

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

As social beings, people need to work together with and to help each other to ease difficulty. The helps from others are especially needed when someone moves to a new culture like when somebody enters a new country. Learning culture of a new country is not an easy matter because it involves learning foreign people's culture, so that person will need somebody to help to adapt quickly with the new culture. People moving to a new culture can ask suggestion or advice from their friends to adapt well in a new culture (Retrieved <http://www.coiradio.com/library/library/quran/the-quran-in-islam/072-074.htm>, February 22, 2016, ¶ 3).

Culture itself, according to Harris is "... the learned, socially acquired traditions and lifestyles of the members of society, including their patterned, repetitive ways of thinking, feeling, and acting (1983, p. 5)." This means that a Javanese may have a habit to say the word "*nuwunsewu*" (excuse me) while bowing when they are about to pass someone. But an American, who likes to directly greet someone will not bow. Thus, the culture of a society is different so that it is possible for someone to experience culture shock when coming to a country, which is very different from one's origin.

Hall (1976) points out that culture is also, "the medium evolved by humans to survive because nothing is free from cultural influence, as culture is

the keystone in civilization's arch and is the medium through which all of life's events must flow (p. 14)". If someone does not know his culture well it may mean that the person may not have enough survival to live in the country he is in. Weaver (1999) explains that culture is like the part of an iceberg, which submerged underwater, and cannot be seen (p.14) as "it contains the way of thinking and perceiving, including the values and beliefs that are unconsciously learned by people; who are growing up in a particular culture" (p.15). Thus, when a foreigner comes to a new culture and experience culture shock, it is understandable because to understand the beliefs and values of a culture especially a new one is not easy. People who experiences culture shock, will certainly experience emotional changes such as feelings strange or unfamiliar with the new culture. People feel strange or unfamiliar with the new culture because they carry their common perception or performance of their previous culture.

This thesis deals with the novel *Edensor* whose main character is Ikal. In the story, he has difficulties in getting new friends in a new place. When Ikal, an Indonesian finally has new friends in his new surrounding in Paris, he feels that he cannot understand with his new friends as many of them are using harsh languages, that are too straightforward and blunt. In Ikal's opinion, this situation is very different from the situation he faces his country where people speak more politely. With this condition, Ikal is said to experience culture shock.

With regards to culture shock, Xia (2009) states that culture shock may occur when a person feels he is losing all familiar things such as tradition,

habits, customs, values, and so on. Those familiar things probably are different from one country to another (p. 97). Therefore, when someone enters a new culture, he feels the needs to adjust. The adjustment itself needs some kinds of process. Xia bases her explanation of culture shock on Oberg's which mentions that "the symptoms of culture shock are such as depression, anxiety, and feelings of helplessness (p. 98)". Because of this feeling, a person experience culture shock will be extremely disturbing for the person who experiences it as it causes many troubles.

On the experience of stress, Juffer (1985) states that culture shock is a common phenomenon which occurs due to the shocks of culture change that can lead to the feelings of stress. The feeling of stress is a form of failure to adapt a new culture (p. 2). The culture change has its own impact; because "people who have different cultures will perceive the world differently because they have been selectively sensitized to certain stimuli rather than others as a function of membership in one cultural group rather than another" (Kim Zapt, 1991, p. 106). However, culture shock also brings positive values to an individual for them to learn it. Oberg (1960) explains, "Each individual was not born with culture but only with the capacity to learn and use it. There is nothing in a newborn child that dictates to speak Portuguese, English, or French, nor should eat with a fork or use chopsticks. A child has to learn all of these things" (p. 144). It means that an individual will learn to adapt himself to the physical environment and to the people with whom he associates, and so each individual will have difficulty in the adjustment process. But, when they learn it well, they will realize that culture can

become a way of life, that is familiar, and largely an automatic way of getting what becomes a values (Oberg, 1960, p. 145) and is able to handle any kinds of obstacle (Xia, 2009, p. 99).

Experiencing culture shock is tiring certainly and requires a process to adapt. All the processes are not certainly easy, some of difficulties definitely would be encountered. Yet, it can be said as part of learning process. Because, culture shock is a process of adjustment person in the foreign cultures. This term describes that process of adjustment affects a person in psychological, behavioral, and cognitive (Pedersen, 1995, p. 1). A person when experiences this condition, they start to feel uncertainty of their expectation on their new place.

Because in *Edensor*, Ikal as the main character experiences culture shock due to his goal to pursue higher education in one of university in Paris, France, this thesis focuses on the culture shock experienced by the main character. This is why this thesis entitled “Culture shock in Andrea Hirata’s novel: *Edensor*”.

1.2. FIELD OF THE STUDY

The field of this study is literature.

1.3. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The writer chooses *Edensor* as the medium of her analysis and the scope of this study is focused on the stages of culture shock that could affect the characters to adapt.

1.4. PROBLEM FORMULATION

1. How are the stages of Pedersen's culture shock applied in *Edensor*?
2. How does Ikal deal with culture shocks?

1.5. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To explain the stages of culture shock applied in *Edensor*.
2. To find the way of Ikal cope with the problems of culture shock.

1.6. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study analyzes a novel using cultural approach to understand the culture shock experienced by Ikal.

1.7. DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. Homesickness is a condition of someone suffering from being away from home due to the unreachable distance (Hornby, 1995, p. 570).
2. Anxiety is a nervous feeling caused by fear about something bad that is going to happen; a worry or fear about something; a strong wish for something or to do something (Hornby, 1995, p. 44). Whereas according to *Psychology Dictionary* the definition of anxiety has two meanings. First, anxiety is a clinical psychiatric syndrome, which is a strong anxiety of problems (intense) that can be observed and become a principal symptom. Second, anything of the three patterns of abnormal behavior is

based on anxiety: phobia, panic, and other behavior disorders (1987, p. 25).

3. Hostility is from the word hostile, which means showing strong dislike. Thus, it means feelings or behavior towards anyone; acts of war, fighting (Hornby, 1995, p. 576). Whereas according to *Psychology Dictionary* hostility is a general term associated with feelings of anger or hostility. In this case is a response of abuse, humiliation, and frustration (1987, p. 13).

