



**Intercultural Hand Gesture in English Communication as
Reflected in *Eat Pray Love***

A Final Project

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of Requirement for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra*

in English

By

Yeyisha Shellyukti

2250407032

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND ARTS

SEMARANG STATE UNIVERSITY

2012

ABSTRACT

Shellayukti, Yeyisha. 2011. **Intercultural Hand Gesture in English Communication as Reflected in "Eat Pray Love"**. Final Project. English Department, Faculty of Languages and Arts. Semarang State University. First advisor: Drs. Ahmad Sofwan, Ph.D. Second advisor: Dra. Rahayu Puji Haryanti, M.Hum.

Key words: hand gesture, communication, culture

People in the world not only speak by using their mouth but also their hands that people name as hand gesture. Hand gesture as a verbal communication is used to complete the speech and accompany the words. The object of this study is a movie entitled *Eat Pray Love* directed by Ryan Murphy which is based on Elizabeth Gilbert's book. This movie tells about intercultural hand gesture between American and Italian hand gesture. This causes a problem because both of the countries have different cultures especially about the hand gesture.

This final project uses a descriptive qualitative research method in which the data were in the form of written words. There were several steps doing research applied in this movie. Firstly, I watched the movie several times to understand the whole story. Secondly, I listed the gestures and data which are related to the topic from the movie as well as the script based on their meaning and then categorized them according to the objectives of the study. In next step, I interpreted the data according to the theory related to the topic in order to clarify and analyze the meaning. Finally, I presented the conclusion and suggestion.

From the findings and interpretation, I concluded that intercultural hand gesture exists in the movie *Eat Pray Love*. Since hand gesture became part of behaviour in the society, the hand gesture as communication way can not be separated from culture. People will wave their hand if they meet their friends in a cafe, or they will grip each other's hand when they greet for the first time they meet. From the movie, I also concluded that gesture will frequently dominate more when people are in high emotion.

Finally, this study was expected to give additional knowledge to the readers about hand gesture that may be useful as an additional reference. Moreover, this study is also expected to suggest people to appropriate hand gesture when they express and share their ideas .