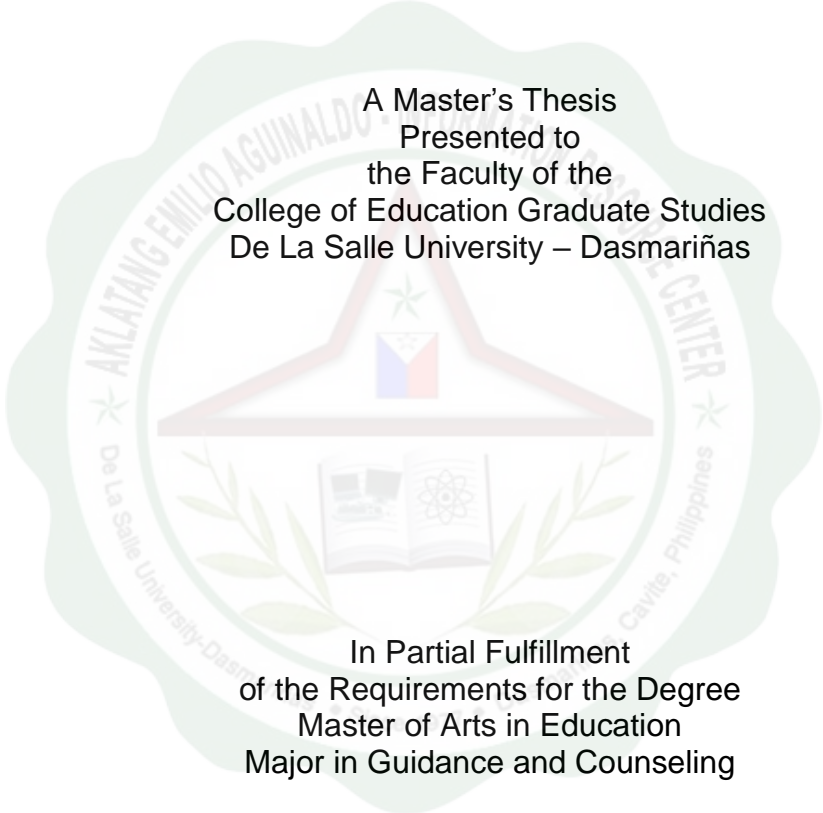


**LIVED EXPERIENCES OF EAST TIMORESE STUDENTS
IN THE PHILIPPINES**



A Master's Thesis
Presented to
the Faculty of the
College of Education Graduate Studies
De La Salle University – Dasmariñas

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Education
Major in Guidance and Counseling

MARGARIDA BOSCO DOS SANTOS

May 2019

ABSTRACT

Title of the Research: **LIVED EXPERIENCES OF EAST TIMORESE STUDENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES**
Author: **MARGARIDA BOSCO DOS SANTOS**
Degree: **Master of Art in Education**
Major: **Guidance and Counseling**
Date of Completion: **May 2019**

Philippines has been one of the destinations for some East Timorese to pursue tertiary education. Adequate researches have been done on international students, while researches including East Timorese are still scarce. The continuous enrollment of East Timorese students in Philippine universities demands a proper understanding of the essence of this experience.

This phenomenological study explored the lived experiences of East Timorese in the Philippines in terms of tertiary education. An interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) of the lived experiences of five participants extracted four themes described as preparation and excitement, disorientation and challenges, assimilation and coping mechanism, and adaptation and development. The journey of students begun during the preparation and excitement that took place at home country. The crisis occurred when students started to experience several challenges identified as academic, language, environment, social relations, and psychological implications upon their first arrival in the host country. Further, important elements such as the ability to adapt, social support, and better environment are contributing factors to better adjustment that can lead to personal development.

The result of the study implies recommendation for programs. The study also has implication for further studies involving students from different types of schools and relevant groups in academic society and community.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
TITLE PAGE	1
ABSTRACT	2
APPROVAL SHEET	3
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	4
TABLE OF CONTENTS	5
Chapter	
1 THE PROBLEM AND ITS BACKGROUND	
Introduction	8
Theoretical Framework	10
Statement of the Objective	11
Scope and Delimitation of the Study	11
Significance of the Study	12
2 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	
East Timorese Students Coming to the Philippines	13
Reasons for Studying Abroad	14
Social Relations of International Students	16
Adjustment of International Students	18
Coping Mechanism and Motivation in Adjustment Process of International Students	24
Synthesis	30
3 METHODOLOGY	
Research Design	33
Population and Sampling	33
Participants of the Study	34
Research Tool	35
Data Gathering Procedure	35
Data Analysis	36

4	PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA	
	Summary of Themes	38
	Analysis, Narrative, and Reflection	39
	Theme 1: Preparation and Excitement	
	Dialogue of code meaning for Theme 1: Preparation and Excitement”	40
	Narrative of Theme 1: “Preparation and Excitement”	41
	Theme 2: “Disorientation and Challenges”	
	Dialogue of code meaning for Theme 2:	
	“Disorientation and Challenges”	42
	Narrative of Theme 2: “Disorientation and Challenges”	44
	Language barrier	45
	Academic challenge	46
	Issues in Environment	47
	Issues in Social Relations	49
	Psychological impact	50
	Theme 3: “Assimilation and Coping”	
	Dialogue of code meaning for Theme 3: “Assimilation and Coping”	52
	Narrative for Theme 4: “Assimilation and Coping Mechanism”	54
	Assimilation process	55
	Coping Mechanisms	59
	Motivating Factors	62
	Theme 4: “Adaptation and Development”	
	Dialogue of code meaning for Theme 4: “Adaptation and Development”	67
	Narrative of Theme 4: “Adaptation and Development”	68
	Researcher’s reflection	
	Connection of the experiences	70
	Process of analyzing the data	74
	DISCUSSION	
	Preparation and Excitement	75

Disorientation and Challenges	76
Assimilation and Coping	82
Establishing social relations	82
Coping Mechanism	84
Motivation	87
Adaptation and Development	89
Strength and Limitation of the Study	92
5 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
Summary of Findings	94
Conclusions	98
Recommendations	99
REFERENCES	101
APPENDICES	
A. Table Summary of Themes	111
B. Analysis of Coded Transcript	112
1. Theme 1 - "Preparation and Excitement "	112
2. Theme 2 - "Disorientation and Challenges"	113
3. Theme 3 - "Assimilation and Coping Mechanism"	116
4. Theme 4 - "Adaptation and Development"	120
C. Transcripts	121
D. Sample of Unanalyzed Transcript	135
E. Guide Questions	144
F. Demographic Profile	144
G. Ethics Review Committee Certification	145
H. Informed Consent	146
I. Proposed Program	153
J. About the Author	155
K. Deed of Declaration	158