CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Chapter I of this research presents: research background, research question, research objectives, research significance, scope and limitation, and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Learning English language is very important because it is known as an international language. It means by knowing English well, someone will be easy to communicate with foreigners from different country. In learning English, someone should pay attention and focus more in speaking because it helps someone to construct the ability of speaking.

There are four skills in learning English which are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Those skills are important that should be known by the learners, especially speaking skills. Speaking is one of the language skills used to communicate and interact in daily life. According to Fulcher (2003) “speaking is the verbal use of language to communicate with others”. Based on the statement, someone who has ability in speaking will be better to interact with others by sending and receiving information.

The most percentage of language effect that is used by people in the world is English in order to get the ability in speaking skill. Nunan (2001) who states that speaking is one of activities which emphasizes the learners to be active learners. In this case, the learners are active in the classroom. That is why the
learners should concern with learning speaking. Therefore, by speaking, the learners would be able to describe how far the learners understand the language itself. The learners can apply their speaking skill to speak English in class or wherever they are, in order to make a good interaction.

In learning speaking, there are two basic aspects which affect the speaking, such as accuracy and fluency. Accuracy refers to how correct learners’ use of the language system, including the use of grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary. Fluency is used as a criterion to measure someone’s speaking competence. Those basic skills should be considered by the learners to be a good speaker. Unfortunately, the learners rarely pay attention to speak English well. Chastain (as cited in Derakhshani, 2016) says some of the learners think that speaking is less important than grammar and vocabulary makes the learners have lack of speaking practice and less confidence to speak in front of audience.

Based on the previous study in Salman (2013), the learners got difficulties to speak English in front of public. The problems were selecting topic, anxiety, accuracy, clarity, and having less concentration. It can be seen that the result showed there were seven students (53.85%) who felt could not manage time well in selecting topic. There were two students (15.38%) feel ashamed and nervous in anxiety problem. The former researcher found that six students (46.15%) feel difficulties in accuracy. Three students (23.08%) did not master in pronunciation, and there were two students (15.38%) had less concentration. The result of study showed that most of the learners still have problems in speaking.
Another previous study was done by Hia (2016). According to the students at the third semester in English Conversation Club FKIP UNILAK Pekanbaru learning speaking English was difficult. It had been affected by some factors. Those were lack of vocabulary, grammar and less practice speaking in English.

Based on the result above, speaking is a difficult skill for most of the learners. On the other hand, speaking skill is the most important skill because speaking skill can help the learners throughout their college career even in their future professional job after they graduated.

Considering the previous study, the researcher is interested to study the problem faced by Electrical Engineering students in learning ESP speaking at University of Muhammadiyah Malang. The researcher wanted to conduct a research in ESP speaking class when they were in second semester because they were still not confident to speak. The researcher expected that by knowing their problems, the researcher can give a solution to solve their problems.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study above, the problems of this study are:

1. What are the problems faced by Electrical Engineering Department students at University of Muhammadiyah Malang in learning ESP Speaking?
2. How the Electrical Engineering Department students solve their problem in learning ESP Speaking at University of Muhammadiyah Malang?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the statement of problem above, the purposes of the study are:

1. To find out the problems faced by Electrical Engineering students at University of Muhammadiyah Malang in learning ESP Speaking;
2. To know how the Electrical Engineering students solve their problem in learning ESP Speaking at University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.4 Research Significance

The significances of this study are designed for the learners and next researcher.

1. The learners

The result of this study would help learners to know their weakness, the ways to overcome their weakness in speaking and to improve their speaking skill.

2. Next Researcher

For the next researcher, the result of this study is expected to give an alternative reference.

1.5 Scope of Limitation
Research should be limited in its scope, so that the problem being examined is not too wide and the research is effective. To limit the scope of the discussion and to analyze the problem, the scope of this study focuses on speaking problems. That may happen during the lesson of speaking class. The researcher gives a limitation in interviewing the Electrical Engineering students who join ESP Speaking class in University of Muhammadiyah Malang.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding about some key terms used in this study, the researcher gives the definition of key terms. There are shown as follows:

1. *Speaking* is the verbal use of language to communicate with other (Fulcher, 2003).

2. *Problem* is situation in which a person is motivated to reach a goal but attainment of the goal is blocked by obstacle (Klein, 2002).