

A22 Raya / Indonesia / Foreign Languages in Adult Education

Interaction partner(s): German female student, German female lecturer
Moment of enquiry: SS 07
Experience of difference: Behaviour expectations towards students and lecturers

Raya, an Indonesian student, is studying for her master's degree at a German university. She attends different seminars and likes to sit in the last row, from where she can best observe what is going on in the seminar. In one of the seminars, she notices the following: At the beginning of the class, a student is standing at the lectern; she is supposed to give a presentation that day and is getting her material ready. When the professor enters the classroom, everyone stops talking and the seminar begins. After a few introductory words by the professor, the student gives her presentation. The presentation is interspersed with lively discussions between the presenter, the other students and the professor. When the professor gets ready for a lengthy explanation, the presenting student sits down on a table. Raya finds this behaviour outrageous. Finally, when the professor asks the presenter for her paper to quote from it, the student hands her the paper with her left hand. Raya can't believe her eyes, and she waits for an angry reaction from the professor. But the seminar continues without incident, and the student finishes her presentation.

1. How is Raya's outrage to be interpreted? From her point of view, which cultural norms were violated in the seminar?
2. Why does the professor remain calm and why doesn't he consider the student's behaviour inappropriate?