

# **CHAPTER 1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter discusses the background of the study, statement of problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and the definition of the key terms.

### **1.1 Background of Study**

Language is very important in our life, because it is always used in our daily activity to communicate with the others. People cannot communicate each other without language, because it is one of the communication tools used by people in general. People can use language to convey our messages or to express our ideas through oral, written, or signal languages (Brown, 2000:12).

There are some more countries that used the kind of languages in this world including English. One of the countries is Indonesia that has been our beloved country. It has Indonesian language and the other countries do too. Although there are many kind of languages in this world, all of the people from over the world can communicate each other by using English because it is an international language used among them to communicate (Turk, 2003:2).

Speaking skill is necessary to communicate in order that the process of communication can be understood both by the speaker and listener, so misunderstanding can be avoided. Therefore, learners are always taught English speaking in their school or college. Turk (2003:9) states that spoken language was the first form of communication between human beings. From that statement can

be concluded that speaking is the first skill that should be taught first when someone learns about a language.

Practically, speaking is not easy as we thought. Some students get difficulty to express their idea orally. For example, when the teacher or lecturer asks some questions such as “what do you think about UMM?” Actually the students understand what the teacher said but they just keep silent in the classroom. Therefore, if students don't want to express their thought and feelings in speaking, they will get bored easily, and be passive in the classroom activities.

Those problems often happen to students in learning speaking included the subject of this study who is Thai students who learn English speaking in English department of UMM.

The information above is based on the theoretical consideration. Empirically, the studies about speaking problems have been carried by some researchers such as Damayanti (2003) and Athena (2004).

The first research is done by Damayanti (2003) investigated a study the students problems in learning speaking at SMA Negeri Kejayan Pasuruan. She found the general problems faced by students are 39% in grammar, 36% vocabulary, 13% in pronunciation, and the last 12% choosing in topic conversation. And their ways to solve the problem in learning speaking were making conversation with their friends everyday, finding the meaning from any news or books, listening to the western music, learning and memorizing some vocabularies, understanding what the teacher explained, making a little notes about vocabularies or grammar, joining some courses and reading the dictionary fluently.

The other research is conducted by Athena (2004) about *The students' nonlinguistic problems in learning speaking at second year students on SMP III Batu*” Revealed that the problems of learning speaking are lack of motivation, unattractive material, and felt a shame to express idea orally, lack of motivation was caused by the monotonous method, uninterested topic and the teacher performance. Next, the unattractive topic was caused by materials which lack of variety and materials which are too difficult. The last, being afraid of using wrong sentences and got criticized by their friend made the learners shame to express their idea orally.

Based on the reason above, it is important for the researcher to conduct a study about “*A STUDY ON THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THAI STUDENT IN LEARNING ENGLISH SPEAKING*”. By knowing the problems of learning speaking, some possible solutions can be searched.

### **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Based on the problem above, the researcher would like to formulate the problems as follows:

1. What problems are faced by Thai students at UMM In learning English speaking?
2. What are the causes of the problems of learning speaking faced by Thai students at UMM?
3. How do the Thai students' strategies to cope with their problems in learning English speaking?

### **1.3 Purpose of study**

According to the statement of problems above, the purposes of this study are:

1. To know the problems of learning English speaking faced by Thai student.
2. To describe the causes of the problems learning English speaking faced by Thai students.
3. To figure out the strategies of Thai students to cope with the problems.

### **1.4 Significance of Study**

The result of this study will be useful for overcoming Thai students' who get difficulty in learning speaking English and especially for the Thai student who study in the last semester because instead of writing thesis they should prepared for their speaking, in order that their speaking English will be better in facing thesis examination. Hopefully, after having this study they will get some solution related to their speaking skill and will be able to improve their speaking skill. Finally, it is hoped that the result of this study will give contribution to the government as one way to improve the quality of English learning in Indonesia.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

In this study, the research scope focuses on the students' problems in learning English speaking, the causes of the problems in learning English speaking faced by Thai students and the strategies of Thai students to cope with the problem.

### **1.6 Definition of Key terms**

In order to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation to the concept used in this study, some definitions are provided as follows:

1. Problem is a difficulty to understand or deal with something. (Oxford, 2010:350).

2. Learning is acquiring or getting of knowledge of a subject or a skill by study, experience, or instruction. (Brown, 2000:7).
3. Speaking is the verbal use of language to communicate with others (Fulcher, 2003:23).
4. Thai Student is student from Thailand who learns English at English department of UMM.
5. UMM ( University of Muhammadiyah Malang) is one of private University in Malang East Java.

