CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter highlights some certain studies, the explanation as below:

1.1 Background of the Study

*Learning Express* is an Overseas Social Innovation Project as credit of *Singapore Polytechnic* students. In this program, they have to complete the project for two weeks in overseas stated on their official website (*Singapore Polytechnic International, 2015*). The objective of Learning Express is to promote Design Thinking (DT) and Social Innovation project. *Learning Express* brings students together from various disciplines and partner educational institutions will collaborate and contribute into community. Students are applying domain skills and use the Design Thinking (DT) methodology to co-create innovative prototype solutions to real-life issues and solutions that strive to meet the needs of the local community.

The program works as an express learning for students from Singapore Polytechnic (SP) and University of Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM). This is an immersive experience for the students as a team work together closely with their peers in the local community hence nurturing a sense of purpose and social contributions to society. As a team, the works of University of Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM) and Singapore Polytechnic (SP) are interact with the communities, visit and expand each cultural quotient as they unravel new insights into different communities, their cultures, and norms.
This program develops an understanding of the issues faced by community and analyze the issues from their multiple perspectives as participants of *Learning Express* program. Through this project, students are able to apply their teamwork and communication skills, developing a better understanding of themselves, maintaining participants’ empathy for the community based on their serving, participants may get into the real condition of community and know the opportunity to get new experiences of learn new skills, make a meaningful new friendships and rediscover their selves throughout of classroom learning, according to (Singapore Polytechnic web and *Learning Express* facilitator in 2017).

*Learning Express* program from Singapore Polytechnic basically have a lot of partners, one of them is University of Muhammadiyah Malang in Indonesia which has cooperation with Singapore Polytechnic to conduct this program. The International scale project that has been officially signed between University of Muhammadiyah Malang and Singapore Polytechnic since 2014. The result of this project is to present solutions of social Innovation using design thinking (DT) project, according to (*Learning Express* facilitator in 2017).

Buddy is one of stakeholders in *Learning Express* program and buddy itself is a partner for during the program. There are two buddies in *Learning Express* program, they are SP buddies and UMM buddies. UMM buddies come from variety students, from different majors and faculties also second semester until the last semester in University of Muhammadiyah Malang. There are only 15 participants from University of Muhammadiyah Malang which selected based on some criteria before the program begin. The aim of the University of Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM) buddy are not merely on their existence as tour guide, should be able as a
communicator, encourage an open communication, but also as a partner who spilled out their idea, link them to the society through language transfer, personal helper toward a problem who comes in any possible way, and provide information by the buddy Singapore polytechnic (SP) needs according to, (The facilitator Learning Express program, 2017).

The program helps University of Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM) buddy to get used to speak English in communication that is shown in daily conversations with Singapore Polytechnic participant during the project. In addition, UMM buddy found speaking problems in daily conversation using English. Specially, when University of Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM) buddies explain their perspective or discuss with Singapore Polytechnic (SP) students, they get some difficulties to cooperate the idea in Design Thinking (DT) methodology.

Based on previous research by Fitriani, et.al (2015) A Study on Students English Speaking Problems in Speaking Performance stated that findings percentage 20.70%; lack of self-confidence 20.11%; and anxiety 21.27%. It is followed by linguistic problems with mean percentage 19.53%; grammar 22.16%, vocabulary 20.19%, and pronunciation 16.25%. In addition, psychological problems are the most prevalent problem faced by FKIP Tanjungpura University Pontianak in third-semester students of the English Education Study Program.

Another previous research done by Sayuri, (2016) EFL Learners of Mulawarman University's English speaking issues, speaking is an integrated process of meaning-building involving knowledge generation, receiving, and processing. Students faced some pronunciation, fluency, grammar, and vocabulary
related issues. The test also revealed additional results where students were faced with other issues, such as lack of self-confidence, shy voice, fear of making mistakes, feeling nervous, and having nothing to say. For the next, there are some causes that result in difficulty speaking to the students, first of all less reading habits, unequal engagement and practice of English both inside and outside the classroom, and uncertainty about applying grammar rules.

The researcher reasons conduct this research is the object of this research is different from previous research because UMM buddies in Learning Express program is person who as partner of Singapore Polytechnic (SP) participants which the Singapore Polytechnic (SP) participants uses Singlish and have a different culture with Indonesia, this condition is challenging for UMM buddies. Another reason of the researcher raised the phenomenon of speaking problems faced by umm buddies in Learning Express, because from personal experience of researcher while participating in learning express program 2017, the researcher felt speaking problems during the program. Moreover, the other participants UMM buddies in the learning express program, felt the same thing. In addition, most of UMM buddies asked to know how to use the language. The research will investigate speaking problems faced by UMM buddies in Learning Express program. However, their first language is not English and they should face the problems of speaking English when their communication with Singapore Polytechnic participants. Therefore, it will be interesting to investigate speaking problems faced UMM buddies in Learning Express program.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The research problems from this study are:
1. What are the problems faced by UMM buddy in *Learning Express* program?

2. How does UMM buddy encounter their speaking problems in joining *Learning Express* program?

### 1.3 Purpose of the Study

Related to statement of the problems, the aims of the study are:

1. To find what kind of the problems faced by UMM buddies based on their perception during *Learning Express* program.
2. To know UMM buddies to encounter their problem when joining Learning Express program.

### 1.4 Significance of the Study

The result of this study expected to give benefits and information about what kind of speaking problems faced by UMM buddies as participants during the program, when they are doing collaborative learning with overseas students. And also to know how to encounter the problems, can be used as reference for next participant of *Learning Express* program. In the end, this study is dedicated for society, especially for UMM buddies and the next participant of *Learning Express* program.

### 1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study highlights the speaking problems faced by UMM buddies in *Learning Express* program. This study is limited for UMM Buddies in 2017 who come from across faculties and have been selected as buddies in the social innovation project at UMM in collaboration with Singapore Polytechnic.
1.6. Definition Key of Terms

The definition of the key terms is provided below to prevent ambiguity and misinterpretation of the context of the terminology used in this study:

Speaking Problems: Speaking is a medium for communicating ideas that are organized and created in line with the needs of listeners (Tarigan, 1987, quoted in Musaddat, 2008). The short situations of problems which stimulate the brain. Study when you know so well and you can look with easy the weakens. It is possible to be assessed in terms of statics or dynamic, which is defined Blench and Funke (2010), Klime (2004), Wirth and Klime (2004). However, speaking problems is the difficulties of deliver what you feeling.

UMM Buddy: Buddy is featuring a friendship or partnership between the two characters and someone who partners during the program. UMM buddies are to assist the foreign students while conduct the research in local community. (Facilitator Learning Express, 2017).

Learning Express program: Learning Express is a social innovation project from Singapore Polytechnic (SP) and collaboration with University of Muhammadiyah Malang (UMM) to conduct the program. Learning Express program refers to a multi-national, multi-cultural, multi-disciplinary program, the definition of the program is presented by the international affairs of Singapore Polytechnic through their official website (Singapore Polytechnic International, 2015).