

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1. Conclusion

After synthesising and understanding, a conclusion to the research can be drawn. The following can be concluded based on the research;

1. Communication motivation

Motivation to communicate is bountiful between Caucasian-Asian married couples because they realise that communication is a great tool to avoid misunderstandings. It is also essential to keep the relationship alive and healthy, as it is a way to express oneself.

2. Knowledge of communication

Language being the most significant barrier when it comes to communication, has to be learnt with patience. Aside from that, communication is a crucial aspect of intercultural marriage that prevents misunderstandings and as a way to express oneself.

3. Communication skill

Every individual has their way of learning about their partner's culture and adapting to it to find the most effective way to communicate. In Asia, particularly Indonesia, people are less straightforward and more used to beating around the bush and being very mindful of the other person or institution's feelings. Europeans are more aware of how they communicate and put in the effort to change their habits when communicating with their partner's culture. Asians are not as aware of their communication adaptation. They try to fit in by still being themselves and studying their partner's cultural habits by surrounding themselves with people from that culture.

4. To state social identity

Respect, especially for their elders, is essential in Asian culture, specifically Indonesians. For Asians, that is the thing that they cannot let go of easily. Even honorifics feel uncomfortable for them to drop. Aside from that, cultural events and food are seen as a part of identity. For Caucasians, habits and norms like being on time and straightforward are something they find to be a part of themselves. For the British, a sarcastic sense of humour is a staple.

5. To declare social integration

In order to declare social integration, Asians pride themselves on their ability to form connections with people from their partner's culture. Coming from a collectivist culture, they emphasise connections and the people around them. Compared to Asians, Caucasians are more individualistic; they believe that they have integrated into their partner's culture by more personal things like their children, being more flexible, participating in cultural events and learning the language.

6. To increase knowledge

In order to increase knowledge about their partner's culture, Asians tend to put themselves straight to their partner's culture. They live in their partner's culture and have conversations with people from their partner's culture to learn more about it. Because Caucasians tend not to live and stay in their partner's culture, they usually do self-study or ask their partner about it.

7. Culture shock

It comes in many different ways, depending on their condition. For Asians, there are all different reasons being; having prejudice from stereotypes, language barrier, and physical capabilities. Caucasians are worried about making mistakes, and they are more conscious about how they present themselves.

8. Cultural adaptation

Because Caucasians are less likely to live in their partner's culture, adapting is a bit of a problem. They do not have the same opportunity to do so. However, they are happy with Indonesians' more laid-back tendency. They enjoy small things like the weather and history and ask their partner or family to help when confused about something. There is a difference between Asians; some enjoy where they are now, but some prefer it back to their original culture. They experience minor changes in themselves due to living there for a long time and adapting to local behaviours like being more straightforward and more confident in themselves.

To answer the research question, 'how is cultural competence through family communication achieved to maintain an Intercultural marriage of Caucasian Asian couples?'. It can be said that Asian and Caucasian individuals have different habits. However, due to those differences, through understanding and keeping an open mind, they can find a balance that they might not be able to find from people from their own culture. Said balance can help them grow as a person and solidify their relationship.

5.2. Suggestions

Based on the results of this research, several suggestions can be given to be useful for everyone who feels involved or finds this helpful. These suggestions include

5.2.1. Academic Suggestions

Further research using the case study approach provides a more in-depth and intensive analysis of the research object. Furthermore, having a bigger pool of informants from a wider variety of backgrounds would be ideal. This research has all Asian informants being Indonesian and women and all Caucasians being European men. Having a mix of informants, different nationalities, Asians, different continent Caucasians, male Asians, female Caucasians, or same-sex marriage would provide further insight.

5.2.2. Practical Suggestions

It is concluded that, like any other marriage, intercultural marriage is ridden with problems and conflict. However, intercultural marriage problems may differ from marriage from the same culture. Language is a big hurdle in a marriage, especially for those living in their partner's country and learning the language either by taking classes, self-studying, or including oneself in an environment that speaks the language effectively. Communication is essential, especially for transparency reasons. Individuals may have different boundaries and comfort levels on certain things. As an individual, it is essential to talk to their partner about the things they can and cannot do or are comfortable with, and as their partner, it is essential to listen and understand, accommodate if possible, or give time and space to them.

