

Malay Transcript:

Cuaca di Kuching¹ adalah sama dengan cuaca di seluruh Malaysia. Setiap hari terdapat cuaca yang panas atau cuaca hujan dan oleh sebab Malaysia terletak di garisan Khatulistiwa, keadaan tropikal menjadikan udara sangat lembap.² Suhu setiap hari selalu berada dalam lingkungan 31 hingga 34 darjah Celsius (87.8 hingga 93.2 darjah Fahrenheit).

Semasa saya membesar di negara Malaysia, saya selalu berfikir bahawa semua orang di negara yang lain juga mempunyai pengalaman yang sama dalam kehidupan mereka um.. seperti yang saya um.. saya um.. mengalami dengan diversiti budaya seperti di Kuching terdapat orang Melayu, terdapat orang Cina, terdapat orang Dayak³. Namun, selepas belajar di luar negara untuk hampir tiga tahun, saya mendapati bahawa terdapat banyak negara yang lebih sibuk mengurangkan diversiti mereka kerana ideologi politikal mereka ialah pengiktirafan diversiti hanya melebih-lebihkan konflik anantara golongan rakyat yang berlainan.⁴ Namun proses mengasimilasikan budaya-budaya dan cara hidup golongan minoriti juga membawa risiko yang tinggi kerana saya rasa ini merupakan komponen yang penting untuk diri-sen..individual.. identiti individual. Saya sendiri juga berfikir bahawa saya lebih selesa dengan peluang untuk meneroka warisan saya sebagai seorang Malaysia Cina kerana ini telah membenarkan saya memupuk pandangan yang lebih luas tentang isu-isu politik, ekonomik, sosial dan budaya.

English Translation:

The weather in Kuching⁵ is similar to the weather in the rest of Malaysia. Every day is hot and rainy, and as a result of being located on the equator, Malaysia's tropical climate makes the air very humid.⁶ The daily temperature is always in the range of 31 to 34 degrees Celsius (87.8 to 93.2 degrees Fahrenheit).

While growing up in Malaysia, I was under the impression that people in other countries all had the same life experiences as me, like the cultural diversity in Kuching, where

¹ Kuching merupakan sebuah bandar yang terletak di negeri Sarawak di Malaysia Timur. Kuching merupakan ibu negeri Sarawak.

² Malaysia mempunyai hutan hujan tropikal yang tertua di dunia.

³ "Dayak" merujuk kepada orang asli pulau Borneo. Terdapat kira-kira 200 subkumpulan etnik atau suku kaum Dayak di Borneo.

⁴ Sebenarnya, asimilasi budaya sangat meluas di negara-negara Asia Tenggara seperti Vietnam, Thailand, dan Filipina. Sebagai contoh, walaupun negara-negara ini mempunyai ramai warganegara yang berkaum Cina, mereka tidak lagi mengiktiraf diri-sendiri sebagai orang Cina. Walaubagaimanapun, negara Singapura dan Malaysia masih mencatatkan kaum warganegara mereka masing-masing dalam dokumen rasmi seperti kad identiti dan sijil kelahiran mereka.

⁵ Kuching is a city located in the state of Sarawak in East Malaysia. It is the state capital of Sarawak.

⁶ Malaysia is home to the Borneo rainforest, which is the oldest rainforest in the world.

there are ethnic Malays, Chinese and Dayaks⁷. However, after studying overseas for nearly three years, I realized that there are many countries which prioritize the non-acknowledgement of diversity because their political ideology states that the acknowledgement of diversity only increases conflict among their citizens⁸. However, the process of assimilating the cultures and lifestyles of minorities also carries a considerably high risk, because I feel that culture is an important component of the individual.. the identity of the individual. Personally, I think that I am more comfortable when given the opportunity to explore my heritage as a Malaysian of Chinese descent, because this enables me to foster a broader perspective on political, economic, social, and cultural issues.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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⁷ The term “Dayak” collectively refers to the indigenous people of Borneo. There are an estimated 200 different indigenous ethnic subgroups or tribes in Borneo.

⁸ Cultural assimilation is actually very widespread in Southeast Asian countries like Vietnam, Thailand, and the Philippines. For example, although there are sizeable populations of citizens of Chinese descent in these countries, they no longer identify as being Chinese. In contrast, Singapore and Malaysia still acknowledge the ethnicity of their citizens in official documents like their identity cards and birth certificates.