

ABSTRAK

Kesempatan untuk berkuliah ke luar negeri semakin terbuka lebar. Beriringan dengan hal itu dan adanya kecenderungan tren peningkatan jumlah mahasiswa asing yang melampaui batas negara untuk belajar, Australia memosisikan diri sebagai destinasi belajar favorit yang baru dan menargetkan mahasiswa segmen pertengahan. Di balik kondisi ini, terdapat ancaman bagi para mahasiswi yang berkuliah di Australia. Mahasiswi internasional rentan mengalami kekerasan dan ketidakamanan karena perbedaan identitas. Menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dan pendekatan fenomenologi, studi ini bertujuan untuk menelusuri (a) perbedaan yang ditemui oleh mahasiswi asing asal Indonesia di Australia, (b) pengalaman mahasiswi asal Indonesia berinteraksi dengan masyarakat lokal Australia, dan (c) proses negosiasi identitas yang dilakukan oleh para mahasiswi asal Indonesia. Studi ini menemukan bahwa mahasiswi internasional asal Indonesia menjumpai perbedaan sekaligus menegosiasikan identitasnya dalam berbagai situasi, di antaranya lingkungan budaya, agama, akademis, hingga pertemanan. Mahasiswi internasional asal Indonesia sempat mengalami kendala bahasa, gegar budaya, kesulitan berteman dengan mahasiswa lokal, dan diskriminasi. Namun di saat yang sama mahasiswi asal Indonesia pun merasakan penerimaan, toleransi, keamanan, dan mempelajari nilai-nilai masyarakat Australia. Selain itu, jaringan sosial mahasiswa Indonesia di Australia pun berperan besar dalam tahap adaptasi dan negosiasi para mahasiswi internasional asal Indonesia. Kata kunci: mahasiswi internasional, Australia, pendidikan tinggi, negosiasi identitas

ABSTRACT

The opportunity to study abroad is progressively wide open. Along with that and the trend of the rising number of foreign students who cross borders to study, Australia positions itself as a new favorite study destination and targets middle segment students. Behind this condition, there are threats to female students studying in Australia. Female international students are vulnerable to violence and insecurity due to identity differences. Using qualitative methods and phenomenological approaches, this study aims to explore (a) distinctions encountered by female foreign students from Indonesia in Australia, (b) the experience of Indonesian female students interacting with local Australian communities, and (c) the identity negotiation process conducted by Indonesian female students. This study found that female international students from Indonesia encountered distinctions while negotiating their identities in various situations, including cultural, religious, academic, and friendship environments. Female international students from Indonesia had experienced language barriers, culture shock, difficulty in making friends with local students, and discrimination. But at the same time, Indonesian female students also feel acceptance, tolerance, security, and learn the values of Australian. In addition, the social network of Indonesian students in Australia also plays a major role in the adaptation and negotiation phase of female international students from Indonesia.

Keywords: female international student, Australia, tertiary education, identity negotiation