CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with some points of discussion such as background of the study, statement of the problems, purposes of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Research Background

Academic material which is usually used by English Language Education Department students are journal articles. According to University of Victoria Library (2019) Journal is a scholarly publication containing articles written by researchers, professors and other experts. One of journals that has the highest level than the other journals is an International journal. International journal is a journal with international languages such as English, French, Arabic, Chinese and Russian (Muryanto., 2012). International journals will give some new information about all the education sectors. This journal can be accessed in international publishers like Scopus, Sciencedirect and others.

International journals are very important for college students to search some references from the other scientists in the world. According to Pratiwi (2015) the students have to create good writing by reading the International journal as their references to get good research and avoid some revisions in doing a thesis. Thesis is a format for reporting research written by university students as a part of fulfilling the requirements for the final project before graduate (Qassem, 2017). It means that the International journals can be used college students as a reference in their thesis writing. Reference is the theory and scientific ideas from previous
studies which are the most important things for people in education sector as supporting information on further research (Yaqin, 2015). Therefore, international journal is very helpful for the readers to find some new information that can’t be found in national journals or books.

In fact, most of students use Indonesian journals as a reference, only a few students use International journals as thesis references. The researcher had randomly done the research of students’ thesis references in University of Muhammadiyah Malang library, the result is only 5 of 20 thesis that used International journals as thesis references.

Based on the previous study, Yaqin (2015) found that there are some factors that obstruct students to use English references in undergraduates’ thesis. The main factor that causes the lack of use English references among students is low interest in reading English texts. It is because the curriculum that didn’t really require students to read, and the assignments from the lecture who are not based on the importance of reading a material when they are doing the assignments. So, the students have low reading interest or being lazy to read English text. According to Patel and Jain (2008) Reading is a main activity in life that can help someone to update his / her knowledge. While, Interest can be defined as something that attracts a person’s attention and makes them want to know more about it (Hornby, 2010). It means that the students have to increase their reading interest to get more knowledge and enhance their success in study. However, low interest in reading English text is the dominant factor in Indonesia.

Since English is a foreign language in Indonesia, many students at any levels of education have problems to understand English texts. Many research results
Hamra & Syatriana, 2010) indicated that Indonesian students’ ability in reading English text was very low. Most university graduates, they haven’t skill in reading English with complete comprehension. So, reading comprehension is very needed by Indonesian students to help them. For students, reading is a key to success in all fields of study. Gunawan (in Suryanto., 2017) stated that reading ability level of Indonesian people is listed 60 of 61 countries worst in the world. Therefore, that only few of students in Indonesia have good reading habits.

The differences between this study than the previous study is this study is conducted to find the problems of English Language Education Department students at University of Muhammadiyah Malang in reading an international journal as thesis reference.

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the background of study, the researcher formulates the problems of the study as the follows:

1. What are the problems which English Language Education Department students faced in reading International journal?

2. How do the students’ problems in reading International journal affect their thesis writing?
1.3 Research Objectives

Referring to the statement of the problems, the researcher stated the purposes of this study are:

1. To identify the problems which English Language Education Department students faced in reading International journal.

2. To know the effect of students’ problems in reading International journal toward their thesis writing.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

This study focused on the problems faced by students when reading International journal as thesis references and how do the students’ problems in reading International journal affect their thesis writing. The scope of journal in this study is International journal references from various countries in abroad. This study is limited to English Language Education Department (ELED) students of seventh semester academic year 2016 who are taking thesis at University of Muhammadiyah Malang

1.5 Research Significance

This research is expected to be a consideration for students of English Language and Education Department when reading a journal as thesis references. Then, reading an International journal will help ELED students to increase their English skill in create good research in future. Another benefit for lecture of English Language and Education Department to create and find
innovation strategies which applied in teaching reading in order to help the students to overcome their problems in reading International journal. The last benefit is that this research is expected to be useful for anyone who will do similar research.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

Reading problem is the problem faced by students in comprehending the text which may have negative effect on their study.

International journal is a journal with international languages such English, French, Arabic, Chinese and Russian. (Muryanto., 2012).

Reference is the theory and scientific ideas from previous studies which are the most important things for people in education sector as supporting information on further research. (Yaqin.,2015)