journey, but after they have ridden for one hour, the sign of the beach is still not seen. Wardhani then asks the driver and he says that they will arrive soon.
Finally, they arrive thirty minutes before Maghrib, and it is too late for them to swim and play.


[From some people, we got a recommendation of a place that was fun and quiet for swimming, Sipelot beach in South Malang, with an approximate distance of one hour from Malang city. An hour passed, we started down the road that was only enough for one car. The scenery was pretty cool; there were a lot of trees in the hill. Fascinated by the scenery, we realized that we have walked for more than one hour but the hills in front of us are still countless. Then, I asked the distance and the driver said “Gangsal kilo pun dugi pantai(it’s about five kilometers more, we will reach the beach)”_. In reality, it needed one more hour! As a result, half an hour before sunset, we have actually come in Sipelot beach._](Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, pp. 174-177)
Halim and Wardhani’s experiences show the importance of planning the journey. If the journey is carelessly planned like Wardhani’s story, the journey can end up with an uncomfortable situation. Similarly, Halim’s inability to find her hotel shows how risky it is to go without adequate information about her destination.

4.2.5 Habit

Every place has different habits or customs. Different places may have the same idea of how to behave but the implementation may be different because of different history and tradition. In Indonesia, it is common for someone who travels to be asked to bring souvenirs for their relatives. Miss Complaint (2014) writes her story of bringing souvenirs for her relatives. She is always asked to buy particular souvenirs from the place she visits. Some of her friends ask for specific souvenirs, but some of her friends accept anything from her with a little comment about the souvenirs.

Souvenirs are something commonly bought by people in their vacation. It becomes a problem when we expect too much. I am often confused to buy a souvenir for a friend especially if he/she
requests unspecific thing. I am afraid if it is useless] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, p. 46)

This habit gives Miss Complaint some difficulties, one of them is budget. The price of the stuff is not really high but the cost of over luggage will certainly add up the budget spent.

Titipan adalah sesuatu yang dipesan seseorang untuk dibeli dan dibawa pulang. Harga titipan tak seberapa dibandingkan harga kelebihan bagasi. Kelebihan bagasi di luar negeri bisa sampai US$125 per koper dan domestic Rp 100.000,00 per kilogram.

[“Titipan” is something reserved for someone to buy and take home. The price of “titipan” meager compared to the price of excess baggage. The price of excess baggage in overseas can be up to US $ 125 per suitcase and domestic IDR 100.000/kg.] (2014, p. 41)

Habit of “titip” sometimes burdens the one who buying that “titipan”. However the person who “titip” the stuff never thinks that it will burden the one who buying “titipan”. The concept of “titip” itself is very interesting to note, as it is difficult to find the translation of “titip” in English. Therefore, I assume that the concept of “titip” uniquely belongs to Indonesians. The close bond of Indonesian people makes this concept appears among Indonesian people. The kinship among Indonesian people makes “titip” is a common things because they can ask a person to buy their “titipan” and the person will accept it because of this kinship.
4.2.6 Scam

National Geographic has a series about scam in tourist destinations around the world, *Scam City*. *Scam City* is a picture of the dark world tourism. Scamming can ruin the travelers’ journey not only in a small city, but also in a big glamorous city (*Scam City: About the show*).

Scamming is also experienced by Raharjanti (2014) when she is traveling to Luang Prabang, Laos. She feels upset with the agent where she buys the ticket. She has bought an executive van ticket, but she is forced to be in an economic bus.


[After buying the ticket, I was directed by the terminal officer to a bus. Why is it a bus? I choose a van. The bus is also economic class. I tried to ask and clarify the problem to the officer; but he just stayed quiet and ordered me to get into the bus. Where is the van? Why is it a bad bus? I feel frustrated! I have been cheated!]  
(Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, p. 138)
Halim (2014) is also almost scammed by a local seller. Fortunately, she knows the currency of India, so she cannot be scammed by the local seller there. It is important to know the currency of the country destination, so the scammers or conmen cannot do their bad intention.

intend to deceive] (Trinity; Ariy; Wulandari, Aan; Fahrudin, Hairun; et al, 2014, p. 207).

Similar to planning the journey a traveler must also learn matters related to their destinations such as currency and transportation means. Learning in detail about the destination will help the traveler to avoid scam.

From the discussion on challenges faced by women travelers in *The Naked Travelers Anthology* (2014), the challenges shared are not only the common things such as lack of communication because of the different language, getting lost, and budgeting, but also personal things such as fear of flying. There is also a unique experience shared in *The Naked Traveler Anthology* (2014), it is the habit of “titip”. The habit of “titip” seems to be typical of Indonesian people. It is because I have not found any travel writing talks about the habit of “titip” yet. Other things that is important to note is the practice of scam shared by Halim and Raharjanti. From their story about scamming, I can infer that traveling can be dangerous because the travelers are vulnerable to crime.

Different from the experiences shared by the women which at least still contain one experience which stereotypically attached to women’s experience, shopping, the challenges posed by women travelers do not include any typical women’s challenges like a challenge to travel as it is restricted by religion and tradition. Another unique thing is that the women in the book do not write about their fear of being raped by strange people or their family who does not allow them
to travel abroad alone because of their identity as woman. The challenges shared in this book do not depend on the gender of the travelers. All challenges can be faced by women and men travelers.