

**INTEGRATING LOCAL AND FOREIGN CULTURES
IN THE ENGLISH TEACHING LEARNING PROCESS:
A WAY OF MAINTAINING LOCAL CULTURES**

Siti Sudartini

Email: ssudartini@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The need to participate in the global communication has put English as one of the most important international languages. Mastering English becomes one of the most important thing most people want. This has led to the increasing demand of English language teaching practices. Considering the importance of mastering English, the Indonesian government has considered English as one of the most important foreign languages to be taught in schools. It has been taught from elementary school as local content and even in some parts of this country it has been taught in kindergartens. On the other hand, it is commonly believed that the practice of English language teaching will not be well conducted without teaching the accompanied cultural beliefs and values. Meanwhile those foreign cultural beliefs and values may not be in line with our local and national cultural beliefs and values. Therefore, it will be a very great challenge for those who are actively involved in the practice of English language teaching to take this fact into their consideration. This particular study has a closer look on this particular problem and wherever possible proposes an alternative solution to overcome this problem for the sake of maintaining the nation identity and culture. Therefore, this study focuses on identifying the foreign cultural believes and values commonly found in some English textbooks for Junior High Schools used in the English teaching and learning process and describing one alternative way of teaching English with its accompanied cultural beliefs and values and at the same time maintaining the local and national cultural beliefs and values.

Keywords: culture, English teaching, learning process, local culture.