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# DINAMIKA

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**DAFTAR ISI**

A Case Study On Intercultural Process In Limited Setting

Nopita Trihastutie

Hal : 584 – 594

Semiotics In John Steinbeck's "Grape Of Wrath"

Ima Masofa

Irwan Sumarsono

Hal : 595 – 602

Homi Bhabha's Mimicry As Reflected In Tanizaki's *Naomi*

Yulis Setyowati

Hal : 603 – 612

Antiwar In Black Sabbath's Lyrics of Song "WarPigs"

Hariyono

Putut Handoko

Hal : 613 – 619

Students "Perception of Lexical Errors and Teachers" Feedback Long – term Effects

Suhartawn Budianto

Hal : 620 – 627

## A CASE STUDY ON INTERCULTURAL PROCESS IN LIMITED SETTING

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### Abstract

In a global world, living in other country is no longer unusual thing. Thus, the encounter with other culture is unavoidable. Progressing from ethnocentrism to ethno-relativism is vital for the success of someone living out of his/her mother country. This progress occurs through an intercultural process. A study on the intercultural process utilizes short self-reports and surveys to conduct the assessments of individuals' attitude, personalities, and values. Conducted in an informal school with a boarding system, this study examines how the intercultural process of foreign teachers and whether this process gives influence to the local students' cross cultural understanding. An informal school with a boarding system is a limited setting for an intercultural process. However, the interaction is still considered natural for two reasons: firstly, no certain particular cultural obligation for personal and social conduct there; secondly, cultural "take and give" occurs. The process occurs to both foreign teachers and local students. To some extent, the intercultural process of one party contributes the other party's cross cultural understanding.

Key Words: Intercultural Process, Cross Cultural Understanding

### Introduction

In present global world, living with differences both at home and abroad is becoming more important. Differences such as values, attitudes, culture, ethnicity, social practices, political beliefs, sexuality and religion clearly direct people all around the world to take various meanings from their surroundings which must be fully respected and integrated into life according to their individual attitudes (Tesoriero, 2006).

Among many reasons, people decide to leave their mother country for jobs. Working abroad plays a unique role in offering individuals the opportunity to develop their intercultural competencies. Intercultural competence marks a complex of abilities needed to perform effectively and appropriately when interacting with others who are linguistically and culturally different from oneself (Fantini, 2006). Working in different cultures needs a good understanding of the norms of that culture.