

## CULTURE SHOCK EXPERIENCED BY DRE PARKER IN KARATE KID MOVIE

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### ABSTRACT

Living in an area or moving just for a vacation to another place makes a person feel stressed and confused if they don't know how to face and overcome when they can't adapt. It's called culture shock. Culture shock is the feeling of disorientation experienced by someone who is suddenly confronted with an unfamiliar culture, way of life, or attitude. It can happen when someone who lives in another place has a different culture. This research is based on a film entitled Culture Shock Experienced by Dre Parker where Dre Parker as the main character experiences this culture shock. This study also refers to Oberg who stated the aspects, factors, and phases experienced by Dre. This research was conducted using qualitative methods with observation and documentation to see the film, hear the voice or dialogue and search for scripts related to this film on the internet. The results of the study show that culture shock is not so bad to experience, as long as a person is able to survive and adapt well and correctly in his new environment or culture.

**Key words:** *Culture, culture shock, experienced*

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### INTRODUCTION

In everyday life, we often ignore other people's feelings or maybe ignore our own feelings such as feeling sad, worried, happy, confused, angry, disappointed and so on.

They are natural feelings that humans can feel. Feelings like this can't be dammed by just being buried; sometimes we also need other people to be able to express whatever we're feeling.

The same is the case that I will discuss and examine in this thesis. One day, while I was studying at the University of August 17, 1945, I met my new friend Esther. He is a newcomer from Bali to Semarang to continue his studies to progress and be better.

However, when I chatted with her, I found that Esther was experiencing some difficulties such as not being able to speak Javanese, then having to adapt to cultural differences, for example, if you often find offerings on the streets in Bali, in Semarang she doesn't find them and many more.

The difficulties that Esther had, were the same as Dre as the main character in *Karate Kid* who experienced culture shock in China. 12-year-old Dre Parker and his widowed mother, Sherry, leave Detroit on a trip to Beijing after Sherry gets a job transfer at an auto factory. Dre goes to a nearby park where he sees a young violinist, Meiyang, who returns his attention, but a 14-year-old Chinese boy named Cheng, a rebellious kung fu master whose family is close to Meiyang, holds a grudge against Dre and separates them by assaulting, teasing, and brutally bullying Dre whenever he got the chance. This also became a nightmare for Dre because Dre increasingly disliked this Chinese country. However, with Mr. Han's help, Dre was able to adapt well and at the same time be good friends with Meiyang, whom he had accompanied and liked while in China.

Finally, after Dre faced all his fears while living in China and adapted to both his culture and communication habits, Dre returned home with victory for his country USA and his mother. The adaptation that Dre made was a self-defense or true Kung-Fu adaptation that Mr. Han taught to defend himself in the tournament provided by coach Cheng at the time.

Someone might have a similar similarity as experienced by my friend Esther and also Dre in the film that I am researching. Culture Shock, it turns out, isn't that scary to conquer and adapt to. A person usually takes for granted the values that are professed and innate from birth, which are also confirmed by the people around him. However, when an individual enters a new environment, he encounters a situation that makes him question his assumptions, about what is called truth, morality, goodness, fairness,

decency, policy, and so on. These clashes of perception then lead to conflicts within the individual, and cause them to feel depressed and suffer from stress. This stress effect is called culture shock (Mulyana, 2007).

## **METHODOLOGY**

The research that I will do is qualitative research. This study intends to seek understanding and understanding of a specific context through descriptions in the form of language words. This is in accordance with Moeleong (2000:5) statement that this research can be called a qualitative method because the data collected is in the form of qualitative data such as words and pictures.

This study was written to find out what culture shock was experienced by Dre Parker as the main character in the film entitled *Karate Kid* by Harald Zwartt. In my research, I don't just examine the culture shock, but also examine how culture is shaped, what are the negatives and positives of the impact that Dre Parker had when he moved from America to China to follow his mother's job change.

The type of research that will be used is descriptive. Descriptive research is intended to provide an overview of a topic and become the focus of attention to be explained. This type of qualitative descriptive aims to make a systematic description of the facts and phenomena of the object under study.

## **DISCUSSION**

As I explained in chapter 2, according to Oberg (1957) culture shock is generally divided into 4 phases when someone moves to a new country or place, namely the honeymoon phase, crisis phase, adjustment phase and finally the adaptation phase.

In the honeymoon phase, usually a person will feel endless pleasure and joy, even very excited to settle in a new place or country. But not with Dre, Dre instead experienced difficulties that made Dre have to learn in terms of communication. This is referred to in sub-chapter 4.2 in table 1 explains Dre has a difficulty in communicating. He considered this difficult because in China people speaks Mandarin while Dre used English in his daily life and habits in America. So, it can be concluded that Dre did not experience the honeymoon phase.

It continues with the crisis phase where a person will start to feel uncomfortable and have excessive worries because someone has started to feel the loss of friends who are usually there, family and relatives. Usually, someone will also feel the difference in culture and customs here. This happened to Dre. Indeed, the first time he went to China, Dre already felt uncomfortable, but he felt even more uncomfortable because he was antagonized by his friend named Cheng. Because Dre can't communicate and Dre is different from other friends. Not only with Cheng, Dre also had an argument with his mother where he showed his dislike for China and also because he was hostile to Cheng. This was proven when Dre said "I'm not happy here, I want to go back home!"

In accordance with what I have explained in chapter 2 where there is a third phase, namely the adjustment phase. This phase is when a person begins to feel comfortable and even grateful to be able to live in a new place or area. In this phase also someone will be confused for a while but while forming new friendships for sure. Dre experienced this when he got permission from Mr.Han to be able to train Dre in Kung-Fu. This is referred to in 4.2.2 on the habit. When Dre started learning Kung-Fu, Dre was given a name by Mr. Han, namely Xiao Dre, which means small and agile Dre. This proves that Dre already agrees and grateful for the new culture and habits. Not only Dre who felt

this phase adjustment, but his mother too. His mother was seen wearing Chinese clothing to attend the Valentine's cultural performance, the Qi-Shi festival.

Arriving at the last phase, namely the adaptation phase. In this phase a person will begin to adapt to the environment, culture, habits. Someone also begins to make decisions to be able to achieve something in order to succeed even in a different environment. Same with Dre Parker when he won a Kung-Fu match by making his country proud, namely America and at the same time making his mother proud, and his trainer, Mr.Han. Dre started to venture out of his comfort zone so that people could appreciate Dre and Dre was also comfortable in his new environment.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the topic that I explained, namely the culture shock that Dre experienced in this karate kid film, I presented important points based on my analysis.

The main character in the karate kid movie, played by Dre Parker, shows that when he faced a culture shock for the first time he felt worried, but that didn't last long because Dre had great self-confidence.

This film also tells and teaches the audience to be able to solve problems well, including about cultural shocks.

Some of the culture shocks experienced are:

1. Communication, because in China the country where Dre lived at the time, had to use Mandarin, while Dre could only speak English.
2. Habit, where Dre was very surprised when he found out that eating food there had to use chopsticks and so on.
3. Culture, which is certainly very different from the country of origin, namely America. In China, Dre got so much knowledge, especially on Valentine's Day or

holidays. Because, even public places can be made for dance practice in order to preserve existing culture.

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