



ARTIFACTS

A Journal of Undergraduate Writing

Editor's Introduction

Language and Living in Alien Cultures

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In its wide sense culture describes the style of life of a group of people in a particular community. Culture encompasses people's beliefs, traditions, behaviors, values, styles of life and thinking, and the like. People behave culturally through language that passes along from

one generation into another. So, it is not an easy task for people to live in an alien culture without understanding the language of the community. Some people, however, can live in alien cultures and adapt the lifestyle of the new culture; other people can't. It is very hard for some people to be away from their own culture because they find themselves confined to the deep-rooted beliefs and customs they acquired and learned from the communities in which they were born and raised. Such people see themselves as fish taken away from the water.

Yet, with assistance of language, people can adapt to the new culture. When people get assistance with language to live a new lifestyle in the alien culture, they can change their behavior and tradition to accommodate the alien culture. Language, then, provides people power to communicate with each other in a community different from theirs. This indicates that language and culture are two sides of the

same coin. People can adapt new lifestyles in alien cultures when they find healthy atmosphere and assistance with language. This is what happens with our students in *Artifacts Journal*. Students use language effectively to understand the world around them and to help readers from other parts of the world to know about other beliefs, cultures, and practices.

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Topics: **Culture**

About *Artifacts*

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