CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter, the researcher provide background of the study, statement of problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of the key term.

1.1 Background of The Study

English Language Education Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang have four elective courses, namely Translation, English for Young Learners (EYL), Business English (BE), and American Studies (AS). Those four elective courses have different emphasis. One of the elective course is American Studies. The researcher has attended American Studies for two semesters. The number of students who choose American Studies were very few 16 students. And year by year the number was getting decreasing. This number can be categorized sizable.

However, understanding several cultures, history, television, cultural product, and some related thing in American Studies very important. Sometimes, the lecturer requires students to compare between Indonesia and United States of America. Das (2012) stated that: It is important for everyone to learn about the culture of others, especially United States of America. This is because of United States of America is a country, both in the field of language, culture, education, market, and most importantly soft skill. Understanding United States people’s way of thinking
especially about their work etiques and will be very crucial in developing our country too.

There has been a previous research but in different courses that conducted by Febriyanto (2017). Dhani Febriyanto conducted the research about the reasons of English Language and Education Department students for not taking *English for Young Learners* course. Febriyanto found that they did not like dealing with children, they thought that *English for Young Learners* is busiest course among the other elective course, they did not like teaching, they thought *English for Young Learners* is not their passion, they thought *English for Young Learners* is less challenging for them, they did not choose *English for Young Learners* because of friend’s suggestion, they thought *English for Young Learners* is only suitable for woman, they thought that they just followed their friend’s taking another course rather than *English for Young Learners* course.

Still one line with previous research, students of English language Education Department have their perceptions about reasons of not choosing *American Studies* as their elective courses. So, it is students perceptions that make them believe and definitively state that they will not choose *American Studies*. Hasanah (2004) stated that perception is one of psychological processes that can be called as a beginning of act in determining attitude done by people. According to Robbins (2003) perception is impression obtained by individual through their five senses then analyzed (organized), interpreted and afterward evaluated, so individual gets a meaning. Hasanah’s claim was also related with student motivation. Students motivation in
learning English is very helpful for students to develop perceptions toward elective courses. Brown (2007) states that one of the language learning process principles is motivation.

Since the previous researcher doing research on the reasons of English students for not taking or taking other elective courses, the researcher decided to investigate the study about the reasons of English Language Education Department for not taking American Studies course at University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background researcher mentioned, the problem statement of this research is:

What are the reasons of English Language Education Department students for not taking American Studies course as their elective course?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

This research has a purpose that is to find out the reasons for not taking American Studies as their elective course.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research is expected to be a consideration for student of English Language and Education Department when choosing course in elective courses especially for American Studies. Then, the selection of courses in accordance with the interests will help students in terms of future career development or further study. Another benefit
is to help English Language and Education Department to revive American Studies course by considering students reasons. Also, for ELED the benefit is as a consideration of opening *American Studies* in next semester. Teacher for *American Studies* can used this research as a consideration for making better presentation at ELED elective courses promotion. The last benefit is that this research is expected to be useful research for anyone who will doing similar research.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of The Study

The research scope is elective course chosen by the sixth semester students and their reasons why they do not take *American Studies* as their elective course.. This study is limited to students of sixth semester academic year 2015 at English Language Education Department University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.6 Definition of the Key Term

1. The reason is the capacity to consciously make facts, apply logic, and alter or justify practices, institutions, and beliefs based on existing information or new (Kompridis, 2010).

2. *American Studies* is a interdisciplinary field scholarship interdisciplinary field that discuss American society, culture, and history (Winfried Fluck, 2003).

Elective course is one chosen from a number of optional courses by a student in a curriculum as a required course which the student must take (Ulusoy et al, 2012).