

**DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF CULTURAL ADAPTATION AND
COMMUNICATION OF EAST TIMORESE STUDENTS IN
YOGYAKARTA**

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine and describe the processes of cultural adaptation and communication experienced by Timorese students in their academic and social lives in Indonesia, particularly in Yogyakarta. Differences in cultural background, language, and patterns of social interaction present various challenges for Timorese students in establishing communication with both the campus environment and the local community. This study employs a qualitative approach using a descriptive method. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, field observations, and documentation involving Timorese students who are currently pursuing their studies in Yogyakarta. The data analysis process was conducted through the stages of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing

The findings indicate that the cultural and communication adaptation of Timorese students occurs gradually. This process begins with a phase of uncertainty and cultural confusion, followed by a stage of adjustment, and eventually reaches a relatively stable state of adaptation. Communication adaptation is reflected in the students' ability to use the Indonesian language in daily interactions, their understanding of local norms of politeness, and their adjustment of communication styles within academic and social contexts. Factors supporting the adaptation process include the intensity of interaction with local students, support from the campus environment, and individual openness toward new cultures. Meanwhile, obstacles to adaptation include language differences, the presence of social stereotypes, and feelings of homesickness toward their culture of origin. This study is expected to contribute theoretically to the development of intercultural communication studies and to serve as a practical reference for educational institutions in supporting international students.

Keywords: cultural adaptation, intercultural communication, Timorese students, descriptive study.

STUDI DESKRIPTIF ADAPTASI BUDAYA DAN KOMUNIKASI MAHASISWA TIMOR LESTE DI YOGYAKARTA

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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji dan menggambarkan proses adaptasi budaya serta komunikasi yang dijalani oleh mahasiswa Timor Leste dalam kehidupan akademik dan sosial di Indonesia, khususnya di Yogyakarta. Perbedaan latar belakang budaya, bahasa, serta pola interaksi sosial menghadirkan berbagai tantangan bagi mahasiswa Timor Leste dalam menjalin komunikasi dengan lingkungan kampus maupun masyarakat setempat. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode deskriptif. Pengumpulan data dilakukan melalui wawancara mendalam, observasi lapangan, dan dokumentasi terhadap mahasiswa Timor Leste yang sedang menempuh pendidikan di Yogyakarta. Proses analisis data dilaksanakan melalui tahapan reduksi data, penyajian data, serta penarikan kesimpulan.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa adaptasi budaya dan komunikasi mahasiswa Timor Leste berlangsung secara bertahap. Proses tersebut diawali dengan fase ketidakpastian dan kebingungan budaya, kemudian berlanjut pada tahap penyesuaian, hingga mencapai kondisi adaptasi yang relatif stabil. Adaptasi komunikasi tercermin dari kemampuan mahasiswa dalam menggunakan bahasa Indonesia pada interaksi sehari-hari, pemahaman terhadap norma kesantunan lokal, serta penyesuaian gaya komunikasi dalam konteks akademik dan sosial. Faktor-faktor yang mendukung proses adaptasi meliputi intensitas interaksi dengan mahasiswa lokal, dukungan dari lingkungan kampus, serta sikap keterbukaan individu terhadap budaya baru. Adapun hambatan adaptasi mencakup perbedaan bahasa, adanya stereotip sosial, serta rasa rindu terhadap budaya asal. Penelitian ini diharapkan dapat memberikan kontribusi secara teoretis dalam pengembangan kajian komunikasi antarbudaya serta menjadi bahan rujukan praktis bagi institusi pendidikan dalam mendukung mahasiswa internasional.

Kata kunci: adaptasi budaya, komunikasi antarbudaya, mahasiswa Timor Leste, studi deskriptif.