

## Abstract

Teaching English has become frequently performed by both students and teacher in the classroom. However, teaching English that involves content of culture needs to be explored in the classroom especially for cultural variations and benefits of cultural awareness in English as a foreign language teaching. In line with this issue, the researcher wants to find out students' awareness of cultural variations and students' perceptions on benefit of cultural awareness to students. The methodology used in this research was descriptive quantitative with convenient sampling. The research was carried out at English Education Department of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, and there were 108 participants who are involved in this research. The questionnaire was used to obtain the data from the students. The result showed that students' awareness of cultural variation is in good and moderate level in concerning cultural variation in behavior, value and communication. The students have learned part of cultural variation such as body language, custom, social rule, attitude and interaction. Concerning the benefit of learning cultural variation, the result showed that benefit of cultural awareness is usually felt by students in English as a foreign language that consisted of understanding and respecting culture, affective and communication. The students have felt that benefit of cultural awareness such as understanding, respecting, misunderstanding avoided, enthusiasm, motivation and feeling to similarities and differences of own culture and others.

*Keywords:* cultural awareness, cultural awareness in EFL, cultural variations, cultural benefit.