

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

In the first chapter, the writer presents the background of the research, questions of the research, objective of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation and definition of key terms

### **1.1 The Background of the Research**

English is a global language that many people use it in every country because it has played important role to be as a medium in communication with others by using English, although they are from different countries but English can make people communicate to each other. “A language achieves a genuinely global status when it develops a special role that is recognized in every country” (Crystal, 2003: 3). Many people want to acquire this language whether as a second or a foreign language especially to be capable to speak English as the main point for learners who study English. Speaking is one of English skills for learners giving emphasis to be able to speak English in advance more than other skills. “The mastery of speaking skills in English is a priority for many second-language or foreign-language learners”, Richards (2008: 19). However, the English as a Foreign Language (EFL) for the learners may face the difficulty in learning English because they do not speak English in daily life as like the English as Second Language (ESL) for the learners. It should have some factors to push students to achieve the goal in their learning English whether it is successful or not.

To be a successful student in learning English needs the inspiration or encouragement to force them achieving the target language. There are factors that are essential to build the spirit positively such as personality factors, motivation, attitude, social situation factors and so on for influencing people to learn English efficiently. Hussein El-Omari (2016) claims, “Learning English involves many factors that

would affect the process of learning positively or negatively”. Some students who learn English as a foreign language have a big problem in speaking because they are not accustomed to using English in daily life. It makes them feel anxious, shy or unconfident to speak English. For example, Thailand has lower English education system that many of students still cannot speak English well because it is just focused on grammatical rules more than practical to use English in reality for communication. Thailand was a country with 53 for world ranking of English that it was reported by EF English Proficiency in 2017 last year. In addition, majority of teachers in high schools of Thailand have taught students in using Thai language in explanation. They focus on teaching student on grammar or vocabulary to pass examination such as O-net which is a national examination for Grade 9 junior high school. The students are afraid to speak English because of making mistake and they do not have more chance to use English in spoken more than knowing grammatical rules ignoring how to practice speaking English (Kaewmala, 2012). Hence, this makes most of them think that English is difficult to learn and speak.

Indonesia is a country where people use English as foreign language the same as some Asian countries such as Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and etc. The students who study aboard will possess more than one language or become bilingual as their own special ability of language. There are many problems for foreigner to acquire English language when they are in non-native English speaking country because logically they acquire local language more than English even though they are as foreigners. Many Thai students are studying English in some universities in Indonesia. They have been studying English in Indonesia as foreign language or target language in non-native English speaking environment. This fact makes some difficulties for them to speak English because they just use English in the classroom and they have limited environment to speak or use English more than Indonesia language. It gives the impact that they feel uncomfortable and fear in speaking English.

This research is focused on Thai students in Surabaya who study English Department in 6, 8 semester and an alumni of Muhammadiyah University of Surabaya. The reason for doing the research is because they have been studying in Indonesia for three or four years and most of them can communicate the local language fluently but their English is not as good as the local language. This study is emphasized on the underlying factors of learning English to speak English with certain case that they are studying English in non-native English speaking country that is Indonesia. I think that it is unique situation where people learn English in non-English speaking country. So, those Thailand students are in fact foreigners from Thailand but learning English in here in Indonesia that it will make them getting more challenge to speak English. They only get their English from the activities in the classroom. Almost all of Thai students in Surabaya are living in same house and using Thai or Melayu and Indonesia as the main language to communicate to each other. They communicate in Indonesian with local people. They feel confident to use Indonesian because they have acquired the language well. It is different with English, they have encountered some problems to make them feel fear or unconfident to speak English such as low self-confident, low in motivation, high anxiety and etc.

Moreover, English is as language learning to Thai students because it is conscious process to learn English with instruction and there is direct learning grammar rule and so on. Krashen (1982 : 10), "The term "learning" henceforth to refer to conscious knowledge of a second language, knowing the rules, being aware of them, and being able to talk about them". The English learning of Thai students in Muhammadiyah University of Surabaya is quite interesting to analyze especially in term of speaking because some of them have improvement in their speaking achievement but there are also students who have down in speaking achievement along three years of learning English. It has indicated that there is successful and failure among them in their speaking achievement. It is because there are something influenced them to feel inspiration or give up to speak English until giving the effect in their achievement.

This study intends to analyze the background factors of Thai students' speaking achievement in English learning. Their achievement in speaking can be proved how far they have been raising or downing improvement since they have studied English especially oral skill from the first year until third years. Hence, the factor of them are getting accomplishment or failure in English learning with non-native speaking environment given the researcher to analyze the factors, although they do not use English as much as they can because of limited environment.

In this case, this study emphasizes on the observing the factors that have made the learner to learn English successfully. The factors are indicated as a key to help learner reaching the goal in their learning the target language. Hence, the writer uses title "Background factors of Thai students' speaking achievement in English learning" to present in this final project. The writer wishes that this study would give the contribution to Indonesia people or teachers who have foreigner as students to understand what learners have faced in English learning through various factors to success in target language.

## **1.2 Question of the Research**

This study is primarily emphasized on the background factors of speaking achievement by Thai students in Muhammadiyah University of Surabaya. The question design is based on the background of the research stated above, it helps in narrowing down the study specifically to know few important things. The following are the questions of this research:

1.2.1 What are the background factors of Thai students' speaking achievement?

1.2.2 What are the different background factors between students' high and low scores of speaking achievement?

1.2.3 How are the different background factors between students' high and low scores of speaking achievement?

### **1.3 Objective of the Research**

The objective of this study is to understand the importance of factors in learning English as foreign language effectively and successfully by Thai students who are studying at Muhammadiyah University of Surabaya. It will help in providing justification that how important the factors influence in English learning in term of speaking to learner or teacher for considering in the process of learning especially the student who is a foreigner. On the basic of the above questions of the research, the following are the objectives of this research:

1.3.1 To find out the background factors of Thai students' speaking achievement in English learning.

1.3.2 To know the different background factors between students' high and low scores in speaking achievement.

1.3.3 To describe the different background factors between students' high and low scores in speaking achievement.

### **1.4 The Scope and Limitation of the Research**

The scope of this study is linguistic field. The limitation of this study is the background factors of Thai students' speaking achievement. The factors are included in this study such as personality factors, motivation, attitude, language exposure and social situation factor.

### **1.5 Significances of the Research**

This study is focused on the factors have been influencing in speaking achievement by Thai students. It is given the limitation on this study and narrows down the focus as well. Nevertheless, there is little chance the writer expects that this study will give contribution and information to:

**For researchers**, this study will give contribution to research as the guidance that it is related to factor of learners in English learning on term of speaking. Also,

the result of this study gives to know the factors for making a learner to study English successfully.

**For students**, the writer hopes that the result of this study will give a good contribution to students in side of inspiration to learn English with successfully especially in term of speaking by knowing the factors influence to achieve target learning.

**For educators**, the result of this study can be used as guidance for the educators to apply in studying others foreign languages such as Thai, Malaysia and so on.

**For future researchers**, the result of this study can be utilized as a guidance and references for the next researcher to conduct a research that relates with this research. Furthermore, it expects that the next researchers will analyze more about factors in another term skill of English learning such as listening, reading or writing to find out factors of learner in learning process from these skills with successfully.

**For readers**, the writer hopes that this study will encourage understanding on how to learn second language or foreign language with effectively based on the factors has influenced learners in the learning process particularly on spoken proficiency.

## **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

To understand clearly on what is being discussed in this study, these are definition of key terms that would like to give below.

### **1.6.1 Speaking Achievement**

The achievement of speaking is desired to get success along the learning process by learners who are learn English to speak English well. Speaking is an important skill of learner to consider to achieve the target language because it is shown that how they have enhanced in English learning effectively.

### **1.6.2 Factor**

Factor is an important thing to consider during the process of learning second or foreign language to contribute a learner having inspiration to be successful student in target language. Most of students have faced a lot of problem along the learning process especially for English as Foreign Language (EFL) students because they are not accustomed in using English except in certain event like in the classroom. Hence, it is crucial thing to overcome difficulties of learner by identifying factors to encourage learner to be a successful student.

### **1.6.3 Thai student in Muhammadiyah University of Surabaya**

Thai student is a biggest group student who are studying in some universities around Indonesia. Also, Thai student has many students as foreigner at Muhammadiyah University of Surabaya. Majority are Muslim students from southern border provinces of Thailand who come for studying in bachelor degree. Most of them are studying in field of teacher training education and Islamic studies.

### **1.6.4 English as Foreign language**

English is international language in wide world now. There are many of people desire to learn and possess this language weather the aim of English as second or foreign language. The majority of learner are studying English as foreign language in many countries such as Thai, Indonesia, Lous, Cambodia, Vietnam and so on.