CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, researcher describes about background of study, statement of problem, purpose of study, significance of study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is one of the most exciting parts in studying language. Literature can be divided into three parts: they are poetry, drama, and prose fiction including short story and novel. Francis Connoly (1995: 1) says that people read literature because they need for information, or amusement, or solace, and also because of an appetite for truth that seems to grow by what it feeds on. In other words, the reader wants to share the information and experience with other people.

Novel is one of the literary works that has purpose for getting better understanding about human life and human feeling. By reading a novel, the reader will know about the foreign culture where the story happened, and it seems that they can enter the world or they get a new experience that they never have before. In other word, the reader may know about the different culture and characteristic of the people who life in it. The author of novel creates an imaginary word in order to present readers with a particular purpose of life.

The researcher is interested in doing literary research in novel. In this thesis, “Eat Pray Love” novel was selected to be analyzed because some reasons. First, this novel is popular novel that describe about four cultures in different countries that are
America, Italy, India, and Indonesia. Second, this novel gets award as a New York times bestseller. Third, this novel is based on the true story. Meanwhile, this novel tells about one woman’s search for everything across Italy, India, and Indonesia. She went to three different countries in one year. Furthermore, she got culture shocks in every country.

According to Oberg, (in Pederson, 1995: 1), culture shocks is term used to describe the anxiety and feelings (of surprise, disorientation, confusion, etc.) felt when people have to operate within an entirely different culture or social environment, such as foreign country. Whereas Bocher & Furnham stated that culture shock describes the impact of moving from a familiar culture to one which is unfamiliar (2001: 57).

Culture shocks happen when people go abroad or enter new culture for different purposes. The phenomena of culture shocks can be found in our daily life. It is an experience described by people who have travelled abroad to work, live or study, even for holiday. It is important to stress that culture shocks is entirely normal, is usually unavoidable, and is not a sign that people makes a mistake or are not managing their life well. In fact, there is a very positive aspect of culture shock. The experience can be a significant learning experience that makes people more aware of aspects of their own culture as well as the new culture they have entered. It will give people valuable skills and will be part of the benefit of an international education.

There are some difficulties when people move in the new place or living in another country. Different language, food, habit, etc are difficult to adapt. Sometimes people feel not knowing what to do or how to do things in a new environment. It is
natural response when they move to new environment. So, they need to know some information before entering a new place or new culture. Because people who want to go to abroad with a certain purpose must be ready and have enough awareness about new environment of their destination. This is supported by previous research, Usamah (2008), who studied about culture shocks in Citra Banerjee Divakaruni’s short story “Mrs.Laradutta Writes a Letter”. He found seven examples of culture shocks faced by Mrs. Dutta when she lived in California. The researcher also found how Mrs. Dutta shared her problem to Mrs. Bassu, her friend who lived in India. In this case Mrs. Bassu gave her friend some suggestions to solve her culture shocks.

In this study, the researcher analyzes the culture shocks happened in “Eat Pray Love” novel. This novel tells about three interesting countries that have different culture which is visited by main character. The main character gets some depressions, frustrations, surprised which include the food, language and social custom in every country. Different cultures become serious problems for Elizabeth Gilberth. She must adapt with her new environment which is different from her culture.

Based on the reason above, it is necessary for the researcher analyzed culture shocks faced by Elizabeth Gilbert found in “Eat Pray Love” novel. Therefore, culture shocks mostly happen when people who live in another country for the first time as experienced by Elizabeth Gilberth. She got culture shocks when she moved in new environment. The differences of the culture in another country may give people big opportunity in getting culture shock in the new environment. So, from this thesis people can minimize their culture shocks in order to avoid misunderstanding in new culture.
1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of study above, the researcher describes the problem as follows:

1. What the cultural shocks are experienced by Elizabeth Gilbert in “Eat Pray Love” novel?
2. How did Elizabeth Gilbert solve her cultural shocks in “Eat Pray Love” novel?

1.3 Purpose of Study

Based on the statements of problem above, the purposes of this study are as follows:

1. To find out the cultural shocks experienced by Elizabeth Gilbert in “Eat Pray Love” novel.
2. To know Elizabeth Gilbert’s ways to solve her cultural shocks in “Eat Pray Love” novel.

1.4 Significance of Study

1. To the learners and teachers of English Department of University of Muhammadiyah Malang, this study will enlarge the knowledge about different culture in certain country and use it as a reference of teaching.
2. To the society, this study will give them some information about four different cultures, America, Italy, India, and Indonesia in order to avoid culture shocks when they go to those countries.
3. To the next researcher, this study can be one of the references to conduct the similar research with different subject.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is cultural shock experienced in entering new country. There are some characters in the novel such as Elizabeth Gilbert, Ketut Liyer, Wayan, Giovanni, David. Meanwhile, the limitation of this research only on the cultural shocks experienced faced by Elizabeth Gilbert as the main character in Eat Pray Love novel because only Elizabeth Gilberth who went to three different countries.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding, the researcher gives the definition of key terms as follows:

1. Culture shock: a sense of confusion and uncertainty that may affect people exposed to an alien culture or environment without adequate preparation (Merriam Webster, 1996).
3. Elizabeth Gilbert is the main character of “Eat Pray Love” novel.
4. Eat Pray Love is the title of novel.