CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter is intended to offer a brief explanation about the topic that will be conferred in this research. It deals with a research background, research problems, research objectives, scope and limitation, research significance, and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Culture influences people live in many ways. Matsumoto (1996) determines culture as a set of attitudes, values, beliefs, and behaviors, in which it is presented by a group of people, but each individual has differences. The statement is in line with the reality in the world; for example, Indonesians are friendly people. When Indonesians meet someone new, they will greet him/his and ask about some personal information to be closer. It is different from New Yorkers; they do not like to ask about personal information to someone new because they think that it is too sensitive to ask. Those examples show that the culture influences the way to live.

The differences of culture may trigger culture shock for someone who comes in the new environment. Culture shock is a normal reaction when someone assembly different cultures in an environment (Keller, 2014). Stress in facing the new environment with strange manner, which is unfamiliar, is a part of the reactions. They also will face some symptoms of culture shock in a few days or weeks. Irwin (2007) proves that sleeping disorder, general unease, tear, anxiety,
homesickness and etc. are the symptoms that are faced by new people in the new situation. Most people who get culture shock are those who travel abroad. Some students go abroad for holidays, visiting their family, or even living abroad for a long time to study. Nevertheless, International students who are studying abroad may experience the culture shock because of the unfamiliar environment.

In college, there are a lot of program that offered to the students. One of the programs is Student Exchange. The student exchange is one of the programs that is conducted by an institution in order to connect the education in another institution in another city even country. Students who join the program especially in another country can be categorizing as International students. International students are defined as students who leave their country and move to another country in order to study (Belhadi and Ayad, 2017). International student exchange program is one of the International programs which could trigger the culture shock too. By following the program, the International students will face a new culture that is unfamiliar to them. One of the examples is the culture in school or campus. In American universities, Feng (2008) explained that in the teaching method, the teacher leads the students to be active even to be critical in the learning process. On the other hand, in China universities “force-feed type” teaching method is still used by a lot of teachers. It makes the students passive in the class because they only focus on what the teacher say. Those differences could make the International students get a culture shock on the campus.

In the University of Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM), there are many kinds of study abroad program offered to their students. A credit transfer
exchange program to Tongren University in China is one of the programs. Based on UMM news, UMM and Tongren University in China have made cooperation in credit transfer program. The students from the two universities can exchange for one semester. The tuition fees adjust to tuition fees at their home university. In 2016, IRO UMM preached that some students of English Department UMM joined the exchange program to Tongren University in China for one semester. They had to stay and adapt to the China’s culture.

One of the English Department students of UMM, which was joining the exchange program in Tongren University in China, explained her experiences. She said, “I completely past day by day with everything. I get many kinds of experiences in there”. Firstly, although she had to prepare the documents, following a pre-departure training and etc., which were needed for this program, she was so excited when she was accepted to follow this program. Secondly, she was happy to stay abroad because there were a big boarding house, a nice place to live, and no traffic jam. She also got new friends, who focused on learning process. However, after for about a week she enjoyed her study, she experienced the culture shock. Even though she joined the pre-departure training for about a week, she could not avoid the culture shock. There were no kinds of preparations to avoid the culture shock. However, in the end of her explanation, she said that those culture shocks make her story in China more colorful.

The whole process in cultural adaptation is called as cultural adjustment, of which process have been already pointed in the Azis’s research. He conducted a research in 2017 that entitle “Cultural Adjustment Faced by English Language
Education Department Exchange Students of UMM Indonesia to Tongren University China”. His research concerned on the problems of the cultural adjustment along with the ways to solve them. The result of his research showed that the subjects experienced five problems of cultural adjustment namely food, social life, weather, education system, and weather.

As Aziz (2017) was pointing out, although a research has been done in the area of cultural adjustment, no one emphasizes on the elements of culture shock as their concern of research especially in China. The elements need to be analyzed since cultural adjustments problems came out from the culture shock stage. It was proven by the explanation of one of the International students of UMM in the preliminary study, in which she experienced the culture shock in China. Hence, it is important to carry out a research in order to analyze the elements of culture shock and the ways to deal with the culture shock. Departing from those explanations, the researcher wanted to conduct a research entitled “Culture Shock Faced by the International Students of University of Muhammadiyah Malang in China”.

1.2 Research Problems

To escort the research, the researcher formulates the research problems as follows:

1. What are the elements of culture shock faced by the International students of University of Muhammadiyah Malang in China?

2. How do the International students of University of Muhammadiyah Malang deal with their culture shock in China?
1.3 Research Objectives

The aims of this research are to find out the answers of the research problems above. The aims are stated as follows:

1. To expose the elements of culture shock faced by International students of University of Muhammadiyah Malang in China.
2. To find out the International students’ ways to deal with their culture shocks while studying in China.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

This research focuses the culture shock. The limitation is the elements of culture shock faced by the International students of UMM that was joined in the credit transfer exchange program to Tongren University, China in 2016.

1.5 Research Significance

The researcher hopes that the result of this research will be useful both in the theoretical and practical aspects.

1. Theoretical aspect

The researcher expects that this research is able to give contribution toward the building of knowledge about the culture shock especially about the elements of culture shock. It also can be used to comprehend the way to deal with the culture shock.

2. Practical aspect

The researcher supposes that this research is able to enrich the information for everyone who concerns in the culture shock and to help the next researchers who want to conduct the similar research in different focus.
1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misinterpretation, it is necessary to define the key terms as follows:

1. *Culture* is a set of attitudes, values, beliefs, and behaviors that is presented by a group of people, but each individual has differences (Matsumoto, 1996).

2. *Culture shock* is an anxiety that comes over from missing all peoples’ familiar symbols and signs of social interaction (Oberg, 2006).

3. *International students of UMM* are students of UMM who was studied in Tongren University, China in 2016 for about one semester.