

# BEYOND VISUALS: UNDERSTANDING CULTURE THROUGH LANGUAGE

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*“Overcoming Challenges: Learning Abroad in a Time of Global Change”*

*6<sup>th</sup> Annual Learning Abroad Conference*



Data SIO NOAA U.S. Navy NGA GEBCO



Ban Nong Hoi, Pong Yang, Mae Rim, Chiang Mai, Thailand







RESEARCH





# ROLE



# CHALLENGES

- Shibboleth: a custom or tradition, particularly a speech pattern, that distinguishes one group of people (an ingroup) from others (outgroups).

DIALECTS:

White Hmong vs Green Hmong

LANGUAGE:

Thai



# OVERCOMING



Children



Host family



Mon Cham



# STEPPING OUTSIDE COMFORT ZONE

- I don't speak Thai: **Chan mai dai pood phasa Thai**
- Do you speak Thai: **Pood phasa Thai mai dai**



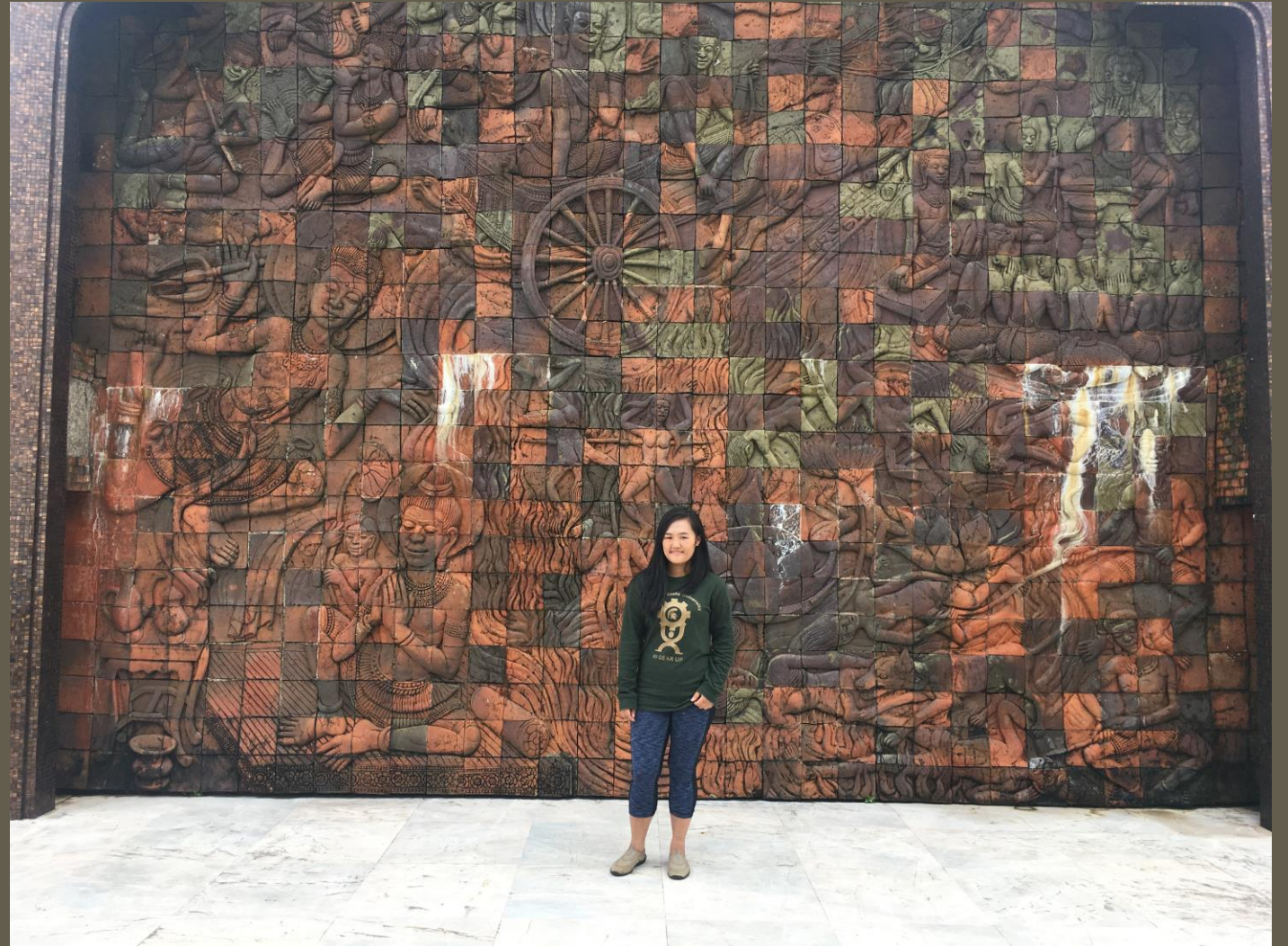
# REWARDS





# WHAT I LEARN

- Language is not the barrier. It is our willingness to step out of our comfort zone to try new things even when we feel uncomfortable.





# IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE

- “A language is a part of a culture and a culture is a part of a language; the two are intricately interwoven so that one can not separate the two without losing the significance of either language or culture.” (Brown (2000, p.177)

# FURTHER MORE





## TAKE-AWAY

1. Challenges are what brings the best out of experiences.
2. Take the initiative to learn and invest in the people and culture

THANK YOU!

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