CROSS CULTURAL MISUNDERSTANDINGS AS DEPICTED IN E.M.FORSTER’S NOVEL “A PASSAGE TO INDIA”

A THESIS
As a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for The Sarjana Pendidikan Degree in English Language Teaching Faculty

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MARCH, 2007
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, the writer would like to express her greatest gratitude and honor to GOD who has poured his grace and blessing during her study and especially in the accomplishment of this thesis.

The writer would also like to deliver her deepest gratitude to:

1. Dr. Agustinus Ngadiman, for being so reliable and so efficient. The writer also would like to thank for his guidance, patience, and advices for this thesis from the beginning until the end.

2. B. Himawan S., M. Hum, for his willingness to give advices to the writer, and has contributed some correction for the completion of this thesis.

3. The writer’s parents, Sakri and Sinarningsih, for their supports in every single day. The writer would not know what to do without their supports and prayer.

4. The writer’s brothers, Heru, Anteng, Yoto, Jefrie, Deny, for giving support and encouraging her in carrying out this thesis.

5. The writer’s sisters, Mimin and Desi, for motivating and encouraging me every day.

6. All the writer’s friends, Atok, Agus, Lia, Mupet, Farik, Retha, Ines, Santo, Hendrikus, Dita, and the rest of the member that cannot be mentioned one by one, for supporting the writer, not only in finishing this thesis but also in moving on.

7. All the lecturers of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University, who taught patiently and nourished her with knowledge during her study at this department.
ABSTRACT

Ambarwati, Ririn, 2007. Cross Cultural Misunderstandings as Depicted in E. M. Foster “A Passage to India”
Thesis, Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan. Universitas Katolik Widya Mandala, Surabaya
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Keywords: Cross Cultural Misunderstanding

This study analyzes the cross cultural misunderstandings in “A Passage to India” a novel by E. M. Foster. The study under report is attempted to answer the following research problem. (1) What causes of cultural misunderstandings between the characters are depicted in E. M. Foster’s “A Passage to India?” and (2) How are they resolved?

The data of this study are taken from the utterances between the characters of the novel. The data are analyzed by using the cross cultural misunderstanding theories, i.e. the different types of misunderstanding and the basic reasons of cultural misunderstanding. Besides, there are cultural aspects in correlation with the field that can be examined in cultural analysis, and also the British’s and Indian’s culture characteristics as the parameters.

The data analysis brought the following findings: (1) there are three religion differences, Christianity, Moslem, and Hindu, that lead to the cultural misunderstanding. The differences of race, Western and Native, are also the cause of misunderstanding. In politics, the different aims lead to the misunderstanding. The last misunderstanding is caused by the differences of economic and social manners. (2) the solutions of cultural misunderstanding problems that bases on religion differences are overcomed by the friendliness that made afterward. The races and political misunderstandings are covered by Fielding’s description about no fairness in the world, and not all of the Englishmen have the same importance in India. The last solution of the economic and social manners is overcomed by several ways, such as to give punishment, to avoid interact with the native, and even to build good relation with the native.

The writer realizes that this study is not perfect and there must be several weaknesses. The writer suggests to the further researcher who intends to make a cultural study especially cross cultural misunderstanding to make a study on Indonesia novel as Indonesia has many cultural differences among its people. Besides, the writer also hopes that the study may be useful for the reader in dispute interaction in order to be able to avoid the clash among people in the society.
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