CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents some topics related to the research background, research problems, research objectives, research significance, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Society is a group of individuals who are directly or indirectly interconnected. They have different rules of their life to show the personal identity and it called as a culture. According to Schwartz (2006), culture consists of the experience that is learned and created by people. It includes knowledge, belief, art, moral, law, and custom. Then, when people have understood those aspects, they will be able to continue living in social life easily.

Study abroad is a great opportunity to learn various cultures. Therefore, learning culture is important. There are a lot of things people can get from learning culture, such as how to address the cultural issues that affect other culture. Furthermore, it is for the understanding of culture differences or a habit in every country.

Sometimes people will not be easy to survive in a new place. When they move to new environment and they previously do not know how the culture is, it can lead them to the problems. People usually called this as a culture shock that means the important precondition to adapt in new environment because they need changes (Dongfeng: 2012).
Living in another country sometimes force people to do the things they do not like. Therefore, people have to adapt to the culture in the place they visited. According to Lee (2006), a person’s adjustment process can be seen in the increasing satisfaction of living in the new environment. It means the efforts that are made by people will make them easier to adapt to their host country.

In this era, many international programs that are opened in several collages open the possibility for degree seekers students who come from different culture in a place they visited. Even, this could be faced by Thailand students of English Language Education Department in University of Muhammadiyah Malang in their first semester. They might face changes in every aspect of life such as language, food, weather, environment, habit, and education system. As the example is about breakfast, in Indonesia the menu for breakfast is usually there must be rice. In contrast to Thailand, the menu of breakfast is “chok”. It is similar with porridge and usually served with chicken meat or bacon.

Phenomenon above can be faced by Thailand students of English Language Education Department who took the degree program in University of Muhammadiyah Malang. Students who live in different culture, they might experience frustration if they are not strong with the principle and purpose of their life. It is called as the failure of adjustment. Based on the reason above, the researcher wants to analyze problem faced by Thailand students who come to the University of Muhammadiyah Malang and how they solve it.
1.2 Research Problems

In this current study, the researcher wants to find the answers to the following:

1. What are the cultural adjustment problems faced by Thailand students of English Language Education Department in University of Muhammadiyah Malang in their first semester?
2. How do Thailand students of English Language Education Department in university of Muhammadiyah Malang solve the problems during their first semester?

1.3 Research Objectives

1. To describe cultural adjustment faced by Thailand students of English Language Education Department in the university of Muhammadiyah Malang
2. To cross check the real problems with the wider subjects of Thailand students of English Language Education Department in the University of Muhammadiyah Malang
3. To describe problem solving of Thailand students of English Language Education Department in University of Muhammadiyah Malang during the degree program especially in their first semester.

1.4 Research Significance

This study is expected to enlarge the knowledge of cross culture understanding. There, we can learn and understand various cultures everywhere. It will help people when they want to establish the relationship with the people around the world in case of education, business or a relationship. In addition, we will know about what are the good or bad things in a new place. The things that distinguish the result of previous study and this current study is helping the degree
seeker program students in University Muhammadiyah Malang, especially for those from Thailand have proper preparation about the knowledge of different culture that will be faced before they go to another country. Besides, it is useful for giving some recommendations to the University to give foreign students good facilities in order to make them feel comfortable. This study is also giving contribution for those who will conduct similar research but with different aspect to research.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this current study is focused on the cultural adjustment and the limitation is the younger students in 2016/2017, especially Thailand students of English Language Education Department at the University of Muhammadiyah Malang numbering four students.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To clarify the terms used in this research, the writer gives some definitions of key terms;

a. Culture is consisting of the experience that is learned and created by people (Schwartz: 2006).

b. Culture includes knowledge, belief, art, moral, law, and custom (Schwartz: 2006).

c. Culture shock is the important precondition to adapt in new environment, because they need changes (Dongfeng: 2012).

d. A person’s adjustment process can be seen in the increasing satisfaction of living in the new environment. It means the efforts that are made by people will make them easier to adapt to their host country (Lee: 2006).