

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This chapter reviews studies concerning cultural instruction and learning in the English classroom. First, the definitions of culture proposed by scholars from disciplines, such as anthropology and language education, are presented. Next, the role of culture in language learning is discussed, including (1) the history of culture learning in EFL classrooms, (2) cultural goals in the language learning, (3) approaches, activities, and vehicles of cultural instruction, and (4) assessment of culture learning. Finally, the empirical studies regarding students' perceptions of cultural learning in EFL contexts are reviewed. In the sections concerning cultural goals, approaches/activities/vehicles for cultural instruction, assessment, and empirical studies, foreign research is first introduced, followed by a review of local studies.

#### **2.1 Definition of Culture**

Culture has long been an issue that is so commonly mentioned yet difficult to define. Anthropology is the first field that strives to propose a comprehensive definition of culture, and according to the scholars and experts, culture seems to involve everything in human life. Tylor (1871) provided a classic definition, describing culture as "that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, customs, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society" (p.1). Following the idea that culture encompasses the living patterns representative of one specific community, Oswalt (1986) suggested that "a culture is the learned and shared behavior patterns characteristic of a group of people" (p.25). Oswalt further pointed out the learnability of culture, "Your culture is learned