

An Analysis Of Culture Shock Faced By Main Character In Bajrang Bhaijaan Movie

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Abstract. Culture shock refers to a psychological and emotional response experienced by individuals when they are exposed to a culture that differs significantly from their own. The objectives of this research are to analyze phases and the effects of culture shock which are experienced by the characters in Bajrang Baijhaan. This study used a descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research was taken from the movie Bajrang Bhaijaan. This movie is also the object of this research. The researcher used only two types of instruments, checklists and observation documentation obtained from the research object. There were two kinds of observation used by the researcher, namely; the phases of culture shock and the effect of culture shock checklist. Both of the checklist was adapted from the theory by Ward (2001). The findings revealed that there are four phases of culture shock experienced by the characters in the Bajrang Baijhaan movie, namely; honeymoon, crisis, recovery, and adaptation phase. The Crisis phase appears most frequently, with 5 scenes, followed by the Adaptation phase with 3 scenes, the Recovery phase with 1 scene, and finally the Honeymoon phase with 1 scene. Furthermore, the effects of culture shock in Bajrang Bhaijaan movie are balanced between negative and positive. The experience of culture shock in the Bajrang Bhaijaan movie begins with various negative effects such as fear, anxiety, and confusion arising from differences in language, religion, and nationality. However, as the story develops, many positive effects also emerge, including empathy, courage, gratitude, and peace.

Keywords: *Culture Shock, Bajrang Bhaijaan Movie, Psychological Effects.*

INTRODUCTION

Culture shock is a shocking situation in a person when he discovers a new culture that he has never encountered from where he came from and when he visits other places he will experience culture shock. 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.).

Culture shock refers to a psychological and emotional response experienced by individuals when they are exposed to a culture that differs significantly from their own. It often manifests as feelings of confusion, anxiety, frustration, and disorientation when encountering unfamiliar social norms, values, traditions, and communication styles (Ward et al, 2005). Researchers commonly describe culture shock as occurring in several stages, beginning with a honeymoon phase characterized by excitement and curiosity, followed by a frustration stage

marked by challenges in adjustment, then a gradual adaptation process, and finally acceptance and integration into the new culture.

Furthermore, there are several studies related to culture shock. First, a study conducted by Nuandini and Kustantinah (2022) entitled "A Study On Cross-Cultural Shocks Experienced By Billy Wang Between American Culture And Chinese Culture In The Farewell 2019 Movie". 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.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Culture is the entire way of life, values, norms, traditions, beliefs, habits, and works that are inherited from one generation to the next in a group of people. Culture includes material aspects, such as art, architecture, and technology, as well as non-material aspects, such as language, morals, religion, and social systems. The term "culture" comes from the Latin "colere", which has the basic meaning of "to maintain" or "to develop". Initially, this term was used in the context of agriculture, namely the act of cultivating land to produce crops. Later, the meaning of the word evolved and adapted in the human context, referring to the "processing" of the mind, soul, and social life. From here, "culture" began to be used to describe the intellectual, artistic, and social development of society (Liliweri, 2002).

In subsequent developments, this term became the basis of the concept of culture as it is known today, which includes various aspects ranging from customs, traditions, to value systems that develop within a group of people. The term "culture" was first popularized in a modern context by Edward Burnett Tylor, a English anthropologist, through his work entitled *Primitive Culture* in 1871. Tylor defined culture as a "complex whole," which includes knowledge, beliefs, art, law, morals, customs, and other abilities that humans acquire as members of society.

The movie *Bajrangi Bhaijaan* beautifully portrays the theme of culture shock through its cross-border story between India and Pakistan. In the movie, both the main characters Pavan Kumar Chaturvedi (Bajrangi) and Munni, a mute Pakistani girl experience various forms of culture shock as they navigate life in unfamiliar cultural settings. When Pavan crosses into Pakistan to reunite Munni with her family, he faces several cultural differences. He encounters a new language (Urdu), different food habits, and distinct religious practices in a Muslim-majority country. As a devout Hindu, he feels confused and uncomfortable at first, especially when local people view him with suspicion because of his Indian identity. These moments represent the emotional and social challenges of culture shock. Similarly, Munni experiences culture shock when she is stranded in India. Being unable to speak and surrounded by Hindu customs that are unfamiliar to her, she struggles to communicate and adapt to a new environment.

METHODS

Research Design

This study used a descriptive qualitative method. The purpose is to describe the phenomenon of data analysis to be studied to obtain conclusions from the research results. According to Arikunto (2006): Descriptive research is carried out with the aim of describing or providing an overview of the object being studied through data or samples that have been

collected as they are without conducting analysis and making conclusions that are applicable to the public. Sugiyono (2013): Descriptive research is research conducted to determine the value of independent variables, either one or more variables (independent) without making comparisons or relating them with other variables. Moeloeng (2007) emphasized that in descriptive research, researchers only act as observers and fact keepers. The researcher does not intervene or change the situation, but only seeks to understand and describe the situation or phenomenon comprehensively and as it is.

This study used this method because it is in accordance with the purpose of the research that focuses on culture shock contained in a movie. The results of this study emphasize more on the interpretation of data found in the field. The results are not written in the form of pictures and tables with statistical measures, but are illustrated in the form of words until the results are presented in the form of narratives

Object of the Research

The data of this research was taken from the movie Bajrangi Bhaijaan. This movie is also the object of this research. The data in this study was the culture shock experienced by the main in the movie. This data can be seen in the form of depictions in each scene contained in the movie such as: psychological, sociological, cultural differences, and also cultural anthropology are illustrated in the movie data.

Research Instruments

Because of this study was a descriptive qualitative research, the researcher used only two types of instruments, checklists and observation documentation obtained from the research object.

Observation Checklist

There were two kinds of observation used by the researcher, namely; the phases of culture shock and the effect of culture shock checklist. Both of the checklist was adapted from the theory by Ward (2001).

Tabel 1. Phases and Effect of the Culture Shock Checklist

NO	DATA	CULTURE SHOCK	EFFECT
1	" Pavan meets Munni for the first time and feels joy helping her despite their differences. He is curious and caring, showing positive interest toward someone from another culture." (00:00:25)	Honeymoon	Excitement
2	" Pavan experiences difficulty understanding Munni's religion and nationality. He is shocked when realizing she is a Muslim from Pakistan and faces fear crossing the border." (00:40:00)	Crisis	Fear Confusion Nerveosness

Tabel 2. Total Data

No	CULTURE SHOCK	DATA
	Honeymoon	4
	Crisis	3
	Recovery	2
	Adaptation	1
	Total	10

RESULTS

Honeymoon Phase

The Honeymoon phase is the first stage of culture shock, characterized by excitement, curiosity, and fascination with a new culture. During this phase, individuals usually feel positive and enthusiastic about the new environment they tend to notice the interesting and appealing aspects of the culture rather than the differences or challenges. Everything seems new, exciting, and full of discovery.

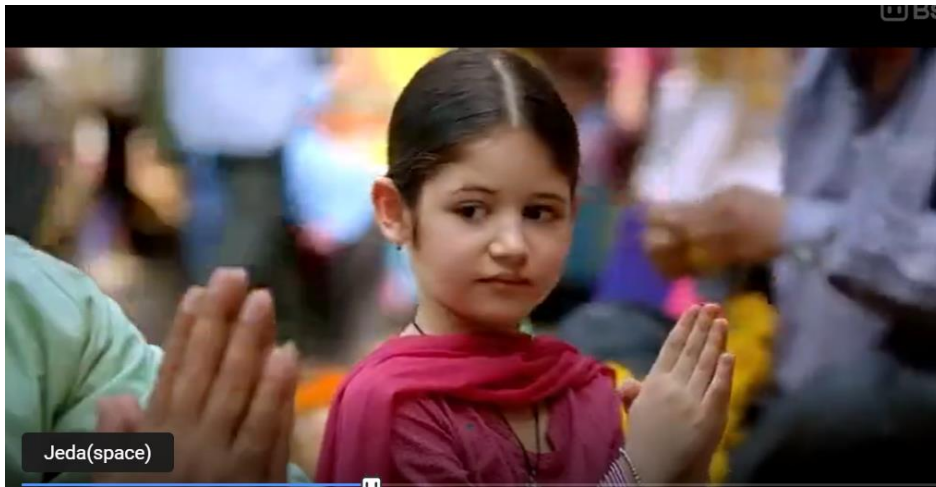


Figure 1. Munni imitates how Pavan praying

In this scene, Munni observes Pavan performing Hindu religious rituals at the temple and begins to imitate his actions out of innocence and curiosity (34:07 – 35:01). As a child who is unfamiliar with the local religious customs, Munni follows the gestures and movements without fully understanding their meaning. This situation illustrates a moment of culture shock in which an individual encounters and participates in a new cultural and religious practice that differs from her original background.

Crisis Phase

Crisis phase is the stage when the initial excitement fades, and the person starts facing real challenges in understanding and adapting to the new culture. Misunderstandings, communication problems, or feeling like an outsider are common.



Figure 2. Munni gets separated with her mother

Munni gets separated from her mother on the train and ends up in India (00:11:40–00:15:20). She suddenly finds herself lost in a foreign country where she does not understand the language or the people around her. This moment becomes a major crisis for Munni because she is completely alone and unable to communicate.



Figure 3. Munni losts in India

In this scene, Munni wanders through a crowded Indian market, confused by the new environment (00:20:57 – 00:21:50). The marketplace represents a completely new cultural setting for Munni, where everything from behavior to language differs from what she knows. Munni's confusion and distress reflect the emotional low point of culture shock, as she struggles to adjust to the unfamiliar environment.



Figure 4. Munni smiles when Pakistan wins

Munni cheers for Pakistan's cricket team during a match, creating a national identity conflict that becomes a moment of crisis for Pavan (60:26 – 61:01). Her action occurs in a social setting where national identity plays an important role, especially in the context of sports. Supporting the opposing national team places Munni in a situation where cultural and national differences become visible. This moment highlights a culture shock situation involving conflicting national identities within a shared public space.

CONCLUSION

Regarding to the research findings, it can be concluded that there are four phases of culture shock experienced by the characters in the Bajrangi Baijhaan movie, namely; honeymoon, crisis, recovery, and adaptation phase. The Crisis phase appears most frequently, with 5 scenes, followed by the Adaptation phase with 3 scenes, the Recovery phase with 1 scene, and finally the Honeymoon phase with 1 scene. Furthermore, the effects of culture shock in Bajrangi Bhaijaan movie are balanced between negative and positive. The experience of culture shock in the Bajrangi Bhaijaan movie begins with various negative effects such as fear, anxiety, and confusion arising from differences in language, religion, and nationality. However, as the story develops, many positive effects also emerge, including empathy, courage, gratitude, and peace.

LIMITATION

The researcher will analyze culture shock in the Bajrangi Baijhaan movie. This research will focus on the analysis of culture shock which is divided into four phases, namely the honeymoon phase, frustration, selfadjustment, and settlement or adaptation based on the theory of Ward (2005).

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