STUDENTS’ REFLECTION ON THEIR SL EXPERIENCE AS A WAY OF FORSTERING CRITICAL THINKING AND PEACE BUILDING INITIATIVE

Presented at 4th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Service-Learning at Lingnan University, HongKong

By: Esther H. Kuntjara
Petra Christian University, Surabaya, Indonesia.
4th June – 7th June 2013
The class which includes SL:

- The Course: Introduction to Cultural Research
- Department: English
- Semester: 5th semester Undergraduate
- No of students: 38
- Pre-requisite courses: Indonesian Culture, American, British and Australian cultures, Basic Paradigm of Cultural Science.
Theories taught in class:

• Qualitative research paradigm
• Participant observation
• Qualitative Interviewing
• Proposing qualitative research question
• What is SL?
• Purpose of doing SL
• Important precaution and preparation
The target population

- Six KBA (*Kelompok Belajar Anak* [Children Learning Group]) groups of young elementary school children around Surabaya.
- Each group consists of approximately 15-30 children.
- Each group was supervised by 6 – 7 students and 1 head tutor from World Vision.
- Each group gathered once a week in the afternoon / evening.
Students’ concern before SL

• The place had to be a dirty place since they were poor people.
• Children were naughty and impolite.
• They’re sweating all the time, dirty and smelly.
• Low class people were pathetic. They didn’t know how to use polite language.
• People were fierce and dangerous.
• Children could be quiet and shy but difficult to handle. They had no interest in studying.
After a couple of weeks:

- Children are friendly and neighbors are kind.
- They kiss our hands with *salim*.
- The place is quite clean and people welcome us and are very friendly.
- They are not frightening as we thought before.
- Children are very open, warm, honest, calm and easily to get attached to us.
Some challenging problems

- The use of low Javanese language
• Connoting language with someone’s religion and ethnicity
Children are very eager to study
Some shocking phenomena
Gangs among boys
Beaten by parents if not helping
Dream to become a pemulung