CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1 of this research presents such topics as: background of study, statement of the difficulties, purpose of study, significance of study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms. Each section is presented as follows:

1.1 Background of Study

Mastering spoken English is very important because we have entered globalization information and free market era. Many foreign investors want to invest at many companies in Indonesia. Most of them speak English, although they do not come from England or America. Hence, if we want to communicate with them we have to be able to use English orally. It is not enough to master English structurally.

English as primary foreign language in Indonesia is taught as a compulsory subject from elementary school to the university, especially for English Department students. In studying English, students develop skill in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Every skill has its own goal to be reached as the requirement of English mastery.

One of the language skills that should be learned by English learners is speaking. Speaking is considered as a necessary skill because of its essential role in facilitating learners to master English. It enables students to express themselves creatively, imaginatively and to communicate with others effectively. “In many context, speaking is often the skill upon which a person is judged at face value. In
other word, people may often form judgements about our language competence from our speaking rather than from any of the other language skills” (McDonough and Shaw, 2003: 133)

Speaking class in University of Muhammadiyah Malang starts from first semester until fourth semester. It is divided from speaking I,II,III,IV. This speaking subject intended to practice speaking skill from very low level. Although students who has passed all the speaking subject, its not a guarantee they are able to speak English well. Speaking is not only learning about the term of knowledge about speaking, but larger than that. In speaking, to test whether students can speak, it is necessary to get them to actually say something. To do this the students must act on knowledge of grammar and vocabulary. By giving students speaking practice and oral exams it recognize that there is a differences between knowledge about a language and skill in using it.

Speaking is still become the difficulties lesson for the students even to learn and to practice. Some students face many difficulties when learning speaking. So far, from four skills that student has to learn, the most difficult skill is speaking subject. According to McDonough and Shaw (2003:134), “Speaking is a process difficult in many ways to dissociate from listening”. The difficulties may be caused by pronunciation, stress, intonation, or overall rhythm.

There is one previous research talked about speaking difficulties. Febianawati’s research (2004) was about the difficulties of learning speaking for High School students in Malang. The population for her research was three schools
in Malang, they are; SMAN 4, SMAN 8 and SMAN 9. Her research took the first year student as sample by using purposive random sampling. The findings of her research showed that the students had difficulties with their speaking ability, particularly in term of inhibition, nothing to say, low or uneven participation, mother tongue use, and speech act (pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, fluency, and oral communication). Furthermore, the result of this study also revealed the solutions of the difficulties. Their solutions to solve their difficulties in learning speaking were: trying to open dictionary, finding the correct words, getting more exercise to pronounce the words, giving stimulus in order to make the students active in class, not using or saying it again for making mother tongue in communication, and by pronouncing the right the words and looking up the dictionary or asking to somebody else, studying grammar.

The differences between this research than the other research is in this research the researcher wanted to investigate the real phenomenon the difficulties in speaking English outside the classroom. The researchers hoped that this research can help the students to cope the difficulties when they are had the difficulties speaking English outside the classroom.

Based on the reason above, it is important for the writer to conduct a study about the difficulties of learning speaking. By knowing the difficulties of learning speaking, some possible solutions can be searched.
1.2 Statement of Difficulties

The difficulties are presented as follows:

1. What are the students’ difficulties in practicing speaking English outside the classroom at University of Muhammadiyah Malang?
2. How does the students do to solve those difficulties?

1.3 Purpose of study

This research hoped to find out:

1. The students’ difficulties to practice speaking skills outside the classroom at University of Muhammadiyah Malang.
2. The student’ ways to solve the difficulties.

1.4 Significance of Study

The writer expects that the result of this study will be a valuable input for both the lecturers and the students of English Department in overcoming speaking difficulties. For the students this thesis will enrich the students’ knowledge about students’ difficulties in learning speaking and as reminder speaking English skill is important for competitive advantage in working world.

1.5 Scope and Limitation.

The scope of this study is the students’ difficulties in communicate using English outside the classroom at University of Muhammadiyah Malang. The researcher only takes from eight semester at University of Muhammadiyah
Malang. Because the students from this semester has completed all speaking subjects at English Language Education Department in University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms.

To avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation on the following are the definition of key terms in this research, the terms which necessary to be elaborated are as follows:

1. Speaking : speaking is described as the activity as the ability to express oneself in the situation, or the activity to report acts, or situation in precise words or the ability to converse or to express a sequence of ideas fluently (in Nunan, 1991: 23)

2. Difficulties : Difficulty means a factor causing trouble in achieving a positive regular tending to produce a negative result.

(http://www.wordreference.com/definition/difficulty)