

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents background of study, statement of the research problem, purpose of the study, significant of the study, scope and limitation, definition of the key term.

#### **A. Background of Study**

Studying abroad is almost the highest dream of many students. It is also a major decision that can change the life of a student and might shape student's future. International students have opportunity to obtain many experience of studying abroad. Furthermore, they have chance to travel at unique destination and learn new things different from their home country and studying abroad gives you more opportunities to walk to places you've never been before. After they have graduated from the university and come back to their home country, they will be the person who is full of experiences and knowledge, ability which is helpful for development their home country. Moreover, there are many benefits of studying abroad, for instance international students have opportunity to learn new languages with native speaker and another international students from several country and immersing yourself in a place where they speak another tongue day-by-day. Foreign language skills will certainly be a provision for career in the future.

Studying abroad is a chance to learn to be self-assured. Due to any limitations of living in the different country will force students to do and arrange everything by themselves, whether it is the private budget, management time, cooking, cleaning, shopping and so forth. Moreover, the students have more freedom than living in their home country, because they have to live by themselves without family. Due to the farness from their family and their home country, many students indulge in light of the freedom, so forget that the main of their purpose is to succeed in studying. The students have to be responsible and control their behavior in discipline. These processes will shape the students to be more adult.

The experience and the hard time during living in abroad give opportunity to analyze all the problems and phenomena that happen around. This will shape students strong and have better problem solving skills and will change view in looking at things that may not have encountered before. This will benefit student life long after the life of being students end and some companies also take very seriously into prospective employees who have international experience. In addition, studying abroad is good opportunity to meet and make new contacts with new friends and build extensive relationships with many people from all over the world who have diverse cultural backgrounds and different perspectives as well. It will help to develop communication skill and build relationship with stranger and different identities and have widely network. Furthermore, studying abroad is the chance to enroll in a subject that is not available in student's home country.

The course also allows students to study the subjects that they are interested in through the different perspectives and contexts of society and culture. It will be a learning experience that will further enhance and enhance your career prospects in the future.

It is not easy for being international student. International students have to encounter variety of issues and problem during living and studying abroad. Those issues are generally related to language difficulties, adaptation to a new learning system, psychological problems such as homesickness, discrimination, and feeling isolated, as well as socio-cultural problems with health care and financial systems (Tseng and Netwon, 2002). Therefore, many international students find several difficult while they are studying and adapting with these obstructions.

Many problems encountered by international students while learning abroad. They face many different environments and must be far away from family and friends when they are studying abroad. This is a challenge for many students who have never been away from home for a long time. In addition, experience abroad can be full of unpredictable stories. Many times, it leads to problems and disappointments. These unexpected events will intensify if language skills are not enough to help in solving the problem of facing a critical crisis effectively. For those who intend to travel to study the academic level, especially in the degree program. Language restrictions will become a barrier to understanding the lessons and creating quality academic output.

Apart from the limitations of language, having to live in an unfamiliar environment and experiencing cultural differences that are unattainable can lead to a phenomenon called culture “shock or cultural shock”. The panic and confusion in the midst of new societies and cultures is another situation where each person has different ways of dealing with each other. There are some students who cannot adapt to the way they live, making it difficult to live in a foreign country. Staying away from the familiar while opening new things around, whether it is climate, terrain, food, eating habits, traditions, housing, people, and language constraints, it's not easy. It is fortunate that nowadays communication technology such as email or chat has helped make long distance communication with family and friends become much closer than in the past.

Nowadays, many Thai students continue to study at Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree at the university in Indonesia with several faculties. There are both Thai students receive scholarships from the government of Indonesia and the students spent their school fees. Thai students who continue to study in Indonesia are almost from southern Thailand. The majority of people in southern Thailand is Islam and these people called Patani people. Mostly, Thai students usually choose the faculty about the religion of Islam, Indonesia language due to the educational system of studying about Islam is more quality than Thailand. Furthermore, one of the reason that Thai students choose to study in Indonesia is to study Indonesia language due to Malay and Indonesian language is almost similar and Indonesian language is also the

origin of Malay language. Thus, this is the reason that many Thai students study in Indonesia.

Thai students study in different university in Indonesia, one of university is State Islam Institute of Tulungagung (IAIN Tulungagung). In this university have students around 170 and each of them study different faculty or major. They got scholarship from this university but there are a few Thai students spent their school fees. Almost Thai students study in this university encounter variety of problems for instance homesickness, loneliness, socio-cultural problems, academic problem, psychological problem, language proficiency, etc. these problems have influence extremely towards their learning. At English department of IAIN Tulungagung have 39 Thai students who study English. It is not easy for them to study English in non-native speaker country. Most of Thai students have problem in learning English and do have low basic in English skill. For instance, having limited vocabulary, cannot decode word while reading, do not understand in listening to, written incorrect grammatical, speaking English is not fluent and so forth.

Based on the statement above, the researcher decided to conduct a research under the title **“The learning problems encountered by Thai students at English Education Department of State Islam Institute of Tulungagung”**. The aim is to explore what English speaking and writing problems or difficulties encountered by them during studying English at English department and how to solve the problems. The researcher hopes that

this research will give benefit to all students, the university and become additional of study.

### **B. Statement of Research Problem**

1. What are the problems in learning speaking and writing encountered by Thai international students at English Education Department of State Islam Institute of Tulungagung?
2. How do the students solve these problems?

### **C. Objectives of the Research**

1. To know what are the problems in learning speaking and writing encountered by Thai international students at English Education Department of State Islam Institute of Tulungagung.
2. To know how the students solve those problems.

### **D. Significance of the Research**

The writer hopes that the result of the study is useful for lecturer, students and university.

1. The lecturer:

The researcher hope that the results of the research can be used as useful information to make the English teachers and other teachers understand better Thai students of IAIN in teaching English.

2. The Indonesian and Thai students:

With the result of this research, the researcher hope Indonesian students of this university, especially Indonesian students will understand Thai students better. So that they can support outside and inside of the class. In addition, the researcher hope that Thai students who are studying in Indonesia or other country able to use to this research for adding knowledge.

3. The researcher:

Other researchers are able to use the result of this research as a reference in conducting other research in the same field.

### **E. Scope and Limitation of the Research**

The study explores the problem in learning English encountered by Thai students at English Department of IAIN Tulungagung in the second semester. The problem in learning English refers to the learning problem in Speaking and Writing English.

### **F. Definition of the Key Terms**

To make study clearer to the readers and avoid confusion in understanding this study, the researcher would like to explain several definitions of key terms:

1. Learning

Learning is a process, of both humans and animals can be seen. In a simple learning a process of living things is won their behavior based on

the experiences change. It is also expressed by *Gage* (1984), stating that learning is a process in which an organism changes its behavior as a result of experience. Learn Experience in the life of a person to do something, or take an action premised is, is a result of the learning process. In this research, the learning is the process of gaining knowledge and expertise about learning English.

## 2. Problem

Problem refers to issues that are obstacles, difficulties, resistance, or challenges or any situation that requires a solution. In this research problem is any difficulty, obstacle, challenges in learning English toward Thai students at English Department of IAIN Tulungagung.

## 3. International student

International students are “transient visitors” to new and different academic communities and are increasingly a feature of the social, cultural and academic life of many countries (Montgomery, 2010). International students refer to Thai students at English Department of IAIN Tulungagung.

## 4. Learning Strategy

Oxford (1990) defined learning strategies as “specific action taken by the learner to make learning easier, faster, more, more enjoyable, more self-directed, more effective, and transferable to new situation”. In this study, Learning Strategy refers to Language Learning Strategy that the students use to deal with their problem in learning English.