

## **ABSTRACT**

*Telkom University students who come from outside West Java show a number of challenges in the process of cultural interaction during the lecture period. One of the main challenges found is the difference in language and dialect used on campus, which affects their social interactions both among students and with lecturers. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to find out the experiences of students from outside West Java who study at Telkom University to interact with the local culture, and to see how the cultural adaptation process affects their lecture activities and social life. The research conducted was a descriptive qualitative research. The subjects of this study were Telkom University students who came from outside West Java, namely Jakarta, Sulawesi, Aceh, North Sumatra, Central Java, and Bali. Data were collected by conducting interviews and then analyzing the data conducted was data reduction. The results of the study explain that the process of cultural interaction experienced by overseas students on this campus shows various challenges and dynamics influenced by cultural differences, communication patterns, and social norms between the students' home regions and the campus environment in West Java. Although these differences pose initial challenges, the experience of cultural interaction that most students go through tends to be positive, thanks to the friendliness and openness of the West Javanese people who facilitate the process of introduction and adjustment in intercultural interaction.*

*Keywords: Cultural Interaction, Intercultural Communication, Cultural Adaptation, and Social Identity*