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## ACCULTURATION THEORY AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING IN INDONESIA

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### ABSTRACT:

Mixing cultures in an area can be a positive thing or a negative thing. Therefore, society must be wise in responding to the mixing of cultures. In Indonesia, it is known as acculturation. By recognizing complex relationships in this way, language teachers can design what treatment is suitable for their student's class, both in terms of approach and technique. Research questions were formed, namely 1). What is the acculturation theory and 2). What about research in the acculturation theory as scientific work. The type of data used is secondary data. The method that will be used for this study is literary studies. The data obtained were compiled, analyzed, and reconciled so that conclusions were obtained regarding the acculturation theory. acculturation is the presence of a foreign culture that enters its own culture so that it will slowly be accepted by members of the community without having to lose the character of the culture itself. acculturation cannot be viewed negatively because these two things have different effects on society and its environment. In this way, language teachers can design what treatment is suitable for their student's classes, both in terms of approach and technique. Teachers can also provide understanding to students about the importance of understanding the culture of the target language.

**Keywords:** Acculturation Theory, Language Teaching, Theory, Culture, Foreign.

### INTRODUCTION

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In an increasingly modern era, not only humans and technology are experiencing development, but culture is

also developing. Cultural development usually occurs because of the mixing of cultures, both cultures from abroad or cultures from within the country. Therefore,

with the mixing of cultures, it is possible that a new culture will be born. (Kessler, 2013)

Mixing of cultures occurs because of many things, such as globalization, technology, human interest in other cultures, and so on. In addition, the mixing of cultures is classified as very fast so that every member of society must be ready and able to adapt to or adjust to the mixing of cultures.

Mixing cultures in an area can be a positive thing or a negative thing. Therefore, every member of society must be wise in responding to the mixing of cultures. Community members who are wise in responding to cultural mixing can be a positive thing (Ali, 2020).

In Indonesia, the mixing of cultures is often known as acculturation. By recognizing complex relationships In this way, language teachers can design what treatment is suitable for their students class, both in terms of approach and technique. In this paper will be discussed about the meaning, benefits, advantages, disadvantages, and steps of acculturation in implementing the form of teaching (Rahman, 2020).

## RESEARCH METHODS

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Based on the acculturation theory in the literature review, research questions were formed, namely 1). What is the acculturation theory and 2). What about research in the acculturation theory as scientific work. The type of data used is secondary data. Data collection method is literature study. The method that will be used for this study is literary studies. The

data obtained were compiled, analyzed, and reconciled so that conclusions were obtained regarding the acculturation theory.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

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In the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) acculturation is the process of the entry of foreign cultural influences into a society, some selectively absorbing or many elements of the foreign culture, and some trying to resist that influence. (Fauziah Primadiba, 2019)

Meanwhile, in the book *Continuing Professional Development Module* Acculturation is a social process that arises when a group of people with a particular culture is confronted with elements from a foreign culture in such a way that the elements of the foreign culture are gradually accepted and processed into their own culture without causing the loss of the personality of the culture itself. Study of Literatures.

Acculturation according to Kim is a form *enculturation* (the process of learning and internalizing the culture and values adopted by indigenous people) second. Kim defines acculturation as a process by which immigrants adapt to and acquire indigenous culture, which ultimately leads to assimilation (Dianiya, 2017).

The meaning and position of acculturation in the context of inter-ethnic relations becomes clearer when the meaning of assimilation is put forward. Park and Burgess say that: Assimilation is a process of interpretation and fusion. Through this process people and groups

acquire the memories, sentiments and attitudes of other people or groups, with various experiences and histories, associated with them in a common cultural life (Romli, 2015).

Acculturation theory is a process of adjustment to a new culture (Brown, 1987:129). This theory views language as the most real and observable cultural expression and that the new acquisition process will be seen from the way of looking at each other between B1 and B2 communities. Although it may not be very precise, this theory can be used to explain that the process of acquiring L2 has started when children begin to adapt to L2 culture, such as using greeting words, tone of voice, choice of words, and other rules. In this theory, the child's social distance and psychological distance greatly determine the success of the acquisition. Adapting from Schumann's theory, acculturation will be in a good situation, if

1. Children are in speech communities that have the same social level;
2. Children are encouraged to acculturate with Javanese Krama language culture;
3. B1 culture is not too dominant
4. The speech community B1 and B2 have a positive attitude towards each other (Indonesian is democratic and Javanese Krama is polite).

The psychological factors that must be maintained are:

1. the child does not experience language shock, such as doubt or confusion;
2. the child does not experience a setback in motivation; (Wicaksono, 2015)

Brown (1980:129) (Kewalramani, 2017) defines "acculturation as "the process of adjusting to a new culture. It is seen as an important aspect of PB2, because language is one of the most visible cultural expressions that can be observed and that the new acquisition process will be seen from the way of looking at each other between the B1 community and the B2 community.

This theory explains that the process of acquiring L2 has started when children begin to be able to adapt themselves to T2 culture, such as using greeting words, tone of voice, choice of words, and other rules. In this theory, the child's social distance and psychological distance greatly determine the success of the acquisition. (Mulia, 2015)

Acculturation can be defined as a social process that arises when a group of people with a particular culture is confronted with elements from a foreign culture in such a way that the elements of the foreign culture are gradually accepted and processed into their own culture without causing the loss of cultural personality itself (Firmansyah, 2016).

In simple terms, acculturation is the presence of a foreign culture that enters its own culture so that it will slowly be accepted by members of the community without having to lose the character of the culture itself.

However, the presence of acculturation in an area can raise several problems, such as problems in recording acculturation in society; the problem of elements that are acceptable and elements

that are not acceptable to society; the problem of changing elements that are easy to replace and difficult to replace; and issues related to inter-community disputes.

### 1. Benefits of Acculturation Theory in Teaching

Acculturation is a process of modifying attitudes, knowledge, and behavior by adding new elements to one's cultural background, reducing some of the pre-existing elements, and rearranging (reorganizing) other elements (Barry McLaughlin, 1989). The whole process of acculturation requires social and psychological adaptation.

Acculturation and acquisition of a second language is determined by how far the social distance and psychological distance is between the learner and the target language culture. Social distance relates to individuals as members of social groups related to other social groups whose members speak different languages. Meanwhile, psychological distance is the result of a variety of affective factors that concern the student as an individual, for example, culture shock and high/low motivation.

Culture shock is an experience that often occurs in second language learners in both cultures. That is, the learner learns a second language in a new place with a new culture. Culture shock is synonymous with feeling foreign, angry, frustrated, unhappy, sad, lonely, even physically sick. This culture shock is described as the second stage in cultural acquisition, which consists entirely

of: 1) *Euphoria dan excitement*; 2) Culture shock (*culture shock*); 3) *Culture stress*; 4) Assimilation and adaptation (Sobre-Denton & Hart, 2008).

However, culture shock can also be considered as something positive, namely as a cross-cultural learning experience where a person becomes aware of the development, learning process, and changes that occur to him. Through this experience a person will gain a different perspective on himself and understand the values, attitudes and perspectives of other people derived from their culture.

Social Distance (social distance) John Schuman in Brown (2000:185) (Barth, 1998) describes cultural distance as follows: 1) Dominance; 2) Integration; 3) Solidarity 4) Similarity; 5) Length of stay (Yana, 2021).

The process of acculturation in society also has a positive influence/benefits including the following:

- a. There has been a change in culture towards a more advanced one, where people's culture can keep up with technological developments.
- b. Assimilation of culture, the creation of a new culture that is more advanced.
- c. Modernization, and
- d. Enrich cultural diversity.

### 2. Advantages of Acculturation Theory in Teaching

- a. Education moves forward.

Advanced education will be a driving factor for acculturation in an area. By having an advanced education it will

open people's minds about foreign cultures, because by knowing foreign cultures it can advance the nation's civilization so that it can be even stronger in facing the times (Vyas & Yu, 2018).

- b. Have attitudes and behaviors that respect each other's culture

Respectful attitude and behavior must be possessed by every individual because with this we can relate well with other cultures. Therefore, attitudes and behaviors that respect culture can be said to be a driving factor for cultural acculturation.

- c. Tolerance towards other cultures

To maintain good relations with other cultures, tolerance of other cultures is needed. From the attitude and behavior of tolerance will bring up cultural acculturation.

### **3. Weaknesses of Acculturation Theory in Teaching**

- a. Influenced by individualist culture

An individualist is a self-serving person or a selfish person. This is of course not in line with the lifestyle of Indonesians who uphold the values of unity and gotong-royong (Gibson, 1976).

- b. There is a cultural change

Technological advances have an effect on cultural change. For example, with the existence of social media technology and cellphones, some people no longer have a culture of visiting people to convey messages.

- c. There is a shift in the standard language

In this context, with cultural acculturation, there will even be a loss of standard language use due to language mixing.

### **4. Learning Steps with Acculturation Theory / Acculturation Driving Factors**

In the process of acculturation can not be separated from the driving factors. The following will explain the driving factors of acculturation (Tabor & Milfont, 2011).

- a. Advanced Education

Advanced education is a driving factor for acculturation in an area. Advanced education will open people's minds about foreign cultures. By getting to know foreign cultures, it can advance the nation's civilization so that it can be even stronger in facing the times. Therefore, we must prioritize education.

Thus, in dealing with the times, we must be able to carry out cultural acculturation. If we do not carry out cultural acculturation, it is likely that our nation will find it difficult to face the times that are moving so fast.

- b. Attitudes and Behavior of Mutual Respect for Culture

Respectful attitude and behavior must be possessed by every individual because with this we can relate well with other cultures. Therefore, the attitude and behavior of respecting culture can be said to be a driving factor for cultural acculturation. Without these attitudes and behaviors it can lead to mutual ridicule of one culture with

another, so that it can thwart the occurrence of cultural acculturation.

c. Tolerance of Other Cultures

In social life, we cannot be separated from various cultural backgrounds. Therefore, to maintain good relations with other cultures requires tolerance towards other cultures. From the attitude and behavior of tolerance will give rise to cultural acculturation, so that this attitude and behavior of tolerance can be said to be a driving factor for cultural acculturation.

d. There is a Heterogeneous Society

Heterogeneous society can be said to be a driving factor for cultural acculturation because within the community there are different cultural backgrounds. Many cultures in a heterogeneous society will make it easier for one individual and another to learn various cultures.

The more often we learn other cultures, the acculturation of cultures will occur more quickly. With cultural acculturation, we will strengthen the national character

e. Oriented To The Future

It feels like thinking into the future has become something that really needs to be done by every member of society. By thinking to the future, we will have a plan, so that the future can be faced with full readiness. Thus, thinking into the future is one of the driving factors for acculturation. (Kosanke, 2019)

The existence of factors driving acculturation means that there are also factors inhibiting the occurrence of acculturation. The following are the inhibiting factors for acculturation, acculturation inhibiting Factors (Schiffman et al., 1981).

a. Science is Slowing Down

Education that is not moving or even moving backwards will make science slow down. Science that moves slowly can be the cause of delays in the process of acculturation in an area

b. Traditional Community Attitudes

People who adhere to traditional culture will always think that the inclusion of foreign culture can eliminate the privileges of the original culture itself, so that foreign culture will be difficult to accept. Therefore, people who still adhere to traditional culture can be an inhibiting factor for acculturation.

c. New Things Are Considered Bad

It is difficult to accept or even have a bad opinion of new things that can be an inhibiting factor for cultural acculturation. Such individuals or groups will find it very difficult to accept the entry of a new culture, so that the acculturation process becomes hampered.

d. Customs or Habits

For some groups, indigenous peoples or habits have been instilled since childhood, so that when they accept a new culture they will be seen as something foreign. If you already think

## 5. Acculturation inhibiting Factors

like that, it will be difficult to introduce a new culture. Therefore, customs or habits become one of the inhibiting factors for acculturation.

## CONCLUSION

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The development of the times will always be related to humans and culture because human personality will not be formed without culture. Likewise with culture that would not exist without the presence of humans.

In the development of the times, there will usually be something called cultural acculturation. This needs to be done in order to strengthen the personality of the nation in facing the times. In addition, acculturation cannot be viewed negatively because these two things have different effects on society and its environment.

By recognizing complex relationships in this way, language teachers can design what treatment is suitable for their students class, both in terms of approach and technique. Teachers can also provide understanding on students about the importance of understanding the culture of the target language user group if they want to master the language well and reach the birth level.

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