

**A STUDY ON CROSS-CULTURAL SHOCKS EXPERIENCED BY BILLY WANG
BETWEEN AMERICAN CULTURE AND CHINESE CULTURE IN *THE
FAREWELL 2019* MOVIE**

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Abstract

In this study, the writer uses a material object namely The Farewell 2019 movie to find out what kind of culture shock was found and its implications. Have an authentic and informative story. For us viewers who are not ethnic Chinese, we get new knowledge about Chinese family traditions which are actually 'saklek' and have important meaning for them. In this study used the descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive studies is a form of studies that indicated to describe phenomena that exist, both natural phenomena and artificial phenomena. The main data of this study was taken from the movie entitled The Farewell 2019. The writer takes the data source by observing each film scene and will capture each scene. The method used in collecting data was the documentation method. In this study, descriptive qualitative approach analysis was used to analyze culture shock in The Farewell 2019 movie. The movie reflects the culture shock of the main character. The writer also found the stages of a person's phase when experiencing culture shock which is divided into four stages; the honeymoon, the hostility, the recovery, and the adjustment. All of them is reflected in the main character, Billy Wang who gets a culture shock in his native China. In cultural implications, The Farewell 2019 movie is reflected in the acceptance that after a person goes through several phases of culture shock and the imply in the movie is starting to accept and learn the culture of other countries, including a form of positive attitude in understanding different cultures, not closing oneself and always open to changes and differences in the surrounding environment.

Keyword: Culture Shock, The Farewell 2019 Movie, Cross Cultural Understanding, Chinese, American.

INTRODUCTION

In this study, the writer uses a material object namely *The Farewell 2019* movie to find out what kind of culture shock was found and its implications. Have an authentic and informative story. For us viewers who are not ethnic Chinese, we get new knowledge about Chinese family traditions which are actually 'saklek' and have important meaning for them. Billy as the main character, who has lived in the West (America) for too long, feels an inner conflict with this eastern tradition. This kind of tradition will remind us of some of the unwritten rules of those of us who still live in eastern culture. This kind of tradition will remind us of some of the unwritten rules of those of us who still live in eastern culture. There are many more similar traditions in our culture that are more or less like that. The film tells of the culture shock experienced by a woman who has Chinese blood but has lived in America for a long time. This film can describe how culture shock which happen to Billy Wang after living for a long time in America then back to home China. Therefore, this study investigates cultural differences specifically aimed at American and Chinese culture and experiences of culture shock that a person experiences through the film *The Farewell 2019*. This study is also to determine how the impact of culture shock.

Culture shock is closely related to situations where there is excessive worry and confusion experienced by people who occupy new and foreign territories. According to (Young, 2015) explaining about culture shock that if we tend to move to another culture that is very different or meet people from foreign cultures, our perspective may conflict with the various traditions of beliefs, norms and values that exist in society. We may find it difficult to adjust to a new culture and aspects of the culture we are not familiar with, resulting in anxiety and feelings of alienation (shock, disorientation, uncertainty, confusion, etc.).

The first research is conducted by (Lisanita Candra, 2018) . In the research entitle “Culture Shock Found in ‘Lion’ Movie and Its Contribution to Cross-Cultural Understanding”. His research was conducted to analyze the culture shock found in the “Lion” movie and its contribution to Cross-Cultural Understanding teaching. The methodology of this research was descriptive qualitative research. The analysis results showed culture shock which happened to Saroo in Australia and the movie reflects the differences of two cultures between India and Australia. Based on his research, the researcher suggests that the lectures can use research as a reference to the Cross-Cultural Understanding becoming more interesting and make the students interested to earn more about Cross-Cultural Understanding. It can also increase the students’ knowledge and improve the students’ understanding of Cross-Cultural Understanding.

In a article entitle Culture Shock Found in “Anna and the King” movie and Its Contribution to Cross-Cultural Understanding Teaching” by Trisana Irma. That research was conducted by employing the descriptive qualitative method which focuses on culture shock analysis and can be proved by the conversation of the actor in the movie. The writer get a deep understanding of the whole story. This study described all elements such as language, religion, human, norms and values, rituals, stories, and symbols which all of culture shock matters this movie that can be materials of Cross-Cultural Understanding Teaching.

Culture is an agreement with society regarding a principle or order of life generally that grows to be followed, maintained, and developed. It can even be said that culture is all human behavior in life that's obtained through the educational process. However, usually culture only interacts and relates to the arts. Everything involving human behavior in life is categorised as culture. For example, a way to eat, manners, traditional wedding ceremonies, and the way to decide on leaders are kinds of culture. In getting to know the culture, people must also know what is called Culture Shock. According to (Wang, 2015) explaining about culture shock that if we tend to move to another culture that is very different or meet people from foreign cultures, our perspective may conflict with the various traditions of beliefs, norms and values that exist in society. We may find it difficult to adjust to a new culture and aspects of the culture we are not familiar with, resulting in anxiety and feelings of alienation (shock, disorientation, uncertainty, confusion, etc.). Cited from Journal (Wang, 2015)

that at least there are four essential stages of culture shock, as follows; the honeymoon, the hostility, the recovery, and the adjustment.

METHOD

The writer used the descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive studies is a form of studies that indicated to describe phenomena that exist, both natural phenomena and artificial phenomena. The phenomenon can be a form of activity, characteristics, changes, relationships, and equality. In this study, the writer is the observer. In descriptive qualitative research, the writer is the instrument. The human instrument's function is to determine the focus of the study. The writer chose the data, collected the data, analyzed the data, interrupted the data, and made the conclusion based on the findings. This study used *The Farewell 2019* movie as the object. The Object of the study was divided into two kinds they were the formal object and material object in this study, the formal object was a culture shock. The main data of this study was taken from the movie entitled *The Farewell 2019*. The writer takes the data source by observing each film scene and will capture each scene. Each scene, the main focus is to find the phenomenon of culture shock in the film and the differences of two cultures between China and America. The writer used the descriptive qualitative method. A descriptive study's objective is to characterize a phenomena and its features.

This study is more interested in what happened than those of how or why it happened. According to (Yin, 2011), there are 4 varieties of records series activities, consisting of interviewing, observing, accumulating, examining, and feeling. The researcher used types of records series. The method used in collecting data was the documentation method. The data was taken as follows: downloading *The Farewell 2019* movie, watching the movie more than twice, reading the dialog from the scripts, collecting the data by watching the movie and trying to understand all of the utterance, selecting the relevant data which indicate culture shock in *The Farewell 2019* movie, collecting the data which classifying of culture shock, and identifying the culture shock in *The Farewell 2019* movie. In this study, descriptive qualitative approach analysis was used to analyze culture shock in *The Farewell 2019* movie. The procedure used by the writer as follows: the writer found culture shock and describing with dialog or pictures examples from the movie, elaborate and develop one by one the data obtained in detail, describing culture shock found in *The Farewell 2019* movie, and concluding the result of analyzing the data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Culture shock is a term used to describe the anxiety and feelings one feels when living in a completely different tradition, including when in a foreign country. Commonly what's felt when experiencing culture shock is stress, fear, soreness, stranger, and strangeness. this will happen or be experienced to every person, who moves places such as work, school, or while on vacation. In the *The Farewell 2019* movie, the culture shock that was found was a belief problem in Billy's family. This difference makes Billy experience culture shock. In the culture shock condition experienced by Billy, Billy went through several phases experienced by some people in general, namely the honeymoon, the hostility, the recovery, and the adjustment phases.

The firts stage of culture shock is the Honeymoon. This stage is not a problem for people who experience culture shock. In the beginning of the film, the scene from 02.18 - 03.05 shows that Billy still looks fine and looks happy when she was calling Nai Nai. Even though, Billy grew up in America from a young age and was familiar with American culture and customs, it was still easy for Billy to communicate or speak Chinese. In this condition, Billy still has not felt anything strange or foreign in her family environment.

The second stage is the Hostility. The second stage in *The Farewell 2019* movie is reflected by Billy who begins to not accept the problems of cultural differences she is experiencing. In the scenes

of the film at 11.47 - 11.52, Billy accepts the fact that her grandmother is diagnosed with cancer and Billy has to lie and hide it from her grandmother (Nai Nai). Billy's family believes in an ancient Chinese proverb that has become a tradition in Chinese society. The proverb says "*When people have cancer, they die. It's not cancer that kills them, but fear*". Billy was very shock by the belief held by her family and she first time heard the proverbs that has become a Chinese tradition. Billy was shock because she used to the customs in America where everything could be open, in contrast to China, Billy was shock by the conditions. Her family is very strong in his beliefs and traditions, making Billy even more confused and difficult to accept. In this scene too, Billy feels the difference in traditional belief culture. China is more complex, while in America they are more open minded and do not have too many special traditions.

From the movie, it is no longer an secret, since ancient times the Chinese have been known to have very high knowledge compared to other nations in the world. For example, about science, health, or culture. Many Chinese philosopher figures are respected by the world. These philosophers have proverbs or sayings that describe the values of life. For example, Lao Tzu, an ancient Chinese writer, who taught about simple living. There are many proverbs that Chinese people can use as a guide to life.

In the scene at minute 54.15 - 55.27 Billy Wang began to protest with her mother because she felt uncomfortable with a situation that was not in accordance with her thoughts and desires. At minute 01.01.48 - 01.03.08 Billy Wang met her father and uncle. She questioned why they are not honest with Nai Nai about his illness. However, because of her father's and uncle's family who already believe in tradition in China. So they couldn't fulfill Billy's wish to be honest with Nai Nai. This phenomenon often occurs in families who have cross-cultural or cultural differences in belief. However, this can be solved by adjustment among the family.

The third stage is the Recovery. The scene at 01.06.28 - 01.07.59 shows Billy contemplating and trying to understand the conditions and understand the traditions that his family believes in. Even though what his family did was against Billy's opinion or thoughts. Billy begins to feel better than before, reflects on things or events that she still finds strange, and tries to respect his family's decisions and habits. It takes some time for someone who has experienced culture shock to understand their environment, it does not take long but it is not short either.

The last stage is the Adjustment. The scene at minute 01.19.52 - 01.19.55 shows when Billy looks at her grandmother with full acceptance. With a small smile, although there is still sadness but she has started to accept with a small smile towards his grandmother. The scene at minute 01.19.52 at the end of the film shows that Billy has accepted the conditions and traditions that his family believes in. A tradition that his family cannot leave behind. Even though Billy was born into a Chinese family, as a child Billy grew up and was used to the Western (American) environment and culture. Billy has reached a point where she really feels good because she knows enough to recognize the culture or customs of her family. The things that made Billy feel uncomfortable or strange were things that Billy already recognized and understood. Understanding at this stage reduces a lot of stress. After all the problems came and went, Billy began to adjust to the norms, values, and even the beliefs and traditions of her extended Family. Where the culture is opposite to Billy's personality. Billy then follows the culture or customs of her family and respects what her family does.

In the context of culture shock imply that cultural differences are characteristic of a country. As in China and America, there are very differences especially in tradition. China has complex traditions and many special traditions, whereas in America there are no special traditions. For example, in *The Farewell 2019* movie, the Billy Wang family strongly believes in the proverbs and the myth passed down from their ancestors that people who are very sick will die because of fear, not disease. This thinking when compared to Americans will be much different, because Americans when sick will always be guided by science or medicine. This has implications for Billy Wang, who has long been

attached to American culture and had to accept her Chinese family belief that was not like Billy's, which made her experience culture shock since she heard it from her extended family.

The negative side of implication that happened to Billy was the sense of confusion, shock, and strangeness she experienced. But the positive side Billy also accepts and learns the culture of other countries from the positive side. Billy came to know how different traditions were between the Chinese and the Americans. Their different traditions imply that Billy has a better understanding of how to behave and deal with different cultures.

In the movie, it also imply that the theory put forward by Minli Wang (2015) can be used as a reference for researching a phenomenon or research study related to culture shock. Wang (2015) states that at least four essential stages of adjustments occur during culture shock. Culture shock in this movie imply that something is unavoidable in intercultural communication. Life or experience facing other cultures is an educational experience in culture. When someone has adapted to a new culture, someone can enjoy it more. This movie learns how to interact with other people and learn quite a lot about living in a culture you've never experienced, learning about other cultures and how to adjust to the shocks of life within. Gained a lot of insight into the local community and learned more about yourself.

CONCLUSION

The film reflects the culture shock of the main character. The writer also found the stages of a person's phase when experiencing culture shock which is divided into four stages; the honeymoon, the hostility, the recovery, and the adjustment. All of them is reflected in the main character, Billy Wang who gets a culture shock in his native China. In cultural implications, *The Farewell 2019* movie is reflected in the acceptance that after a person goes through several phases of culture shock and the imply in the movie is starting to accept and learn the culture of other countries, including a form of positive attitude in understanding different cultures, not closing oneself and always open to changes and differences in the surrounding environment.

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