CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses some topics related to the background of the study, statement of the problems, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of the key term. Accordingly, they are elaborated in the following parts:

1.1 Background of the Study

Culture is a way of life that developed and shared by a group of people and passed down from generation to generation. Culture is made up of many complex elements, including behaviors, norms, beliefs, political system, customs, languages, tools, clothing, buildings, and works of art. When someone tries to communicate with people of different cultures and adjust their differences, it proves that the culture is learned. Matsumoto (2013:16) states that culture is a set of attitudes, values, beliefs, and behaviors shared by a group of people, but different for each individual, communicating from one generation to the next. Therefore, culture becomes something important to be maintained and it cannot be influenced by other cultures.

In this era of globalization, international cooperation is not only in economic field, but also in the educational field. For student exchanges and short courses are the examples. It is a few examples of cooperation among countries in the field of education, where many students from Indonesia that study abroad and vice versa.
The students often have difficulty staying in another country due to cultural differences. Every country has different cultures, not only in term of customs, language, or the environment, but also about other things. Diller (2010:14) remarks that cultural diversity exist in values, styles of communication, the perception of time, the meaning of health, community, and so on. The effect of those differences make people feel confused when they go to other countries or cities. These are called as a cultural barrier.

Cross-cultural differences also occur to student exchange participants, who come to join the Learning Express Program (LeX) of Singapore Polytechnic. LeX is an International Social Innovation program conducted by University of Muhammadiyah Malang and Singapore Polytechnic that provide the students with the opportunity to experience the natural world, learn new skills and make meaningful new friendships, and rediscover the participants through out-of-classroom learning. LeX seeks to promote design thinking and social innovation.

Since 2014 University of Muhammadiyah Malang becomes one of the universities in Indonesia which cooperate with Singapore Polytechnic in education through Learning Express program. Some students attends this program, but they face many barriers in adjusting to their new environment.

They might have an experience of culture barrier when they join the program. Based on the previous research conducted by Fitriany (2012) which investigated an Analysis on the Culture Shock Faced by Overseas Students Studying
in Indonesia. It is found that in culture shock, overseas students faced some culture shocks such as weather, culture shock on public transportation and traffic, habit, and food. Meanwhile, the previous research conducted by Islah (2014) entitled *Analysis of Culture Shock Faced by Indonesian Students Community in Hamburg, Germany* found that culture shock was indicated by several symptoms such as loss of appetite, insomnia, fear of having interaction with the host country, the absent-minded, tropical stare, withdrawal, irritability, robbed, and homesickness.

Some people have experienced cultural differences. When someone comes to the new country with whatever reasons they have, they attempt to communicate or interact with local people and they negotiate their ideas in several ways (Koenig, 2016). For instance the UMM students who are joining the learning express program (LeX) at Singapore Polytechnic. They might face experience of cultural diversity such as culture barrier. Their experiences of facing and coping with culture barriers will bring various impacts. The creation of these culture barrier when people try to communicate and interact with people from another cultures. Whether they accept or avoid the culture barrier, it becomes their way to adjust the cultural differences and coping their problem.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher attempts to investigate about the culture barrier experienced by University of Muhammadiyah Malang students, who are staying at Singapore Polytechnic. Those barriers and differences of cultural differences will raise some problems and obstacles for this adaptation processes. As the problems found in the previous study is about cultural differences of culture
shock, researcher wishes to conduct the different topic, but in the similar theme of cultural differences. It focuses more about culture barrier experienced by Learning Express program students of University of Muhammadiyah Malang in Singapore Polytechnic.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher aims to focus on finding the answer to the question:

1) What are the culture barrier experienced by UMM Students of Learning Express in Singapore Polytechnic?

2) What are the factors which affect the culture barrier experienced by UMM Students of Learning Express in Singapore Polytechnic?

3) How do the UMM Students of Learning Express in Singapore Polytechnic overcome their culture barrier?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

In accordance with the statement of the problems above, this study is conducted to obtain the answers of the research problems. The purposes of the study are formulated as follows:

1) To describe the culture barrier experienced by University of Muhammadiyah Malang Students of Learning Express in Singapore Polytechnic.
2) To investigate the factors which affect the culture barrier experienced by University of Muhammadiyah Malang Students of Learning Express in Singapore Polytechnic.

3) To describe how the way of University of Muhammadiyah Malang Students of Learning Express in Singapore Polytechnic in overcoming those culture barriers.

1.4 Significance of the Study

There are two kinds benefits of this study, namely theoretical and practical benefit. Firstly, viewed from the theoretical benefit, this study is intended to give some contributions in education field, especially in cross cultural understanding subjects.

Secondly, viewed from the practical benefit, this study is intended to give more specific information to the English lectures, students, and future researchers. For the English lectures, this study is expected to give more knowledge for teaching material in Cross Culture Understanding. For the students, this study is expected to give information about culture barrier that they will face up if they go abroad and the guidance how to solve the culture barrier. Thus, they will know more about all the things to be prepared. As a result, this study is expected to give information for the future researcher who wants to conduct a similar research with different topics.

1.5 Scope and Limitation
The scope of this study focuses on the culture barrier that might be experienced by some students of Learning Express Program. It is limited to University of Muhammadiyah Malang students of Learning Express Program in Singapore Polytechnic.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

To clarify the terms that are used in this study, the researcher provides several definitions of key terms. They are elaborated further as follows:

- Culture is a set of attitudes, values, beliefs, and behaviors shared by a group of people, but different for each individual, communicated from one generation to the next (Matsumoto, 2013).
- Culture barrier refers to difficulty in communication that occurs when people of other cultures interact (Koenig, 2016).
- Learning Express Program by University of Muhammadiyah Malang and Singapore Polytechnic International is a multi-national, multi-cultural, multi-disciplinary programme that addresses local complex problems in complex settings rather than simplified problems in isolation (Singapore Polytechnic, 2016).