CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, the statement of problems, the purposes of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

English has become an international language. In Indonesia, English is taught to students from elementary school up to university as a foreign language. Indonesian governments apply English as the first foreign language as effectively as possible.

Learning English as a foreign language becomes popular, because the fact shows most of scientific books or information are written in English, (Fadilah, 2012). She added that English is an essential language because it is one of the international languages that is mostly learned by people in the world. Accordingly it has an important role as a medium of communication in international affairs.

When we are talking about English related to language skills, it refers to listening, speaking, reading and writing which have an important role in the academic tasks. To be able to comprehend English perfectly, students need to study regularly whether going to formal or informal education. Therefore, to master English skills above students should have practice by using many ways.
Speaking is a skill which deserves attention every bit as much as literary skill, in both first and second languages (Bygate in Denok, 2000:2). The students often need to be able to speak with confidence in order to carry out many of their most basic transaction. Actually, the students understand English text but they have no skill to speak English fluently. Students who can speak English well will have self-confidence to face and even interact with English native speaker. Some students get difficulty in speaking subject because they are not sure with their speaking ability. As we know, speaking ability is the students’ ability in expressing their ideas orally.

So far, from the four skills that student has to learn, the most difficult skill is speaking. Some students faced many difficulties when learning speaking. According to McDonough and Shaw (2003:134), “Speaking is a process difficult in many ways to dissociate from listening”. So, the difficulties can be caused by pronunciation, intonation, or overall rhythm.

Indonesian people get difficulty in their speaking skill because most of them get English just in formal institutions not in daily life, so there is little chance for them to practice in daily life. One of chances for them to increase their speaking ability is in school and college.

Based on the previous research conducted by Denok (2012), there are some difficulties faced by the first semester students of Lecturer Education and Elementary School Department in speaking class. She classified the difficulties in speaking class were limited of vocabularies, grammatical error, difficult in
pronouncing the words, and mother tongue used. Those things showed that students in the University of Muhammadiyah Malang still got difficulties in their English skill especially in speaking skills.

Nowadays, competence in English has become an urgent need for students, including nurses who are involved in medical services. Nurse required to have the ability to communicate with the other people in their field including doctors and patients. English for Professional Nurse (EPN) is one of the compulsory subjects for the Nursing students in the University of Muhammadiyah Malang. This program is designed to meet the need of University of Muhammadiyah Malang students to learn English as a means for developing knowledge, and English language skills related to their discipline, and to prepare their future careers especially the students who want to continue their study abroad or the students who want to look for a job in a hospital which is English as requirement. Moreover, EPN is taught in four skills such as reading, speaking, writing, and listening. EPN is like ESP program. For speaking course of EPN, Speaking I is offered the first semester, Speaking II is offered the second semester. But in fact, not all students have high motivation to get good value in this subject. There were still many students who got difficulties especially in learning speaking. That is why, the writer is interested in this topic to find out their difficulties and figure out how they overcome the difficulties.

Based on the statement above, the writer chooses “The Difficulties of Learning Speaking in EPN Program Faced by The Second Semester Students of Nursing Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang” as the title. This
research was conducted in the second semester students of Nursing Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of study, the statement of the problem is formulated as follows:

1. What are the difficulties in learning speaking EPN faced by students of Nursing Department in EPN program at Muhammadiyah University of Malang?

2. What are the causes of students’ difficulties in learning speaking EPN at Nursing Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang?

3. How do the students solve their difficulties in learning speaking EPN at Nursing Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

This study is conducted to get the answer of the statement of the problem. Therefore, the purposes of this study are:

1. To describe the difficulties in learning speaking EPN faced by students of Nursing Department at Muhammadiyah University of Malang.

2. To explore the causes of students difficulties in learning speaking EPN at Nursing Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang.
3. To find out the students’ effort to solve their difficulties in learning speaking EPN at Nursing Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

This research is conducted with the expectation that the result will provide significant contributions for:

1. Lecturer of EPN

   This study is expected to give contribution to the improvement of teaching English especially speaking. It is hoped that the result of this study would give information to the lecturer about students’ difficulties in learning speaking EPN at Nursing Department. By knowing the difficulties in speaking EPN, the lecturer will know how to help the students to solve their difficulties. It can increase the quality in teaching learning process.

2. The students

   For the students, the writer expected that they solve the difficulties in learning speaking so they can improve their ability to communicate.
3. The next researcher

For the next researchers are expected to develop this research with different difficulties in learning speaking such as pronunciation and accent.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In order to make the study more focused, the writer emphasizes only the difficulties of speaking faced by students in learning EPN and how the students solve the difficulties in learning speaking EPN in Nursing Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang. In addition, it is focused on the students of Nursing Department in second semester University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

The definitions of key terms are:

1. Difficulty is something that is hard to understand or a fact or quality of being too difficult (Oxford Learners pocket dictionary). In this study, difficulty is something that the students feel hard to speaking in EPN.

2. Learning is acquiring or getting of knowledge of a subject or a skill by study, experience, or instructions (Brown, 2000 : 07)

3. Speaking is the verbal use of language to communicate with others (Fulcher, 2003 : 23)
4. EPN or English for the Professional Nurse.

English for The Professional Nurse is prepared for the demands of professional nursing in English competence. This course provides nurse students to improve their English skills in listening, reading, speaking and writing.