

ABSTRACT

Indonesia has a high degree of cultural and linguistic diversity, which presents communication challenges, particularly in multicultural campus environments such as Telkom University. First-year students living in dormitories come from various ethnolinguistic backgrounds, causing their interactions to be shaped by differences in language and dialect. This study aims to identify forms of intercultural communication and the obstacles new students face in adapting to dormitory life. Employing a descriptive qualitative method, the research involved observations, in-depth interviews with 10 students from diverse cultural backgrounds, and documentation. The findings show that students initially experienced awkwardness and miscommunication during the early adaptation phase, but eventually developed communication strategies such as adjusting their speech styles, clarifying meanings, and using humor. Dormitory life serves as an effective space for developing intercultural communication skills and fostering multicultural awareness.

Keywords: *intercultural communication; new students; dormitory*