

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Today, globalization is no longer merely a phenomenon of global economic exchange, but also a profound social transformation. According to Giddens (1990), globalization is the intensification of worldwide social relations that connect distant localities so that local events are shaped by events occurring many miles away, and vice versa. This concept aligns with Harvey's (1989) idea of "time-space compression," which can be clearly observed in major cities in Indonesia, including Semarang. As the capital city of Central Java, Semarang has developed into an international meeting point where geographical boundaries have become increasingly fluid, facilitating the movement of people, cultures, and languages across nations.

Globalization has also increased international mobility, making migration and diaspora central issues in social and cultural studies. The World Migration Report 2024 (IOM, 2024), reported that more than 281 million people are international migrants, representing approximately 3.6% of the global population. This number has continued to grow steadily over recent decades, highlighting not only the movement of people across borders but also the formation of cross-cultural identities and transnational social networks. International migrants play a significant role in shaping diaspora communities worldwide. In contemporary society, diaspora extends beyond geographical displacement and encompasses complex cultural, emotional, and social relationships with local communities (Maulidia, 2022). These interactions not only shape diaspora identities but also influence the social and cultural dynamics of host societies. This phenomenon is particularly evident in Indonesia, where migration contributes significantly to the transformation of local cultures and communities.

Semarang, the capital of Central Java, is one of the Indonesian cities that reflects the broader dynamics of global migration. The city has grown into a significant center of economic activity, particularly in the manufacturing, construction, and trade sectors, which contribute substantially to its local economy (Badan Pusat Statistik Kota Semarang, 2025). In addition to its economic development, Semarang is also home to foreign nationals who live and engage in various activities within the city. Their presence has been documented in studies examining the supervision and residence of foreign nationals by the Semarang Immigration Office (Ninage & Diamantina, 2022). Official data obtained from the Class I Immigration Office with TPI Semarang also indicate the presence of foreign nationals from native English-speaking countries holding Permanent Stay Permits (ITAP), demonstrating that Semarang has become a destination for long-term international migration. This condition has created an increasingly multicultural environment in which individuals from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds interact within the same social setting.

Jumlah Pemegang ITAP Negara Native English Speaking Countries di Wilayah Kerja Kantor Imigrasi Kelas I Khusus TPI Semarang Tahun 2024 - Mei 2026				
No.	Negara	2024	2025	2026 (Mei)
1.	Amerika Serikat	4	8	8
2.	Inggris	3	5	5
3.	Australia	3	6	6
4.	Kanada	0	1	1
5.	Afrika Selatan	1	1	1
Jumlah		11	21	21

Sumber: Data diolah dari Banyaknya WNA Pemegang ITAP di Wilayah Kerja Kantor Imigrasi Kelas I Khusus TPI Semarang Menurut Kebangsaan (2024 - Mei 2026)

Figure 1.1 Number of ITAP Holders from Native English-Speaking Countries (2024 - May 2026)

As a global lingua franca, English has become one of the primary languages used to facilitate communication among people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. Its widespread use has enabled migrants, local communities, and other diaspora groups to establish social relationships and communicate more effectively despite differences in their native languages, making English an important medium for intercultural communication in multicultural societies (Seidlhofer, 2011). This condition suggests that native English-speaking diasporas may encounter fewer language-related obstacles when interacting with local communities in host countries, including Indonesia.

Nevertheless, the use of a shared language alone does not automatically lead to successful social integration. Effective adaptation also requires individuals to understand local cultural values, participate actively in community life, and negotiate cultural differences that arise during everyday interactions (Heinzmann et al., 2024). Moreover, although English may facilitate communication, intercultural interaction continues to be influenced by differences in communication styles, social norms, and cultural values, which may affect the way messages are conveyed and interpreted in both verbal and non-verbal forms (Gudykunst, 2004). Therefore, despite the global status of English, it remains uncertain to what extent the language contributes to the adaptation, social interaction, and integration of native English-speaking diasporas living in Semarang. This uncertainty highlights the importance of examining their lived experiences to better understand whether English alone is sufficient to support their everyday lives or whether broader social and cultural factors also shape successful adaptation.

Based on the author's incidental observations throughout the research process, one of the major challenges faced by English-speaking diaspora communities in Semarang was establishing meaningful social connections with local residents. Previous studies have shown that limited social participation and the quality of social interaction are significant factors that hinder diaspora integration. Furthermore, existing studies frequently focus on demographic or

quantitative representations of diaspora communities while overlooking their subjective experiences and everyday social realities. As a result, there remains limited understanding of how diaspora communities negotiate their identities, adapt culturally, and navigate social life within their new environments.

Based on the identified research gap, this study offered a different perspective from previous research by not only investigating the experiences of native English-speaking diasporas but also transforming these findings into an audiovisual documentary product. While previous studies have predominantly examined diaspora communities through interviews, surveys, or written analyses, this research developed a documentary video entitled “The Documentary of Native English Speakers in Semarang” to present authentic accounts of the interviewees' experiences living in Semarang and interacting with the local community. The documentary format was selected because it provides a suitable medium for portraying authentic experiences and everyday social interactions through factual visual storytelling. By presenting real people and actual events, documentary films enable audiences to better understand social realities and the lived experiences of individuals within their natural environments (Nichols, 2017). Through visual narratives and direct experiences, documentary media can present deeper insights into intercultural communication and social interaction that may not be fully represented through statistical data alone.

Through documentary media, this research sought to present the experiences of native English-speaking diasporas during their stay in Semarang, with particular emphasis on their interactions with the local community and their daily lives in the city. The documentary focused on portraying authentic accounts of how the interviewees came to live in Semarang, experienced everyday life, interacted with local residents, and perceived the city based on their personal experiences. By combining visual storytelling with narratives derived from firsthand interviews, the documentary aimed to provide an authentic and informative representation of the interviewees' experiences that

could not be fully captured through text-based research alone. Furthermore, the documentary was expected to provide audiences with a deeper understanding of the daily experiences of native English-speaking diasporas in Semarang while serving as an educational medium to introduce the perspectives of international residents and encourage greater appreciation of intercultural interaction within the local community.

Therefore, producing this documentary is considered important both academically and socially. Academically, this research contributes to diaspora and migration studies by emphasizing the importance of everyday social interactions and lived experiences within the local context of Semarang. This study shifts the focus from macro-level structural analysis toward a more micro-level perspective centered on individual experiences and intercultural relationships. Socially, this documentary is expected to promote intercultural understanding and demonstrate how local communities and diaspora groups can coexist and interact harmoniously despite cultural and linguistic differences. Through this documentary, greater public awareness regarding the importance of inclusivity and mutual respect in a globalized society is expected to be fostered.

1.2 Problem Formulations

Based on the previous explanation, the problem formulation of this research is as follows:

1. How were the pre-production and post-production processes for the video documentary on the diaspora of native English speakers in Semarang and their social interactions?
2. How do audiences respond to a documentary film about native English speakers in Semarang?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the previous explanation, the objective of this research is as follows:

1. To understand and comprehend the pre-production and post-production processes involved in creating a documentary video about the diaspora of native English speakers in Semarang.
2. To identify audience responses toward the documentary video about native English speakers in Semarang.

1.4 Significance of the Research

The benefits of this project are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefits
 - a. To provide a deeper understanding of the social interactions and cultural adaptation processes of diaspora communities from native English-speaking countries living in Semarang.
 - b. To enrich academic literature related to diaspora studies, intercultural communication, globalization, and migration within the local context of Indonesian society.
 - c. To serve as a reference and academic source for future research related to diaspora communities, intercultural interaction, and the use of documentary media as a representation of social realities and lived experiences.
 - d. To contribute to the development of audiovisual and documentary studies, particularly in representing everyday social life, cultural diversity, and intercultural relationships through visual storytelling.
2. Practical Benefits
 - a. To document the daily experiences and social interactions of diaspora communities from native English-speaking countries in Semarang through systematic documentary video production.

- b. To function as an educational medium that increases public understanding and awareness regarding cultural diversity, inclusivity, and intercultural communication in a globalized society.
- c. To provide visual information regarding how diaspora communities adapt to local cultures, build social relationships, and interact with local residents in everyday life.
- d. To serve as a medium for promoting intercultural understanding and mutual respect between diaspora communities and local society in Semarang.
- e. To introduce the social and cultural realities of diaspora communities in Semarang to wider audiences through engaging and informative audiovisual media.

1.5 Output

The final product of this research was a 23 minutes documentary video entitled “The Documentary of Native English Speakers in Semarang”. The documentary presented the personal experiences of native English-speaking diasporas living in Semarang, focusing on their reasons for coming to the city, their daily lives, their interactions with local communities, and their perceptions of Semarang based on their firsthand experiences. To provide a more authentic representation, the documentary combined interview footage with supporting B-roll recordings of the interviewees' everyday activities, including working, visiting local attractions, ordering food, and interacting with local residents.

Through visual storytelling and authentic narratives, the documentary aimed to provide audiences with a deeper understanding of the everyday experiences of native English-speaking diasporas and their interactions with the local community in Semarang. In addition to serving as the final research product, the 23 minutes documentary was uploaded to the Applied Foreign Language Study Program's official YouTube channel to make it accessible to a wider audience. The documentary was also expected to function as an

educational audiovisual medium that introduced the perspectives of international residents, promoted greater appreciation of intercultural interaction, and encouraged audiences to better understand cultural diversity within the local context of Semarang.