

**CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
AS EXPATRIATES IN MALAYSIA**

By

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Thesis submitted to

the Ghazali Shafie Graduate School of Government,

Universiti Utara Malaysia,

In Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science

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ABSTRACT

Expatriates and anyone who goes out of his country where the culture and the environment are different are likely to face culture shock that can affect the performance of the person. This study was carried out in order to find out the type of culture shock faced by international students in Malaysia, the way they adjust the challenges and strategies they use to adapt the host country's culture.

Face to face in-depth interview was conducted with twenty five international students who are currently registered as student in some of the Malaysia's public universities; the students come from seventeen different countries around the world. The collected data is analysed through qualitative content analyses method.

The findings of the study illustrate the type of culture shock faced by international students in Malaysia, the strategies they use to adjust culture shock issues. The study found that the common culture shock that international students in Malaysia face are, language, food, weather and integration with local people.

Keywords: Culture, Culture shock, Adjustment, adaptation, international students

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the name of Allah, the most gracious and the most merciful, i would like to thank the Almighty Allah for giving me the health and the energy to complete my thesis. First and foremost, i would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Norhayati Bt. Zakaria for giving me her valuable time, encouragement, guidance, advice and knowledge. I am deeply grateful to her for being patient with me and helping me throughout my thesis.

I would also like to express my utmost thanks and appreciation to all my dearest family, who supported me morally, emotionally and financially, specially my lovely mother Dahabo who is the love my life; my dear father Abdullahi, my sweet grandmother Hajia Culuso Siyad; my dear uncle Hashi Mohamed, the hero that made me who i am today; and all my beloved siblings, Abbas, Abdulgafar, Abduljalil, Abdullahi, Abubakar, Ahmed, Aisha, Ayan, Bishara, Iman, Najma, Nurudin, Omar, Sumaya, Yasir, Yusuf, and Zahra.

Special thanks to my lovely cousin Nasteha and my best friend Abdalle who stood by my side through thick and thin.

Last but not least, i want thank my two princesses; my honourable wife Shukri for her love, care and help, and my adorable daughter Sara who is the light of my life, I love you both.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

KL:	Kuala Lumpur
MMU:	Multimedia University
MOHE:	Ministry of Higher Education
U.S:	United States
UIAM:	Universiti Islam Antrabangsa Malaysia
UM:	Universiti Malaya
UNESCO:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UniMAP:	Universiti Malaysia Perlis
UTeM:	Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka
UUM:	Universiti Utara Malaysia

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Education in modern world became the key of every door, only those who are educated tend to succeed in life compare to the uneducated. A lot of people argue that the opportunities and the future are in the hands of only those who are educated. As a result, the demand of higher education is rapidly increasing, many knowledge seekers spend much time and wealth to pursue higher education in foreign countries that are completely differ from their own in terms of culture, language and way of living.

Modern world became like small village, and this simplifies the integration of global society. Expatriates who are pursuing life dreams cross global bounders from one country to another for the purpose of searching better opportunities. Multinational firms are playing a key role in cross cultural interaction between countries. However, It is not only business enterprises that create cross cultural interaction, but academic organizations are also enrolling many international students from different countries and offering knowledge and skills.

Almost in every country there are international students who came from other countries and live there to study. This does not mean foreign students in different countries are similar in number, because there are many factors that cause to have many foreign students in a particular country, and less in another country. It is important to mention that some countries provide greater and more quality

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