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ANALYSIS OF CONVERGENCE AND DIVERGENCE OF INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION (A PROCESS STUDY OF PAPUAN STUDENTS AT MATARAM UNIVERSITY)

Intercultural communication issues often challenge interactions in higher education settings, especially in universities that have a diversity of students from various cultural backgrounds. Mataram University, as one of the higher education institutions in Indonesia, has a number of students from Papua who face difficulties in adapting to the local culture. This study aims to analyze convergence and divergence in intercultural communication among Papuan students and students from other regions especially local students at Mataram University, as well as identify factors that influence their adaptation and integration process. The results of this study found that Papuan students face several challenges in communicating and adapting to the local culture at Mataram University. The main factors that influence communication convergence and divergence include language differences, social norms, and cultural habits. On the other hand, there are also several adaptation mechanisms used by Papuan students to overcome these difficulties, such as the formation of support groups and participation in local cultural activities.

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