Chapter I of this research present such topics as: background of study, statement of problem, purpose of study, significance of study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms. Each section is presented as follows.

1.1 Background of the Study

In Indonesia, English is known as the most important foreign language. English has been introduced to the students since elementary school level. School is the main way of learning English for the students besides private English courses. The students learn four major skills of English; Writing, reading, listening, and speaking. In writing, the students learn how to write simple sentences up to complex sentences until they finally can explore their idea and write it into a good paragraph or even essay. They also learn how to use formal and informal written English. In reading, the students are expected to comprehend the text they read, find the topic sentence, main idea, infer the message or information and take the conclusion from the text. In listening, the students practice to understand, memorize, and courtesy what they have heard. In speaking, the students learn to apply English orally for communicating, delivering messages or telling information to others.

From those four English skills, definitely, speaking is the most important skill because it is the most commonly used in the communication exchange. It can be seen
in the students’ academic activities, especially for English department students. They have a lot of English presentation in their college career. Moreover, after they have graduated and become English teachers, they will speak English much during the teaching learning process in front of their students to transfer their knowledge. That is why the writer intends to conduct study related to speaking skill.

There are many types of speaking activities which are learned by the students in speaking class at university such as public speaking, conversation, master of ceremony, etc. From those kinds of speaking activities, public speaking is the most difficult one to do. According to Kearney (1999: 6), “Public speaking is a special kind of communication event and is generally more formal, planned, and organized than most communication exchange.” Based on this definition, public speaking is absolutely different from other kinds of speaking activities. To be good public speakers, the students have to plan and organize their speech well so that the audiences can catch the message they deliver.

Several studies related to public speaking have been conducted with interesting result. Utami (2006) which her research about English problem faced by the workers going abroad in learning speaking English at BLK-LN Asri Cipta Tenaga Karya in Singosari Malang found that the workers had problems related to inhibition, mother tongue use, speech act: such as vocabulary, pronunciation, grammar, fluency, and comprehension.

Meanwhile, Rachmawati (2004) with her research about the problems faced by the students at-DATECH Business, computer and language center found that Indonesia students got difficulties to speak English because of many factors, such as
lack of vocabulary, no time for practice, no partner, hesitation; silent, fill pauses, repetition, and mispronunciation.

Based on those results, public speaking is something paranoid for most of the people especially for adults. On the other hand, public speaking is a necessary survival skill to help the students throughout their college career or even in the professional job after they have graduated. Therefore, the writer is eager to investigate the problems faced by the students in public speaking at English department, University of Muhammadiyah Malang who have learned about public speaking in Speaking Four subject when they were in the fourth semester because they seem still unconfident to speak English in public. The writer expects by knowing their problems, the writer can give some ways to solve with their problems so that English public speaking will not be something paranoid for the students.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of study above the writer formulates the problem in this study as follows:

1. What are the problems faced by the students in public speaking?
2. What are the ways to solve the problems faced by the students in public speaking?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purposes of the study are to find out:

1. What are the problems faced by the students in public speaking.
2. What the solutions to the problems faced by the students in public speaking.
1.4 Significance of the Study

By knowing the problems faced by the students in public speaking, the writer expects to contribute some benefits to the students, lecturers, and English department of University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

For the students, the result of this study will help them to recognize their weaknesses and the ways to solve with their weaknesses in public speaking to improve their ability of public speaking because mastering public speaking is really beneficial for them in their college career and even in their professional career after they have graduated.

The result of this study will be helpful for the English department lecturers generally and speaking lecturers specially to recognize the weaknesses of their students in public speaking so that they can define the best teaching methods and techniques related to the students weaknesses in order to optimize teaching and learning process especially for the material concerning with speaking skill.

English department of University of Muhammadiyah Malang will also take benefit from the result of this study. The result of this study will help the students to be confident in English communication so that it will support the English Day program, and other English department programs.
1.5 Scope and Limitation

Because of the limited time, finance, and power, the writer only focuses his study on public speaking problems, that may be happen during the final test of speaking class.

The informants for data collection of the study are the students of English department that must be followers of speaking classes.

1.6 Definition of key terms

Some terms are defined in order to avoid misunderstanding as follows:

Problem : Situation in which a person is motivated to reach a goal, but some obstacle blocks the attainment of the goal (Klein, 2002: 354).

Speaking : The verbal use of language to communicate with others (Fulcher, 2003: 23).

Public speaking : Special kind of communication event and is generally more formal, planned, and organized than most other communication exchange (Kearney, 1999: 6).